

Jim Crehan 30.01.54 – 01.07.13 (Sutton and then Warrington AC)

Jim Crehan a regular face on the road, cross country and track scene in the North West for over 40 years sadly passed away on Monday the 1st of July 2013. Jim had been ill for some time battling cancer with the support of his family, friends and a smile he fought bravely to the end. Jim was first and foremost a family man but as athletics 'ran' in the family running came a close second, he will be missed by all those who had the privilege to have known him and enjoyed his company.



Comments

- Added: 05/07/2013 11:37:07

Really sorry to hear the news about Jim. Had some good battles with him in the 70's in the local Liverpool and District Cross Country races. Not too mention our Sunday morning 2 hour plus runs around Rainhill St Helens and Bilinge. Great times. Regards to Sue and Matt.

By **Dave Evans**

- Added: 05/07/2013 14:43:54

Jim Crehan was a naturally gifted athlete who represented St Helens in several sports as a schoolboy. As a runner he was tough, courageous and determined, making the Sutton senior team as a junior and representing Lancashire when it was said to be more difficult than making the England team. Notwithstanding his own achievements as an athlete Jim excelled as a coach, recognising the natural talent of his wife Sue (nee Smart) and coaching her to international level culminating in Sue representing Great Britain in the 1988 Olympics in the Marathon in Seoul. That achievement summarised what Jim was about. It wasn't Jim, it was Jim and Sue, a genuine partnership based on love for each other and for athletics. He fought his illness bravely with the courage he displayed as an athlete and Sue cared for him throughout. Our thoughts are with Sue, Matt and the Crehan family.

By **Dr Phil Thomas**

- Added: 06/07/2013 13:25:41

I first met Jim when he joined the former Sutton(St.Helens) Harriers when he was just a young lad.It quickly became obvious that he would be a great asset to the club and so it proved.Once he moved into the junior/senior ranks he more than held his own and very quickly established himself as regular member of the senior team.As Dave Evans has posted earlier Jim,Dave and I along with Peter Roberts,Ron Barlow

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and Mike Dooling used to go out on a long Sunday run every week almost without fail, Jim and Ron driving to my house in Rainhill where we changed before meeting up with the others. After the run Jim always challenged my son Stuart who would have been about six years old at the time to a game of snooker on his 'junior' size table. Much to Jim's dismay Stuart usually won. Jim was quiet, unassuming and modest, loved his athletics almost as much as he loved Sue and his family, he will be greatly missed but admired for the way he fought so courageously against his illness, I am proud to have known him. My thoughts are with Sue and the family at this very sad time.

By **Brian Renshall**

- Added: 06/07/2013 21:20:32

Jim was one of the "nice guys": he'd race hard against you.. never give up.. you'd look behind and think "Oh no.. it's Jimmy.. got to work now". And after the race he was a truly genuine person - totally straight and honest. If he beat you, then he would tell you he was really "chuffed", but he'd found it tough.. if you beat him, he'd be dead straight.. saying "well run" but telling you that he'd run better NEXT TIME! A star.

By **Frank Davies**

- Added: 08/07/2013 14:37:35

It was not too long after I joined Sutton Harriers in 1983 and at first training with the youngsters that I was promoted to the senior mens group where Jim was already an established, talented and versatile athlete. He was always more than willing to help and advise a mere novice such as me. His determination to succeed never wavered despite his affliction in later years and on one of his better days he would come down to the clubhouse and sit and chat with us. Although by now he was obviously very unwell, it still did not take too much persuasion from me to coax him out on to the track and jog a few laps with me and I am sure he enjoyed it. Sometimes I was struggling to keep up with him!

By **Stan Erlam**

- Added: 10/07/2013 23:05:48

Very sad to see this news. I seem to have known the Crehans as familiar faces at so many races since taking up the sport in 1984... a genuine, decent and down-to-earth person as well as a talented athlete. Sincerest condolences to Sue, Matt and the family

By **Nick Burke**

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- Added: 13/07/2013 20:46:47

So sad to hear this news. Jim was just a few days younger than me and I have fond memories of some great races against Jim in cross-country, road and track. Although Jim usually finished far ahead of me he always had time for some friendly words of encouragement. Sincere condolences to Sue and the family from Raph and Barbara Murray

By **Raph Murray**

- Added: 09/08/2013 22:45:23

As I no longer live in the area it was with shock I read about the death of Jim Crehan. He was a formidable competitor and adversary even when he joined my club Warrington AC from Sutton. He had such enthusiasm for the sport and he will be sorely missed. My sincere thoughts and condolences go to Sue and family.

By **Alistair Houghton**
