



When Dave Boxall passed on Sunday 8th January 2023, aged 89, Great Britain lost one of its most accomplished centurions. My thanks to Sandra and Richard Brown for their efforts in collating much of the information I have reproduced below. ¹

David Ernest Boxall was born on 28th October 1933. A late starter in athletics, he joined the Brighton & Hove Athletic Club in the late fifties and quickly became a regular and reliable member of their Cross Country and Road Running squads.

But it was when he turned to race walking in the sixties that he found his real forte in athletics, and it was in long distance walking that he proved just how good he was.

Over a long distance career spanning more than 30 years, he became one of England's greatest centurions, completing 12 UK Centurion events between 1971 and 2005. First some statistics:

- He qualified as centurion C464 at Ewhurst (1971) with 18:26:33
- He won the annual centurion walk six times (1972-1975, 1979 and 1980)
- His best 100 mile time of 17:24:00 in 1979 is one of the fastest of all time
- 11 of his 12 centurion walks were all under 20 hours, The only one outside this range was his last walk in 2005 when, at 71 years of age, he recorded 22:11:10.

Here are his English Centurion walks: ²

1971	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	4	18:26:33	25-Jun-71	Ewhurst
1972	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	1	17:58:49	28-Jul-72	Leicester to Skegness
1973	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	1	18:42:23	21-Sep-73	Bristol
1974	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	1	17:50:01	2-Aug-74	Leicester to Skegness
1975	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	1	17:56:06	27-Jun-75	Ewhurst
1976	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	3	18:26:29	30-Jul-76	Leicester to Skegness
1979	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	1	17:24:00	22-Jun-79	Ewhurst
1980	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	1	17:45:10	25-Jul-80	Leicester
1981	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	4	19:47:37	23-May-81	Brighton
1987	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	3	18:16:56	26-Jun-87	Ewhurst
1988	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	8	18:49:50	29-Jul-88	Leicester-Congerstone
2005	Dave Boxall	Seaford Harriers	19	22:11:10	30-Jul-05	Kings Lynn

As mentioned above, his 1979 centurion walk time of 17:24:00 ranks him 10th overall on the world all-time list.

1	Jan de Jonge	SV de LAT	NED	17/12/1946	16:37:02	14-May-1983	Sint-Oedenrode
2	Richard Brown	Surrey WC	GBR	18/11/1946	16:50:28	22-May-1993	Sint-Oedenrode
3	Frank O'Reilly	Lozells Harriers	GBR	01/01/1925	16:54:16	2-Jul-60	Leicester-Skegness
	Jan de Jonge	SV de LAT	NED	17/12/1946	16:55:32	31-May-1980	Sint-Oedenrode
4	John Moullin	Belgrave Harriers	GBR	08/09/1941	16:55:44	25-Jun-71	Ewhurst
	Frank O'Reilly	Lozells Harriers	GBR	01/01/1925	16:58:16	6-Jul-62	Leicester-Skegness
	Richard Brown	Surrey WC	GBR	18/11/1946	17:00:35	29-Jul-88	Leicester-Congerstone

¹ See <https://lancswalkingclub.com/2023/01/20/dave-boxall-rip-centurion-extraordinaire/>

² Thanks to Dutch walks statistician Gerrit de Jong for his many centurion related lists

5	John Cannell	Boundary Harriers	GBR	29/12/1945	17:10:15	29-Jul-88	Leicester-Congerstone
6	Derek Harrison	Boundary Harriers	GBR	02/03/1949	17:15:50	30-Jul-76	Leicester-Skegness
7	Jan Vos	RWV	NED	13/11/1938	17:17:59	31-May-1980	Sint-Oedenrode
8	Hew Neilson	Woodford Green	GBR	15/04/1916	17:18:51	20-Oct-1960	Walton
9	Mike Holmes	York Postal	GBR	26/08/1951	17:21:52	20-Aug-82	Leicester
10	Dave Boxall	Brighton & Hove	GBR	28/10/1933	17:24:00	22-Jun-79	Ewhurst



R.W.A President John Henderson presents Walker of the Year trophy to Dave Boxall c 1980
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He also competed with great success on the Continent. In France, Dave completed 19 qualifying races for the Paris-Strasbourg/Colmar classic between 1972 and 1983, as well as competing in other races. He won the following qualifying races, all with performances of the highest quality.

1973	Rouen	200 km	22h 12min
1974	Rouen	24 hrs	206 km
1976	Conflans	200 km	23h 09min
1977	Chateau-Thierry	200 km	23h 26min
1978	Conflans	200 km	22h 04min

He came second in a further 5 events. This is an outstanding record of success unsurpassed by any other UK male walker.

The one blot on his resume was his failure to complete the Strasbourg-Paris/Paris-Strasbourg multi day classic. He entered the race on 5 occasions but never managed to make the finish.

1972	Strasbourg - Paris	16/20	302 km / 519 km
1973	Strasbourg - Paris	16/27	444 km / 494 km
1976	Paris - Strasbourg	20/26	470 km / 533 km
1977	Strasbourg - Paris	27/28	114 km / 400 km
1981	Paris - Colmar	25/34	216 km / 513 km

It takes courage to enter this race and the fact that Dave never completed it doesn't diminish his many other achievements!

He was also a regular in the London to Brighton Walk, completing it 13 times between 1965 and 1983, including three bronze medals (1971 8:48:36, 1975 8:19:01 and 1979).



1974 the Brighton & Hove winning team
Dave Boxall 6th - John Crook 7th - John Lees 3rd - Brian Saunders 14th.

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He features prominently in the United Kingdom All-Time lists for 100km Track and Road, 200km Road and 24 Hours Road ³ and the 4 performances mentioned are all of the highest quality.

100 KM TRACK WALK

9:41:54+	Edmund Shillabeer (ENG)	02.08.39	1	Colchester	15 Sep 1985
9:43:40	Ken Harding (ENG)	23.06.29	3	Saint-Denis, FRA	16 Mar 1975
9:56:34+	Bob Dobson (WAL/ENG)	04.11.42	2	Colchester	5 Sep 1985
10:04:05	Dave Boxall (ENG)	28.10.33	4	Saint-Denis, FRA	16 Mar 1975
10:04:40+	Edgar Horton (ENG)			London (SB)	2 May 1914

100 KM ROAD WALK

9:34:25	Tony Geal (ENG)	28.07.52	1	Grand-Quevilly, FRA	2 Jun 1979
9:36:23	Graham Young (IOM)	30.05.45	1	Stoke Mandeville	26 Sep 1981
9:38:38	Murray Lambden (IOM)	14.10.56	2	Stoke Mandeville	26 Sep 1981
9:45:46	Ian Richards (ENG)	12.04.48	1	Sutton Coldfield	27 Sep 1980
9:46:36	Peter Hodgkinson (ENG)	05.11.44	1	Birmingham (M42)	29 Sep 1979
9:52:49	Tony Collins (ENG)	01.10.42	2	Birmingham (M42)	29 Sep 1979
9:53:04	Colin Young (ENG)	20.01.35	1	Lugano, SUI	30 Oct 1966
9:53:31	Dave Boxall (ENG)	28.10.33	2	Grand-Quevilly, FRA	2 Jun 1979
9:54:00	Chris Berwick (ENG)	01.05.46	2	Sutton Coldfield	27 Sep 1980
9:55:50	Mick Holmes (ENG)	26.08.51	1	Lugano, SUI	21 Oct 1984 (short course)
9:45:50	Guy Goodair (ENG)	28.09.36	2	Biasca-Lugano, SUI	24 Oct 1965

200 KM ROAD WALK

21:42:41	Richard Brown (ENG)	18.11.46	1	Bazencourt, FRA	29 Mar 1992
22:04:20	Dave Boxall (ENG)	28.10.33	1	Conflans, FRA	30 Apr 1978
23:14:44	Edmund Shillabeer (ENG)	02.08.39	6	Bazencourt, FRA	29 Mar 1992

24 HOURS ROAD WALK

219.570km	Derek Harrison (IOM)	22.01.35	1	Rouen, FRA	21 May 1978
215.835km	Colin Young (ENG)	20.01.35	1	Rouen, FRA	9 May 1971
215.050km	Dave Boxall (ENG)	28.10.33	1	Rouen, FRA	6 May 1973

Dave continued to compete long after his days at the top. As mentioned above he completed his 12th and last centurion walk in 2005 when, at 71 years of age, he recorded 22:11:10. ⁴

³ See <http://www.gbrathletics.com/uk/mh99.htm>

⁴ See <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?id=229>



Dave maintained his love of walking into his later years

Dave remained a staunch supporter of the Centurions throughout his later life, donating generously before his health deteriorated and he had to step back from the public arena.

H died peacefully in his sleep on Sunday 8th January 2023, after a long illness. He was 89 years of age.

Tim Erickson
Friday 10th February 2023