

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

AUGUST 2026 – VOL 33 NUMBER 6

The Official Magazine of Australian Centurion Walkers Inc
Founded 1971, Incorporated 2000, No. A0040301S
<http://www.centurions.org.au>

President	Terry O'Neill (C 18)	0400 190 988
Vice-President	David Billett (C 50)	0458 385 138
Secretary	Tim Erickson (C 13)	0412 257 496
Treasurer	Stuart Cooper (C 5)	0421 470 949

DATES ... DATES ... DATES

The 2026 ultra walking year continues to produce lots of great results world wide. This year saw 4 of the 5 Centurion clubs hosting qualifying races (Continental, New Zealand, US and Australian). Interestingly, there was no English Centurions qualifier in 2026 but they will be back in 2027 (see below).

As usual, there are lots of European walk ultras coming up

Sept 3-9, 2026	EMU 6 Day Race (GOMU 6 Day World Championship)	Balatonfured, HUN
Sept 13, 2026	MFX Limited End to End Walk (www.endtoendwalk.org)	Isle of Man
Sept 19-20, 2026	28 Heures de Roubaix	Roubaix, FRA
Oct 17-18, 2026	24 Heures de Lipsheim	Lipsheim, FRA
Nov 11, 2026	La Voie Sacree (Bar-le-Duc to Verdun)	Bar-le-Duc, FRA
Nov 22, 2026	8 Heures d'Etampes-sur-Marne	Etampes-sur-Marne, FRA
Feb 7, 2027	8 Heures de Charly-sur-Marne	Charly-sur-Marne, FRA
Feb 27-28, 2027	24 Heures de Bourges	Bourges, FRA
Apr 3-4, 2027	24 Heures de Chateau-Thierry	Chateau-Thierry, FRA
Jun 26-27, 2027	Parish Walk	Isle of Man

And of course, there are always opportunities on the Australian front. A good starting point is the 2026 events page on the AUTRA website: <https://www.autra.asn.au/upcoming-2026>. A couple of interest for walkers include

Sep 27, 2026	Australian 6 Day Ultra Marathon Festival	Adelaide, SA
Oct 10-11, 2026	SA Track Ultra (24H, 100M, 100km, 50M, 50km)	Adelaide, SA

We already have dates for 4 of the 2027 Centurion Qualifiers. It is great to see the English Centurions back in action after a year off in 2026. I hear their Nottingham based qualifier is likely to be road rather than track.

May 8-9, 2027	Sri Chimnoy NZ 24 Hour Track Championships Including the 2027 NZ Centurion Qualifier	Auckland, NZL
May 15-16, 2027	Continental Centurion Qualifier	Eindhoven, NED
Jul 2-4, 2027	Southern Sydney Track Ultra (48H, 24H, 12H, 6H, 3H) Including the 2027 Australian Centurion Qualifier	Sydney, NSW
Aug 21-22, 2027	English Centurion Qualifier	Nottingham, UK

Following the success of the 2025 and 2026 New Zealand 6 Day Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand, the organisers are extending the concept to a 10 Day Race in 2027. See more at <https://www.nzultramarathonfestival.com/>. Walk options will include 10 Days, 6 Days, 3 Days, 2 Days and 1 Day.

Mar 31 – Apr 10, 2027	New Zealand Ultramarathon Festival	Christchurch, NZL
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------

VALE C78 JURGEN DE WAART : 1962 - 2026

Martin Vos (C79) and Frans Leijtens have passed on some very sad news from the Netherlands.

On June 13th of this year, **Jurgen de Waart**, Australian Centurion 78, passed away unexpectedly in his sleep. He was only 64 years of age and still actively participating in the various classics. He had just finished competing in the 4 *Daagse van Alkmaar* that same day, near his hometown of Santpoort in the Netherlands.

Apart from his Australian Centurion qualification, Jurgen competed in the Nijmegen marches on 3 occasions and he also walked the famous Amsterdam-Leeuwarden (150 km), Nijmegen-Rotterdam (160 km) and Amsterdam-Tilburg (125 km).

Jurgen always helped with the *Rondje Zandhaas* walk in Santpoort. The weekend of July 31 – August 2 saw a special edition of this event, as the organisational committee for the walk (an equestrian club) and the annual town festival celebrated their 90th anniversary. Consequently, this year's walk was 90km and many Dutch based Centurions attended. Before the start of the walk, the committee chairman let everyone know that Jurgen had passed away. He gave a summary of Jurgen's walking achievements, including his Australian Centurion title, and a minute's silence was held.



A minute's silence for Jurgen de Waart at the Rondje Zandhaas in Santpoort

For some more images of the walk: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/KDBtHZnaSUKBycD59>.

I have updated Jurgen's profile at <https://centurions.org.au/centprofiles/78%20jurgen%20de%20waart.pdf>. It is worth a re-read as his path to Centurionism was a bit different to the norm.



Left: Jurgen (2444) walks with Marco Bloemerts (2435) early on

Right: Jurgen reaches his 100 mile target

OUT AND ABOUT

It's been a while since I reported on the ongoing cycling adventures of **Justin Scholz (C61)** and **Sharon Scholz (C63)**. Suffice it to say, they have been busy exploring new territory in Africa before returning to Europe (Oslo to be exact) in early July.

At the moment, they are cycling from Oslo to Balatonfured, Hungary, where Sharon will contest the EMU 6 Day Race which starts on September 3rd. Justin completed this same event in 2019, finishing with a 6 Day distance of 571.848km. This time, it is Sharon's turn!



Justin and Sharon in Augštāja, Latvia in late July



Sharon getting in some walking training in Vienna in late August

PERPETUAL TROPHY UPDATE

We award two Perpetual Trophies at our official Centurion qualifier each year. Since we were back in business this year after a couple of years off, I am pleased to now confirm both winners.

The Jim Gleeson Trophy Winner(s) of the Australian 100km Championship
See <http://centurions.org.au/documents/Jim%20Gleeson%20Trophy.pdf>

John Rosenzweig

MANX TELECOM PARISH WALK, ISLE OF MAN, JUNE 20-21, 2026



The Manx Telecom Parish Walk (<https://www.parishwalk.com/>) is a walking race that takes place on the Isle of Man each year, usually on the weekend nearest to the Northern Summer Solstice. The biggest walking event in the Isle of Man, it is so called because the walk passes through every parish on the Isle of Man, a total distance of 85 miles (137 km). Originally, walkers had to touch the door of each of the seventeen parish churches but nowadays electronic timing chips are worn. A time limit of 24 hours is enforced, and there are cut-off times for reaching each stage. Only a small number of walkers complete the full distance each year. Walkers may drop out at any of the stages, which correspond to each parish. You can read more about it at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parish_Walk.

The gun went at eight o'clock on the morning of Saturday 20th June, with 1095 walkers spilling out of the NSC athletics track and onto the TT Access Road, each one carrying the same stubborn hope: 85 miles, 17 parishes, one island, no shortcuts.

By the time the leaders reached Peel (32.5 miles) the heat had properly arrived. It would only ease as the light faded into the long Manx evening, the kind of relief that arrives after the body has already paid its price.

Nobody felt the day's demands and rewards more sharply than **Callum Gawne**. Twelve months after winning his first Parish title, the Onchan man returned not just to defend it but to rewrite it. He came down Broadway and crossed the line by the War Memorial in 14:22:45, nearly an hour and a half quicker than his own winning time twelve months earlier. That alone would have been some story. But it was the bigger number that mattered: Richard Gerrard's record of 14:40:08, set in 2015 and untouched for eleven years, was gone, beaten by 17 minutes and 23 seconds. Gawne did not just win the Parish Walk. He took a record that had stood for over a decade and put real daylight between himself and it. Check out the youtube video of Gawne finishing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUy2uyQsTH4>.

Gawne's nearest challenger was Frenchman **Vincent De Bontin** who crossed the finish line not too far outside the previous record, but roughly 52 minutes adrift of Gawne in a time of 15:15:20. The top three was completed by the winner's namesake, **Simon Gawne** (unrelated), who repeated his third-place finish from three years ago by finishing in 15:29:33. **David Williams**, **Nick Sille** and **Tom Hughes** completed the top six in that order after all dipped under the 17-hour mark for the 85 miles.

In the battle for the women's honours, **Lorna Gleave** and **Sammy Bowden** shared the honours after reaching the finish line together in a time of 17:21:08, having circulated in close proximity to each other throughout. They finished in joint ninth place overall.

Earlier in the day, **Catherine Perry** claimed the U21 honours when reaching Peel in a time of 6:31:08. **Rob Farnworth** was the leading U21 man in 6:48:23.



Winner Callum Gawne



Vincent De Bontin, Lorna Gleave and Sammy Bowden

(photos from <https://www.iomtoday.co.im/news/parish-walk-2026-record-breaking-victory-for-gawne-919143>)

Of the 1095 starters, 115 finished the entire course, with a further breakdown as follows

- 13 Gold Standard finishers (under 18 hours)
- 46 Silver Standard finishers (under 21 hours)
- 56 Bronze Standard finishers (under 24 hours)

Here are all the GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE finishers. Kudos to everyone.

1.	Callum Gawne (1)	Senior Men (1st)	14h22m45s	The Finish	GOLD
2.	Vincent De Bontin (266)	Senior Men (2nd)	15h15m20s	The Finish	GOLD

3.	Simon Gawne (3)	Senior Men (3rd)	15h29m33s	The Finish	GOLD
4.	David Williams (7)	Senior Men (4th)	16h42m4s	The Finish	GOLD
5.	Nick Sille (26)	Veteran Men (1st)	16h45m10s	The Finish	GOLD
6.	Tom Hughes (801)	Veteran Men (2nd)	16h50m29s	The Finish	GOLD
7.	Chris Addy (9)	Senior Men (5th)	17h7m2s	The Finish	GOLD
8.	Connor Gilbert (8)	Senior Men (6th)	17h16m12s	The Finish	GOLD
E9.	Samantha Bowden (4)	Veteran Ladies (1st)	17h21m8s	The Finish	GOLD
E9.	Lorna Gleave (6)	Veteran Ladies (1st)	17h21m8s	The Finish	GOLD
11.	Robbie Callister (31)	Veteran Men (3rd)	17h31m23s	The Finish	GOLD
12.	Ross Deakin (14)	Senior Men (7th)	17h32m30s	The Finish	GOLD
13.	Rob Monk (19)	Senior Men (8th)	17h36m39s	The Finish	GOLD
14.	Connor Casey (28)	Senior Men (9th)	18h18m17s	The Finish	SILVER
15.	Sophie Watterson-Jone (11)	Veteran Ladies (3rd)	18h22m35s	The Finish	SILVER
16.	Jayden Fayle (71)	Senior Men (10th)	18h24m41s	The Finish	SILVER
17.	Jayne Farquhar (23)	Veteran Ladies (4th)	18h36m54s	The Finish	SILVER
18.	Harriet Hancox (55)	Veteran Ladies (4th)	18h36m54s	The Finish	SILVER
19.	Chris Cale (21)	Veteran Men (4th)	18h51m12s	The Finish	SILVER
20.	Ryan Downey (12)	Senior Men (11th)	18h57m50s	The Finish	SILVER
21.	Rachel Gawne (56)	Veteran Ladies (6th)	19h0m57s	The Finish	SILVER
22.	Jane Ryder-Clague (46)	Veteran Ladies (7th)	19h8m58s	The Finish	SILVER
23.	Amy Sykes (17)	Veteran Ladies (8th)	19h21m4s	The Finish	SILVER
24.	Joe Walters (139)	Senior Men (12th)	19h27m23s	The Finish	SILVER
25.	Pedro Cardoso (158)	Senior Men (12th)	19h27m23s	The Finish	SILVER
26.	Richard Potts (91)	Veteran Men (5th)	19h42m48s	The Finish	SILVER
27.	Ryan Healy (88)	Senior Men (14th)	19h45m36s	The Finish	SILVER
28.	Monica George (60)	Veteran Ladies (9th)	19h56m17s	The Finish	SILVER
29.	Dougie Scott (20)	Veteran Men (6th)	20h2m39s	The Finish	SILVER
30.	Noel Ash (33)	Veteran Men (7th)	20h4m1s	The Finish	SILVER
31.	Marta Telesinska (86)	Veteran Ladies (10th)	20h19m1s	The Finish	SILVER
32.	Andrew Titley (22)	Veteran Men (8th)	20h19m50s	The Finish	SILVER
33.	Louise Gimson (10)	Veteran Ladies (11th)	20h21m0s	The Finish	SILVER
34.	Elspeth Blake (87)	Veteran Ladies (12th)	20h34m56s	The Finish	SILVER
35.	Yanisa Sananueah (93)	Veteran Ladies (13th)	20h36m16s	The Finish	SILVER
36.	Harry Stewart (457)	Senior Men (15th)	20h41m30s	The Finish	SILVER
37.	Jeffrey Silsby (92)	Veteran Men (9th)	20h45m24s	The Finish	SILVER
38.	Lucy Carter (171)	Senior Ladies (1st)	20h51m12s	The Finish	SILVER
39.	Richard Cannell (130)	Senior Men (16th)	20h55m49s	The Finish	SILVER
40.	Jennifer Walker (711)	Senior Ladies (2nd)	21h6m18s	The Finish	BRONZE
41.	Erin Bonett (946)	Veteran Ladies (14th)	21h16m2s	The Finish	BRONZE
42.	Sarah Corkill (85)	Veteran Ladies (15th)	21h19m33s	The Finish	BRONZE
43.	Lynsey Woods (1184)	Veteran Ladies (15th)	21h19m33s	The Finish	BRONZE
44.	Caitlin Devlin (548)	Senior Ladies (3rd)	21h21m53s	The Finish	BRONZE
45.	Harry Lockwood (362)	Senior Men (17th)	21h30m10s	The Finish	BRONZE
46.	Jon Burgess (739)	Veteran Men (10th)	21h33m8s	The Finish	BRONZE
47.	Aaron Curphey (42)	Veteran Men (11th)	21h36m8s	The Finish	BRONZE
48.	Dean Greenland (82)	Veteran Men (11th)	21h36m8s	The Finish	BRONZE
49.	Aaron Crellin (255)	Senior Men (18th)	21h39m58s	The Finish	BRONZE
50.	Liz Postlethwaite (133)	Veteran Ladies (17th)	21h45m57s	The Finish	BRONZE
51.	Paul Laverty (824)	Veteran Men (13th)	21h46m55s	The Finish	BRONZE
52.	Rhiannon Callin (140)	Senior Ladies (4th)	21h48m7s	The Finish	BRONZE
53.	Courtenay Heading (48)	Veteran Men (14th)	21h48m51s	The Finish	BRONZE
54.	Tiffany Faragher (54)	Veteran Ladies (18th)	21h49m56s	The Finish	BRONZE
55.	Jordan Brew (159)	Senior Men (19th)	21h52m23s	The Finish	BRONZE
56.	Zoe Lambie (67)	Senior Ladies (5th)	21h54m23s	The Finish	BRONZE
57.	Eugene Martin (142)	Veteran Men (15th)	21h54m43s	The Finish	BRONZE
58.	Monika Martin (145)	Veteran Ladies (19th)	21h54m43s	The Finish	BRONZE
59.	Tomas Brown (220)	Senior Men (20th)	21h57m28s	The Finish	BRONZE
60.	Danni Bettridge (503)	Senior Ladies (6th)	22h13m40s	The Finish	BRONZE
61.	Lea Dawson (547)	Senior Ladies (6th)	22h13m40s	The Finish	BRONZE
62.	May Hooper (72)	Veteran Ladies (20th)	22h16m11s	The Finish	BRONZE
63.	Francesca Zarrillo (722)	Senior Ladies (8th)	22h20m22s	The Finish	BRONZE
64.	Thomas Parry (107)	Veteran Men (16th)	22h24m11s	The Finish	BRONZE

65. Darren Hudgeon (108)	Senior Men (21st)	22h24m11s	The Finish	BRONZE
66. Martin Allan (62)	Veteran Men (17th)	22h24m51s	The Finish	BRONZE
67. Reuben Allan (131)	Senior Men (22nd)	22h24m51s	The Finish	BRONZE
68. Christopher Danaher (157)	Senior Men (23rd)	22h25m7s	The Finish	BRONZE
69. Kesha Sayle (96)	Senior Ladies (9th)	22h28m50s	The Finish	BRONZE
70. Fawn Cregeen (541)	Senior Ladies (10th)	22h29m5s	The Finish	BRONZE
71. Martin Hall (30)	Veteran Men (18th)	22h29m15s	The Finish	BRONZE
72. Hattie Killey (50)	Senior Ladies (11th)	22h30m55s	The Finish	BRONZE
73. Lou Thomas (64)	Veteran Ladies (21st)	22h30m57s	The Finish	BRONZE
74. Jason Charmer (234)	Senior Men (24th)	22h31m50s	The Finish	BRONZE
75. Roan Gell (298)	Senior Men (25th)	22h34m22s	The Finish	BRONZE
76. Connor Shearman (441)	Senior Men (26th)	22h39m10s	The Finish	BRONZE
77. Elliot Reid (418)	Senior Men (27th)	22h41m25s	The Finish	BRONZE
78. Cory Addy (165)	Veteran Ladies (22nd)	22h44m58s	The Finish	BRONZE
79. Leanne Allcote (493)	Senior Ladies (12th)	22h45m2s	The Finish	BRONZE
80. James Garnett (174)	Senior Men (28th)	22h45m3s	The Finish	BRONZE
81. Andrew Crosby (125)	Veteran Men (19th)	22h46m5s	The Finish	BRONZE
82. Philip Knop (106)	Veteran Men (20th)	22h46m28s	The Finish	BRONZE
83. Isobel Knop (628)	Senior Ladies (13th)	22h46m31s	The Finish	BRONZE
84. Ashley Burgess (69)	Veteran Men (21st)	22h47m18s	The Finish	BRONZE
85. Wesley Burgess (740)	Veteran Men (21st)	22h47m18s	The Finish	BRONZE
86. Maureen Moffatt (37)	Veteran Ladies (23rd)	22h47m29s	The Finish	BRONZE
87. Matthew Gregg (309)	Senior Men (29th)	22h47m29s	The Finish	BRONZE
88. Mariella Craig (539)	Senior Ladies (14th)	22h47m46s	The Finish	BRONZE
89. Clare Swift (1143)	Veteran Ladies (24th)	22h48m19s	The Finish	BRONZE
90. Lydia Corrin (121)	Senior Ladies (15th)	22h51m7s	The Finish	BRONZE
91. Adele Harris (591)	Senior Ladies (15th)	22h51m7s	The Finish	BRONZE
92. Jack Fanchamps (288)	Senior Men (30th)	22h54m11s	The Finish	BRONZE
93. Lee Kewley (116)	Veteran Ladies (25th)	22h56m14s	The Finish	BRONZE
94. Nick Richardson (421)	Senior Men (31st)	22h56m46s	The Finish	BRONZE
95. Edward Anderson (154)	Veteran Men (23rd)	23h3m32s	The Finish	BRONZE
96. Callum Robb (422)	Senior Men (32nd)	23h3m38s	The Finish	BRONZE
97. Sam Rotchell (427)	Senior Men (33rd)	23h8m43s	The Finish	BRONZE
98. Willa Sherrocks (686)	Senior Ladies (17th)	23h11m33s	The Finish	BRONZE
99. Oliver Ayre (203)	Senior Men (34th)	23h12m25s	The Finish	BRONZE
100. Jacob Kaneen (335)	Senior Men (35th)	23h12m42s	The Finish	BRONZE
101. Peter Sylvestre (462)	Senior Men (36th)	23h14m0s	The Finish	BRONZE
102. Curaoi Lace (352)	Senior Men (37th)	23h14m1s	The Finish	BRONZE
103. Matthew Montgomery (384)	Senior Men (37th)	23h14m1s	The Finish	BRONZE
104. Justine Torry (129)	Senior Ladies (18th)	23h14m4s	The Finish	BRONZE
105. Julie Newsham (1093)	Veteran Ladies (26th)	23h14m32s	The Finish	BRONZE
106. Ben Morris (388)	Senior Men (39th)	23h23m7s	The Finish	BRONZE
107. Sophie Cowin (94)	Senior Ladies (19th)	23h24m31s	The Finish	BRONZE
108. Donna Kermode (155)	Veteran Ladies (27th)	23h24m31s	The Finish	BRONZE
109. Amy Dallimore (991)	Veteran Ladies (28th)	23h27m22s	The Finish	BRONZE
110. Dmitrijs Konstantinov (820)	Veteran Men (24th)	23h28m13s	The Finish	BRONZE
111. Gemma Faragher (1005)	Veteran Ladies (29th)	23h32m39s	The Finish	BRONZE
112. Katie Turner (708)	Senior Ladies (20th)	23h45m20s	The Finish	BRONZE
113. Emma Jones (1045)	Veteran Ladies (30th)	23h48m55s	The Finish	BRONZE
114. Sebastian Devereau (269)	Senior Men (40th)	23h50m31s	The Finish	BRONZE
115. Alex Townell (908)	Veteran Men (25th)	23h53m9s	The Finish	BRONZE

MARATONMARCHEN, MARIEFRED, SWEDEN, 26 JUNE 2026 ONWARDS

The *Backyard Ultra* continues to be the flavour of the month around the world, with events being scheduled at a rate of knots (the backyard ultra is a form of ultramarathon race where competitors must consecutively run the distance of 6,706m or 4.167 miles in less than one hour - when each lap is completed, the remaining time within the hour is typically used to recover for the next hour's race.) And what's with the odd looking hourly distance of 6,706m. Well, multiply that by 24 and you get 160.94km (ie 100 miles).

While it's a great concept, it is certainly not the first of its type. That badge of honour goes to what used to be known as the *Swedish Fotrally* (see <https://www.fotrally.se/> and <https://www.facebook.com/fotrally.ik/>) which is held annually in that country

This ultimate endurance walking competition has this year been officially renamed to *Maratonmarschen*. The organizers changed the name to establish "Fotrally" as a broader rule-set and competitive format, allowing other event organizers to host similar competitions without copyright issues. The association that organizes the flagship race is still called Fotrally IK.

Here's the concept which differs significantly to the Backyard Ultra..

The Long Walk is a novel by Stephen King, published under the pseudonym Richard Bachman in 1979. It was collected in 1985 in the hardcover omnibus *The Bachman Books*, and has seen several reprints since. Set in a dystopian present, the plot revolves around the contestants of a gruelling walking contest, held annually by a totalitarian version of the United States of America. In 2000, the American Library Association listed *The Long Walk* as one of the 100 best books for teenage readers published between 1966 and 2000. According to Stephen King, it is the first novel he wrote, begun eight years before his novel *Carrie* was published in 1974, when he was a freshman at the University of Maine in 1966–1967. It's a ripper yarn that I first read many years ago. Of course, in the book, once you dropped behind, you were shot. Luckily that does not happen with Fotrally – you are simply out of the race but live to fight again another day!

So, just how far can a person go before he/she can go no further? Well, in 2009, Pontus Kylberg decided to put the concept to the test and organised what is perhaps the ultimate ultra challenge. The walkers walk day and night, without rest until there is only one left standing. Hundreds test themselves each year but only a few get beyond the 24 hour mark (100km). From then on, it's a brutal war of attrition as, one by one, they fall by the wayside. All contestants walk together as a group at a speed of 5 km/h. In the front there is a leading vehicle which the contestants may not pass and in the back there is a portable toilet which the contestants may not be passed by. Each contestant gets 25 minutes per 24 hours for toilet breaks (all the contestants are timed). You must carry what you need, with support zones only once every 6 hours where you can supplement drinking water and food stocks. But the race itself never stops, even for such refreshment points. You must get going before the rear vehicle passes.



Ready to start but unlike the Backyard Ultra there is no stopping once the gun fires

Wow! What a concept. Let's focus on a few key milestones from previous editions.

- The 2014 event was fought out between Swedish walkers **Silvio Cannavá** and **Lena Jensen**. Lena eventually had to call it quits after 55 hours of walking, leaving Silvio as the last man standing. In fact, Swedish walkers filled the first 25 places that year.

- The 2015 staging really upped the ante on what was possible with winner **Fredrik Forsström** walking for an amazing **87 hours and 45 minutes**, just over 32 hours above the previous record. **Jonas Davidsson** took second place in the same time (but obviously could no longer continue) while Silvio Cannavá, Pia Rosvall, PerOla Axelsson and Niklas Grebäck also shattered the 2014 record of 55 hours. For 44 year old Forsström, it was his 4th Fotrally – his previous placings had been 20th (2012 24:20), 3rd (2013 33:26) and 5th (2014 48:18). 5km/hr for some 88 hours comes out at around 440km of continuous walking.
- In 2016, it came down to another two person duel, with **PerOla Axelman** eventually winning with 72 hours 12 minutes, after **Robert Jonsson** had to stop, total distance 361km! Obviously Axelsson could have gone on but he called it quits at that stage, content with being the last person standing. It was his sixth attempt and the win gave him his first victory after 5th, 4th, 3rd and 2nd placings in previous years.
- A similar two person duel happened in 2017, when **Richard Andersson** outlasted **Ange Truss** by walking for 81 hours (405km).
- 2018 saw a duel between the same two walkers. After **87 hours and 48 minutes**, the win was finally decided when officials forced Agne Truss to retire, worried that her condition had deteriorated too much to continue. That left Richard Andersson as the final walker, repeating his 2017 win. They had both bettered the previous record of 87 hours and 45 minutes and had each walked a total distance of 439km! Richard chose to stop then as well. I suppose when you have won and set a new record, you can be excused for resting on your laurels!
- 2019 saw Agne Truss of Estonia finally take the overall title and become the first non Swedish winner, outlasting Swedish walker Niklas Yjord, with a final time of **75 hours and 6 minutes**.
- After a two year covid break, the event returned in 2022, with the win going to **Anders Jungefors**. He scored repeat wins in 2023 and 2024.

The history of the event can be traced with the winning times from the 15 editions held between 2009 and 2025.

Year	Name	Location	Time (hh:mm)
2009	Thomas Gjutarenäfve	Tullinge, Sweden	9:45
2010	Maria Thomsen	Stockholm, Sweden	29:58
2011	Jonas Davidsson	Hägersten, Sweden	33:21
2012	Jonas Davidsson	Hägersten, Sweden	50:40
2013	Silvio Cannavá	Stockholm, Sweden	48:05
2014	Silvio Cannavá	Stockholm, Sweden	55:00
2015	Fredrik Forsström	Huddinge, Sweden	87:45
2016	PerOla Axelsson	Stockholm, Sweden	72:12
2017	Richard Andersson	Lund, Sweden	81:00
2018	Richard Andersson	Lund, Sweden	87:48
2019	Agne Truss	Södertälje, Estonia	75:06
2020	Cancelled due to Covid		
2021	Cancelled due to Covid		
2022	Anders Jungefors	Stockholm, Sweden	55:10
2023	Anders Jungefors	Stockholm, Sweden	42:00
2024	Anders Jungefors	Stockholm, Sweden	56:48
2025	Johan Nilsson	Nacka, Sweden	58:32

This year's edition of the Marathonmarschen/Fotrally was the sixteenth edition. Like previous years, the competition was held over four different circuits (rounds), each of 6 hours (30km), around the Swedish city of Mariefred. The walk got underway at 9PM on Friday 26th June, with 56 entrants toeing the line.

The Race Report from <https://www.fotrally.se/> is comprehensive and forms the basis for this brief discussion.

After a rainy first night, the sun came out early on the Saturday morning, confirming it was going to be a tough day. 47 participants completed round two (12 hours) and qualified for a bronze medal, but only 25 competitors came into the pit after 18 hours. When the fourth round started at 3PM on the Saturday, it was still just over 30C. The fourth round offered a lot of gravel roads and hills and so it was not surprising when only 13 completed the fourth loop (24 hours) to qualify for a silver medal.



From then on, the attrition rate increased, with only the top 4 completing round 5 (30 hours), The number was reduced to three by 9AM on the Sunday morning when round 6 (36 hours) was completed - **Anna Hessel, Theodor Colombo** and **Stefan Edström**.

Edström was the first to concede defeat, calling it quits at 37 hours and 58 minutes. On 9 occasions, he had passed 24 hours, four times 30 hours and twice 36 hours.

The remaining two were both seasoned campaigners - 54 year old Anna Hessel was in her seventh start and 23 year old Theodor Colombo was in his fifth start. Anna had previously been second, third, fifth and sixth and had a PB of 50.00 (2024) while Theodor had been fifth twice and had a PB of 37.02 (2024). It was now raining heavily and blowing, a big difference from Saturday's heat. In Hjorthagen after 44 hours, Colombo began to struggle with the pace and at the campsite after 45.05 it was over. Finally Anna Hessel had her victory.



The final two fight it out (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1629007183995219>)

For completeness, here are the 12 who walked in excess of 24 Hours:

1.	Anna Hessel	Uppsala	Sverige	45 hrs 05 min
2.	Theodor Colombo	Åkersberga	Sverige	45 hrs 05 min
3.	Stefan Edström	Järfälla	Sverige	37 hrs 58 min
4.	Karl Lewenhagen	Mariefred	Sverige	31 hrs 03 min

5.	Elias Jungfors	Stockholm	Sverige	27 hrs 17 min
6.	Anders Jungfors	Stockholm	Sverige	27 hrs 13 min
7.	Hans Kneezke	Hässelby	Sverige	24 hrs 47 min
8.	Stefan Lindgren	Sollentuna	Sverige	24 hrs 44 min
9.	Stefan Jonsson	Mariefred	Sverige	24 hrs 41 min
10.	Kristoffer Pettersson	Katrineholm	Sverige	24 hrs 18 min
11.	Roldano Marzorati	Arco	Italien	24 hrs 13 min
12.	Tony Pettersson	Strängnäs	Sverige	24 hrs 12 min
13.	Marcus Bilgec	Partille	Sverige	24 hrs 12 min

24 HEURES DE HAUTE-SAINTONGE, MONTGUYON, FRANCE, JUNE 27-28, 2026



Another race result catchup, with the 26th edition of the 24 Heures de Marche de Haute-Saintonge, held in Montguyon (SW France) on the last weekend of June (<https://www.24heuresdemarche.com/>). This is a tough race, with a big climb to a medieval castle to be negotiated during every 2.195km lap, along with a surface that includes lots of rough grassy/dirt areas. And this year, conditions were very hot, as was the case throughout Europe this summer.

Thus the times were effected, but not the enthusiasm of the walkers. The overall numbers were fantastic - 139 walkers started in the 24 Hour Individual Walk, while 37 teams competed in the 24 Hour Teams division, with teams of either 2, 3 or 4 competitors. That's a grand total of more than 270 competitors!

Alain Malfondet won overall with a distance of 135.046 km, while the first of the women to finish (fourth overall) was **Laetitia Nunes Varela** with 125.502 km.

Full results can be seen at <https://www.24heuresdemarche.com/copie-de-2025>. The listing below is restricted to those who walked further than 100km in the requisite 24 hours.

24Hour Walk Individual (139 starters)

1.	Malfondet, Alain	M	1965	FRA	135.046 km
2.	Destanque, Christophe	M	1969	FRA	132.760 km
3.	Marraud, Patrice	M	1969	FRA	129.974 km
4.	Nunes Varela, Laetitia	F	1978	FRA	125.502 km
5.	Vincent, Dominique	M	1956	FRA	121.730 km
6.	Laroche, Philippe	M	1967	FRA	121.330 km
7.	Metreau, Georges	M	1968	FRA	120.430 km
8.	Clement, Philippe	M	1964	FRA	120.230 km
9.	Pelletier, Thierry	M	1963	FRA	120.144 km
10.	Mallereau, Anthony	M	1971	FRA	119.944 km
11.	Grassi, Alain	M	1959	FRA	119.944 km
12.	Jarriault, Denis Gaspard	M	1962	FRA	114.172 km
13.	Mangin, Laurent	M	1963	FRA	111.986 km
14.	Boutrit, Mickael	M	1999	FRA	111.886 km

15. Stindel, Yann	M	1969	FRA	111.200 km
16. Lanau, Francois	M	1959	FRA	110.500 km
17. Soulard, Eliane	F	1957	FRA	109.300 km
18. Martin, Philippe	M	1963	FRA	105.328 km
19. Lottier, Patrice	M	1962	FRA	103.342 km
20. Vacher, Aline	F	1985	FRA	102.156 km
21. Le Goff, Maeva	F	1987	FRA	100.556 km

24 Hour Relay (37 teams)

1. OBJECTIF AMPOULES	174.294 km
2. LES SALAMANDRES BISCARROSSAISES	172.408 km
3. LES BOLIDES	166.736 km

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

That's it for me for this month. Next month sees more big races in Europe, as well as the South Australian 6 Day Championship in Adelaide. Till then, enjoy some quality time on the homefront and don't forget to get out for a few walks, runs or cycles.

With kind regards to all

Tim Erickson (C13)

Secretary, Australian Centurion Walkers, Victoria, Australia