



PRESS RELEASE

27 March 2012

deCoubertin Books are delighted to announce the publication of *A Man in a Hurry: The Extraordinary Life and Times of Edward Payson Weston, The World's Greatest Walker*, the new book by award winning sports journalist, Nick Harris.

Earlier this month Harris was awarded the Sports Journalists' Association Internet Writer of the Year Award for the second year running. Harris, said the judges, displayed work that was "original, pithy and well-researched" and showed a superb breadth of topics and brought "old-school journalism" to this modern medium.

Such qualities have also been brought to *A Man in a Hurry*, which Harris has co-authored with his wife, Helen, and historian Paul Marshall. The new book tells the enthralling story of Edward Payson Weston, who, as Godfather of the pedestrianism movement, was for a period in the nineteenth century, one of the most famous people in the world.

'Ed Weston's astonishing athletic feats are only part of his attraction. He was a showman and social butterfly, a dreamer and a cad,' said Nick Harris.

'He cared desperately what people thought of him, but acted like he didn't care at all. His story has everything: achievement, controversy, celebrity, love, money, drugs.

'If he were alive today, he'd be a regular on the back pages of every broadsheet and the front pages of every tabloid.'

deCoubertin Books founder James Corbett said: 'deCoubertin Books was established as a platform for leading writers to write with elan and insight about the stories that matter most, particularly in sport. *A Man in a Hurry* offers a fascinating window into Victorian society, the emergence of spectator sport and endurance events. This world is brought to life by a brilliant team of writers who tell Weston's story superbly.'

About the authors:

Nick Harris is chief sports news correspondent of the Mail on Sunday, editor of sportingintelligence.com and was named SJA Internet Sports Writer of the Year in 2011 and 2012.

Helen Harris has worked as a journalist and as a press officer with The Wildlife Trusts.

Paul Marshall is an historian who became interested in Victorian race-walking when researching the life of an ancestor. He is editor of kingofthepeds.com.

About deCoubertin Books:

Founded in 2009, deCoubertin Books is a small, family run publishing house, focused on non-fiction, particularly sport.

www.decoubertin.co.uk

Nick Harris is available for interview. For interview requests and review copies, please contact Anna Corbett – anna@decoubertin.co.uk 0203 289 9985