

# The Enfield Walker 2020

September Catch-up

(Newsheet of the Walking Section of Enfield & Haringey AC)

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who apologises for any errors and who welcomes contributions and comments for future issues

Latest League news at <http://enfieldleague.weebly.com>



We remain for the most part in the virtual world so far as racing goes and valliant attempts by Vets AC and the Lancashire Walking Club (details on their websites) to promote live competition are to be applauded. However, the suspension of the ERWL continues and the 2020 series officially abandoned.

## Enfield Open Seven (EO7) Centenary Invitation

The inaugural Enfield Open Seven Miles walk took place on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1920. In the century since, it was unable to be staged on seven occasions and sadly because of Covid-19 it will be unable to go ahead in its centenary year.

The event is the last of the renowned Open Seven Series; the Leicester, Highgate, Enfield, Belgrave, Cambridge and Metropolitan races, which ran through from October to January and underpinned the RWA programme that produced the golden era of British international success between 1924 and 1976.

The names of the winners are well documented, but the longevity of the event has been secured by the hundreds of participants who were never headliners and similarly the officials and friends, without who the races just couldn't have taken place.

To keep the event alive, anyone who took part in an EO7 be it walker, official or supporter is

*Invited to*

**Submit a Memory** they have of the Event

or

**Walk either 7minutes, 7km or 7miles**

or

**Drop a line saying**

Who you are , What year you were at the race and the Time you did.

**Photographs Most Welcome**

*See slip on page 3*

*It may not be possible to race this year, but the opportunity to participate and continue the event remains and a record of contributions marking the occasion will included in the*

## EO7 Centenary Souvenir Booklet

### Chelsea O'Rawe Hobbs RIP

It is with great sadness that this issue brings news of the untimely death of Chelsea O'Rawe Hobbs (29) as the result of a motor cycle accident at Kempston Hardwick, Bedfordshire on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Chelsea was an Enfield Leaguer and won the Ladies Open Seven in 2007.

She entered the nursing profession in 2012 initially as a support worker for the disabled before re-training as an intensive care nurse and she had been working at the Royal London Hospital.

Chelsea was a breath of fresh air at any race she attended, showed much promise and it was obvious that she had great potential, not just as a race walker but at whatever she decided to do in her life. It's a tragedy that it was cut so short.

Condolences to her Mum, Dad and the whole family at what must be a devastating time for them.

Further tributes will be published in the next Essex Walker



## Results Round-up

After being side-lined during the summer by a troublesome strain, Dave Annetts currently working in Amsterdam has been taking advantage of the Dutch racing programme and acquitted himself well in the **Sprintdriekamp** in Drunen, a three race series; 3km, 2km, 1km, all on the same morning. The races were dominated by Rick Liesting, Rob Tersteeg and Remco de Bruin, who have all won Euro masters tiles in the past and Dave finished fifth with times 14.00, 9.35 and 4.42.

### In Virtual Realms

Twenty-four women and forty-one men took part in the **Virtual Southend Mile** between 29<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September and included submissions from Argentina, Australia, and Germany. Ashford's Jon Hobbs 7.20 along with Northern AC's Erika Kelly 7.36 headed their respective finishing lists and Leaguers who took part were: Jaqueline Benson and Millie Morris both clocking 7.59, Emma Dyos 8.44, Trevor Jones 8.47, Rachel Lawless 9.10, Helen Middleton 9.21, Simon Morgan 9.43, Tony Bell 9.54, Cath Duhig 10.02, Lesley Morris 10.03, Pamela Abbott 10.19, Fiona Bishop 10.34, Alan O'Rawe c791 11.07, Chris Flint c849 11.40, Steve Allen c1102 12.38.

**The RWA 2km Virtual Series** continues and although submissionss have fallen off the promotion continues to provide a focus for a substantial number of walkers. Of the 26 Leaguers who turned out in the inaugural competitions in April only 11 took part in the last five trials and of those seven improved their 2km times; they were Pamela Abbott 12.49, Fiona Bishop 12.45, Emma Dyos 10.36, Trevor Jones 10.55, Simon Morgan 12.15, Lelsey Morris 12.20 and Alan O'Rawe 13.41. The four who participated but didn't improve on the times were Tony Bell, Cath duhig, Rachel Lawless and Helen Middleton.

### Mixed year for Callum Wilkinson ends on a high

The 2019 World Track & Field Championships in Doha were a disappointment for Callum with a disqualification when well-placed for a top six finish. During the winter Callum joined the coaching group under the tutelage of Robert Heffernan the 2013 World 50km champion who had also won bronze at the 2012 London Olympics. Concentration on recapturing the level of technique that carried him to the World Junior title in 2016 was the priority.

However, early in 2020 a troublesome foot injury was making it difficult to fulfil the volume of training necessary to compete at top level and with the Tokyo selection still to be confirmed it was a worrying time. Diagnosis, treatment and support from UKA greatly assisted the overcoming of that particular obstacle and by March he was all set to go with a series of races designed to bring him to peak readiness for Japan in August. The Coronavirus pandemic intervened so it was not to be.

In the four race programme that he did manage to complete, he had a clean sheet from the judges, broke a 29 year old national record, retained his British 5km title and finished 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in international invitation meetings, the latter in a pb – So given the circumstances it wasn't such a bad year after all!



#### Competition summary

|      |       |                                 |  |
|------|-------|---------------------------------|--|
| 10km | 39.57 | 2 <sup>nd</sup>                 | Invitation Race, Gothenburg, 5 <sup>th</sup> August            |
| 10km | 39.52 | 1 <sup>st</sup> *British Record | Irish championships, Dublin, 29 <sup>th</sup> August,          |
| 5km  | 19.25 | 1 <sup>st</sup>                 | British championships, Manchester, 4 <sup>th</sup> September   |
| 20km | 81.21 | 4 <sup>th</sup> *Personal Best  | Invitation Race, Alytus, Lithuania, 18 <sup>th</sup> September |

Sorry to report that Ken Roost c557 who will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on this coming Boxing Day hasn't been too well lately and I'm sure everyone connected with ERWL and his many friends in the walking world, send their best wishes and hope he is soon feeling better.

### Keep up to date

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The **Essex Walker** is also a good read and can be obtained by contacting [cper1881@btinternet.com](mailto:cper1881@btinternet.com)

## E07 A Look Back

**1920 E07** (result *Sporting Life* Nov 15/11/1920)

52 entered/44 started/42 finished/

The newly formed Enfield Athletic Club scored a distinct success with the open walking handicap of seven miles, held under its auspices at Enfield on Saturday. Fifty-two entries were received and of that number forty-four started among them William"Bill"Brown of Surrey walking Club who had competed in the 1908 Olympic Games. Bill was still pretty quick (under the hour) being the fourth fastest on the day. J.W.Dowse was virtual scratch and the veteran Highgate Harrier A.Grubb with 20 mins the limit.

For a man in his sixty-seventh year Grubb travelled wonderfully well and maintained the lead for nearly five miles but was then passed by C.G.Bolt and R.Jackson, the former winning by about fifty yards. Dowse gave a fine exhibition of fair and fast walking and went through the field to third place.

N.W.Easlea who had 7 min 30 secs and finished thirty-fourth gained the members' novice prize

*And a contribution to EnfWalker by Mike Hinton in 2007*

### **THE OPEN SEVEN MILES** and some **Debut Memories**

My first experience of taking part in Open 7 miles was the 'Enfield Open' in 1957, having been introduced to the sport of Race Walking that summer, aged sixteen.

At that time there were five Open 7's, starting with 'Highgate' in October, 'Enfield' and 'Belgrave' both in November, followed by the 'Cambridge' in December and the 'Met.Police' in January. All these events required entries in advance and certainly none were accepted on the day, as fields could number as many as two hundred. The cost of entry was most probably the equivalent of 15p, and a programme listing the entries was given to competitors as they collected their numbers.

When filling in your entry form, your latest time for the distance was required for a handicap mark which appeared next to your name on the programme. In those days it was four to score in a team which had to be declared prior to the start of the race. You could name up to eight walkers and some clubs had as many as four teams taking part, so you can imagine the amount walkers taking part. Invariably there were awards for the scratch team, and also the best handicap team.

Most of the country's leading walkers would take part in these 'Open 7's', as they were very popular and the highlight of the Winter Racing Calendar. The 'Enfield' and 'Met.Police' were reckoned as the fastest, being flat courses. 'Highgate' and 'Belgrave' were considered the toughest, because of the hills, the 'Cambridge' falling somewhere in the middle. The Highgate start was actually up Westgate Hill and the Belgrave course was always considered slightly over-distance.

We suffered some cold winters back then, and I can still recall the smell of wintergreen and other pungent oils being slapped on in the changing area, amongst the two hundred or so bodies, I encountered at Enfield that November half a century ago.

It's hard to think now, but no women were allowed in these events in those days and although there would have been a few Veterans in the field, nowhere near as many as you find today, but strikingly there were many more juniors.

It's amazing to think that the start was in Enfield High Street, with the traffic, including trolley buses held up while the Walkers lined up across the road. I remember the course went out along the Ridgeway and turned a little way past the water tower, in the middle of the road at the half waypoint, which would be impossible today. Whilst still on the way out most walkers would see the top walkers coming towards them on their way back. Over years the likes of Stan Vickers, Ken Matthews, Don Thompson and all the big names took part and the big name that won it in my 1957 Enfield debut, which had 179 starters was Eric Hall in 51.28.

The 'Highgate' and 'Cambridge' have long gone and seems that we have seen the last of the 'Met. Police' event, so that just leaves the 'Enfield' and 'Belgrave' sevens, to soldier on. Both have seen changes in their courses over the years due to increased traffic and other problems but are managing to stick it out. (*Sadly, the Belgrave didn't survive after 2010*).

I have always wondered why 7 miles it's such an odd number, perhaps someone can answer that.

3Sept20

## **Be part of History and Send your E07 Centenary contribution to**

Ron Wallwork [ronc893moulton@gmail.com](mailto:ronc893moulton@gmail.com) or at 35A Newmarket Road Moulton, Suffolk, CB8 8QP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Walker/Official/Supporter \_\_\_\_\_

Circle as appropriate

email address \_\_\_\_\_

I walked 7 minutes      I walked 7 km      I walked 7 miles

address \_\_\_\_\_

I'm submitting a Memory

\_\_\_\_\_

I'm Dropping a Line

\_\_\_\_\_

If Centurion what number?

For communication purpose only





**Photographs for the Centenary Souvenir Booklet  
Most Welcome and return guaranteed.**

EO7 1928 - The first of the scratch races  
Enfield's team scorers

Johnny Miller, Ernie Oliver, Arthur Amies and the legendary Cecil 'Sticker' Hyde who the race in 53.04

Below the EO7 starts in 1937 and 1938 where the winner on both occasions was Belgrave's Harry Churcher his second and third victory in the event and who after the War registered another three.

