

ANTONY OWERS

Road Runners Club of Curaçao and (some of) my running adventures!

At the age of 25 in early 1977, I came to Curaçao on a three-month assignment from London to work at the accounting firm, Peat Marwick (later KPMG). I was a keen track runner—mostly 800m and 1500m, indeed I was track captain of Croydon Harriers, a prominent UK athletics club (I have been patron of the Club since 2007).



Three months turned into three years (and I have now lived on Curaçao for over 40 years in total!). I looked around for athletic activity and found a few “Kaya y Mundi” races organised by the CAB (Curaçao Atletiek Bond—Anthony Minguel I recall) and also some track races at the Rif stadium (later at Suffisant). I met my lifelong friend Ruthsel Martina this way, also Wendel Prince.

I heard about a major half marathon race (San Blas) in Coamo, Puerto Rico and travelled there for it in February 1978. My diary says “It was so hot: my feet were scorched!”. I finished outside the top 100 but was still pulled out afterwards for a random doping test (the first and only occasion!).

Around this time, Marcel van Henneigen and others (I think mostly from Peter Stuyvesant College) decided it was time Curaçao had its own mass participation road race (maybe partly in response to the success of say the Boston and New York marathons). They decided on the 17km route around the Schottegat from Punda to Otrobanda (without crossing a bridge!), start in Wilhelminaplein and finish in Rif Stadium.

There had never been a race like this before in the Dutch Caribbean and there was enormous interest, with some 500 participants on Sunday 17th June 1979. The organizers were sensible: for example, every participant had to pass a

medical test before being allowed to start. My resting heartbeat in those days could be as low as 34 and I vividly

recall the doctor who examined me (he is still here!) proclaiming: “they won’t like this; a foreigner is going to win the race”! I thought he was joking but I did win quite easily in 61.25. Nel Geerings won the woman’s title. I also won in 1980 (wearing my “Tene Kòrsou Limpi” vest!) in 60.16, some eight minutes ahead of 2nd place.

A few weeks after that race, my wife (Sandra de Castro) and I moved to São Paulo, Brazil, continuing my career with Peat Marwick. We visited Curaçao on vacation in June 1981 and I was hoping to run the 3rd Schottegatloop but it was postponed owing to a mysterious ‘flu virus (sounds familiar!) and I couldn’t come at the later date.

In 1982 I had the good fortune to meet Robert Anastasio a US Olympic Trials finalist at 800m, who was, much like I, working in Brazil for a few years. He lived close to my office and between the two was an excellent sports club (Pinheiros) with a 400m running track (black rubber tiles I recall). I often ran the 10km from home to the club in the early morning before work and several times a week trained with Robert in the evening.

We became very fit, among the top 25 middle distance runners in Brazil at the time: indeed,

Robert was 2nd in the 1500m state championships, and I ran the São Paulo half marathon in September 1983 (in perfect conditions!) in 1hr. 4mins. We both had the chance in 1983 to be among the "elite" runners in the famous New Year's Eve São Silvestre run.

Sandra & I returned to Curaçao in June 1984 and I was just in time to run in that year's Schottegatloop which I won in 59.17, with Willy Willems of Aruba 2nd in 60.35 and Winefried Keyzer of Curaçao 3rd in 62.23. Achi Belioso was 5th in 63.28.

By this time RRCK was well-established: I met Louis Wever a few weeks later and he introduced me to Mike Snijder and Ronald Claes and I often joined Mike's group starting at 5am on Saturday mornings for a half marathon, with heavenly orange juice afterwards at Mike's father's house!

The first Fatumloop (now Guardian Group run) 10km was held that autumn and I won that in 33.07, and a number of other races such as the Xerox 10km (prize was a flight to Miami—my amateur status threatened!) and the first Klip Kleun 5km (16.11). In 1985 the years of road (I preferred grass or earth) running (probably without enough stretching!) were beginning to take their toll and I had to miss the 1985 Schottegatloop with injury.

But I was OK for 1986 and was well ahead at Gasparitu and thought I would have a comfortable victory but approaching the Queen Emma bridge I heard footsteps behind me: it was my old friend Achi Belioso! He drew level as we passed Kodela/Aqualectra but I had just enough to pull ahead for a win in 58.08 with Achi in 58.18. I continued to participate in local races, including nearly all those organised by RRCK, but I injured both Achilles tendons quite seriously in 1987 which curtailed training. I did win the Curaçao half marathon in 1997 but back trouble in 2000 caused me to stop serious running—now I walk and swim!

It's striking to me that the race times in Curaçao these days are nowhere near those recorded in the 80s even though the world records for middle/long distance, mostly thanks to the wonderful East Africans, continue to be improved.

For example, the three fastest times in the Schottegatloop are I believe those of Amadeo Kemper, John Henry and myself, all in the 80s!

I shall always be extremely grateful for the support and friendships that RRCK gave me—happy days indeed. Masha danki!

ROAD RUNNERS CLUB KORSOW ALGEMENE KLASSEMENT 1984 SCHOTTEGAT

<u>Nr.</u>	<u>Naam</u>	<u>Nat.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Tijd</u>	<u>Nr.</u>	<u>Naam</u>	<u>Nat.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Tijd</u>
1	Owers, A.	Cur.	m	00.59.17	36	v. Eijk, A.	Cur	m	01.12.36
2	Willems, W.	Aua	m	01.00.35	37	Cosster, C.E.	Cur	m	01.13.01
3	Keyzer, W.	Cur	m	01.02.23	38	Angelica, M.	Cur	m	01.13.24
4	Dos Antos, R	Aua	m	01.03.22	39	Snijder, M.	Cur	m	01.13.28
5	Belioso, A.	Cur	m	01.03.28	40	d.C.Gomez, C.	Cur	m	01.13.39
6	Zwiers, A.	Cur	m	01.04.50	41	Camelia, R.	Cur	m	01.14.03
7	Jantji, R.	Cur	m	01.05.26	42	Adamus, I.	Cur	m	01.14.06
8	Anthony, H.	Cur	m	01.05.49	43	de Jong, J.	Cur	m	01.14.10
9	Richardson, M.	Cur	m	01.06.11	44	Maduro, E.	Cur	m	01.14.12
10	Cijntje, E.	Cur	m	01.06.24	45	Snijder, E.	Cur	m	01.14.19
11	Christiaan, F.	Cur	m	01.07.02	46	Onreglementaire loper			
12	Ortela, N.	Cur	m	01.07.05	47	Tromp, R.	Aua	m	01.14.41
13	Ludowika, W.	Cur	m	01.07.41	48	v. Dijk, F.	Cur	m	01.14.45
14	Hidalgo, M.	Aua	m	01.07.48	49	Hart, M.	Cur	m	01.15.31
15	v. Treyen, J.	Aua	m	01.07.48	50	Beers, H.	Cur	m	01.15.36
16	Severijnse, M.	Cur	m	01.07.49	51	Juliana, H.F.	Cur	m	01.15.43
17	Randt, J.	Cur	m	01.08.40	52	Bosma, Y	Cur	m	01.15.46
18	Bus, F.	Cur	m	01.08.40	53	Martina, E.	Cur	m	01.15.56
19	da Silva, M.	Aua	m	01.08.56	54	de Jonge, S.	Cur	m	01.15.59
20	de Graaf, M.	Aua	m	01.09.08	55	Hansen, A.	Cur	m	01.16.11
21	Elzinga, U.	Cur	m	01.09.11	56	de Swart, O.	Cur	m	01.16.14
22	Hooi, E.	Cur	m	01.09.14	57	Hodge, M.	Cur	m	01.16.16
23	Tromp, F.	Aua	m	01.09.31	58	Pop, J.	Cur	m	01.16.17
24	Claes, R.	Cur	m	01.09.38	59	Oster, A.	Cur	m	01.16.24
25	Visser, K.	Cur	m	01.10.02	60	Alment, S.	Cur	m	01.16.25
26	Arvelo, D.	Cur	m	01.10.25	61	Wegstapel, H.	Cur	m	01.16.28
27	Felisie, R.	Cur	m	01.10.28	62	Gooiker, J.	Cur	m	01.16.34
28	Eisden, I.	Cur	m	01.10.31	63	v. Batenburg, J.	Cur	m	01.16.39
29	Steward, R.	Cur	m	01.10.33	64	Janga, A.	Cur	m	01.16.41
30	Melis, L.	Aua	v	01.11.02	65	Schrauwen, A.	Cur	m	01.16.47
31	v.d. Glind, A.	Cur	v	01.11.15	66	Plamtijn, R.	Cur	m	01.16.52
32	Wever, L.	Cur	m	01.11.33	67	Geerlings, H.	Aua	m	01.17.02
33	Albertus, R.	Cur	m	01.11.44	68	Stamper, S.	Cur	m	01.17.17
34	Munsterman, A.	Cur	m	01.11.56	69	Vleugels, T.	Cur	m	01.17.22
35	Derks, J.	Cur	m	01.12.34	70	Berenos, L.	Cur	m	01.17.23



1980 Schottegatloop

14 | **MUNDU DEPORTIVO**

Strea Briante di nos Deporte

Anthony Owers, super atleta riba distansia largu

WILLEMSTAD. - El a nase na Inglatera i na 1984 a bin traha aki na Korsou komo akountant na KPMG. Hopi lihé el a bira konosí komo atleta ku ta kore distansia largu. Nos ta referi aki na Anthony "Tony" Owers, britániko kende durante di hopi aña a dominá den karedanan riba kaya tantu aki na Korsou komo tambe na Aruba. Ademas di su trabou komo akountant, Tony Owers a bira Konsul Honorario di Inglatera.

El a afiliá na Road Runners Club Korsou i a bira un kara konosí den Schottegatloop, Fatumloop, Boulevardloop i kareda di 18 km na Aruba.

Owers na 4 okashon a gana kareda di Schottegat, inkluso ku rekòrt 'overall' di 0:58.08 den 1986. Despues di tempu tabata Amadeo Kemper kende a pone un mihó marka (0:56.45 na 1991) i ku...

800 m den un tempu 1:54.4 na Mootspur Park, Inglatera.

- Na 1976 el a kore 3 km den 8:52.2 na Tooting.
- Tambe el a kore mitar maraton den 1 ora i 4 min.
- El a kore tambe den Sao Paulo New Year midnight race.

Logronan:

- 1978 Ganadó di Boulevardloop.
- 1979 Ganadó di...

tempu: 14 min 38,4 sek.

- 1980 Ganadó Schottegatloop tempu ora 16 sek.
- 1984 Gana Schottegatloop temp rekòrt 59 min 17 sek.
- 1984 Ganadó 10.1 Fatumloop tempu 33.07
- 1985 di 2 lugá 8 loop di RRCK tempu 27.
- 1985 di 2 lugá 10 Xerox-wedrenloop.
- 1985 Ganadó 5

...Anthony Owers...

15 juli 2020

VIJFDE DAG 16 JUNI 1980

Tweede Schottegatloop groot succes

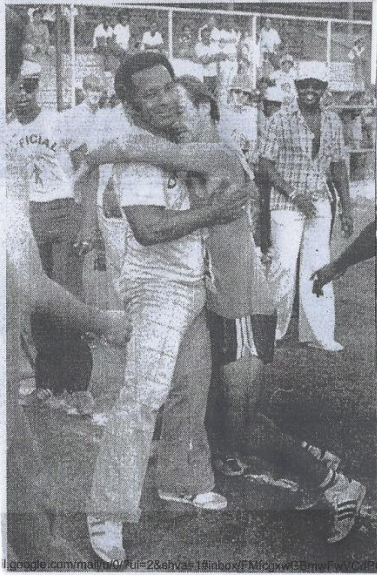
Anthony Owers

prolongeert titel

WILLEMSTAD — Onder veel belangstelling fiste Tio Deou...

16 juni 1980

MASHA TEN



Extra 19 january 2002

Uitslag 5 km race ABN/Road Runners Club Korsou 24 maart 1985:

1. Anthony Owers	16.11.4
2. Atwell Belioso	16.31.5
3. Mignon Richardson	16.58.9
4. Hubert Anthony	17.05.0
5. Dick Rozenbrand - Dutch name	17.09.7
6. Diello Arvello	17.46.2
7. Rudsel Martina	17.49.6
8. Francis Christiaan	18.04.0
9. Karl Coenraad	19.18.6
10. Jean Marc Prince	19.24.4
11. Henk Kreeft	18.29.4
12. Ine Bakker	18.31.7
13. Ferry van Hulst	18.32.7
14. Ubbo Elzinga	18.51.6
15. Ad Bakker	18.55.1
16. Kumar Garcia	18.56.2
17. Humphey Elisabeth	19.03.6
18. Rudsel Gustina	19.05.8
19. Henk Beers	19.08.4
20. Henk Haverkort	19.10.5
21. Henk ten Napel	19.11.9
22. Ali Ayoubi	19.13.3
23. A. S. Hart	19.14.9
24. Mink Versluis	19.18.3
25. E. Muzo	19.21.3
26.	
27. Wim Boerman	19.27.4
28. Adriaan de Bot	19.28.2
29. Mike Snijder	19.30.9
30. Ronald Claes	19.35.9
31. Ludwig Rondon	19.37.4
32. Roland Tuit	19.39.1
33. Rob Oelemans	19.41.1
34. Ton Houtman	19.45.3
35. Rignald Vidal	19.46.7
36. Lionel Cordilla	19.49.8
37. Siegfried Stamper	19.54.1
38. Stanley Ignacia	19.54.8
39. Arthur Oster	19.58.1