

Steve King C492

Leicester to Skegness, 1972 (100 miles); 21.29.17

Club: Ilford A.C.



When I became a Centurion I was 23 years old and at the time a number of walkers told me that I should wait until I was more experienced before attempting the 100 mile distance - but I felt that I couldn't be sure that I would still be in the sport for many more years and might not feel compelled to give it a try at a future point. I am glad that I did it then as I was lucky enough to have Tony Perkins and Roger Mills for crew and I didn't want to let them or myself down. It showed me the importance of listening to one's inner drive and that the vagaries of life can lead you on to a different path. I emigrated to Canada at 25yrs of age and there was very little race-walking in B.C. – so little that I was asked to represent BC in a track meet vs. WA State over 20kms. I had previously stayed in Ontario and had come 4th in their 50kms Provincial Champs. Moving to Penticton I found there were no running events so I formed a running club in 1981 and it is still going. We held different distance races – I founded the first triathlon here in town in 1983. As I was organising the events – I would run in them and then announce at the finish line. My announcing career began as a result of that. I have race-walked a couple of times since in the BC Seniors Games, winning gold in the 5 and 10kms. Even though I don't race now, I stay involved via race announcing at up to 50 events per year and still love to commentate and get a lot of satisfaction in remaining vicariously connected to road races, including race-walking. 03/11/15