

HENRY or “HARRY” VAUGHAN

Speed Walker Extraordinaire!

By P. S. Marshall

Author of “King of the Peds”



So who was Henry Vaughan?

Vaughan was a professional pedestrian - just one of many hardy athletes - who entertained huge crowds at sporting venues worldwide by walking and running ultra long distances in pursuit of generous prize money and ornamental gold belts.

At 5ft.11½ inches in height, the former carpenter, who was born in Chester in 1847, was described as, “*fine looking, tall, well built, with dark hair and dark, piercing eyes*”.

Vaughan would make sporting history when, after entering Mr. Lewis’s 24-hour “walking match” at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, on May the 8th 1876, he pocketed £100 for winning the heel-and-toe race in front of thousands of delirious fans with a total of 120 miles - thus beating the previous 24-hour record by almost 11 miles. During his incredible performance, the exhausted “ped” also notched up the then fastest ever 100-mile time of 18h.51m.35s.



HARRY VAUGHAN,
ENGLAND,
CHAMPION “HEEL-AND-TOE” WALKER OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Vaughan would eclipse that distance by two miles on the first day of a 48-hour match against Peter Crossland, the “*Sharp Sheffield Blade*”, at Manchester’s Pomona Palace in May of 1877, going on to win the £200 stakes money with a final tally of 191 miles.

Then, as the 13/8 favourite, he took on the great walking sensation from America – the then world-champion – Daniel O’Leary of Chicago, and 22 others, in the 142-hour, “1st International Astley Belt” go-as-you-please (running and walking) contest in March, 1878. Again, at the “Aggie”, he managed to score 500 miles in the allocated time winning yet another £100 for finishing in the runner-up position.

After being forced to pull out of the “Long Distance Championship of England” contest at the same venue later in the same year due to injury, O’Leary said of him, “I think Vaughan when in condition, is the best pedestrian in England.”

Vaughan competed in many other races up and down the UK, before making his way over to America, where at Madison Square Garden, New York, in March of 1881, he gained his revenge on O’Leary in a “Four-Cornered Event”.

He then went on train the Londoner, George Hazael, the first man to cover 600 miles in six days at Madison Square Garden in 1882.

http://www.kingofthepeds.com/Henry_Vaughan_Chester_Chronicle_KotP.jpg

The Well-Known Pedestrian Harry Vaughan No More

Harry Vaughan, the pedestrian, died in Brooklyn on the 5th inst. of consumption. Vaughan was a remarkable man, weighing when in condition about 140 pounds. He was nearly six feet, in height, slightly built and of good presence. He had a splendid stride and went along at the rate of six miles an hour, easily and gracefully without the least exertion. He was born in England in 1846, and began walking in amateur races about fifteen years ago in England. His first race for money was in 1877 at the Agricultural Hall in London, when he won the twenty-four-hour race, doing 122 miles. His next race was the first six-days' go-as-you-please which was ever given.

It took place in England and Vaughan came in second. He next entered the seventy-five-hour walking match at Manchester for the world's belt in 1880. This he won, Sammy Day coming in second.

From 1880 to 1882 he held the twenty-six-hour world championship belt, having made 128 miles in a heel-and-toe race. His next race was the four-cornered one in New York when Vaughan and Rowell wore matched against Albert and Leary. The race, as is well remembered, was won by Rowell and Vaughan.

His last race was at Lawrence, Mass., for \$500 a side with Johnny Meigher and William Edwards, of Australia. In this race he came in first, with Edwards second. After this he retired from the track and went, to work at his trade, which was that of carpenter. He was a man of good disposition and highly respected by all who knew him.

The Sporting Life — Philadelphia, Pa., USA — 21 November, 1888

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