

Enfield Race Walking League
FRIENDSHIP WALKS
in celebration of the London staging of the IAAF World Championships
 QEII Stadium, Enfield, Wednesday 9th August

Grey skies, Persistent rain and waterlogged conditions couldn't dampen the atmosphere of this event.
 The Worshipful Mayor of Enfield Council, Christine Hamilton (3rd from right) sends the walkers on their way
Report, courtesy of Dave Ainsworth on page 2



Men's 5 miles

1. Dave Talcott	(USA)	40.13	M55
2. George Wilkinson	(Enfield HAC)	45.31	U17
3. Mark Culshaw	(Ilford AC)	47.16	M50
4. John Constandinou	(Birchfield H)	49.51	M40
5. Tim Ericson ©Aus	(Australia)	50.02	M65
6. Ken Bobbett	(Hillingdon AC)	50.18	M70
7. Anthony Bell	(Lancashire WC)	50.51	M50
8. John Ralph	(Enfield HAC)	51.03	M60
9. Steve Allen	(Barnet & D AC)	51.32	M60
10. John Borgars ©	(Loughton AC)	51.34	M70
11. Glyn Jones	(Coventry Godiva)	52.52	M70
12. Andrew Cox	(Hillingdon AC)	54.03	M60
13. David Annetts	(N.Herts RR)	54.55	M50
14. Steve Cartwright	(Colchester)	56.02	M55
15. Peter Hannell	(Surrey WC)	56.16	M70
16. Gary Smith ©	(Enfield HAC)	56.29	M60
17. Sean Pender ©	(Enfield HAC)	56.58	M60
18. Mark Byrne ©	(Redcar RWC)	57.13	M55
19. David Hoben	(Surrey WC)	59.14	M60
20. John Brock	(Southend AC)	61.12	M65
21. Peter Cassidy	(Loughton AC)	61.18	M75
22. Tony Wilkinson	(Unattached)	61.41	M55
23. Paul Forshaw	(FERC)	63.03	M60
24. Michael Harran	(Surrey WC)	65.21	M75

Women's 5 miles

© = Centurion

1. Erin Taylor-Talcott ©USA	(USA)	40.07	W35
2. Helen Middleton	(Enfield HAC)	48.25	W50
3. Fiona Bishop	(Woking AC)	52.10	W55
4. Noel Blatchford	(Abingdon AC)	55.28	W65
5. Kim Howard ©	(Southend AC)	58.00	W60
6. Frans Fernandez	(Loughton AC)	61.37	W65
7. Sue Clements ©	(Cambs/Col)	62.05	W60

3 miles

Norma Grimsey	(Enfield HAC)	35.12	W60
Cathy Crilley ©	(Surrey WC)	37.21	W65
Michael Croft	(Ilford AC)	37.47	M55
Mick Barnbrook©	(Ilford AC)	38.18	M75
Bill Sutherland©	(Highgate H)	39.15	M70
Dave Ainsworth©	(Ilford AC)	40.33	M65
Ken Livermore ©	(Enfield HAC)	44.05	M80

1 mile

Abigail Smith	(Blackheath & Brom)	9.25	U13
Amos Seddon	(Enfield HAC)	11.20	W75
Geraldine Legon	(Bexley)	11.29	W55

Judges: Andrew Garner, Mick Graham, Shaun Lightman, Ray Pearce, Pauline Wilson ©

Registrations/Results: Margaret Livermore, Linda Spinks

Timekeepers/Recorders: Phil Welch / Pam Ficken ©, Ray Gibbins, John Hall, Carl Lawton ©,

Refreshments: Joan Wallwork, Russ Brown (ETFC)

Marshalls: Heather Hall, Malcolm Pearce, Daniel Spinks, John Whiteman

Referee: Ron Wallwork ©

Best of Friends (This chronicle of the event was kindly written by Dave Ainsworth)

Torrential rain no doubt prevented some from venturing out but those present certainly came determined to enjoy this occasion. With no groundsman on midweek duty, keys were entrusted to local Parks activist John Hall (his home backs onto King George V Playing Fields) to open up early. It doubled as an Enfield League event - a competition noted for pre-race friendly mentions. The first such one was a generous round of applause for the host Club's popular Centurion Gary Smith on his 61st birthday. A start line talk gave special mentions to those we hadn't seen for a while and for overseas visitors. One rightly singled out for applause was Erin Taylor-Talcott (USA Centurion No.85) of the Shore USA Club, who'd been a tireless and successful campaigner to see a women's 50K Walk included in these London I.A.A.F. Championships. It was good to welcome legendary Tim Erikson (Australian Centurion No.13), who'd raced in our 2012 Friendship Walk). Tim's website makes compulsive reading, often publishing UK results faster than UK ones.

Then Her Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of Enfield, Councillor Christine Hamilton, took centre stage under a much needed large umbrella. The good lady's nice speech welcomed us to her Borough and said what a good place it was - before informing us that our venue was the home of Enfield Town FC, a Club wholly owned by its supporters. She told us she was a member of this Club who rarely missed a home fixture and we were invited to their first game of the season on Saturday against Folkestone Invicta. "I hope the weather's better" quipped one wag". A speech of such length might not have been well received by those getting soaked by a torrential downpour - but when delivered by such a genial person; it didn't really matter did it?

Established athletes could recall when important walking races started - and finished - on tracks, with most action being on roads outside stadiums. This was the case here, as the field wheeled off the track into adjacent playing fields to notch up 1, 3 or 5 miles (same format as on offer in 2012) before entering the arena to finish with an anti-clockwise lap of the track, ending in front of an empty grandstand - which no doubt will be full on Saturday afternoon after the Mayor's enthusiastic plugs.

First to finish were milers, led home by Abigail Smith (under 13). Meriting special mention for his mile is Enfield & Haringey protagonist Amos Seddon who came from Harwich despite being injured, having committed himself to support this meeting irrespective of his setback. That's the spirit. Among 3-milers was Grade One judge Michael Croft whose name is always on at least one result sheet each year - to remain on the active list! Mick Barnbrook came from Ramsgate for a return appearance since recovering from an April operation. Commonwealth Games medallist Bill Sutherland and Norma Grimsey were others returning to action, while Kathy Crilley raced soon after her Bury St.Edmunds efforts 4 days' earlier.

The 5 miles field was headed by Erin Taylor-Talcott, who showed good form just 4 days in advance of Sunday morning's Women's 50K on The Mall. In close order came husband Dave Talcott. The frame was completed by prospect George Wilkinson with Mark Culshaw 4th - both also having been on the Bury St.Edmunds weekend card. Others not seen often at Enfield, but made most welcome, were hard-working RWA Press Officer John Constandinou, Tim Erickson, Tony Bell in the famous white vest of Lancashire WC, much-travelled Yorkshire Centurion Mark Byrne and Centurion Kim Howard who enjoyed her first walking race since completing her 100th marathon. Among supporters was Enfield name of the 70s, popular Bill Fenlon.

Credit is due to all - organisers, officials, competitors and spectators who stuck it out in torrential rain and also a Mayor who didn't shout "Go" and then go herself. This dignitary watched our entire race before joining us in the upstairs cafe to cut a large special I.A.A.F. iced Anniversary Cake, with enough for all to enjoy with their quality complimentary buffet. Special commemorative race numbers were issued for competitors to keep as souvenirs, along with an expensive memento (very much the norm at Enfield special events). Club stalwart and finisher - octogenarian Ken Livermore - presented awards to overseas visitors who were all made "honorary Enfield Leaguers". As folk began to drift off, organiser Ron Wallwork mused that this would probably be the last ERWL "special occasion" event. It may have rained on the *Leagues'* parade, but if it was its final special event - it was certainly an enjoyable one, and truly appreciated by all.



Dave Ainsworth