

Three double Olympians; Neringe Aidityte, Lisa Kehler and Dominic King, and seven former GB internationals were among the competitors in the 90<sup>th</sup> edition of the Enfield Open Seven and among the spectators who made a special effort to be there were Olympic silver medallist Paul Nihill, European bronze medallist Roger Mills along and Olympian and 1978 Commonwealth Games winner Oliver Flynn.

In addition to Paul Nihill and Roger Mills fifteen other past winners were on hand competing, officiating or encouraging those that were.

In racing kit were Bob Dobson (1978), Lisa Kehler (1987), Chris Cheeseman (1995), Don Bearman (1999), Dominic King (2000/10/11/12/14), Steve Allen (2001), Sophie Hales (2005), Daniel King (2010), Neringe Aidityte (2011), Grazina Narviliene (2012/13/14) and Emma Achurch (2015).

The road-siders were; Carl Lawton (1974), Helen Elleker (1984), Mark Easton (1988/93/98) and Di Bradley (2008/10).



Among the many who sent apologies and best wishes were previous race victors Bryan Hawkins (1954/55), Eric Hall (1957) Ken Matthews (1958/60/61), Brian Adams (1975), Alan King (1980) Peter Ryan (2002) and Callum Wilkinson (2013/15), Olympian Ray Middleton, RWA Past President Eric Horwill, Statistician Peter Matthews and 1970's competitor Bob Gutteridge.

Sadly, the club was only able to field four walkers in the main event, but credit to youngsters Henry Rugg and George Wilkinson, Ken Livermore (M80) the oldest competitor and Centurion and M75 veteran Bill Fenlon (pictured), who was one of several club walkers of yesteryear who turned up to enjoy the 90<sup>th</sup> race re-union. The others who didn't walk included Bill Pilgrim, Ron Powell, Paul Ray, Geoff Robinson, Ken Roost, Jack Rossiter, Graham Scott and long-time Enfield club officers Beryl and Roy Stratton.



Nine winners of this event went on to become Centurions: D.Christie-Murray, Charlie Megnin, Carl Lawton, Brian Adams, Bob Dobson, Dom and Dan King, Peter Ryan and Steve Allen. However, the only one to win it as a Centurion was also the winner of the 90<sup>th</sup> race.

So, it wasn't surprising that there was a strong Centurion presence at the event with no fewer than 30 members of the brother/sisterhood in attendance and 16 of them are recorded on the result sheet. The lowest number was 299 and belonged to John Eddershaw of Sheffield and the next; 317 that of Colin Young, one of the elder statesmen of British race walking who first raced in the event in 1951 clocking 60.02. So, it was fitting that he was the main speaker at the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception held after the race and Paul Nihill was the other.

*Pictures L to R; George Beecham c716, John Eddershaw, Helen Elleker, Colin Young*



Contestants and supporters were treated to a souvenir programme; two memento's and the re-union buffet and in addition the entry fee for the race was waived. Many expressed a wish to contribute something towards the event and £90 was collected and donated to the "Children in Need" appeal.

Galvanising what proved to be a super occasion that brought together friends a acquaintances spanning six decades was EHAC President Bernie Hercock, who had from the moment the notion of a re-union was floated at the 2015 race, given the idea his full backing and finance towards implementing it.

*Pictures on this page by Mark Easton See his website for many more*

Borough of Enfield Councillor Joanne Leban sent the walkers on their way in damp dismal conditions and Dominic King made his intentions very clear by immediately taking the lead, which was substantial by the time two of the 1 mile circuits had been completed. His victory, as the result sheet shows was emphatic and in recording his sixth victory, thus matched the tally of another Olympian, Harry Churcher (Belgrave H) who recorded his either side of the Second World War 1936 - 1949. Dominic's brother Dan currently recovering from injury comfortably took second place and Luc Legon (u20) posted a huge pb in third.



*Neringe Aidietyte, Emma Achurch, Luc Legon, Dan King*

The clear winner in the ladies section was Emma Achurch (u23) who was involved in a race long battle with Luc Legon. They shared the same time and offered a glimpse of hope for the future of race walking. Unfortunately the promoting club's young star Callum Wilkinson, currently studying in Leeds was sidelined with a strain.

Lithuania's Neringe Aidietyte and the evergreen Commonwealth medallist Lisa Kehler demonstrated their class by filling the minor placings in the ladies event, although Sophie Hales wasn't that far behind. Grazina Narviliene like Neringe has had recent injury problems, but turned out just to be part of the history making event.



*L to R: Paul Gaston, Ron Penfold, Arthur Thomson, and Dave Hoben*



*Stuart Bennett, Grazina Narviliene, Sophie Hales, Don Bearman and Lisa Kehler*

With Dave Stevens injured and Richard Emsley unavailable, Ron Penfold signed in expecting to have only Jim Ball and Anne Jones for company in sporting Steyning colours and thus non-contenders for the team competition. Imagine his surprise with the appearance of past winners Sophie Hales and Don Bearman which shunted him to fourth scorer in the winning team.

Ilford's recent 'find' Sebastian Parris continues to impress. He seems to have rallied Ilford's fortunes after an indifferent year, due in the main to work patterns and recurring health problems which curtailed the availability of Stuart Bennett and Steve Uttley.

Enfield without Callum Wilkinson and Helen Middleton couldn't even make the top three teams, letting Surrey WC, who didn't have the services of Shaun Lightman, but gained those of Chris Cheeseman, to take third place. It is worth noting that the latter along with the other 90's winner Don Bearman both looked as though with a little training they could do very well in the Masters' ranks.

Melanie Peddle is currently leading a Loughton revival and had they had the services of John Taylor their points total would have been reduced considerably.

Since 2008 an award in memory of 1962/64 winner Bob Clark has been made to the 'Outstanding Young Walker' in the race and in this occasion it was impossible to separate Emma Achurch and Luc Legon so it was awarded jointly. Ilford AC put up a prize in memory of Lol Dordoy a keen supporter of the event who died tragically in a road accident in 2009. This year it was won by Ken Livermore.





*Glyn Jones, Chris Flint, Sean Pender, Melanie Peddle, Anne Jones, Dan Maskell, Amos Seddon and George Wilkinson*



*Paul King, Chris Cheeseman, Geraldine Legon and David Kates*



*Mark Byrne, Sean Pender, Dave Hoben and George Wilkinson, lead one of the chasing groups*

**Centurions on Parade – 28 of them** the two missing are Mick Barnbrook c661 and Stuart Bennet c858



*front row: Kathy Crilley c933, Alan O'Rawe c791, Ken Roost c557, Jack Rossiter c577, Kim Howard c1020*

*second row: Chris Flint c849, Ken Neagle c527, Paul King c972, Dan King c1100, Steve Kempc1075, Sue Clements c950, George Beecham c716 and Mal Blyth c384*

*third row: Sean Pender c1067, John Borgars c1170, David Kates c936, Dom King c1098, Pam Ficken c934, Dave Ainsworth c540, Steve Allen c1102, Colin Young c317,*

*back row: Carl Lawton c750, John Eddershaw c299, Mark Byrne c870, Ken Livermore c386, Ron Wallwork c893, Bob Dobson c786, Ed Shillabeer c590*

## The Result

Men		© = Centurion	Women	
1. Dominic King ©	(Colchester AC)	49.48 SM	1. Emma Achurch	(Leicester WC) 56.14 u23
2. Daniel King ©	(Colchester AC)	53.51 SM	2. Neringe Aidietyte	(Ilford AC) 57.39 SW
3. Luc Legon	(Cambs H)	56.14 u20	3. Lisa Kehler	(Wolves/Bilston) 61.05 W45
4. David Crane	(Surrey WC)	59.52 M35	4. Sophie Hales	(Steyning AC) 61.36 SW
5. Jim Ball	(Steyning AC)	61.15 M50	5. Grazina Narviliene	(Ealing/Southall) 65.34 W40
6. Sebastian Parris	(Ilford AC)	64.55 M40	6. Melanie Peddle	(Loughton AC) 73.03 W45
7. Don Bearman	(Steyning AC)	65.51 M50	7. Joyce Crawford	(EMAC) 73.56 W45
8. Stuart Bennett ©	(Ilford AC)	69.39 M55	8. Anne Jones	(Steyning AC) 77.00 W60
9. Chris Cheeseman	(Surrey WC)	71.51 M55	9. Angela Martin	(Surrey WC) 77.48 W50
10. John Ralph	(Enfield HAC)	71.56 M55	10. Jo Miles	(Hillingdon AC) 78.31 W60
11. Ron Penfold	(Steyning AC)	73.12 M75	11. Geraldine Legon	(Bexley) 79.32 W55
12. Glyn Jones	(Cov.Godiva H)	73.19 M70	12. Sue Clements ©	(Cambs/Col) 86.20 W60
13. Amos Seddon	(Enfield HAC)	73.22 M75	13. Lisa Storey	(unatt) 88.00 SW
14. Arthur Thomson	(Enfield HAC)	73.24 M80	14. Charlotte Storey	(unatt) 88.00 SW
15. John Borgars ©	(Loughton AC)	73.29 M70	15. Françoise Fernandez	(Loughton AC) 89.36 W65
16. Paul Gaston	(Surrey WC)	74.07 M65.		
17. Dan Maskell	(Surrey WC)	74.48 M65		
18. David Kates ©	(Ilford AC)	74.55 M65	<b>6 miles</b>	
19. Steve Uttley	(Ilford AC)	76.03 M55	Bill Fenlon	(Enfield HAC) 82.50 M75
20. Paul King ©	(Belgrave H)	76.10 M65		
21. Steve Kemp ©	(EMAC)	76.20 M55	<b>4 miles</b>	
22. Chris Flint ©	(Surrey WC)	77.07 M70	George Wilkinson	(Enfield AC) 34.09 u15
23. Sean Pender ©	(Enfield HAC)	77.49 M60	Andy Cox	(Hillingdon AC) 55.18 M60
24. Michael Harran	(Surrey WC)	78.15 M75		
25. Mark Byrne ©	(Redcar RWC)	80.43 M55	<b>3 miles</b>	
26. Dave Hoben	(Surrey WC)	80.44 M60	Malcolm Martin	(Surrey WC) 33.52 M80
27. Steve Allen ©	(Ilford AC)	81.11 M55	Ken Livermore ©	(Enfield HAC) 54.52 M80
28. Russell Vroobel	(Hillingdon AC)	81.14 M55	<b>1 mile</b>	
29. David Delaney	(Surrey WC)	81.21 M70	Henry Rugg	(Enfield HAC) 10.53 u13
30. Stephen Cartwright	(Colchester AC)	81.34 M55	Eddie Trotter	(Ilford AC) 12.01 M65
31. Alan O'Rawe ©	(Ilford AC)	82.40 M75		
32. Bob Dobson ©	(Ilford AC)	84.29 M70	<i>Bob Clark Awards:</i>	Emma Achurch & Luc Legon
33. Peter Cassidy	(Loughton AC)	85.31 M75		
34. Tony Wilkinson	(Moulton)	89.21 M55	<i>Lol Dordoy Spot Prize:</i>	Ken Livermore
35. Mick Barnbrook©	(Ilford AC)	92.53 M70	:	
36. Dave Ainsworth©	(Ilford AC)	96.58 M65	<i>First Centurion:</i>	Stuart Bennett

### Teams (mixed – 4 to score)

1. 46 pts	Steyning AC	Jim Ball, Sophie Hales, Don Bearman, Ron Penfold
2. 53	Ilford AC	Neringe Aidietyte, Seb Parris, Stuart Bennett, David Kates
3. 67	Surrey WC	David Crane, Chris Cheeseman, Paul Gaston, Dan Maskell
4. 86	Enfield & HAC	John Ralph, Amos Seddon, Arthur Thomson, Sean Pender,
5. 130	Loughton AC	Melanie Peddle, John Borgars, Peter Cassidy, Françoise Fernandez

*Judges:* Michael Croft, Mick Graham, John Hall, Ray Pearce

*Timekeeper/Recorders:* Phil Welch, Pam Ficken ©, Carl Lawton ©, / *Judges Runner:* Chris Foster

*Marshalls:* Ken Bobbett, Peter Crane, Kathy Crilley ©, Trevor Jones, Ron Powell

*Registrations/Refreshments:* Margaret Livermore, Dan & Linda Spinks, Joan Wallwork, Tracy Wilkinson

*Race Sponsor:* Bernie Hercock - *MC:* Dave Ainsworth ©

*Race Organisers:* Ken Livermore ©, Sean Pender©, Ron Wallwork©

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Programme errors: Various spelling mistakes have been pointed out, but the only factual ones so far is:  
Page 17 Olympians at the Enfield Open Seven – *thirty-seven Olympians have competed in the event – 25 of them were Enfield winners – Chris Maddocks should have appeared in the non-winners list and Enrique Vera whom did appear in the non-winners list should have been in the list of winners (1977 in 48.44*