



## HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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*Thanks to Harold van Beek for a cartoon to brighten out day*

### PAUL F DEMEESTER TALKS MATTERS IAAF

Thanks to US Attorney at Law Paul F. DeMeester for another thought provoking article. That is the 11<sup>th</sup> in a row – what a superb effort. You can see links to all Paul's articles at the bottom of webpage <http://www.vrwc.org.au/save-the-50km.shtml>.

#### **THE COE MONEY CONFLICT AND HOW IT AFFECTS ATHLETICS**

**By Paul F. DeMeester**

This column has recently, in issues 28, 31 and 34, examined how World Athletics President Seb Coe appears to have done the IOC's bidding to shrink athletics at the Olympics and cut events, like the 50K Race Walk, to please the Olympic rulers, an exclusive undemocratic lot that Coe wants to join. Issue 34 mentioned Coe's commercial ties to CSM Sport & Entertainment. An analysis of Coe's apparent money conflict arising from this link is the subject of this week's column. It may well lead readers of this column to conclude that World Athletics is governed by a President who acts against the interests of athletics.

This particular story about CSM goes back two years. I was in Taicang, China, on 4 May 2018, to attend the races of the 2018 IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships on 5 May (50K joint race for women and men) and 6 May (20K). Some in the official headquarters hotel, where I was staying, were talking about Seb Coe arriving to attend the world level event. I looked forward to Coe's presence, as I wanted to speak to him about the Women's 50K and the preserving of the 50K in general. Alas, Coe was a no-show, even though he had never before missed the event as IAAF President. [1] (See below for numbered references; all were retrieved on 24 May 2020.)

I figured China was too far away for Coe to bother. I never gave it much thought after that until exactly one week ago, when I came across a YouTube interview with Coe published on 4 May 2018. [2] Guess where Coe had been interviewed? In Hong Kong, a mere three-hour non-stop flight away from Shanghai which is close to Taicang. Hong Kong is in the same time zone as Taicang. But my concern about why Coe had not shown up in Taicang was soon overtaken by a much more serious worry when I found out what Coe had been doing in Hong Kong.

The South China Morning Post (“Post”), an English-language newspaper in Hong Kong, reported that “Coe is in Hong Kong in his role as executive chairman of CSM Sport & Entertainment, which is partnering with Guangzhou R&F Properties as one of three consortiums bidding for the tender of the HK\$32 billion Sports Park.” [3] Fair enough, one might say, after all, a bloke has to make a living.

The Post story went on to state that “Coe says the facility – which will boast a 50,000-seat multi-purpose stadium with a retractable roof, a 10,000-seat indoor arena and a 5,000-seat public sports ground – must have the ability to attract major sporting events, including world championships, and teams training for international events, as well as cater to local and regional competitions and the general public.” [3] At first blush, Coe seems to be working on behalf of athletics. There’s nothing wrong about Hong Kong being able to stage the athletics world championships in a stadium at Kai Tak with a greater seating capacity than that of Doha, where the most recent World Championships took place. A different Post article described Coe’s thought on such projects. “Coe’s grand vision for marquee sporting venues is they should serve a multitude of purposes, from raising the level at the elite end to catering for local sports teams and the general public.” [4]

But first blush may turn to rage real soon when one finds out what the local athletics community thought about the proposed sports park at Kai Tak, the site of the former Hong Kong airport. The Post reported on their long-held feelings about the project. “But the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association has long objected to the proposed absence of a running track in the main stadium, which will mean they cannot stage world-class track and field events. Officials have proposed they use the adjacent 5,000-seat public sports ground, but there will be no warm-up areas inside for international competitions.” [5]



*Coe at Hong Kong Athletics in early May 2018; But Was He Acting Against the Interests of Athletics?  
(Facebook posting by HKAAA)*

An earlier Post article published shortly after Coe had left Hong Kong in early May of 2018, reflected the concerns of the chairman of the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association (HKAAA). “It would definitely be a major upset for the athletics community if we cannot stage international track and field competitions in the so-called landmark of Hong Kong sports. There has to be some solution,” the Post quoted Chairman Kwan Kee as saying. The Post explained why this issue existed. “While there will be no running track in the design of the 50,000-seat main stadium – allowing better views for spectators of ball games such as soccer and

*rugby – the adjacent public sports ground that holds up to 5,000 fans will feature a 400-metre running track for athletics, plans show. However, the HKAAA will not be able to stage international events there as it needs a secondary ground for athletes to warm up before competition.” [6]*

Coe’s lobbying effort did not pay off as a rival developer was chosen for the project. CSM missed out on a 25-year contract that is expected to generate profits of up to HK \$ 300 million (US \$ 38.3 million) annually. [5] What is troubling about this is that Coe pushed for a project that diminished Hong Kong athletics, depriving it of potential future world-level athletics stadium events. Coe failed to publicly advocate for the inclusion of a track inside the main stadium in addition to the proposed track in the smaller stadium, which would have been his proper role as President of the IAAF. The Post article of 2 May 2018 demonstrates that Coe did no such thing. [3] By serving the interests of CSM’s paying clients, did Coe abandon his role as IAAF President and act against the interests of athletics in general and Hong Kong athletics in particular?

The 2018 trip was not Coe’s first commercial venture into Hong Kong. In March of 2013, Coe visited as part of his CSM duties, the company he joined when he sold his own sports management consultancy firm for a reported near-£12 million shortly after the London Olympics came to a close in 2012, an effort Coe had chaired. [7] Coe attended the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series at the time. The Post had asked Coe what brought him to Hong Kong. *“Ask him what brings him to Hong Kong and his answer lasts minutes rather than seconds. Briefly, he is travelling under what he calls his ‘three hats’ - as chairman of a global communications and sports marketing group to engage in PR opportunities with the International Rugby Board around the Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens; as the British prime minister’s ‘Olympics legacy ambassador’, to speak to businesses at the British Chamber of Commerce; and as chairman of the British Olympic Association, meeting local counterpart and ‘good friend’ Timothy Fok Tsun-tung.”* [8] What is curious is that Coe’s then IAAF vice-presidency is not mentioned at all. Not so curious when one considers that Coe was advocating for Olympic inclusion of Rugby Sevens on behalf of his paying CSM client World Rugby. [9] A photograph of Coe at the 2013 Rugby Sevens in Hong Kong is available on the internet but the copyright is held by photographer Martin Seras Lima. [10] In fairness to Coe, the IOC decided in 2009 to include rugby for Rio, prior to Coe joining CSM. But that does not get Coe off the hook for his paid rugby cheerleading role and lack of support for athletics.

The Post reported Coe’s position in March of 2013. *“Asked what the inclusion of sevens in the Olympics will mean for the event and the sport - it joins in Rio 2016 - Coe (pictured) is in no doubt: ‘I think it will have a big impact. I was sorry that we didn’t have the opportunity to host it in London. I think that would have been a fantastic spectacle,’ he said yesterday. ‘I’ve been in Rio recently and everybody is excited about it and they are going to be really up for it. I think it’s an exciting time for the game and I don’t think there’s any question that the Hong Kong Sevens was a catalyst: I think a lot of IOC delegates looked at the atmosphere and the physicality of the game and saw it as one of those games that could connect in an even bigger way with young people.”* [11] Coe is further quoted in the same article as having stated, *“... I think the IOC and a lot of my colleagues saw the Sevens an opportunity to freshen the Olympic programme, to bring kids in from parts of the world where Sevens really does mean something and an opportunity to globalise rugby itself.”* [11]

Coe could not stop gushing about his love for Rugby Sevens. *“At the International Rugby Board (IRB) World Rugby Conference last year, Lord Sebastian Coe spoke fondly of his experiences as a Hong Kong Rugby Sevens spectator, saying of our Sevens: ‘... it’s a fantastic opportunity for the International Olympic Committee to reach out... it’s the sort of game in the format that excites young people; a rapid and speedy sport and getting a lot of it in, in a session. Every sport now has to place an emphasis on how it engages and communicates... I think the real challenge in any sporting event is to make sure that at the end of it, you’ve got more young people excited, enthused and engaged, and wanting to take up the game – male and female.’”* [12]

*“An opportunity to freshen the Olympic programme,”* Coe was quoted by the Post as saying about rugby’s entry into the Olympics. Interesting language in light of the harsh reality expressed by former IOC President Jacques Rogge, who in 2004 was quoted as stating that no sport can be included without another dropping out and further expressing a goal of a maximum of 28 sports, 300 events and 10,500 athletes at any given Summer Olympics. [13] The IOC has since limited the athletics footprint at the next Olympics, in line with the goals stated earlier by Rogge. The 50K Race Walk Event has been the victim of this Olympic slashing move, barely hanging on for Tokyo.

I am not arguing against Rugby Sevens. Far from it; I rather enjoyed watching the sport when the 2018 Rugby World Cup Sevens was held in San Francisco, a mere 1.5 mile walk from my law office. But I am not an executive for World Athletics. When Coe was lauding his paying client, he was also taking away from athletics. Olympic expansion for one sport means a reduction of Olympic footprint for athletics. Should an IAAF Vice President, as Coe was then, be in the business of advocating for sports that threaten the size of athletics participation at the Olympics? In law, we call that an actual conflict of interest. Coe should be at liberty to make money from his paid advocacy on behalf of sports other than athletics. But he should not be an IAAF official at the same time, whether as Vice President or President. Period!

Ironically, the Ethics Code that Coe pushed through the IAAF Council, and which went into effect on 3 April 2017, requires Coe not to act *“in any manner which may ... be prejudicial to, or adversely affect the interests of, the IAAF or Athletics.”* (IAAF Integrity Code of Conduct, eff. 3 April 2017, Rule 6.3(q)(4).) Has Coe been in violation of his ethical duties as an IAAF/World Athletics official? You be the judge.

## **References:**

[1] An IAAF Press Release of 16 June 2016 was accompanied by a photo of Coe at the 2016 Rome edition of the world team championships; the press release is available at <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/press-release/panorama-bbc-statement-sebastian-coe>.

- [2] The 4 May 2018 interview of Coe by the British Chamber of Commerce of Hong Kong is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yY3Is9XYV-4>.
- [3] See <https://www.scmp.com/sport/hong-kong/article/2144346/power-people-says-olympic-ringmaster-seb-coe-he-outlines-his-vision>; published online on 2 May 2018; also published in the print edition.
- [4] See <https://www.scmp.com/sport/hong-kong/article/2144689/winning-kai-tak-bid-easy-part-good-luck-making-it-success-sport>; published on 5 May 2018; also published in the print edition.
- [5] See <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/2179929/new-world-development-wins-right-design-build-and-run-hong>; published online on 28 December 2018; also published in the print edition.
- [6] See <https://www.scmp.com/sport/hong-kong/article/2145305/calls-change-kai-tak-sports-park-design-so-hong-kong-can-host-major>; published on 9 May 2018.
- [7] See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1011448/chime-to-take-over-coe-consultancy-firm-in-multi-million-pound-deal->; published online on 27 October 2012.
- [8] See <https://www.scmp.com/sport/other-sport/article/1203466/sebastian-coe-lays-down-blueprint-future-sport>; published online on 31 March 2013; also published in the print edition.
- [9] CSM touted the connection on its website. See <https://www.csm.com/our-work/developing-the-game-of-7s-on-a-global-scale?lang=en-US&csmreg=am>.
- [10] See [https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https://resources.world.rugby/worldrugby/photo/2014/11/06/18c417e3-8b33-45bf-81a7-ca44a106b400/2065731\\_ORIG\\_1.1.jpg&imgrefurl=https://www.world.rugby/sevens-series/stage/1494/media&tbid=ddebI3dAacHxdM&vet=1&docid=zV-3rwSaAwN8aM&w=3000&h=1911&q=seb+coe+in+hong+kong&hl=en-us&source=sh/x/im](https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https://resources.world.rugby/worldrugby/photo/2014/11/06/18c417e3-8b33-45bf-81a7-ca44a106b400/2065731_ORIG_1.1.jpg&imgrefurl=https://www.world.rugby/sevens-series/stage/1494/media&tbid=ddebI3dAacHxdM&vet=1&docid=zV-3rwSaAwN8aM&w=3000&h=1911&q=seb+coe+in+hong+kong&hl=en-us&source=sh/x/im).
- [11] See <https://www.scmp.com/sport/rugby/article/1196606/hong-kong-sevens-catalyst-game-rio-olympics-says-sebastian-coe>; published online on 22 March 2013; also published in the print edition.
- [12] See <http://ppp.com.hk/ebook/Playtimes%20September%202014/Playtimes%20September%202014/assets/basic-html/page97.html>.
- [13] See [https://web.archive.org/web/20070203182914/http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/other\\_sports/olympics\\_2012/3683482.stm#](https://web.archive.org/web/20070203182914/http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/other_sports/olympics_2012/3683482.stm#); published on 22 November 2004.

#### WARWC ROADWALKS, WILSON, PERTH, SUNDAY 24 MAY

Thanks to Terry Jones for the following results which marked the start of the Western Australian Racewalking Club winter season. Terry explains: *We were able to manage the events so that we conformed to all COVID-19 restrictions here in Perth. Fantastic news!*

That's our first official walk for the winter. With the other Australian States also easing restrictions, we may soon have more results to read.

#### 10km Walk

1.	Andrew Duncan	53.29
2.	Brad Mann	55.51
3.	Karyn Tolardo	65.15

#### 3km Walk

1.	John Ronan	14.32
2.	Ben Reid	15.21
3.	Riley Wood	17.12
4.	Lataya Lawrence	17.41
5.	Emily Bogaers	24.33
6.	Steve Travell	24.49
7.	Glenys Duncan	26.57

#### 1.5km Walk

1.	Xavier Bernard	8.07
2.	Ben Reid	8.39
3.	Andrew Duncan	8.42
4.	Kaytee Bogaers	8.59
5.	Luke Lawrence	9.08
6.	Karyn Tolardo	9.21
7.	Annabelle Van Strenghel	9.35
8.	Kaycee Ibbotson	9.49
9.	Linkin Lawrence	10.12
10.	Ella-Jayde Coleman	11.54
11.	Coral McCooy	13.40

#### SAMA VIRTUAL WALKS AROUND ADELAIDE - ROUND 8

The South Australian Masters Virtual Competition continued this week. Walk results are shown below. Well done everyone! See the full results set at <https://samastersathletics.org.au/results/Results%2024-05-2020.txt>

#### 2km Walk

1.	MARK WORTHING	0:11:17	M57	72.02%
2.	MARIE MAXTED	0:13:26	W60	67.55%
3.	ROGER LOWE	0:14:37	M77	70.00%
4.	GRAHAM HARRISON	0:15:11	M76	66.45%
5.	JAN LAYNG	0:16:01	W71	64.77%
6.	MIKE VOWLES	0:16:21	M76	61.71%
7.	JOHN HORE	0:16:43	M71	56.52%
8.	COLIN BROOKS	0:18:40	M66	47.72%
9.	JILL ROGERS	0:19:17	W75	57.06%
10.	DOUG SMART	0:22:04	M76	45.72%



11.	LINDA WHITELAW	0:22:52	W66	42.49%
<b>4km Walk</b>				
1.	MARK WORTHING	0:24:32	M57	70.57%
2.	GEORGE WHITE	0:24:56	M74	83.96%
3.	MARIE MAXTED	0:26:52	W60	72.68%
4.	GRAHAM HARRISON	0:31:30	M76	68.31%
5.	RODGER BARBER	0:32:30	M82	72.48%
6.	GILLIAN WHITE	0:32:32	W71	69.20%
7.	ROGER LOWE	0:33:00	M77	66.14%
8.	EDNA BATES	0:36:01	W67	59.07%
<b>5km Walk</b>				
1.	DAVID ROBERTSON	0:45:28	M86	69.99%
<b>6km Walk</b>				
1.	GEORGE WHITE	0:37:24	M74	85.42%
2.	GIL MCINTOSH	0:45:04	M69	66.50%
3.	ROSS HILL-BROWN	0:52:12	M65	54.82%
<b>10km Walk</b>				
1.	GRAHAM HARRISON	1:20:04	M76	69.71%
<b>20km Walk</b>				
1.	RICHARD EVERSON	1:52:52	M56	80.58%
2.	GIL MCINTOSH	2:36:36	M69	66.74%

#### ENGLISH VIRTUAL RACEWALKING LEAGUE, ROUND 7, ACROSS THE WORLD

The Virtual League Racing Series (<https://nationalendurancecentre.co.uk/challenges>), being coordinated by the National Centre for Race Walking in Leeds, continues to be the dominant weekly virtual walking competition. Round 7 has just been completed, with walkers submitting 5km and 2km walk performances. 123 athletes from 12 countries took part. Well done everyone!

5km Age Graded Virtual Race: <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?ag=y&id=6135>

2km Age Graded Virtual Race: <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?ag=y&id=6134>

And here is an extract of the Australians who forwarded their performances.

<b>5km Walk</b>			
9	Lyla Williams	U13W	27:30.0
12	Emily Smith	U15W	27:48.0
22	Nyle Sunderland	W50	31:12.0
23	Heather Carr	W70	31:26.0
34	Elizabeth Leitch	W65	33:51.0
10	Owen Toyne	U15M	25:52.0
13	Kodi Clarkson	U13M	26:15.0
52	Ron Foster	M70	38:54.0
<b>2km Walk</b>			
12	Lyla Williams	U13W	11:00.0
15	Emily Smith	U15W	11:07.2
23	Nyle Sunderland	W50	11:45.0
26	Heather Carr	W70	12:34.4
38	Elizabeth Leitch	W65	14:34.4
14	Kodi Clarkson	U13M	10:12.0
17	Owen Toyne	U15M	10:20.8
19	Oliver Morgan	U15M	10:23.0
25	Sam Lindsey	U13M	11:02.0
58	Haydn Gawne	M70	13:54.0
68	Ron Foster	M70	15:33.6

Well done to Rosemary Coleman of TRWC who is coordinating a lot of these results and forwarding.

## MARCIADALMONDO AND OMARCHADOR ROUNDUP

Marciadalamondo has one press release this week

- Fri 22 May - Online Seminar: From the Rules to the analysis of judgment - A 20-year history  
[http://www.marciadalamondo.com/eng/dettagli\\_news.aspx?id=3794](http://www.marciadalamondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3794)

while Omarchador has its usual great of selection of articles

- Sun 24 May - 75th birthday for Portuguese walker Carlos Albano  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/evocando-carlos-albano-no-dia-do-seu.html>
- Sat 23 May - Slovakina walker Dominik Cerný still hopes to qualify for Tokyo  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/dominik-cerny-com-renovada-esperanca-na.html>
- Fri 22 May - Focus on the Cidade de Montijo, 1988-2003  
[https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/viajando-pelos-grandes-premios-de\\_22.html](https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/viajando-pelos-grandes-premios-de_22.html)
- Thu 22 May - Eleonora Giorgi, passionate about cooking  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/eleonora-giorgi-uma-apaixonada-pela.html>
- Wed 20 May - Portugal's medal in the 2003 European Cup 50km  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/a-medalha-de-portugal-nos-50-km-marcha.html>
- Tue 19 May - Isilda Gonçalves, the first Portuguese woman to break 50 minutes in the 10km walk  
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/isilda-goncalves-primeira-recordista.html>

## OUT AND ABOUT

- Our thoughts are with VRWC life member and regular judge **Gordon Loughnan** on the death of his wife Bernice, after a long illness. Gordon, our thoughts are with you and all the family in this awful time.
- It's a little over 12 months since the death of VRWC Life Member and club stalwart **Marlaine Stanway**. Last year the family put on a special walk to remember Marlaine. Alas, that is not possible this year with our COVID-19 lockdown, so her daughter Christine has set up a special fundraiser "*Walk for Marlaine Stanway*" as part of the annual Motor Neurone Disease campaign. Here's the link: [https://www.am4mnd.org.au/my-fundraising/239/christine-stanway?fbclid=IwAR1c-fe0bs0cZR-0stpRyo\\_iwxio2oIQE6bNdy\\_CbSgqdbDmd9C6-blB\\_7M#.XsYSGEHnua8.email](https://www.am4mnd.org.au/my-fundraising/239/christine-stanway?fbclid=IwAR1c-fe0bs0cZR-0stpRyo_iwxio2oIQE6bNdy_CbSgqdbDmd9C6-blB_7M#.XsYSGEHnua8.email). Walk 15km (in one or more stages) and then donate in her memory. Gone but not forgotten!
- Oh to have a crystal ball and be able to predict what is likely to happen in the next 12 months! Thomas Bach has acknowledged that Tokyo 2020 would be cancelled should the Olympic Games not be held in 2021, while the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President confirmed that different scenarios are being considered over the potential impact of coronavirus on the postponed event. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1094483/bach-tokyo-2020-olympics-held-in-2021>.
- Well done to Tony Taylor of Lancashire Walking Club who points out their latest racewalking profile, for Isle of Man legend John Cannell. He is one of 3 walkers recently profiled on their excellent website.

REMINISCENCES: **JOHN CANNELL ON MANY A MILE UNDERTAKEN, OFTEN AGAINST THE ODDS**  
<https://lancswalkingclub.com/2020/05/20/reminiscences-8-john-cannell-on-many-a-mile-undertaken-often-against-the-odds/>

REMINISCENCES: **DENIS JACKSON LOOKS BACK OVER AN OUTSTANDING CAREER**  
<https://lancswalkingclub.com/2020/05/08/reminiscences-8-denis-jackson-looks-back-over-an-outstanding-career/>

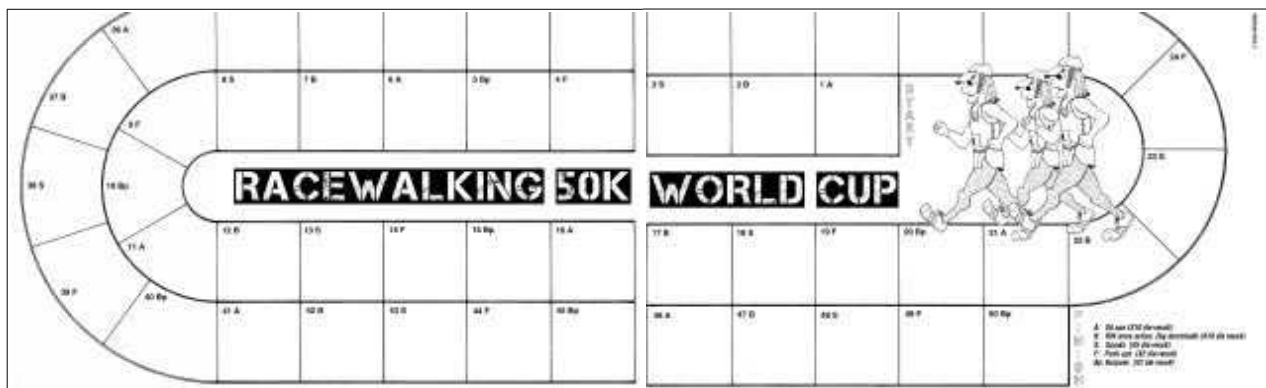
REMINISCENCES: **TONY BELL LOOKS BACK**  
<https://lancswalkingclub.com/2020/04/07/reminiscences-3-tony-bell-looks-back/>

## PLAY THE RACEWALKING 50K WORLD CUP BOARDGAME

Spanish racewalker **Antonio Amigo** has created a fantastic racewalking based board game to keep us all occupied during the COVID lockdown. He has posted an English version to the Race Walking Group facebook page. Here is the link to download the game: <https://tinyurl.com/y89ehbqb>. The heading says it all

**RACEWALKING 50K WORLD CUP**  
**Do you want to test the hardness of the 50k RW? This is your game!**

It's the only game I know that makes you do vigorous exercise as you play.



**WMA PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENT – CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Last Monday saw an important announcement by WMA President Margit Jungman concerning the various World Masters Championships scheduled for 2020. See <https://world-masters-athletics.com/news/wma-president-announcement-championships/>. Here is a cut and paste of the key part.

Losing the Stadia Championship 2020 in Toronto meant WMA needed to find a replacement. After some reflection, **Tampere, Finland**, volunteered to assess whether they could change the planned 2021 EMA Championships to a WMA Championship. I am pleased to announce they are ready to agree to host our **WMA championship in 2021**. We now start the final negotiations to make it happen. As soon as the change is confirmed we will inform you.

The Tampere team is very conscious of the difficult situation around the world and recognizes the challenges of hosting this event for thousands of participants and visitors. Their plan includes using two competition venues and one training facility. Championship dates will be around when the EMA Championship was planned from 3-10 July 2021, with some days probably added beforehand.

The consequences of this solution means that the planned indoor championships in Edmonton 2021 will move to 2022 and the stadia championship in Gothenburg will move to 2023. Both organisers are aware of the changed dates and have agreed. The Bid for 2023 indoor and 2024 stadia championships then needs to change to 2024 and 2025 respectively.

**TIME TO PUT THE THINKING CAP ON**

Firstly to the answers to last week's questions. Thanks to all those who put together pieces of the jigsaw.

**36. Are there any international walkers who have also represented their countries in major international championships in other sports (eg at World Championship level, etc)?**

Tasmanian racewalker **Rick Cooke** represented Australia in the 1991 IAAF Racewalking World Cup 50km. After his retired from racewalking, he took up ultra distance running and has represented Australia on multiple occasions – 2011 Commonwealth 24H Championship, 2012 and 2013 IAU 24H Championships and 2016 IAU Asian 24H Championship. See <https://statistik.d-u-v.org/getresultperson.php?runner=182686>.

Star Czech walker **Anezka Drahotova** is a former European Junior 10km walk champion and has been representing her country with distinction as a racewalker since 2011. She also represented the Czech Republic in cycling at the 2013 World Championships (see <https://www.procyclingstats.com/rider/anezka-drahotova/2013>).

Victorian walker **Bec Henderson** represented Australia in the 2018 IAAF World Racewalking Team Championships (junior 10km walk) and was also in the Triathlon Australian junior team for the ITU world championships in 2018.

(Thanks to Emmanuel for this one). Hungarian walker **Andrea Kovacs** played Ice Hockey before taking up racewalking and was part of the Hungarian national team in that sport. In fact, she competed in two World championships, playing centre in the Hungarian Team on each occasion. Those were the 2004 World Champs in Slovenia and the 2005 World Champs in South Africa. See [http://webarchive.iihf.com/Hydra/Tournaments/output/WVIII/hydra.iihf.com/IIHF\\_Core/jsp/content/web\\_output/index.jsp@compId=23](http://webarchive.iihf.com/Hydra/Tournaments/output/WVIII/hydra.iihf.com/IIHF_Core/jsp/content/web_output/index.jsp@compId=23) and [webarchive.iihf.com/Hydra/Tournaments\\_05/output/wwiii/hydra.iihf.com/IIHF\\_Core/jsp/content/web\\_output/index.jsp@compId=1000000007](http://webarchive.iihf.com/Hydra/Tournaments_05/output/wwiii/hydra.iihf.com/IIHF_Core/jsp/content/web_output/index.jsp@compId=1000000007)

37. **You would have read above that 1908 Olympic walk champion George Larnar has a bus named in his honour. Do any walkers had streets or walkways named in their honour?**

1964 Olympic silver medallist **Paul Nihill** has a road (Nihill Place) in Addiscombe in England named after him. It was only fitting that the road-naming ceremony took place on the day on which the 50 km walk was taking place at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. See the photo in <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-paul-nihill.pdf>.

Australia's greatest female walker **Kerry Saxby-Junna** has two roads named after her. Firstly, there is a pathway in her home town of Ballina, on the NSW coast (see photo below), called the *Kerry Saxby Walkway*.



Secondly, she is one of a number of top AIS athletes who have walkways in the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra named in honour of her. Kerry's is called *Kerry Saxby Way* and is south of the main Sports Medicine precinct.

Finally (and thanks to Emmanuel for this), French walker **Roger Marceau**, the winner of the 1930 Paris-Strasbourg, has a street named in his honour in his native city of Hénil-Beaumont: *Rue Roger Marceau, 62110 Hénil-Beaumont*.

38. **Which European coach took his adopted country to the top of the racewalking world and revolutionised racewalking along the way, changing it forever?**

**Jerzy Hausleber** was the Polish coach who revolutionised the world of racewalking in the 1970's, taking Mexico from an unknown minnow to the world's strongest walking nation in less than 10 years. I had the privilege of meeting him on a number of occasions in the seventies and early eighties. A truly inspirational coach and person. See more at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-jerzy-hausleber.pdf> and <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/news/jerzy-hausleber-the-architect-of-mexicos-race>.

39. **Which dual Olympic racewalking medallist is now a successful artist, with his monumental sculptures gracing city skylines in his own country and around the world?**

USA walker **Larry Young** won Olympic silvers in the 1968 and 1972 50km walks. As his international racewalking career was coming to an end, Larry went back to study and graduated in 1976 with an arts degree from Columbia College, Missouri. Since then, he has been a full-time artist (for the last 25 years) and has placed over 50 monumental outdoor sculptures nationally and abroad. See <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-larry-young.pdf>.

40. **Who was this astonishingly good walker? For more than a decade, he was regarded as the finest competitive walker in the world and was New Zealand's first world champion.**

No, it wasn't Norm Read, the 1956 Olympic 50km champion. You have to go a long way further back to the days of pedestrianism to find **Joe Scott**. I'll leave you to read about this amazing walker and make up your own mind – see <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-joe-scott.pdf>.

Now to this week's questions – they are not getting any easier! Some details needed, not just a name. Back up your claim!

41. **What Australian and Victorian racewalking champion and record holder danced from Geelong to Melbourne, using relay teams of female partners, covering a distance of 50 miles in 12 hours to set a record that will almost certainly never be matched?**
42. **Which Olympic Gold medal winning walker had the preface of his autobiography written by the Prime Minister of his country?**
43. **To win an Olympic racewalking medal is amazing. To win a second puts you in very elite company. But a very small subset of the truly elite have won 3 or more Olympic racewalking medals. Who are these ultimate champions?**



44. His father was Queen Victoria's favorite walker so it was no surprise that he was attracted to the life of the long distance walker, long after the heady days of professional pedestrianism had passed. His amazing walks mark him as one of the greatest of the long distance walkers. Who was he?
45. Which two Olympians from the 1968 Mexico City 50km walk met again in the 10km walk at the World Masters Championships Perth in 2016 (although in different age groups)?

Forward your answers to me at [terick@melbpc.org.au](mailto:terick@melbpc.org.au). I will give the answers next week and pose 5 further questions. Remember you can check out past questions and answers at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/RW-Questions.shtml>.

#### PRAMESH PRASAD – A WORTHY RACEWALKING REPRESENTATIVE FOR FIJI AND AUSTRALIA

VRWC and VMA members will all know **Pramesh Prasad**, one of our top masters walkers and a great ambassador for racewalking in Victoria. But you may not know Pramesh's part in the 1995 IAAF Racewalking World Cup, when he was instrumental in ensuring the first ever Fijian racewalking team was able to compete at that level.

You have to backtrack a further 5 years to pick up the story. Pramesh, who was born in Suva on 21 April 1974, had been a good runner in his younger years, competing over distances ranging from 800m to 10km. He was aged 13 when he won his first National Schools Championship, over 800m, and thought at that stage that his future lay in running.

However, that all changed in 1990 when Fiji was to host the Oceania Athletic Championships. The Games were scheduled for July of that year and would include a 20km racewalk. Although he would be only aged 16 at that time, his coach (who was also the National Athletics Coach for Fiji) asked him to try the walk. He had only a few months to work on his race walking technique and get ready. It was no easy task. As the only racewalker in Fiji, he was the subject of derision, with people calling him out as he was training at the track or on the road. But he persevered and duly represented Fiji in the Oceania Games 20km walk at 16 years of age.

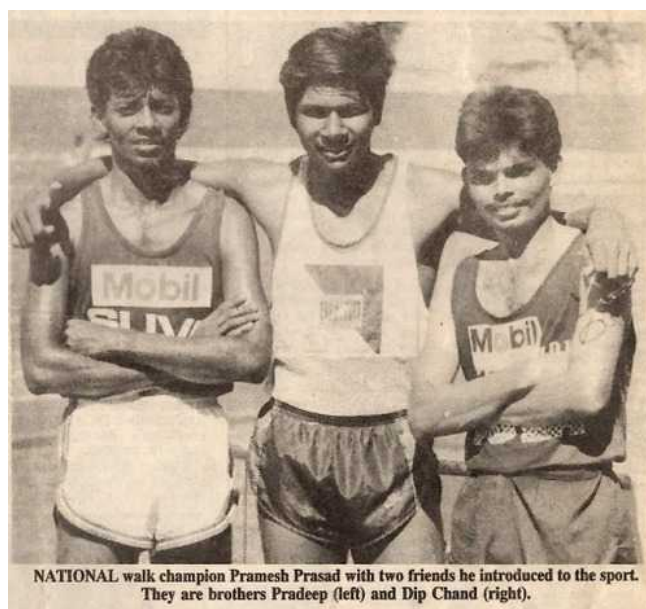
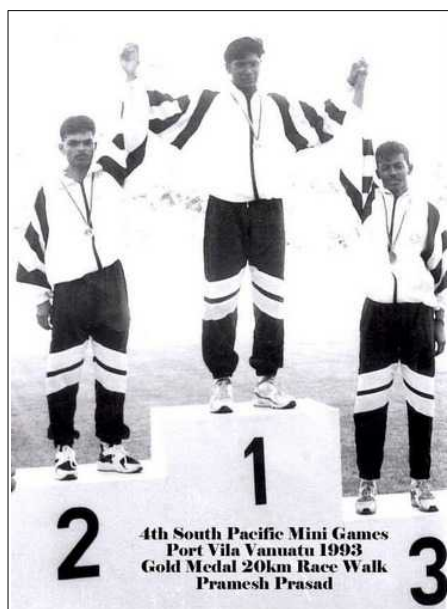


*16 year old Pramesh competes in the 1991 Oceania Athletics Championship 20km walk*

Opportunities started to flow as he improved in the sport. His next major achievement was a silver behind Brisbane based team mate **Caleb Maybir** in the 1991 Pacific Games 20km walk in New Guinea, his time a PB of 1:55:50. He was also working at that time to promote racewalking in Fiji, gradually building up a squad of racewalkers, including medical students **Dip and Pradeep Chand**.

With the South Pacific Mini Games to be contested in Vanuatu in December 1993, the Fijian Athletics Federation funded a number of athletes to live and train in Melbourne during the 1992/1993 period. Pramesh was one of the recipients of this largess, basing himself in Melbourne and joining Collingwood Harriers. He was billeted with Judy Mason in Epping for few months before moving in with the other Fijian athletes in Thornbury. His time here proved just the tonic he needed and he quickly set new Fijian 10km and 20km records (his 20km PB of 1:50:07 was done in the 1993 Victorian 20km Championship).

He was selected in the Fijian team for the 1993 South Pacific Mini Games, along with proteges Dip and Pradeep Chand, who had been runners before being talked by Pramesh into giving walking a try. For the record, Pramesh won gold in Vanuatu, while Dip took silver and Pradeep bronze.



*Pramesh takes gold ahead of Dip and Pradeep Chand in the 1993 South Pacific Mini Games*

The next question was - Could Fiji be talked into sending a walks team to the 1995 IAAF World Team Championships in Beijing? At least three 20km walkers would be needed and, by this stage, Pramesh had around 7 walkers in total in his squad.

With a lot of hard work and lobbying over the next year and a bit, it came to fruition when Fiji selected Pramesh, Dip and Pradeep to represent the country in the 1995 IAAF Racewalking World Cup, to be held in Beijing on 29-30 April of that year. Pramesh was the youngster of the three, having just celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday a week before.

The 1995 World Cup was one of the largest on record, with 330 walkers in total (226 men/104 women) from 36 countries. And Fiji was there as one of those 36! There was a strong Oceania team, with 8 Australians, 3 Fijians and 4 New Zealanders in the mix, a grand total of 15 walkers. Here is how they fared:

#### IAAF Racewalking World Cup, Beijing, China, 29-30 April 1995 <sup>1</sup>

##### 20km Walk Men

15	Nicholas A'Hern	Australia	1:23:05
53	Dion Russell	Australia	1:28:25
71	Craig Barrett	New Zealand	1:31:52
81	Brent Vallance	Australia	1:34:44
95	Graeme Jones	New Zealand	1:39:08
99	Tony Sargisson	New Zealand	1:40:26
<b>106</b>	<b>Pradeep Chand</b>	<b>Fiji</b>	<b>1:52:30</b>
<b>108</b>	<b>Pramesh Prasad</b>	<b>Fiji</b>	<b>1:54:59</b>
<b>109</b>	<b>Dip Chand</b>	<b>Fiji</b>	<b>1:56:16</b>
—	Scott Nelson	New Zealand	DNF

##### 50km Walk Men

41	Michael Harvey	Australia	4:05:58
68	Mark Thomas	Australia	4:22:28
73	Duane Cousins	Australia	4:31:29
77	Dominic McGrath	Australia	4:36:29
—	Mark Donahoo	Australia	DNF

##### 20km Walk Women

5	Kerry Saxby-Junna	Australia	42:58
24	Anne Manning	Australia	45:26
40	Teresa Letherby	Australia	46:23
53	Wendy Muldoon	Australia	47:56
54	Jane Barbour	Australia	47:58
84	Rachel Gibbon	New Zealand	51:02
96	Lynley Mathieson	New Zealand	57:13
—	Jenny Jones-Billington	New Zealand	DNF

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1995\\_IAAF\\_World\\_Race\\_Walking\\_Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1995_IAAF_World_Race_Walking_Cup)



*Pradeep, Pramesh and Dip at the 1995 World Race Walking Cup in Beijing*

Fiji was keen to build on this initial success on the world stage and decided to further fund walking development. VRWC President and senior Australian coach Harry Summers was seconded as the inaugural Fijian National Walks Coach and travelled to Fiji to give a series of coaching seminars and guide the walkers to further improvement.

Pramesh was now back living in Melbourne and had decided to retire and pursue his career. Dip and Pradeep were keen to kick on and moved to Melbourne to race, while they completed their medical training. They were regulars at our VRWC competition at Middle Park during the next few years and I had many friendly races against them.

Fiji sent walkers to the next 4 IAAF Racewalking World Cups (1997, 1999, 2002 and 2004) but the required improvement was not forthcoming and the funding dried up. Sadly, since 2004, there has been little racewalking action within Fijian athletics. Sadly, Oceania Athletics was never able to build on the initial successes in 1995 and 1997 and it all spluttered out over the ensuing years.

**20km Walk, IAAF Racewalking World Cup, Podebrady, Czech Republic, Saturday 19 April 1997 <sup>2</sup>**

131	Dip Chand	Fiji	1:50:29
132	Pradeep Chand	Fiji	1:50:31
133	Caleb Maybir	Fiji	1:55:07

**20km Walk, IAAF Racewalking World Cup, Mézidon-Canon, France, Saturday 1 May 1999 <sup>3</sup>**

119	Pradeep Chand	Fiji	1:58:47
120	Selwyn Shaniel Singh	Fiji	2:08:50

**20km Walk, IAAF Racewalking World Cup, Turin, Italy, Saturday 12 October 2002 <sup>4</sup>**

—	Pradeep Chand	Fiji	DQ
—	Manohar Maharaj	Fiji	DNF
—	Selwyn Shaniel Singh	Fiji	DNF

**20km Walk, IAAF Racewalking World Cup, Naumburg, Germany, Saturday 1 May 2004 <sup>5</sup>**

—	Avinesh Kumar	Fiji	DNF
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That should be the end of the story, but luckily there is a very nice addendum.

Pramesh had been living in Melbourne since 1995, had a good job, was married with a growing family and was probably long forgotten by those of us still racewalking. And no wonder - after a break of 20+ years, he weighed in at a whopping 125kg on his 41<sup>st</sup> birthday in April 2015.

This was a turning point for him - he decided to get fit again, with his first run on that fateful birthday - well, if you could call it a run. He tells me it took several stops to reach his target of one kilometre. 11 months later, in March 2016, he returned to racing, winning the M40 division of the Victorian Masters 5000m track walk in 30:21, and looking just like his old self.

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1997\\_IAAF\\_World\\_Race\\_Walking\\_Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1997_IAAF_World_Race_Walking_Cup)

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999\\_IAAF\\_World\\_Race\\_Walking\\_Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999_IAAF_World_Race_Walking_Cup)

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002\\_IAAF\\_World\\_Race\\_Walking\\_Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_IAAF_World_Race_Walking_Cup)

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004\\_IAAF\\_World\\_Race\\_Walking\\_Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_IAAF_World_Race_Walking_Cup)

He quickly improved, setting PB after PB in his first season back. That year saw him win 3 golds in the Australian Masters Championships in Adelaide in April. He followed with second place in the Victorian 15km roadwalk championship in May, finished the 10 Miles walk at the LBG Carnival in Canberra in June, won his division in the VMA 20km roadwalk later that same month, won silver in the Victorian 30km roadwalk championship in August, won the M40 division in the AMA 20km roadwalk championship in Adelaide a few weeks later, competed in the World Masters Championships in Perth in October (taking 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> placings in the walks) and then won 3 golds in the Pan Pacific Masters Games in Queensland. Not a bad first year back after 21 years away from the sport.

Since then, he has been a regular on the Victorian and Australian scene, and is now walking faster than ever. His PBs read as follows: 13:50 (3km), 23:50 (5km), 49:23 (10km), 1:44:14 (20km), 2:46:51 (30km), 4:56:55 (50km) and 3:04 (Marathon Run).



*Left: Pramesh finishes his first 50km in September 2018 at Middle Park in Melbourne  
Right: Pramesh in action in February 2020 at the Mentone Athletics Track*

He holds 4 Fijian National Records, more than anyone else, and was able to wear the Fijian colours again when he represented that country in the 2017 Oceania Area Championships in Suva, Fiji, and in the 2019 Oceania Championships in Townsville, Queensland.

That is a long way from the unfit plodder who couldn't run one kilometre in 2015!

He is still working on ways of promoting race walking in Melbourne and in Fiji and is part of a great training group which meets each Monday at the Casey Fields track, a group which includes walkers Heather Carr, Kevin Cassidy, Albin Hess, Hsien Chiam, Marnie Grace, Kyle Bird, Brianna Briet and Ky Irshad, along with some runners.

Of course, this comeback was a big ask for Pramesh, given he and his wife were already busy with their family of 4 children and with their own work commitments. So well done to all the family for all their support – he wouldn't have got back to where he is without a big family effort.

Keep up the good work, Pramesh! See you at Middle Park.

**DATES...DATES...DATES**

As usual, I finish with a list of upcoming events on the local, national and international fronts. Let me know of any errors/omissions. It continues to change quickly as a result of COVID-19 issues.

**Australian/Victorian Key Dates – 2019/2020**

- Jun 7 (Sun), 2020 54<sup>th</sup> LBG Racewalking Carnival, Canberra (CANCELLED)
- Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Masters 20km Championships, Adelaide (TBA)
- Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Roadwalk Championships (and RWA Carnival), Melbourne (TBA)

**International Dates**

- Jun 5 (Fri), 2020 46<sup>th</sup> International RW Festival, Alytus, Lithuania (TENTATIVELY POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER)
- Jun 14 (Sun), 2020 Polish National Championships, Mielec, Poland (20km) (CANCELLED)
- Jun 28 (Sun), 2020 Canadian Olympic T&F Trials, Montreal, Canada (20km)

July 17-20, 2020 **18<sup>th</sup> World Athletics U20 T&F Championships**, Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED - TBA)  
July 20 – Aug 1, 2020 **23<sup>rd</sup> World Masters T&F Championships**, Toronto, Canada (CANCELLED)  
Sep 26-28, 2020 Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China  
Sep 26 (Sat), 2020 International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemysl, Poland (Includes Polish 20km Champs)

Jan 17-23, 2021 **Oceania Masters Championships**, Norfolk Island  
Apr 6-13, 2021 **9<sup>th</sup> World Masters Indoor T&F Championships**, Edmonton, Canada  
July 23 – Aug 8, 2021 **32<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Games, Tokyo and Sapporo** (POSTPONED FROM 2020)  
Aug 8-19, 2021 **World University Summer Games**, Chengdu, China

July 15-24, 2021 **18<sup>th</sup> World Athletics Championships**, Eugene, USA (POSTPONED FROM 2021)  
July 27 - Aug 7, 2022 **XXII Commonwealth Games**, Birmingham, GBR  
Aug 7-17, 2022 **24<sup>th</sup> World Masters T&F Championships**, Gothenburg Sweden  
Aug 11-21, 2022 **European Athletics Championships**, Munich, GER

Aug 2023 (TBC) **19<sup>th</sup> World Athletics Championships**, Budapest, Hungary

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