

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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DATES...DATES...DATES

Sadly, our Australian ultra walking year has been completely put on hold. I am not aware of any races going ahead in the immediate future, either in Australia or in the wider world.

You should regularly check the AURA calendar (<http://aura.asn.au/>) to see what is still on and what is cancelled on the Australian front, and you should also reference Kathy Crilley's *Centurions Worldwide Community* fixture page at <http://www.centurionsworldwide.org.uk/race-fixtures.html> for the latest on the international front.

All the immediate ultra walks have been either postponed or cancelled (including the English Centurions Qualifier at Colchester).

May 30-31, 2020	2020 Continental Centurions Qualifier , Schiedam, NED	CANCELLED
Jun 3-6, 2020	Paris Alsace (4 day stage race), FRA	POSTPONED TIL 2021
Jun 20, 2020	Parish Walk, Douglas, Isle of Man, GBR	CANCELLED
July 21-14, 2020	Nijmegen 4 Day Walk, Nijmegen, NED	CANCELLED
Aug 8-9, 2020	2020 English Centurions Qualifier – Colchester 100 Miles, GBR	CANCELLED
Aug 14, 2020	Dodentocht /Death March (100km challenge event), Bornem, BEL	CANCELLED
Aug 29-30, 2020	Wadelincourt 24H, Wadelincourt, BEL	CANCELLED

Looking further ahead, some events are still pending a final decision

Aug 16-22, 2020	6 Jours de France (6D/48H/24H track race), Privas, FRA	UNDER REVIEW
Sep 19-20, 2020	28 Heures de Roubaix, Roubaix, FRA (decision on May 11 th)	UNDER REVIEW
Sep 19-20, 2020	Nijmegen-Rotterdam 160 km, Nijmegen, NED	UNDER REVIEW

and some are hoping to go ahead on their gazetted dates.

Sept 24-30, 2020	EMU 6 Day Run, Balatonfured (HUN) – moved from May	Balatonfured (HUN)
Sept 26-27, 2020	2020 USA Centurion Qualifier - Just A Walk In The Park See https://raceroster.com/events/2020/15288/not-just-a-walk-in-the-park-v30	Owego, NY, USA
Oct 31- Nov 1, 2020	French 24H Walk Championships, Chateau Thierry	Chateau Thierry, FRA
Nov 14-15, 2020	2020 NZ Centurions Qualifier - Sri Chinmoy NZ 24H	Auckland, NZ

OUT AND ABOUT

- Following on from my obituary of Centurions legend Ann Sayer in last month's newsletter, check out the excellent obituary published in the Guardian newspaper - <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/apr/24/ann-sayer-obituary>.

KEEPING BUSY IN THIS TIME OF ISOLATION

Some may know that I produce a weekly racewalking newsletter (see <http://www.vrwc.org.au/vrwcnewsletters.shtml>) which goes to a large worldwide audience of 600+ readers. I have been posting 5 questions each week there, so that readers can review and post possible answers (see <http://www.vrwc.org.au/RW-Questions.shtml>).

Some of the questions have been geared towards the ultra walking world so I am reproducing them here for everyone.

3. How many Australians have qualified as British Centurions? Names and years please.

Geoff Hain	C1051, 2006
Mark Wall	C1069, 2009
Carol Baird	C1071, 2009
John Kilmartin	C1137, 2015
Justin Scholz	C1173, 2017
Sharon Scholz	C1174, 2017

12. Who was the first female Australian walker to officially complete 100 miles walking in 24 hours?

[Carmela Carrassi](#) (23.44.22) in 1996

19. Which Australian Centurions have represented their country in major racewalk competitions?

Tim Erickson	(C13 1976)	Represented Australia 1976-1983
Bill Dyer	(C15 1977)	Represented Australia 1981-1991
Robin Whyte	(C29 1996)	Represented Australia 1976
Michael Harvey	(C43 2001)	Represented Australia 1981-1999
Charles Arosanyin	(C46 2003)	Represented Nigeria in the 2006 Commonwealth Games

20. Which English Centurions have represented their country in the Olympics?

Thanks to Kathy Crilley who has published this info on her Centurions Worldwide website at <http://centurionsworldwide.org.uk/olympians-.html>.

C2	Jack Butler	1908 Olympic 10 Miles Walk, 3,500m Walk
C10	Tommy Hammond	1908 Olympic 10 Miles Walk
C12	Bill Brown (Polytechnic Harriers)	1908 Olympic 3,500m Walk
C175	Rex Whitlock (Metropolitan WC)	1952 Olympic 50K
C276	Frank O'Reilly (Lozells Harriers)	1960 Olympic 50K (represented Eire)
C376	John Kelly (Millrose AA)	1968 Olympic 50K (represented Eire)
C631	Don Thompson MBE (Metropolitan WC)	1960 Olympic 1960 50K (Gold medalist)
C778	Brian Adams (Leicester WC)	1976 Olympic 20K
C1064	Ian Richards (Steining AC)	1980 Olympic 50K
C1098	Dominic King (Colchester Harriers)	2012 and 2016 Olympic 50K

The English Centurions also have a few Commonwealth Games representatives, with Ron Wallwork (1966), Bill Sutherland (1970) and Dominic King (2006) springing to mind. Are there others?

21. Who was the Australian woman who first fought local male authorities and completed her State 50km Championship? You won't see her name in the results as the officials of the day refused to acknowledge her performance and refused to put her name in the results.

South Australian **Lillian Harpur** competed nationally from 1970 to 1983, winning lots of national titles over the shorter distances (overall she placed in national championships on 17 occasions and had 6 Australian Championship victories to her name).

However, her greatest walks were over the longer distances, and were generally unacknowledged and unrecognised. Lillian came to Australia in 1970 from Ireland and in her very first season at the age of 22 and with a young baby, she completed the SA 50 km event in 5:27:11. When I asked Lillian how she had done such a feat in her first season of racewalking, she acknowledged that she had a background of trekking in the dales of Ireland. George White in his book *Age is an Advantage: A History of Veterans Athletics in South Australia* writes

Earlier in her native Ireland, even as a young child, distance meant little to her as she would often walk up to 60 miles in a day. In fact, on one rather momentous occasion, after a passing motorist had reported seeing a young girl and her dog early in the morning and the same girl about 30 miles away later in the day, the local police felt it was necessary to hold her and her dog in custody until a phone call established that she was just out for a day's walk.

The officials of that era in SA refused to acknowledge her long walks and never put her performances in the results. Thus the papers never record her performances and the official results never mention her. How tunnel-visioned many people were just a short while ago.

Lillian did not carry on with distance events under such adverse circumstances, only completing the occasional one. What a shame! If she could walk so well over the 50 km distance in her first season, what could she have done if she had had the motivation to keep going. An indication her potential is to be seen in her 30 km time of 2:47:13, achieved on 23 Aug 1981 in the SA State Championship. She was in fact second overall to Peter Fullager and finished just ahead of George White.

Read the full story at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wa-lillian-harpur.pdf>.

And now here are some questions for you, our Centurion newsletter readers. Answers are further down in the newsletter - I won't keep you waiting for a month! See how well you do before you page forward to check the answers!

1. Which Australian Centurion is a top cricket statistician/scorer?
2. Which Australian Centurions have completed the 700+km walk between Adelaide and Melbourne?
3. Which Australian Centurion once held an official IAAF World Record in racewalking?
4. Who was the first Australian Centurion to complete the 100 mile walk / run double?
5. Which Centurion can boast a triple accolade – Centurion, Olympian and Centenarian?

FANCY A VIRTUAL WALK – ERIN AND DAVE TALCOTT HAVE YOU COVERED

USA Centurion Erin Talcott has announced a major Virtual Walk opportunity for us all -great idea Erin!

Hello ultra walking family! Wow, things are crazy right now. Races are few and far between and cancelled left and right. The calendar of races that are still happening are scarce. As we've said, we plan on hosting our USA Centurions Qualifying 24H Race, unless the Governor mandates that we can't. But we are very optimistic that the race will go off September 26-27.

Virtual races are becoming more popular as a way to join together and give motivation. But many of these races are 5K and 10K, maybe a half marathon. These distances are definitely not sufficient for the ultra walking brethren and sisters! As such, we'd like to host a virtual ultra competition to help you with your competitive spirit!

This will be a very relaxed "competition." We will not have an entry fee and awards will be cool certificates that we'll design and email to everyone. That will keep costs down. It's very much going off the honor system, but if there's any group of athletes I trust not to cheat it's the ultra walking community! You can walk on a track, a treadmill or off your GPS watch.

We thought we'd have **three categories; 6 hour, 12 hour and 7 day total**. The competition will be **between May 15 - June 14**. In that time frame you can walk a 6 hour for distance, a 12 hour for distance and for any consecutive 7 days what your total training mileage is! Of course you can also enter all three! Take your mileage at 6 hours on your way to 12 hours if you want. Use your mileage from the 12 hour in the same seven days as the 7 day competition. The only rules are you must walk! No running miles and no biking miles.

People can enter by either sending me a private message (either via Facebook Messenger or via email at oboebassoon@gmail.com) or by commenting under the appropriate post on the *Not Just a Walk in the Park FB page* (<https://www.facebook.com/NotJustAWalkInThePark/>) If we find this is successful and people want to do it again then we will! And if people want prizes and are willing to pay an entry fee we'd be happy to do another competition in June. We're open to suggestions! We just want to support everyone in any way we can!

Erin and Dave Talcott

CONTINENTAL DECURION, 13-14 JUNE, AROUND THE WORLD

The Rotterdam Walking Association (RWV) have had to cancel the annual Continental Centurions 24 Hour Walk, which was to be held in Schiedam on the weekend of 30-31 May. But rather than leave us all twiddling our thumbs, they have organised their own Virtual Race, on the weekend of 13-14 June. It's called the **Continental Decurion** and is to be contested over a distance of **10 Miles** (16.093km). Here's what they had to say:

Because it is not possible to do a hike together at this time, the RWV wants to organize an individual, recreational 10-mile Decurion hike as an alternative. Not in Rotterdam, but with yourself in the immediate vicinity. Just a relaxed sporty walking tour.

Not 25 or 40 kilometers or similar, but 10 miles (16,093 km) as it suits you.

For anyone who signs up and walks the 10 miles according to the regulations, there is a Continental Decurion medal and a walking plaque sent by post. A diploma will be sent by e-mail.

These Decurion walks take place on June 13 and 14.

All participants post messages themselves, or via the organization, on our special Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/608870013045040/>, which means that we are still active together, but each in its own environment.

Check it out at <https://www.rotterdamsewandelsportvereniging.nl/index.php?page=decurion-english>. What a great idea for us all. Surely most of us can still walk 10 miles (if we go slow enough)!

EARLY ULTRA WALK RESULTS FROM EMMANUEL TARDI

More important historical results from Emmanuel Tardi. Over to Emmanuel to explain:

Hello everyone

Some years ago, I produced a file concerning the results of the Paris-Strasbourg selection races for the period 1926-1937. I have taken advantage of the quarantine period to update this document. I consulted the issues of *L'Auto* and *Petit Parisien* and regional daily newspapers *Ouest Eclair* and *Le grand Echo du Nord* to create this new file. I also looked at my *France-Marche* archives (UFM newspaper).

Some results (names, times) are different depending on the source. So unilaterally, I had to make my own decisions. Indeed, if a newspaper says that Zami's time is 26:08, and the other newspaper says that it is 26:28, how to decide? Ditto for the names; if a newspaper says that the 27th is André Godot and the other newspaper says that the name is André Gobet, how to decide?

I am aware that there are certainly some errors. Comments and remarks are obviously welcome.

Take care and stay healthy ... Emmanuel

The document listings get bigger and bigger – check them all out at <http://www.centurions.org.au/centranks.shtml>, or just zoom straight to Emmanuel's newest results set at <http://www.centurions.org.au/documents/Paris%20Strasbourg%20Selection%20Races%201926-1938.pdf>.

SOME QUESTIONS TO KEEP YOUR MIND ACTIVE!

Ok, I posed 5 questions for everyone earlier in the newsletter. Here are the answers.

1. Which Australian Centurion is a top cricket statistician/scorer?

It's **David Billett (C50)**. David is a statistician by trade and is a whiz with figures. He was the Australian Ultra Runners Assn Records Officer for many years and is also a keen cricket statistician and long term member of the Coromandal Cricket club in Adelaide.

He has had a number of official gigs scoring for interstate cricket matches and his efforts were rewarded a couple of years ago when he was one of the official statisticians for the ABC Radio team broadcasting one of the Ashes matches from the Adelaide Oval (if my memory is not letting me down).

2. Which Australian Centurions have completed the 700+km walk between Adelaide and Melbourne?

In 1979, **Jack Webber (C2)** walked from Melbourne to Adelaide. He set off from Melbourne on Wednesday 15th August and reached Adelaide on Saturday 25th August to set a new walk record of 10 days 2 hours 30 mins. He regarded this as perhaps his greatest achievement and he had the privilege of being accompanied by former Olympian Marjorie Jackson over the last few hundred metres - amid a great reception - to the Adelaide Town Hall. Geoff Peters, soon to become a Centurion himself, took two weeks off work to accompany Jack, providing massages each night and attending to all his needs throughout the day. Jack's route was the most direct one, with a total distance of around 730km.

Gerald Manderson (C31) has done some daunting solo walks. In mid 1999, he walked 1014 km from Cape Reinga to Palmerston North in New Zealand in 14 days, camping by the roads and sleeping in his survival blanket when necessary. In 2009, he completed a solo walk from Melbourne to Brisbane with a target of 40 days. Not surprisingly, he completed the 2000+ mile journey ahead of schedule, finishing in 33 days 6 hours, including a three-day break. Like all his long walks, this was a completely solo attempt, carrying all his own goods and sleeping under the stars unless some better offer came along. In 2019, he embarked on an even more ambitious challenge to celebrate his 75th birthday by walking solo from Perth to Melbourne. He chose the coastal route for a total distance of 4,249km. He completed his walk in 80 days (January-April), battling horrendously hot and dry conditions along the way and carrying his own water as he traversed the desert areas. The final section of his trek from Adelaide to Melbourne was just over 1000km (the coastal route is much longer than the more direct route that Jack took).

3. Which Australian Centurion once held an official IAAF World Record in racewalking?

Fred Redman (C8) was a top racewalker in England in his younger years. In 1932 he broke the 10Mmile Junior road walking record in the RWA Junior National Championship with a time of 1.17.59. Then on 26th May 1934, he broke the World Record for the same distance with a time of 1.14.30.6. He held this world record for 8 years and the British record for 22 years (until eventually broken by George Coleman in 1956 with a time of 1:14:06.0).

This is an official IAAF World Record we are talking about here. If you have any doubts, then check out web page <http://www.gbrathletics.com/bwr.htm>. He's number 53 on the list, even though they have his first name wrong.

In 1961 he migrated to Australia with his family and settled in Melbourne where he became quickly involved in the local walking scene. I remember him in the 1960s as a familiar figure at Albert Park, ambling along at the back of the field. Little did I realise what a great walker he had been. He was unassuming and let his past performances speak for him.

In 1971 he was instrumental in the formation of the Australian Centurions Club and was one of our four founding members. He showed by example what it means to be a Centurion. He went back into distance training and completed his last 100 miler in 1973 at the age of 62 years. His time of 22.59.00 was a great achievement for a person of that age.

4. Who was the first Australian Centurion to complete the 100 mile walk / run double?

Claude Martin (C14) qualified as an Australian Centurion at Clifton Hill in 1977 with a time of 22:42:53.6. He did his 100 mile run at the Aberfeldie Track at Essendon (Victoria) on Australia Day in 1987 and did a time a few minutes slower than he did for his walk.

Within a period of less than 2 years, **Jim Turnbull (C21)**, **George Audley (C22)** and **Stan Miskin (C23)** had joined him in the run/walk double. They have since been joined by **Yiannis Kouros (C33)**, **Geoff Hain (C49)**, **David Billett (C50)**, **Michael Harvey (C43)**, **Bob Lee (C47)**, **Ian Valentine (C57)**, **Justin Scholz (C61)**, **Barry Loveday (C63)** and **Anyce Melham (C65)**. Four Australian based centurion women have also achieved the ultimate double - having both run and walked 100 miles in 24 hours - **Carol Baird (C39)**, **Lyn Lewis (C44)**, **Michelle Thompson (C58)** and **Sharon Scholz (C63)**.

On his retirement, Claude moved to Queensland and now lives at Gordonvale.

5. Which Centurion can boast a triple accolade – Centurion, Olympian and Centenarian?

That unique title belongs to English Centurion **Bill Brown (C12)**. Bill qualified as a centurion by finishing the 1907 London To Brighton And Return (104 miles in 20:38:01). He represented Great Britain in the 1908 Olympic Games, competing in the 3,500m Track Walk. He celebrated his 100th birthday on 17th December 1978.

I don't know if anyone else is ever going to match those credentials! In fact, I thought it such an interesting combination that I have produced my own biography of Bill. Read on....

BILL BROWN – OLYMPIAN, CENTURION AND CENTENARIAN

William C. Brown (or Bill, as he was known), one of the best British long distance walkers of the early 1900's, has a triple claim to fame – a Centurion, an Olympian and a Centenarian, in that order.

Bill Brown, born 17th December 1878, competed for Surrey Walking Club and the Polytechnic Harriers in London, and was a family relative of Australian walking champion Bert Gardiner. Some years ago, Bert's son Bob, a former Australian Olympic racewalker, passed onto me Brown's meticulously kept scrapbook, covering his major races and accomplishments.

I drew on the scrapbook liberally to complete my biographies of [Tommy Hammond](#) and [Tom Payne](#) but I did not think at the time to use them to do the same for Bill Brown. Alas, the scrapbook was returned to Bob and is now in the safekeeping of the State Library of Victoria. If I can get it back at some stage, I can complete this biography and add scans of some of the photos, but this will have to do as a first draft.

The early 1900's were a heady time for walking, with George Lerner dominant over the shorter sprint distances and with the likes of Tom Payne, Jack Butler, Edgar Horton, Bill Brown and the great Tommy Hammond soon to make their mark over the longer distances, made so famous by the nineteenth century pedestrians.

The first London to Brighton and Back walk of 104 miles took place in 1902 and was then held most years up till when the First World War put paid to such trivial pursuits. When it restarted in 1921, it was scheduled approximately every 4 years till its last staging in 1959. A majority of the early British Centurions became members by virtue of completing this event - its distance of 104 miles was more than sufficient to satisfy the criteria for membership.

Bill Brown first comes to our attention in the third London-to-Brighton-and-Back race, held in 1907, when he finished third in the time of **20:38:01**. For this performance, he was retrospectively granted Centurion badge C12 when the Centurions formed in 1911.

London to Brighton and Back, 104 Miles, 21 June 1907

1.	Tommy Hammond	Blackheath Harriers	18:13:37	C10
2.	J.R. Barnes-Moss	Middlesex WC	20:23:32	C11
3.	Bill Brown	Polytechnic Harriers	20:38:01	C12
4.	Henry Swabey	Surrey WC	21:50:37	C13
5.	W.G. Pryor	Surrey WC	22:56:38	C14
6.	F. Bland	Polytechnic Harriers	23:08:00	C15

Unfortunately for Brown, his performance was overshadowed by that of the winner Tommy Hammond who left the field in his wake. Hammond's time for the 104 mile distance was an amazing 18:13:37 and broke H. W. Horton's course record by over 2 hours. He covered the 62 ½ miles (over 100 km) to Brighton in 10:30:36 and passed the 100 mile mark in 17:25:22. Pundits of the day thought that this record would be unbeatable.

Brown was aged 27 at this time and had presumably been walking for some years, without significant success. But 1908 would prove to be a watershed year when that changed.

He competed in the very first Race Walking Association (RWA) 20 Miles Walk Championship at Ruislip in 1908, finishing second to H. V. L. Ross of Tooting A.C. who won with a time of 2:56:32. Brown was also part of the winning Surrey Walking Club team, along with C. A. Schofield, Tommy Hammond and A. Hubbard. I note that on this occasion, he finished 2nd while Hammond finished 5th.

Brown followed this up with an appearance in the 1908 Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) 2 Miles Walk

Championship at the Shepherds Bush Stadium on July 4th, finishing 8th. This would not be of significance except for one significant fact – London was to host the 1908 Olympic Games and countries were allowed to enter up to 12 athletes in each event. For most countries, this was not going to happen, but for Great Britain, it was a chance to flood the Games with its own athletes and showcase their sporting strength. After all, this was the British Empire!

Brown was one of 11 British walkers selected to compete in the Olympic 3,500m walk on Tuesday 14th July 1908. The event saw 25 entries overall, split into three heats, with the top three in each heat advancing to the final. For the record, he was disqualified in his heat. His Games were over very quickly.

The Olympic 10 Miles Walk was held 2 days later, on Thursday 16th July 1908. Again, Great Britain flooded the field, with 12 of the 25 walkers. The numbers paid off, with their walkers taking 7 of the 8 spots in the final and filling the first 6 positions.

In retrospect, Brown would have been better suited to the Olympic 10 Miles Walk and I am not sure why he ended up in the shorter 3,500m Walk.

Fast forward 2 months to the weekend of 11th - 12th September 1908, when the first 24 Hour Track Walk of the 20th century was held at the White City Stadium in London. The event which included all the top distance walkers, attracted great media interest and it certainly lived up to the hype. This memorable event saw Tommy Hammond create a new track record for 100 miles of 18:04:10. He set up many other records along the way and eventually reached 131 miles 580 yards within the 24 hours.

Overall, the first 17 finishers all walked in excess of 100 miles – an impressive stat! The Surrey Walking Club Gazette No.3 1908 reports that “*Our member, Bill Brown, led at the start; then Jack Butler took the lead till the 11th mile ... Bill finished 23rd with a distance of 81 miles 586 yards.*” It was not a good result for Brown.

Middlesex Walking Club 24 Hour Track Walk, White City Stadium, London, 11-12 September 1908

1.	Tommy Hammond	White City	131 m 0580 yds	C10
2.	H.W. Horton	Surrey WC	121 m 1645 yds	C5
3.	F.J. Wakefield	Surrey WC	118 m 0301 yds	C6
4.	C.M. Sampson	Polytechnic Harriers	117 m 1223 yds	C16
5.	F.R. Leatherby	Middlesex WC	115 m 1613 yds	C17
6.	Tommy Payne	Lancashire WC	108 m 0783 yds	C18
7.	B.H. Warden	Polytechnic Harriers	108 m 0431 yds	C19
8.	A. Ormrod	Lancashire WC	107 m 0644 yds	C20
9.	F. Bland	Polytechnic Harriers	107 m 0344 yds	C15
10.	J. Iles	Unattached-Wales	106 m 0785 yds	C21
11.	Henry Swabey	Surrey WC	106 m 0743 yds	C13
12.	Bob Gillespie	Middlesex WC	106 m 0154 yds	C22
13.	H.J. Clark	Finchley Harriers	105 m 1504 yds	C23
14.	George Lind	Polytechnic Harriers	104 m 0851 yds	C24
15.	T.C. Habishaw	Queens Park	103 m 0465 yds	C25
16.	J. Harper	Small Heath Harriers	100 m 0586 yds	C26
17.	H.C. Taylor	Polytechnic Harriers	100 m 0586 yds	C27

Undeterred by this poor result, he was back the following year as part of the winning Surrey WC team in the 1909 RWA 20 Miles Walk Championship at Woodside, finishing 4th on this occasion.

While Brown had failed in the 1908 24 Hour Track Walk, he bounced back the following year, when a further track race was held at the same venue on the weekend of 10th - 11th September 1909. As in 1908, he led from the start, determined not to be caught so easily this time. He did not disappoint, leading for a little over 15 hours and setting new British Records at various distances from 51 miles to 85 miles and various time records from 9 hours to 15 hours. His **12 Hour Record was a superb 68 miles 1441 yards** and his **15 Hour Record was 84 miles 564 yards**.

Eventually, he was caught by Tom Payne who went on to win with a distance of 127 miles 542 yards (204.9 km). As an aside, Payne's performance had an extra element to it in that he walked the entire 127 miles without stopping. His father kept him going throughout with a special mixture of raw eggs mixed with tea, and milk, honey, non-alcoholic wines, beef tea, rice and soaked biscuits. It was recognised as a world record for non-stop walking. It is still recognised today as a club record for South Shields Harriers. On his return to South Shields, he was given a hero's welcome, with a victory parade around the town.

Brown held on well to finish second, with a distance of **124 miles 1710 yards** but, once again, someone had taken the spotlight away from his 24 Hour performance and his numerous British records.

As an indication of the depth of long distance walking, 25 walkers walked 100 miles or more, 21 of them for the first time. The popularity of long distance walking, it seems, had taken a hold on the walkers of the day, certainly on the track anyway.

Middlesex Walking Club 24 Hour Track Walk, White City Stadium, London, 10-11 September 1909

1.	Tommy Payne	Lancashire WC	127 m 0542 yds	C18
2.	Bill Brown	Polytechnic Harriers	124 m 1710 yds	C12
3.	Edgar Broad	Surrey WC	120 m 1420 yds	C28
4.	R. Bramham	Sheffield United	117 m 0570 yds	C29
5.	Henry Swabey	Surrey WC	114 m 1502 yds	C13
6.	A.E. Gerard	Unattached-Grimsby	112 m 0155 yds	C30
7.	A.C.W. Buck	Bank of England SC	107 m 0369 yds	C31
8.	R.Lyon Parker	Highgate Harriers	106 m 1436 yds	C33
9.	E. Forge	Essex Beagles	106 m 0484 yds	C32
10.	H. Stessiger	Surrey WC	106 m 0172 yds	C34
11.	R. Bidmead	Stock Exch Boxing Club	104 m 0685 yds	C36
12.	A.P. Reid	Unattached-Newark	103 m 0713 yds	C35
13.	F. Webb	Middlesex WC	103 m 0577 yds	C37
14.	J. Harper	Middlesex WC	102 m 1040 yds	C26
15.	A.W. Jackson	Unattached-Grimsby	102 m 0062 yds	C38
16.	F.G. Downs	Vegetarians WC	101 m 1605 yds	C39
17.	E. Hailstone	Unatt. (Eastbourne)	101 m 0567 yds	C40

Additional 100 Miles Performances

1.	E. Parslow	Surrey WC	21:03:47	C41
2.	F.H. Wallis	Blackheath Harriers	22:55:46	C42
3.	W.T. Mitchell	Garratt WC	23:01:30	C43
4.	E.C. Haynes	Middlesex WC	23:05:56	C46
5.	A. Grubb sr	Highgate Harriers	23:06:27	C44
6.	F.T. Lock	Ashcombe AC	23:06:44	C45
7.	E.G. Mitchell	Lancashire WC	23:32:50	C47
8.	L. Norwood	Sheffield United	23:44:21	C48

Brown's 12 Hour Track Walk record lasted less than a year before being beaten by Tom Payne. Middlesex Walking Club's 12 Hour Track Race at the Stamford Bridge Ground on 4th June 1910 saw Payne walk to a superb 72 miles and 33 yards (117.5 km). Well, they do say that records are made to be broken.

That marks the end of Bill Brown's walking career, except for one final mention some years later when he finished second in the 1914 RWA 20 Miles Championship at St Albans, behind Ross again, and still part of the winning Surrey WC team. He was by then 35 years of age.

There is one final chapter to relate from his story. Brown had worked for the Ford Motor Company at their Dagenham factory until he retired in 1949, aged 70. In 1978, when he became the first Ford worker to reach 100 years, fellow worker and English Centurion Dave Ainsworth organised the birthday party for Brown, and it was only then that he discovered Brown's athletics past as a respected Centurion. The Centurions had lost touch with Bill - until Dave re-engaged the link.

Bill lived a 3+ further years before dying, aged 103, in 1982.

Nearly 40 years on from his death, we acknowledge the excellence of his walking performances and honour his long life and his many achievements. In an era of champion long distance walkers, his name is not forgotten.

The newspaper article from Bill's 100th birthday is on the next page. I'd love to get some photos of Bill in his prime.

TOAST OF THE TOWN

A TOAST today to Will Brown. He's someone rather special.

Will has just become Ford's first-ever centenarian.

He has clocked up a magnificent 100 years and cut himself a slice of company history.

It was way back in February 1949 when Will retired as a Dagenham time checker after 18 years' service. He was then 70.

He was at Dagenham while it was being built on the marshes and production was still way off.

When he finally packed in work, Will was earning a princely 3s. 9d. an hour.

Amid cheerful but quiet celebrations at his home in Westcliff, Will proudly received the traditional telegram of congratulations from the Queen.

There were many others, too. From Ford Chairman and Managing Director Sir Terence Beckett, for instance. And from the Amateur Athletics Association and the Race Walking Association.

Will was one of the best known British athletes at the turn of the century and is a member of that most exclusive club, the Centurions, for completing a 100-mile distance in less than 24 hours.

A number of special gifts from the company were presented by Pension Funds Manager Alec Pitt.



Congratulations to Will on his 100th birthday from Balmoral House Matron Monica Goodridge.

Bill Brown's 100th Birthday (cutting from <http://centurionsworldwide.org.uk/c12-bill-brown.html>)

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

It's a quiet time for us all at the moment but, at least here in Australia, we are close to easing our COVID-19 related restrictions. To all our readers, both local and overseas, I wish you good health and safe walking and look forward to chatting with you in the dim light at the end of the tunnel.

Yours in Centurion walking

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