

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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WELCOME TO IVO MAJETIC – AUSTRALIAN CENTURION NUMBER 71

The newsletter starts this month with the news that USA based walker **Ivo Majetic** has been awarded Australian Centurions Badge 71 for his efforts in completing the 100 mile walk at last weekend's Coburg 24 Hour Carnival in a time of **21:30:55**. You can read more about the event and peruse my profile of Ivo later in the newsletter.



Ivo passes the 100 mile mark at the annual Australian Centurions event last weekend – his time 21:30:55

DATES...DATES...DATES

There are always ultra opportunities on offer for those walkers wanting a challenge. Some are shown below. In addition, the AURA calendar shows additional Australian ultra events that may suit serious ultra walkers – check it out at <http://aura.asn.au/>. I am pleased to see an increased number of longer track based ultras on our local calendar.

Note a new entry below for Nov 11th. Malaysian organiser Khoo Chong Beng has posted that the 2017 Malaysian 12 Hours Walk will be back on that date. It was not run last year. It is tentatively allocated to Kajang, Selangor, and will be called the 'MKH International 12 Hour Walk'. See fixture item at <http://www.racewalkermalaysia.com/>.

May 31-Jun 3, 2017	Paris-Alsace Classic	Paris, FRA
June 3-4, 2017	2017 Continental Centurions 24H Qualifier See https://www.olat.nl/actuele-inschrijvingen	Weert, NED
June 3-4, 2017	FANS 24 Hour Track Championships 2017 USA Centurions 24H Qualifier See http://www.fans24hour.org/index.html	Minneapolis, Minnesota USA
Jun 17, 2017	Parish Walk (85 Miles)	Douglas, Isle of Man, GBR
Jun 24-25, 2017	Montguyon 24H Run/Walk	Montguyon, FRA
Jul 8-9, 2017	Sri Chinmoy 6H/12H/24H Track Championships	Sydney, NSW
Jul 8-9, 2017	Adelaide 6H/12H/24H Road Championships	Adelaide, SA

Aug 5-6, 2017	2017 English Centurions 24H Qualifier See https://www.facebook.com/events/990973581012094/ and http://www.centurions1911.org.uk/bury-st-edmunds-2017.html	Bury St Edmonds, England
Aug 12-13, 2017	Track Ultra WA (24H, 12H, 6H, 3H)	Bunbury, WA
Aug 27-28, 2017	Vallorbe 24H Walk	Vallorbe, FRA
Sep 16-17, 2017	Roubaix 28H Walk	Roubaix, FRA
Sep 16-17, 2017	Nijmegen-Rotterdam 100km Walk	Nijmegen, NED
Sep 23-24, 2017	2017 USA Centurion 24H Qualifier	Owega, NY State, USA
Oct 7-8, 2017	St Thibault de Vignes, 24H Walk	St Thibault de Vignes, FRA
Oct 7-8, 2017	Sri Chinmoy NZ 24 Hour Championships	Auckland, NZ
Oct 21-22, 2017	2017 New Zealand Centurions 24H Qualifier 2017 African Centurions 24H Qualifier See http://www.africacenturion.com	Robben Island, Sth Africa
Oct 22, 2017	Ned Kelly Chase (100km, 50km)	Wangaratta, VIC
Nov 11-12, 2017	MKH International 12 Hour Walk (venue TBC)	Kajang, Selangor, Malaysia

OUT AND ABOUT

Firstly, a nice article on the Canberra 48 Hour Carnival and some of the athletes who participated, including walkers Linda and Heather Christison. See <https://the-riotact.com/why-do-ultra-endurance-sports/201290>.

Next, we all like to look up ultradistance results in our spare time (who doesn't) so I was very pleased to read that Alexis Oosterhoff (one of the Western Australian based AURA members) has developed an online results system for all AURA events. He comments: it is still very much in pre-beta stage, so expect errors, however we thought we would share it now so people can check their results. It currently comprises results from all 2016 AURA events, and the plan is to add events as they are held, to grow a database that becomes a historic record of events, results and records. Check it out at <http://aura-results.oosterhoff.info>.

It is one of a number of key web based resources available to the ultra walking community. Others include

- <http://statistik.d-u-v.org/walk/index.php>
Ultra Marathon Walk Stats website from Deutsche Ultramarathon Vereinigung, the ultimate ultra run stats website. This branch contains walk results - still in early stages of development but looks promising.
- <http://www.racewalkaustralia.com/Home.asp>
My Australian Walk Result website which contains all local racewalking and ultra walking results
- <http://www.powerof10.info>
The wonderful British results website – search on any athlete and find their profile, PBs, race results, etc
- <http://www.belgianwalkingassociation.com/>
The recently formed Belgian Walking Assn website contains ranking lists for many different ultra walk distances and lots more besides
- <http://www.wakkee.nl/>
The Dutch Walking Database for all things ultradistance walking in Europe. What a site!

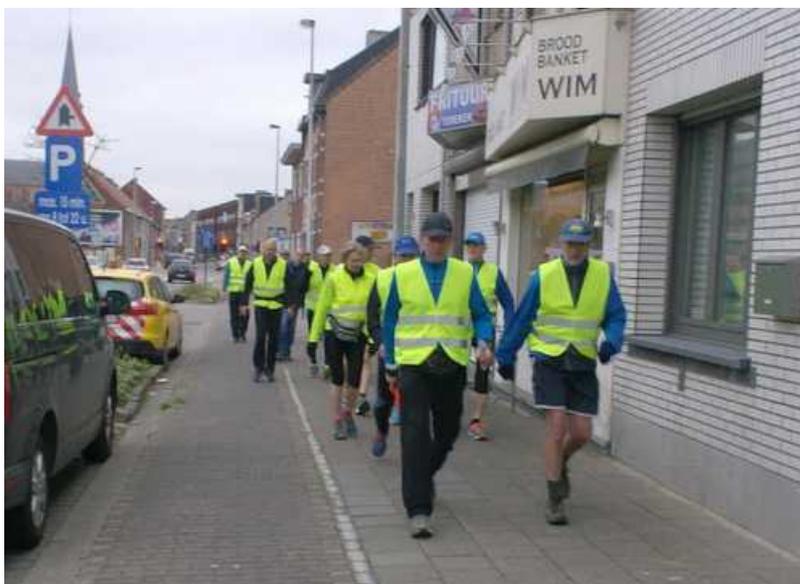
TOUR OF FLANDERS – A NEW 3 DAY WALKING INITIATIVE

Rudy Schoors (C55) reported on a very long walk he led through Belgium over 3 days, starting on Wednesday 29th March and finishing on Friday 31st March. **Caroline Mestdagh (C56)** was also one of the 19 walkers (16 men and 3 women) who tested themselves out over the new course. Here's the good oil:

The week before of the start of the legendary Tour of Flanders for cyclists, a group of selected walkers walked the exact same route as the professional cyclists. The idea was set up by Theo Bické, chairman of the Belgian Walking Association, together with Donald Van Meenen. The length of this walk was 260 km and took the group of 19 persons 3 days walking. The first day 83 km, second 92 km and the last day 85 km. Rudy was the captain and had to coordinate the pace (7km/h), with 7 or 8 stops of ten minutes each day. Of course he also had to lead the walkers on the correct way and look after their safety on the busy roads.

Now you might think this was going to be a stroll in the park until you read the race description of the cycling race: At 259.5 kilometres, the 101st edition of the Tour of Flanders features 18 climbs, a ceaseless succession of short, sharp and often cobbled hills that are emblematic of the race. In particular, the 2017 event sees the return of the famous Muur van Geraardsbergen, with gradients of up to 20% and with cobblestones thrown in.

Fantastic event report at <http://www.belgianwalkingassociation.com/nl/actueel-nieuws/nieuws-cat/the-tour-of-flanders-walk-2017:-flandrien-voor-het-leven-!.htm>. Now it's in Belgium so you need to load the webpage in google chrome and then right click in the article area and choose to 'Translate to English'. Great selection of photos at <http://goo.gl/MxtknP> and <http://goo.gl/u3yLk3>.



Rudy leads the group through one of the many towns en route to



The group linked arms for the final few kms to the cycle finish line in Oudenaarde, the 3 women in front and the 16 men behind (photos Liban Glorieux)

FREEDOM LEISURE ULTRAFEST 24/12/6 HOUR TRACK RACE, K2 CRAWLEY, 8-9 APRIL 2017

Sandra Brown (C36) was in action in early April in yet another 24 Hour walk, along with husband Ricard.

Richard and I had a fun weekend last weekend, doing the British Ultrafest Crawley track 24H race - a run, though **Sue Clements (C35)** and I walked. The Saturday was my birthday, so this was my birthday treat. I could get to like events where you drink gallons of tea and eat chocolate cake! Sue walked very well, stopping

sometime in the night, during which a chilly fog settled over the track for several hours. Joyce Crawford (coached by Sue, Joyce nearly qualified in the Southend Centurion event and will try again this year) walked in the 12H event. Richard and I were both well content with our 100s and a bit more, on what turned into a glorious Sunday.

All results can be seen at <http://whatsmytime.co.uk/index.php/race-results/2016-12-20-13-55-43/2016-12-20-14-01-20/freedom-leisure-british-ultrafest>. For the record, Sandra walked **174.346km**, Richard ran 165.012km and Sue walked 82.00km before retiring, while Joyce Crawford walked 79.85km in the 12 Hour event. Overall, there were over 60 competitors in the 3 races. I heard it got very cold overnight, with clear skies and a temperature that fell to 2°C.

It was Sandra's 178th hundred and her second for 2017 (she completed 177.027km in the 24 Heures de Bourges in March). So she is off to her usual big start to the year. Last year, she completed 8 hundreds. What can we expect to see this year?

KENNEDYMARS, SITTARD, NEDERLAND, SATURDAY 15 APRIL 2017

I have often chatted about the Kennedy Walk concept in the newsletter. So let's start with a brief history lesson

John F. Kennedy came into the US Presidential office with a goal of improving the health of the nation. As President-elect, he wrote and had published an article in Sports Illustrated, December 26, 1960, called *The Soft American* which warned against the negative aspects becoming unfit in a changing world where automation and increased leisure time replaced the benefits of exercise and hard work.

The idea of the 50 mile march developed from Kennedy's discovery in late 1962 of an earlier executive order from Theodore Roosevelt challenging U.S. Marine officers to finish 50 miles in twenty hours. He reinstated the order, challenging the modern day marines to match the fitness of their former brothers.

But the real impact of the fifty mile march was with the public at large, which took it as a personal request and a challenge from their President. The Amos Alonzo Stagg Foundation presented Bronze medals to those who completed the 50-mile hike in less than 12 hours during the initial 30 days of the challenge.

After Dutch television showed images of the Kennedy march craze, some Dutch people decided to make an attempt at finishing the 80 kilometers within 20 hours. In the city of Sittard, situated in the most southern province of the Netherlands, four young people decided to walk the march during their Easter holidays. On 20th April 1963, they began their route with 7 friends, beginning and ending in Sittard and covering pieces of Germany and Belgium. One girl took a bus in the German town of Heinsberg, but the other 3 girls and 7 boys persisted and finished in 19 hours' time. They decided immediately to try to do the march one year after and thus a tradition was born.

The number of participants in the Sittard Kennedymars grew over the years, with a peak in 1989 when 7090 people enrolled. It is now the oldest and the biggest of the Kennedy Walks in Holland and has its own website (<http://www.kennedymars.org/>).

The 2017 edition of the Sittard Kennedymars was the 54th and drew 6,121 walkers. Of these, 2,430 participated in the Kennedy-March, 1766 in the shorter Swentibold Mars and 1925 in the even shorter Mini-Mars. Now how's this for a stat - 79% of the Kennedymars walkers reached the finish line.

Webpage <http://www.wakkee.nl/uitslagen/Kennedymars-Sittard-2017> shows the 120 walkers who bettered the 12 Hour standard for the 50 Miles Walk. Dutch walker and 4 times centurion **Frank van der Gulik** was first to finish with a time of 8:39:50. And Australian Centurions **Bertus Van Ginkel (C70)** (11:37:52) and **Sandra De Graaff (C69)** (11:37:53) walked together and finished together as is their usual practice.

It gets a bit tricky here because, although 120 walkers finished under 12 hours, only 34 had entered the official Kennedymars racewalking section. Of that subgrouping, 30 finished. This slightly different finishing list is found here: <http://www.kennedymars.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/kms-2017-uitlopers-kms-v2.pdf>



Sandra de Graaff (left) and Bertus van Ginkel (right) in the Sittatd Kennedmars (photo Sandra de Graaff)

COBURG 24 HOUR CARNIVAL, HAROLD STEVENS ATHLETICS TRACK, COBURG, 22-23 APRIL

As usual for this particular weekend, I was ensconced at the Harold Stevens Track in the Melbourne suburb of Coburg for the annual Coburg 24 Hour Track Carnival. Apart from being the event coordinator, I was also wearing my Australian Centurions hat, given that this was also our official Australian Centurions qualifying race for 2017.

A total of 38 athletes (27 runners and 11 walkers) toed the line for the 10AM Saturday start. While the main aim for the better runners is to achieve 200km, the ultimate aim for the walkers is to achieve 100 miles (160.934km) and qualify as a centurion. Now 100 miles equates to 402+ laps of the 400m track so is no mean feat, even for the better walkers.

Conditions certainly varied. Saturday afternoon saw sunny and warm conditions before a change came through, dumping a huge downpour of rain on the track in the late evening. From then on, intermittent rain made conditions tricky. And to add to the fun, the mist rolled in overnight from the Merri Creek, blanketing track and competitors in a dense fog. So it was certainly not boring!

Full results at <http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017-24H-Final-Results.pdf>.

The 24 Hour Walk saw wins to **Dawn Parris** (137.805km) and **Ivo Majetic** (160.934km). Ivo was the only walker to reach the 100 mile mark, achieved in a time of 21:30:55, to become Australian Centurion number 71. Satisfied with this outcome, he then retired from the race. **Louis Commins** and **John Timms** both walked for the full 24 hour period to take second and third in the men’s division with 130.088km and 119.306km respectively. All other competitors seemed happy to stop at the 100km mark, if they got that far. Special mention to first time ultra walker **Colin Heywood** who walked 100.773km in just under 14 hours before stopping. Colin is better known as one of our top master racewalkers – he won two golds and one silver at the 2016 World Masters Championships in Perth.

24 Hour Walk Women

1.	Dawn Parris	64	VIC	137.805 km
2.	Kate Sanderson	41	VIC	100.358 km
3.	Lorraine Billett	71	SA	92.105 km

24 Hour Walk Men

1.	Ivo Majetic	48	USA	160.934 km
2.	Louis Commins	67	VIC	130.088 km
3.	John Timms	74	VIC	119.306 km
4.	Colin Heywood	62	NT	100.773 km
5.	Robin Whyte (C29)	75	NSW	100.773 km

6.	Terry O'Neill (C18)	61	VIC	100.358 km
7.	John Kilmartin (C67)	65	VIC	51.423 km
8.	Ken Carter	64	VIC	15.616 km

The walk also hosted the Racewalking Australia 100km walk championships, with wins also going to Ivo and Dawn.

RWA 100km Walk Championship Men

1.	Ivo Majetic	USA	12:06:56
2.	Terry O'Neill	VIC	13:03:04
3.	Colin Heywood	NT	13:53:28

RWA 100km Walk Championship Women

1.	Dawn Parris	VIC	15:55:31
2.	Kate Sanderson	VIC	21:11:47

Finally, a number of masters walking records were provisionally set as follows by **Lorraine Billett (W70)**, **Robin Whyte (M75)** and **Ivo Majetic (M45)**

Lorraine Billett	50 Miles	W70 All-Comers/Residential	18:42:40
Lorraine Billett	24 Hours	W70 All-Comers/Residential	92.105 km
Robin Whyte	50 Miles	M75 All-Comers/Residential	10:55:16
Robin Whyte	12 Hours	M75 All-Comers/Residential	85.997 km
Ivo Majetic	100 km	M45 All-Comers	12:06:56
Ivo Majetic	6 Hours	M45 All-Comers	52.914 km
Ivo Majetic	12 Hours	M45 All-Comers	99.170 km

A final note of thanks to the many people who deserve special mention

- The many Coburg Harriers members and friends who help us out every year
- Masseur extraordinaire Michael Gillan
- Guest starter Tony Mangan (Tony is in transit on a round-the-world walk)
- First aid support Billy Pearce and Liz Ravalli
- Canteen coordinators Heather Collyer and Debbie Canal
- Major sponsor Philip van Dueren of Outdoor Travel - Melbourne / Top Ten Treks
- Our 24 Hour Committee, ably led by Bernie Goggin

And we can't forget the crews who toiled away behind the scenes, keeping the walkers and runners going. That includes centurions **Karyn O'Neill (C45)**, **Michelle Thompson (C58)**, **David Billett (C50)** and **Sharon Shultz (C63)**.



Ivo Majetic, Louis Commins, Robyn Whyte and John Timms



Dawn Parris, Kate Sanderson, Lorraine Billett and Colin Heywood (photos Tim Erickson)

We will be back in April 2018 for the 31st Coburg 24 Hour Championships. We look forward to seeing many of our regulars as well as some first timers back then for another big weekend.

Boy, it's cold and wet this week in Melbourne so I think we staged our event in just in time. I'm sitting in the lounge room with the gas heater on high!

24 HEURES DE DIJON, DIJON, FRANCE, 22-23 APRIL

Le Ronde de Ducs, the final 24 Hour qualifying walk for the 2017 Paris-Alsace classic was held last weekend on the campus of the University of Burgundy in the French city of Dijon. The lap was a 2.5km road loop with start and finish in an indoor hall. Although **Christophe Erard** led early, it was Belgian walker **Daniel Lhoest** who came through to win with a good 188.62km. **Martine Sonnois** won the women's race with 159.278km. The annual event also included a number of ancillary events including 2 x 6 Hour, 6 Hour, 6 Hour Relay and 24 Hour Relay. Full final results at <http://bases.athle.com/asp.net/liste.aspx?frmbase=resultats&frmcode=1&frmespace=0&frmcompetition=202165>. Plenty of photos at <https://www.facebook.com/larondedesducs/photos/rpp.225024727670350/797402727099211>.

24 Hours Walk Men

1. LHOEST Daniel (Bel)	VEM/59	Waco	188.622 km
2. ERARD Christophe	VEM/70	Asm Bar-le-duc	174.593 km
3. KERLAU Yves-michel	VEM/61	Cm Roubaix	171.123 km
4. DIEN Daniel	VEM/50	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	161.409 km
5. HUART Gilles	VEM/60	Asptt Besancon	147.085 km
6. TABOURET Guy	VEM/57	Us Toul Athletisme	140.035 km
7. EMONIERE Philippe	VEM/61	Cosm Arcueil	124.542 km
8. RASSAIND Andre	VEM/37	Ea Centre Isere*	121.413 km
9. GLASER Jean-bernard	VEM/38	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	116.589 km
10. PRUCKNER Jaroslav (Cze)	VEM/54	Sk Bradelec	108.936 km
11. LACROIX Jean-louis	VEM/62	Ac Chateau Thierry	103.829 km
LANGLOIS Patrick	VEM/56	Marne Et Gondoire Athletisme	DNF
GIROD Urbain (Sui)	VEM/63	C M Monthey	DNF

24 Hours Walk Women

1. SONNOIS Martine	VEF/59	Racing Club Haut-jura Morez	159.278 km
2. RODIER Nicole	VEF/48	Efs Reims A. *	154.970 km
3. ARNAULT Francoise	VEF/48	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	148.667 km

6 Hours Walk

1. OLIVARES Mathieu	VEM/76	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	52.499 km
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2.	LABARRE Bertrand	VEM/57	Cs Provins Athletisme	52.003 km
3.	KLEIN Eric	SEM/81	Saint Claude	47.377 km
4.	BIZARD PLANCHOT Emilie	SEF/85	Thiais	47.346 km
5.	GUENEAU Jean-claude	VEM/69	Dijon Uc*	47.250 km
6.	ANXIONNAT Claudine	VEF/51	Athletic Vosges Entente Clubs	46.067 km
7.	LESCURE Frederic	VEM/61	Louvres	45.326 km
8.	TOURIGNY Jean luc	VEM/58	St Apollinaire	44.853 km
9.	LACHIA Francine	VEF/56	Flavignerot	44.788 km
10.	PENKALLA Marie	VEF/64	Longcourt	41.071 km
11.	LEMOINE Daniel	VEM/53	Domont	37.854 km
12.	LETOURNEAU Aurore	SEF/90	Rc Epernay	34.389 km
	POTY Alain (Bel)	VEM/69	Gosselies	DNF

2 x 6 Hours Walk

1.	VARAIN Cedric	SEM/80	Ac Chateau Thierry	106.464 km
2.	LETOURNEAU Florian	SEM/88	Ac Chateau Thierry	106.464 km
3.	GEORGELIN Serge	VEM/68	Bruz Athletisme	102.624 km
4.	BIEBUYCK Pascal (Bel)	VEM/		101.858 km
5.	DELANGUE Dominique	VEM/57	Aj Auxerre Section Marathon	93.924 km
6.	PORTANTE Frederic (Bel)	VEM/		89.761 km
7.	SALOMEZ Benedicte	VEF/62	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	88.797 km
8.	BIZARD Claudie	VEF/59	Thiais Ac	88.797 km
9.	OULBANI Jean-claude	VEM/54	Entente De Haute Alsace*	86.044 km
10.	MOUGENOT Patrick	VEM/63	Marne Et Gondoire Athletisme	85.988 km
11.	LESCURE THANRON Elisabeth	VEF/57	Montillot	83.036 km
12.	MORENO Antoine	VEM/52	As Par Athle	78.978 km
13.	MERCIER Jean-pierre	VEM/70	Pays De Colmar Athletisme*	71.424 km
	THANRON Bernard	VEM/51	Montillot	DNF



Winner Daniel Lhoest passed the refreshment table in the indoor hall

IVO MAJETIC (C71): 21:30:55

48 year old USA based Ivo Majetic became Australian Centurion Number 71 with his time of 21:30:55 in the 2017 Australian Centurions 24 Hour qualifying walk at Coburg. In keeping with our standard plan of including a profile of each new centurion on our website, here is the good oil on Ivo.

Ivo was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 21st June 1968.

He started racewalking in 1981, progressing from the short track based 3000m to the longer road based 20km and

50km races as he matured as a walker.

Ivo quickly realised that he was better suited to the longer distances. He tried his first 100km race in 1990 on the track in Prague and surprised himself and others with a Czech track record of **9:59:32**. He suffered a mid race crisis which threatened to end his walk early and “I only realised I would finish the race when I was 300 metres from the end”.

From then on, he challenged himself with further ultradistance walks, while continuing to racewalk over the shorter distances. He eventually ended his racewalking career with PBs of **1:36:09** (20km) and **4:34:11** (50km), both set in the early nineties.

With the bloodless Velvet Revolution of 1989 that led to the end of the rule of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the formation of a democratic government, Ivo’s world was rapidly changing and he could travel freely within Europe.

One ultradistance walking race in particular stands out at this time, namely a 24 Hour walk in Vallorbe, Switzerland, in September 1991. On that occasion, he covered 200km in **21:25:14** for another still standing Czech record, an amazing 9.3km/hour pace. His 100 mile split was calculated at **17:00:00!** 26 years later, this performance still stands as the 18th best ever 200km in the world.

Apart from his 100km track PB of 9:59:32 (Prague, Oct 1990), he had a road PB of around 9:52, set in the classic Lugano 100km race in Italy.

In 1992-1993, he was studying in Italy as he prepared for the 1993 Paris-Colmar classic. It was by far the longest event he had entered (518km) and he finished 10th, one of 28 starters and one of only 13 walkers to complete the course. His time of 71 hours and 55 minutes meant he walked the 518km at an average speed of 7.203km/hr.



1996 Paris-Colmar: Ivo with Czech ultrawalker Jaroslav Pruckner

It would be the first of 4 Paris-Colmar races in which he competed. He finished all 4, with two third places and two tenth places. The list reads as follows

1993	10 th	MAJETIC, IVO	AC-PRAGUE-1890	TCH	518 km	71H 55m	7.203 km/hr
1996	3 rd	MAJETIC, IVO	AC-PRAGUE-1890	CZE	520 km	64H 23m	8.077 km/hr
1997	3 rd	MAJETIC, IVO	AC-PRAGUE-1890	CZE	534 km	66H 44m	7.987 km/hr
1999	10 th	MAJETIC, IVO	AC-PRAGUE.1890	CZE	521 km	72H 03m	7.231 km/hr

After his June 1993 Paris-Colmar walk, he moved to Houston, Texas, and spend the remainder of 1993, 1994 and 1995 living there and working. During this time, he heard about the American Centurion walk that was scheduled for September 1993 on a high school track in Xenia, Ohio. He had not trained for 3 months but decided to compete anyway. The outcome – an overall win, USA Centurion badge 48 and a 100 mile time of **18.26.24**.

In November 1995, he moved back to Prague and decided to target the 1996 Paris-Colmar. The only issue was that a starting spot required a qualifying performance. He fronted in the Bazancourt 24 Hour in spring 1996 but could only manage **188km** – not good enough to qualify (limit 195km).

Luck was on his side when he was granted a wildcard entry. He did not disappoint, walking superbly to a third place finish, his time of 64 hours and 23 mins for the 520km course working out at an average speed of 8.077km/hr. The only walkers who finished ahead of him were two of the legends of the sport, ten-times winner Grzegorz Adam Urbanowski of Poland (60h 29m) and five-times winner Zbigniew Klapa of Poland (61h 20m).

Further Paris-Colmar finishes in 1997 (3rd, 66h 44m, 534km) and 1999 (10th, 72h 03m, 51km) cemented his place as one of the best ultradistance walkers in the world.

In the 1990s, he finished many 200km races, three of them under 22 hours and countless under 24 hours. With his final Paris-Colmar completed in 1999, he retired from the sport. In March 2001, he moved to USA to live permanently.

It was not until October 2015 that he returned for his first race in 16 years, surprising himself with a walk of 108 miles in 24 hours in the '24 The Hard Way' race in Oklahoma City. He was fired up once again and willing to challenge himself with another Paris-Colmar, even if it was a bit shorter than in the old days, finished in a different city and had been recently rebranded as the Paris-Alsace Classic.

It might have had a new name and format but you still needed to qualify so, in February 2016, he travelled to Europe and started in the 24 Heures de Bourges. Alas he started too fast, suffered mid race in very cold conditions and, with no support crew, eventually retired.

Once again luck was on his side and he was given a wild card for the Paris-Alsace, due to be held in June 2016. He did not disappoint, coming 5th with a time of 59:04:19 for the 425km classic.

2016 5th MAJETIC, IVO USA 425KM 59:04:19 7.19 km/hr



*Left: Ivo (bib 19) with Florian Letourneau in the early stages of the 2016 Paris-Alsace classic
Right: Ivo with wife Laura and daughter Lucie at the finish line*

Ivo wrote a blow by blow description of the race which I published in our June 2016 Australian Centurion newsletter. Rather than reproduce it again here, you can read it at <http://www.centurions.org.au/newsletters/2016-n05-jun.pdf>.

Ivo had one final race in 2016, returning to France in mid September for the 28 Heures de Roubaix. It was another fine performance, finishing 7th with a distance of **205.323km** (average speed of 7.333 km/hr). But it was not without its own crisis period, with Ivo flagging markedly in the middle stages before rallying and storming home.

And finally to our 2017 Australian Centurions race where once again Ivo produced the goods, winning overall with a

100 mile time of **21:30:55** to be awarded Australian Centurions badge number 71.



Ivo Majetic becomes Australian Centurion 71 in April 2017

Post event, I asked Ivo about his plans for the future. At this stage, he has no firm targets but I am sure we will see him continue to pop up in further big races. I don't think he is ready to retire just yet!

Tim Erickson
Thursday 27 April 2017

WIKIPEDIA AND ULTRA DISTANCE WALKING

I am sure most readers have used wikipedia at one time or another. But did you know this site contains quite a bit of ultra distance walking information.

Firsly, there are the links to pedestianism of the nineteenth century and to Capt Robert Barclay, the most famous of the early pedestrians.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pedestrianism>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Barclay_Allardice

Then moving into the twentieth century, there is the dedicated page to Centurion walking and the page on Tommy Hammond, one of the founding members of the centurion movement

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centurion_\(racewalking\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centurion_(racewalking))
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Hammond_\(athlete\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Hammond_(athlete))

Then there are lots of links on more recent famous ultradistance walkers (and runners), including one for Sandra Brown

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandra_Brown_\(ultradistance_athlete\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandra_Brown_(ultradistance_athlete))
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grzegorz_Adam_Urbanowski
https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zbigniew_Kłapa
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Quemener

And that is probably just the tip of the iceberg. Let me know of others. It would be good to build up a more extensive picture of what is out there.

FINANCIAL NEWS

A quiet month for us with just a couple of small bills. Further outgoing will now be forthcoming with perpetual trophies and honour board to be updated in the aftermath of our 2017 Australian Centurions qualifying event.

Incoming	-	
Outgoing	Officeworks - Photocopying	8.00
	Keyhole Engraving – RWA 100km medals	84.00
Balance		\$989.10

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Now I always knew that ultra distance runners and walkers were a mad lot. But apparently, they don't feel as much pain as other athletes (not sure about that in my case). Check it out at <http://www.theage.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellbeing/fitness/why-ultramarathoners-dont-feel-pain--and-what-they-can-teach-the-rest-of-us-20170407-gvfr3f.html>

Well, it makes interesting food for thought.

To all our members and readers, have a safe next few months and don't let the dust settle on the walking shoes!

Yours in Centurion walking

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