

WHITE HORSE HARRIERS

SHORT NEWSHEET

June 2009



Barrie Strange.

With great sadness comes news of the death of Barrie Strange on Tuesday 9th June 2009 at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, following a battle with cancer. Barrie was President of White Horse Harriers AC, President of Oxfordshire AA and an active member of Oxford City AC. He was a stalwart of Oxfordshire athletics for over 50 years.

When White Horse Harriers Athletics Club formed in October 1981 Barrie had been a senior official on the County athletics scene for over 20 years. From an initial meeting with Barrie and fellow County official John Tanner, both from Wantage, White Horse Harriers AC was formed. Four more meetings, held over a period of just 25 days, brought the club into existence. Barrie willingly accepted the chairmanship and, with John acting in an advisory role, their expertise enabled the newly formed club to stage the County Cross-Country Championships within its first 3 months.

WHHAC benefited from Barrie's chairmanship for several years until the pressures of working as a County Official and competing in veterans field events became too much. Even then, his selfless attitude continued in the form of unstinting support at events promoted by the club, both sporting (track and field athletics, road running or cross-country - amounting to around 70 events over the years) and social (the club's presentation evenings - where he would present the trophies - and barbecues - all amounting to another 70 or so occasions) and invariably, accompanied by his wife Margaret, also a County official. Until illness intervened last year, Barrie had officiated at every one of the White Horse Half Marathons based in Grove in the spring of each year, since its inception in 1982.

Barrie's funeral was attended by a large number of representatives of the athletics community as fitting for someone who made such a major contribution to the sport. Our thoughts are with Margaret and the family.

Club Athletics Championships. Thursday 2nd July.

The club athletics championships evening will be held at **King Alfred's School West** site on Thursday, 2nd July with **registration opening at 6:15pm ahead of the scheduled start of the events at 6:30pm.**

The events planned for the evening are as follows:

- Over 11's - 100m, 800m, Long Jump and Shot Putt;
- Under 11's - 80m, 600m, Long Jump and Vortex throw.

Younger brothers and sisters who are under 8 are welcome to participate as long as they are happy doing so. The event schedule will be arranged nearer the time and will be posted in the Notices section of the News area of the club website. The main emphasis on the evening is having fun and we encourage everyone to have a go at all the events. Club champions are determined by performance in all 4 events. The Family Competition is scored from the combined total of 3 family members from at least 2 generations (if more than 3 family members compete the top 3 family member scores will be used).

We need assistance with timekeeping and helping at this event. If you are unable to participate but would like to help us in any way on the evening please could you let Angela Briscoe know on 01235 769214 or by email (farolfa@aol.com).

Barbecue at Rowstock. Saturday 11th July.

Once again the White Horse Harriers are invited to a barbecue hosted by Elaine and Mike Kerswell in the garden of their house at Rowstock (The Timbers, Rowstock Corner). The barbecue is to be held on Saturday, 11th July from 6:30 pm onwards. There is a charge of £5.00 for adults or £2.50 for under 18's for the barbecue which goes towards covering the expenses of holding the event.

All our members are welcome to come along and enjoy a relaxed evening in very attractive surroundings. Unlike some of our other events we don't ask for you to bring any drinks or food to this event - all is provided for in the cost. In order for us to be able to give Mike a good idea of numbers, please can you let us know by Tuesday 7th July if you are attending. Please inform Gareth Smith (gsmith@nildram.co.uk or 01235 767538) if you would like to attend. Cheques can be sent to him at 13, Glebe Gardens, Grove OX12 7LX and made payable to White Horse Harriers AC.