



Surrey takes top honours for the first time!

Surrey Walking Club ended the promoting club's six season grip on the Enfield Race Walking League and weren't that far of snatching third place from Ilford AC who are the only other team besides the EHAC to hold the League title since its inception in 1997. Surrey's first appearance in the top three was as long ago as 2007 and their only other, perhaps serving notice of what was to come, was third team last year.

Forty-eight clubs were represented during the series and the surprises were undoubtedly the demise of Hillingdon AC, runner-up for the previous two years and the late season finish of Loughton AC, spearheaded by John Borgars and Melanie Peddle.

Fifty-one women took part in the series and the ladies champion Jo Miles, raced 10 times (the best 9 performances count) and reaped the rewards of doing so to improve on her 2015 third place. Last year's winner Maureen Noel paid the price for not racing at least one more than the seven she did. For Angela Martin, this was her third top three finishes in four years.

John Ralph and Dan Maskell moved up from second and third last year to winner and runner-up and Sean Pender who won the title back in back in 1998 was third, not that far ahead of fellow Centurion John Borgars. All four had a 'full house' of performances. The Junior League trophy was easily retained by George Wilkinson.

The statistics:	Total Participants:	155 who logged up 391 performances	5 did 9 or more races
	Made up of Women:	51	23 did 6 or more races*
	Men:	101	49 did 3 or more races
	From Clubs:	48	65 did 2 or more races
			*Thus qualifying as Leaguers

2016 Final League tables

Ladies

1. 464/9 Jo Miles
2. 434/7 Maureen Noel
3. 419/8 Angela Martin
4. 377/7 Anne Jones
5. 365/6 Penelope Cummings
6. 351/6 Joyce Crawford
7. 313/5 Melanie Peddle
8. 307/5 Cath Duhig ©
9. 284/5 Lynn Jones
10. 261/4 Helen Middleton

Men

1. 590/9 John Ralph
2. 547/9 Dan Maskell
3. 480/9 Sean Pender ©
4. 468/9 John Borgars ©
5. 461/7 Mark Culshaw
6. 431/9 Dave Hoben
7. 427/6 Francisco Reis
8. 424/7 Arthur Thomson
9. 419/7 Malcolm Martin
10. 353/5 David Crane
11. 346/6 Shaun Lightman
12. 331/6 Michael Harran
13. 320/7 Jon May
14. 314/6 Chris Flint ©
15. 309/5 Gary Smith ©
16. 308/5 Steve Uttley
17. 288/6 David Delaney
18. 286/6 Stephen Cartwright
19. 276/4 Sebastian Parris
20. 272/4 Chris Hobbs

Team

1. Surrey WC **2515** 547 Maskell, 431 Hoben, 419 MartinA, 419 MartinM, 353 Crane, 346 Lightman
2. EHAC **2407** 590 Ralph, 480 Pender, 424 Thomson, 320 May, 309 Smith, 284 Jones
3. Ilford AC **1367** 308 Uttley, 276 Parris, 243 Ainsworth, 235 Barnbrook, 170 Kates, 135 Bennett
4. Surrey WC 'B' **1204** 331 Harran, 314 Flint, 288 Delaney, 113 Gaston, 91 Crilley, 67 Cheeseman
5. Belgrave H **1189** 461 Culshaw, 434 Noel, 168 King, 63 Hall, 63 Halmstrand
6. Loughton AC **1138** 468 Borgars, 313 Peddle, 178 Cassidy, 123 Fernandez, 56 Taylor
7. EHAC 'B' **1009** 261 Middleton, 213 Livermore, 205 Seddon, 164 WilkinsonG, 86 Abbott, 80 WilkinsonC
8. Hillingdon AC **920** 464 Miles, 171 MiddletonJ, 128 Cox, 48 Bobbett, 67 Deuter, 42 Vroobel
9. Steyning AC **859** 377 Jones, 166 Penfold, 142 Ball, 72 Hales, 69 Bearman, 33 Stevens
10. Aldershot F & D **545** 365 Cummings, 62 Pedley, 49 Davies, 35 Jennings, 34 Lewis

Once again, the success of the ERWL is attributable to the contributions of several people who work away from the limelight and who are often members of clubs other than EHAC. The names of many of them appear in the race results and I am particularly grateful to them. I also make special mention and express my thanks to Jon May for his sterling work in compiling and producing the League tables.

The complete list of participants along with club and team placings can be found on the league website.

The 2017 Series Commences on 14th January
Five miles and 1/2/3 miles Junior/Newcomer races
Followed by the 2016 Awards Presentations
1pm at QEII Playing Field, Donkey Lane, Enfield, EN1 3PL

Results Round-up

Surrey Walking Club's club championship and open 7 miles held on Sunday 6th October at Sandilands, was won by David Crane in 59.36 ahead of Graham Chapman 71.22, Arthur Thomson 76.56 and Anne Jones, the quickest lady in 77.33. Sean Pender 8th in 79.12 was the only other club member in the race. Fourteen walkers took part and they were; Paul King 77.36, Micky Harran 78.01, Angela and Malcolm Martin both 78.32, Geraldine Legon 80.39, Dave Hoben 81.19, David Delaney 82.48, Dan Maskell 86.10 and Russell Vroobel 86.19.

Three Leaguers were among the eight British walkers who competed at the **World Masters Championships** in Perth, Australia, competing at three distances between 26th and 31st October. I understand that Maureen Noel and Fiona Bishop also collected team medals in the marathon.

	5km	10km	20km
Cath Duhig (W60)	5 th 30.46	3 rd 61.01	3 rd 2.10.10
Maureen Noel (W50)	7 th 32.05	8 th 64.11	6 th 2.14.48
Fiona Bishop (W45)	10 th 34.38	dq	dq

The other British walkers at the event were Norbert Will who won two 1sts and a 2nd, Ed Shillabeer who collected place medals in all three events, Ian Richards in two events and Peter Boszko in one.

Arthur Thomson 66.37 and Sean Pender 71.26 were the only EHAC walkers in action at the **Steyning Open 10km** held over the scenic but testing Sussex course on 19th November. Fransisco Reis 53.33 made competent return to racing after a lengthy absence through injury and along with Jim Ball, who was only 19 seconds behind decimated the 17 strong-field which included Dan Maskell 66.07, Anne Jones (2nd lady) 66.46, Micky Harran 68.35, Angela Martin 70.25 and Dave Hoben 71.18.

At the Lancashire WC '**Bill Jackson' 5km** held at Simister, Manchester on 3rd December only 36 seconds covered the first six finishers. Dan Maskell was 4th in 31.40 and the race winner was Greg Smith who clocked 31.13.

Surrey WC's **Christmas Cup 5km** held at Tonbridge track on 3rd December saw an excellent turnout of 29 and featured Rio 20km sixth placer Tom Bosworth, who won easily in 22.04 from Chris Snook 22.39 and Jonathan Hobbs 23.58. The club had no representatives. Walkers with strong League connections who took part were; David Crane 24.18, Fransisco Reis 25.23, Malcolm Martin 28.17, Ron Penfold 32.04, Chris Flint 33.11, Angela Martin 33.50, Dave Delaney 34.24 and Dave Hoben 35.05.

Ron Penfold reports that conditions were good and that there was some excellent racing in the **Alf Palmer Memorial track meeting** at Horsham on 10th December.

Once again the races were very well supported and unusually, nearly as many ladies (19) as men (20) took part. The girls 1 and 2kms which started together was a very tight affair in the early stages with Abigail Smith, Davina Nova, Katy Stringer and Charlotte Wallis all close together. Abigail 6.02 emerged to win the shorter distance and Davina 12.11 the 2km. Jack Childs 17.19 again won the 3km although in a slightly slower time on this occasion. The ladies and men's 5km was also hotly contested; Luc Legon 22.28 knocking nearly 2 mins off of his last years winning time, from Chris Snook 23.43 and Jonathan Hobbs 24.09, whilst Emily Ghose 27.42 got the better of Lucy Lewis-Ward 28.33 and Abigail Jennings 28.37.

In both the men's and ladies races there were close races between walkers all the way down the field among them Arthur Thomson 31.57 and Leaguers Fransisco Reis 25.02, Malcolm Martin 28.42, Dan Maskell 32.40, Anne Jones 32.29, Chris Flint 33.09 and Angela Martin 33.13

It was very pleasing to see a lot of youngsters (16 of the 39 u20) putting in very good performances.

Club Records

It was very nice for me to receive most of the accolades for the recent 90th Open and Re-union and I have elsewhere expressed my thanks to Bernie Hercock and others about their vital roles in putting it on. However, we tend to forget that it was Martin Oliver (whose family's involvements with Enfield walking stretches back a long way), who initiated the Enfield Race Walking League in 1997 and thus the continuance of the Open Seven.

We see very little of Martin these days, but he gets in touch from time to time and has recently drafted a comprehensive list of club records. They will be available soon on <http://enfieldleague.weebly.com> and also the EHAC websites.

Martin and I invite comments and any information contrary to the lists as currently compiled.

ERWL 2017 Fixture List (to June)

Compiled & produced by Ron Wallwork, 35A, Newmarket Road, Moulton, Suffolk, CB8 8QP-01638 751869 – ronc893moulton@gmail.com

Always check the enfieldleague.weebly.com website for last minute changes

14 th	January	1pm	5 miles 1/2/3 miles	League Race 1 and 2015 Presentations at QE2 Playing Fields, Young age groups and Newcomers Donkey Lane, EN1 3PL
18 th	February	1pm	5 miles 1/2/3 miles	League Race 2 at QE2 Playing Fields, Donkey Lane, EN1 3PL Young age groups and Newcomers
11 th	March	1pm	5 miles 1/2/3 miles	League Race 2 at QE2 Playing Fields, Donkey Lane, EN1 3PL Young age groups and Newcomers
1 st	April	1pm	10km	Cecil Gittins Meeting (ERWL race 4 at Gravesend Cycle track 5/15km + Young age groups and Newcomer distances
1 st	May (Bank Holiday)	5pm	5 miles 2 miles U/15s	Pednor Open Race 5 at Chesham LT & S Club, Pednor Road. Details on Chiltern Harriers website
3 rd	June	12.30pm	5 miles	Moulton Open from Moulton Village Hall, Suffolk, and CB8 8SP 1/2 miles Young age groups and Newcomer distances

Letter from Oliver Flynn

Dear Ron, Joan and all the team

May I take this opportunity in congratulating you all on putting on such a marvellous event which I am sure everyone who attended enjoyed tremendously. It was no small task for you all, you can all be justly proud of making the event such a success.

It was wonderful to see so many friends and competitors from our past once again reminding us all how important Race Walking has been in all our lives.

The attention to detail in the program and the tea towel was absolutely fabulous and was a reminder, as if it was needed, how central the Enfield 7 has been in all our lives and the wider development of our sport too.

Just as important for the event was the tremendous performance of Dominic King giving the occasion a time befitting of the special event that it was.

It also must not be forgotten the generosity of Mr Bernie Hercock, the Enfield President for the last three years, who generously sponsored the event. His kindness only added to the occasion.

It was also very touching to have a donation box for the children in need so others could benefit from the kindness shown to us by Mr Bernie Hercock.

Yours sincerely – Oliver Flynn

This letter was typical of several that were received in connection with the 90th Open Seven

RWA Southern – No Changes

The officers of the RWA Southern area remain unchanged following the association's AGM on 4th November. The key position holders are: Chris Hobbs (*President*), Noel Carmody (*Hon.Secretary*), Chris Flint (*Hon.Treasurer*)

Athletes' Deaths At November's RWA Southern Area meeting, Chairman Noel Carmody drew attention to sad deaths of Aldershot, Farnham & District athletes who had been struck down while on a warm-up run outside their stadium. Stacey Burrows (16) & Lucy Pygott (17) were on a pedestrian crossing when hit by a speeding car. Lucy had represented Great Britain in July's European Athletics Youth Championships at Tblisi, winning an U/18 3,000m bronze medal. All readers will be deeply saddened. A 24 year old serving soldier has been arrested. Safety on roads is to be discussed at January's RWA Southern Area Committee meeting, as walking races do take place on public roads, and some walkers train on highways.

Forthcoming Fixtures

January

14th Saturday 1pm 5m 2017 ERWL race 1 + 2016 Presentations – Donkey Lane, Enfield, EN1 3PL
21st Saturday 2pm 15km Steyning Open – Steyning

February

Loughton Athletic Club R.W.A. - Southern Area

The London Open Walks

(Incorporating the Southern Area Senior & YAG Championships)

Sunday 5th February 2017

Hillingdon Cycle Circuit, Minet Park, Springfield Road, Hayes, UB4 0LP

Events/Timetable: 12:00 noon Under 11 Boys & Girls 1km 12:20pm Under 13 Boys & Girls 2km 12:40pm Under 15 Boys & Girls 3km 1:00pm Under 17 Men's & Women's 5km 1:00pm Junior & Senior Women's 5km 1:00pm Junior & Senior Men's 10km. **All events except the Under 11s are to be judged under category A**
(With prior notice 5km competitors may continue to the 10km finish)

Awards

All events: first three individuals, first three teams of three Senior Men and Women: first Centurion (N.O.I.A), first Veteran (N.O.I.A) One second-claim walker may score in each open team

Entry Fees (Open/Championships)

Seniors and Juniors £7.00/£8.00 Under 11 – No Charge All Others £6.00/£4.00 No Team Fees Please state Date of Birth on Entry Forms N.B.: All Southern Championship Competitors MUST enter the Open Event and pay the appropriate fee

Entries in advance are preferred with cheques in favour of Peter Cassidy to him at Hufflers, Heard's Lane, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 0SF Tel: 01277 220687 Email: Peter.Cassidy@btinternet.com Entries will be accepted on the day



Wishing You a
Happy Festive Season,
and All Good Fortune
in 2017