

This will bring back memories - a large crowd and big field (more than lined-up in our National 20K that year) plus celebrities present (Barry Hearn, Steve Davis, Tony Meo, Gary Mason - Britain's heaviest ever heavyweight champion - & others). The Romford Brewery Dash (5 times round the Market Place, over the cobbles, starting and finishing outside Debenhams (which closes its doors for a last time today). Early pacemaker Shaun Sullivan was "pulled" around the back of C&A's store on lap 2 by judge Amos Seddon - C&A also has since closed for good. Romford Market Place isn't what it used to be. The sponsoring Romford Brewery is now demolished and is a shopping centre called "The Brewery". That day offered good prizes, free entry, free beer and a free post race buffet laid on for all Officials & competitors + their families. The top man & top lady each got a case of 24 Castlemaine XXXX. Date was : 28th May 1989. Memories!

Celebrities mingled with walkers after they'd finished - Steve Davis told of his 1 mile race walking best of 7.50, and also of his appearance as a race walker in the Essex Schools Championship when his race ended with a call of his number. Romford Brewery (brewers of John Bull bitter + various lagers) sponsored the walking race - "The Matchroom" sponsored cycling races on the same circuit. Chief Timekeeper was Stan Hart R.I.P., Chief Recorder was Heather Croft.

Distance was 2,800 Metres (an exact 5 times around the Market Place). In following years an 100 metres out-and-back at the start was added to make it a recognised distance of 3,000 metres.

Selected results : 1. F.Reis 11.08, 2.S.Phillips 11.20, 3.N.Carmody 11.32, 4. C.Bradley 11.40, 5. C.Hobbs 11.55, 6. P.Hannell 12.04, 7. R.O'Rawe 12.07, 10.D.Sheppard 12.10, 11. S.Uttley 12.14, 13. S.Bennett 12.38, 14. K.Carter 12.40, 15. C.Bent 12.41, 16. D.Kates 12.42, 17. C.Lawton 12.44, J.O'Rawe 12.46, 19. D.Buchanan 12.47, 20. J.Pope (1st lady) 12.57, 21. P.Cassidy 12.58, 23.D.Fotheringham 13.20, 24. G.Nibre 13.21, 25. I.Richards (Cov) 13.26, 26. B.Hawkins 13.27, 27. Alan O'Rawe 13.28, 28. J.Perkins 13.32, 29. P.Worth 13.39, 30. W.Liu 13.53, 32. P.King 14/03, 33. D.Sharpe 14.13, 35. J.Hedgethorpe 14.15, 36. M.Worth (2nd lady) 14.16, 37. P.Hodd (3rd lady) 14.19, 38. D.Hopkins 14.21, 40. M.Croft 14.29, 42 M.Brace with A.Ross as his guide 14.36, 44. W.Garrett 15.17, 48. R.LeMoine 15.59 and 50. L.Barrett 17.52.

Camera operator - unknown - so who put it on youtube we know not?

DA