

Matt Frazer (Report 28 June 2013)

Northern Athletics is deeply saddened to report the death of former NA President Matt Frazer after a long illness.

Amongst his many roles Matt was Hon Secretary of the British Athletics Federation, North East Counties Hon Secretary, Hon Secretary of the ECCU and the first Hon Secretary and a former President of the ECCA.



The funeral service will be on Friday July 5th at St Augustine's Church, Darlington at 10:00am. The service will be followed by a private, family committal.

Matt's family have requested donations in lieu of flowers to St Theresa's Hospice, Darlington.

Matt will be very much missed, not only in his native North East, but across the whole of the athletics community, particularly those involved in Cross Country. A full obituary will follow.

Comments

- Added: 28/06/2013 10:22:21

I will not apologise for "claiming" responsibility for getting Matt involved in the administrative side of athletics. Many, many years ago when I was still a member of Darlington Harriers - we were both working for Darlington Borough Council. At that time Matt had no connections or involvement with athletics. Darlington Harriers found themselves without a secretary and I suggested to Matt that he could hold the fort for six months or so. Typically of Matt he ran Darlington Harriers for many years after that whilst at the same time he took on more and more roles in the sport at an increasingly high level - eventually becoming Hon Sec of BAF (precursor to UKA for you younger people!). As a consequence of the above, every time I subsequently met up with Matt he always said "I blame you for getting me stuck with all this work". Matt was also very, very helpful to me in the early seventies when I was making progress with my marathon ambitions. He often held the watch for my sessions at the old Longfield Road track in Darlington. Matt was a lovely man who will be greatly missed.

By **Max Coleby**

- Added: 01/07/2013 11:15:44

Whilst he held high office within BAF and in the world of cross country, Matt's contribution to athletics at a local and county level was probably even greater. Max Coleby has already paid tribute to his work within Darlington Harriers, the North Eastern Counties AA also owe Matt a huge debt of gratitude for the work that he did to the benefit of other clubs. Many will remember the multiplicity of associations and committees that once used to run our sport. It was Matt who took the initiative in bringing together the genders and different disciplines into the present day NECAA, all working together for the benefit of athletes and clubs in our county/region. Even when Secretary of BAF, Matt often used to say that even if BAF disappeared the following day (as it once almost did) athletes would still be training from the clubhouses of the North East - something that some present-day administrators would

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do well to heed ! Whilst not always sharing Matt's views 100%, I always found him someone with whom one could have a civilised discussion and then part as friends, whatever the outcome. Even in the later stages of his illness he remained positive and still interested in what was going on in the sport, particularly locally. Many thanks Matt, not just for all you did but also the person that you were.

By **Mike Bateman**