

Lost in Essex?

Dear Tim,

May I through your magazine, appeal for help in the search of missing walker of Irish and English extraction!

Every year, as part of the Irish T&F Championships, the champions for 30 years ago are introduced and paraded in front of the crowd in the middle of the afternoon. However, in 1975 the Irish 20km Championships was won by a PL (or perhaps Paul?) Rogers from Essex in 1:46:30.

Does anyone know him or where he could be located as I'm sure he would be delighted to have been remembered after all these years.

Many thanks in advance, Pierce O'Callaghan,
Athletics Ireland Public Relations Officer,
pierceoc@yahoo.com

Strong, dedicated people at the top?

Dear Tim

I read with great interest, again, the current edition of your fine publication. A particular point, page 16, 'Letters' brought to my attention again the difficulty of any athletic event that does not have strong, dedicated people at the top of the sport or event in that particular country. It can not only be a handful of people - but it seems that that is all racewalking ever attains in countries throughout the world.

Here in the US where I have been involved with racewalking for over 40 years, in one position or another, I have finally come to the point of understanding why our 'Leaders' have never accomplished what most of us dedicated people thought they were supposed to accomplish. They have never been leaders per se, they have only been administrators. To move an event like ours forward necessitates tremendous dedication and time, years of it. It also is just as important to have a plan that makes sense over time. Your Country is way ahead

of the USA in promoting and advertising racewalking. Naturally, because of your many champions over the decades it has been easier to use these people over time to help in the leadership aspects of the event.

Tim, you are doing a terrific job. Believe me, there are many, many people out here that appreciate your dedication and professional work. Through your efforts our event can only move forward. Consider yourself the fellow carrying the torch for many of us followers.

Sincerely, John MacLachlan, President/Paul Smith,
Vice President, Race Walking International, Inc., USA

The Loneliness of the Long Distance Walker

Being a race walker can be quite a lonely existence even when you live near your coach. When we moved to Thanet we might as well have moved to the moon! We now have a 120 mile return trip to Dartford to see Sarah's coach and our nearest track is Canterbury which is a 32 mile round trip and she has to make do with mum or dad timing and watching.

However, we have found our local road running club Thanet Road Runners AC really supportive. Sarah is now able to go out 2 nights a week on the road for a 4-5 mile session and at the weekend there are longer 9-10 mile routes. There are a number of runners whose training pace is the same as Sarah's walking speed! This means that she has company and protection from the usual 'gobby individuals' whose sad lives mean that all they have to do is abuse anyone out training and doing something positive!

The Road Runners are always interested in what Sarah has been doing and have great respect for race walking in general. Also it is not just the runners that she trains with but also the faster

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