

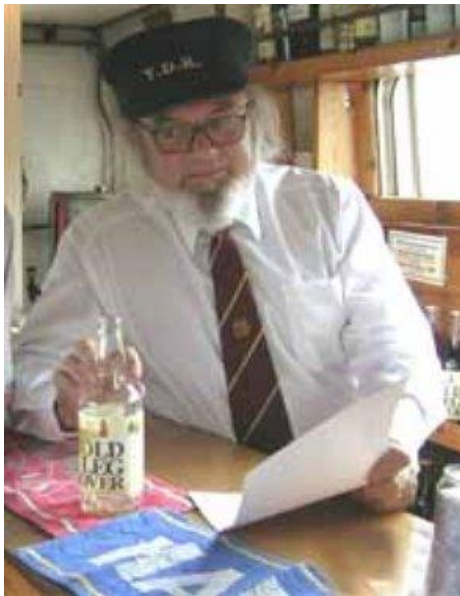
The one and only Mr John Lunn 1942-2010

On behalf of my mother and I may I thank everyone for the very kind words on the Northern athletics website. We have been overwhelmed by all the kind words which have been posted on your website as well as all the messages and cards which people have sent to us over the last few weeks.

As many of you will be aware athletics was a very important part of John's life and he would have been very happy to hear all the kind things which have been said. We would also like to thank everyone who attended his funeral celebration and especially for all their kind donations which have raised a total of £1100 for the British Heart Foundation. Dorothy and Matthew Lunn'

Thank you again for your help,

Matthew Lunn 18 July 2010



John Lunn died in his sleep on Monday night (21st June) aged 68. His passing is a huge blow to the sport

and particularly to Leeds City. Over the years he has held almost every position in the club and has made a particular impact as a team manager and historian. It is not being disrespectful to those who have followed him to suggest that he was the most successful team manager the club has had in terms of getting the best out of (sometimes reluctant) athletes in league competition.

As club historian and statistician he has done a tremendous job in producing in depth ranking lists and a regular newsletter. His newsletter was always written in his inimitable style and wit whilst at the same time giving a mention to everyone however lowly their performance.

A man of intellect, well read and possessing an encyclopaedic memory, he had many interests and talents outside athletics which others are more qualified to list. I have known him for over 50 years as a middle distance opponent, team mate, training partner and provider of information for his History of Leeds City.

As an athlete he was very good. He won the Yorkshire Youths Cross Country title in 1959 and again in 1960 before going to Oxford where he was awarded Blues on the track (3 miles) and country.

On the track (not his favourite surface) he ran 14:39.4 (5000), 30:36.6 (10,000), and 78:51 (15 miles). He ran 1:44:40 for 20 miles on the road and 2:23.30 for a marathon with 2:19:48 for a short course at Huddersfield.

Although not a prolific veteran competitor, John continued to run



until a heart problem was diagnosed. Since then he took up the hammer with enthusiasm. Somewhere in his mass of statistics there will be a note of the number of league points he has amassed in that event.

He taught briefly in Darlington during which time he ran for Middleborough and Cleveland but returned to his native Leeds. A member of Leeds AC, he was active in the coming together of that club, Harehills Harriers and Leeds St Marks to form the present Leeds City club back in 1967.

John could be described as unconventional, even eccentric but things were never dull when he was around. In his Oxford days he was seldom seen without his guitar and was a source of welcome entertainment on long journeys to fixtures. Colleagues had mixed reactions to his propensity to giving everyone a nickname but they were invariably funny if often irreverent.

If John agreed to do a job it was as good as done. His latest success was the National in Roundhay Park. Although hundreds of people were involved in the planning and execution of this massive event, John was the lynchpin although he declined to accept the plaudits. It may seem trite to say "we will never see his like again", but in John's case it is true.

The athletics family extend heartfelt sympathy to John's wife Dorothy, herself a stalwart official, and son Matthew.

Roger Norton 22 June 2010

Comments

- Added: 22/06/2010 15:18:39

Spent the day at Gateshead with him on Sunday getting us all organised cant believe he has passed, will be greatly missed Leeds City will not be the same without his booming voice and excentric personallity, all young and old who knew him will miss him.

By **Sawyer**

- Added: 22/06/2010 15:37:53

John was Leeds City's heart & its voice. Everyone that met him will never forget him. I'll raise a glass and thank you on behalf of myself and Leeds (both the Club & the City). Deepest sympathy to Dorothy & Matthew.

By **Darran Bilton**

- Added: 22/06/2010 15:59:48

John Lunn - a legend in crazy tights. My shoulder to cry on at Roundhay! Thanks for everything, I will miss you always.

By Judith

- Added: 22/06/2010 17:16:17

It really is impossible to know what to write at the moment. John is quite simply irreplaceable and the club, and athletics in general, has lost a true hero. I don't think I've ever met anyone who was so genuinely interested in the achievements of so many other people. Heartfelt thanks to John for the contribution he has made to my life and career in athletics and sincere condolences to his family. The world is now a poorer place.

By Simon Deakin

- Added: 22/06/2010 18:08:09

I've known John since his teaching days in Darlington and have always been impressed by his enthusiasm for our sport and his energy and integrity. Despite the bear hugs and the T shirts (and at one time the leopardskin tights) it was always a pleasure to meet him and count him as a friend. People like John are the bedrock not only of their own clubs but of the real part of our sport. He'll be badly missed on so many fronts.

By Mike Bateman (the Duke of Cramlington to John)

- Added: 22/06/2010 18:27:46

Only a few days ago I read his historical comments of me back in 1979 as "Gangly sprinter." It made me think of what I said of him back in the 80's that he never needed a microphone or PA system he was loud enough and that was in the days before multi-coloured lycra. Leeds City will be a quieter club without his distinct character.

By Glen Reddington

- Added: 22/06/2010 19:15:52

John Lunn was indeed a larger than life character, and today the World and Sport, and Club Athletics is a lesser place in his passing, the bear hugs had become as synonymous as the event you were going to, and I offer my sincere condolences to his immediate family and all friends at Leeds AC at this very sad time, the memory of John will live on with those who knew and loved him well, and there will be times at events, when you will suddenly stop, and think, I wonder what John would have thought of that, When I have my customary glass tonight, I will raise it to a Wonderful Character, and a very lovely and caring Gentleman.

By George Patterson

- Added: 22/06/2010 20:34:48

The first person to welcome me to Leeds City when I was 13 back in 1979. Immediately made an impression on me and I looked up to him in awe. Could cajole you into travelling

the length of Britain to do an event you didnt train for but when John asked you, you didnt want to let him or the team down. Many a good night was spent in the Three Horseshoes after training where John would recount numerous stories which had everyone in stitches. Good night John from 'Brenda'.

By **Michael Blackburn**

- Added: 22/06/2010 21:03:34

I have known John for a number of years having also been a Leeds City thrower a few years ago now, John was a great guy who I have a lot of fond memories of. I will sorely miss his bright tights and the shouting competitions we would have in the hammer. John your a LEGEND RIP

By **Paul Wilson**

- Added: 22/06/2010 21:26:00

So many things will not be the same without John - Being cheered on cross country races in a way noone else could, website reports that sometimes didnt let the facts get in the way of a good story but were always entertaining, hearing that almighty roar coming from the hammer circle. A real character, and such a sad loss. RIP John. My thoughts are with John's family.

By **Mike Burrett**

- Added: 22/06/2010 21:55:03

on sunday at gateshead you had all the officials jumping through hoops to help out were needed. The club just wont be the same without you and well what can i say out those leggings. You will be sadly missed at the next british ladies league meeting you were always there for everyone and you will be missed by all the athletes. sleep tight John. Our thoughts are with Dorothy and family

By **punter**

- Added: 22/06/2010 22:01:06

Not sure how many years I have known John, more than I care to remember, but he was always the one who would tell me what I needed to know, show me how things were done, and then fight my corner when needed. He called me amazing, but it was him who was. RIP John.

By **Grace Hall**

- Added: 22/06/2010 22:01:35

My wife and I were stunned when we were informed of John's death. As usual I heard John at this year's Yorkshire Cross Country Championships before I saw him. He was a larger than life character who leaves behind such happy memories. My wife will miss his big hugs but I will no longer have to avoid them. He was the first person to be told we were expecting our second child when he came with us to run in Enschede Marathon in Holland. One of the more memorable occasions when I ran in the Inter County 20 mile Championship was the year when the Yorkshire team was John Lunn, Tony Child and myself. After the race John took us for an Indian meal. Tony and I had a curry that was not supposed to be strong John had the extra strong one. Ours nearly blew our heads off. After the meal we rushed across the road into a pub to cool down and John read poetry to us. We caught the last train from Kings Cross back to Yorkshire. When John asked if there was a bar on the train he was told they did not put bars on trains for drunken buggers like us. Never the less it was a great evening. I think we ran well but I can't really remember. Thanks John for the good times I can remember.

By **John Newsome**

- Added: 22/06/2010 23:34:18

It was a pleasure to know John for the relatively short time I have been with the club. We will all miss his booming support at races, his unique race reports and of course his fashion sense. The club will not be the same without him.

By **James Walsh**

- Added: 22/06/2010 23:39:57

I have known John for the past 28 years since my defection from the North East as I ended up living here, and it would be true to say he was one of the biggest influences on my life, many words have been written above that mean so much, he was unique, a one off, irreplaceable in many ways, humorous enthusiastic which rubbed off on you, and was legend of a man. there are so many funny stories to tell he leaves a void that no-one could or can fill, he has been there at my stag night where we drank and ate hot curry, he was there at my wedding where we drank and danced he was there at the christening of my kids where we drank and danced, I will miss having the beers and I will miss him so much he was and is a legend in his own lifetime I am so honoured to have known him and my thoughts go out to Dorothy and Mathew who have lost such a valued husband, Dad and friend the big man upstairs must have been lonely to take you, our loss is his gain a truly great man who I am going to miss so much Gony

By **Tony Gill or Gony Gill to John**

- Added: 23/06/2010 09:26:53

Have known John for over 40 years. The only person ever to call me "Sheerluck". I will miss his phone calls enquiring about athletes and races 30 years ago for his latest version of the

Leeds City chronicles. I could never remember the answer but he always could! The Starters will miss John. He always managed to interrupt races by making an announcement over the PA system when the gun was raised! I can not think of anybody over the last 40 years who has given more to Leeds City AC. He will be sadly missed by me and many others. RIP

By **Mike Sherman (Sheerluck)**

- Added: 23/06/2010 10:13:53

an inspiration!

By **Iain Horn**

- Added: 23/06/2010 11:55:58

What a legend, John and I had some great debates, primarily around how awesome Border Harriers were and how awful Leeds were!!!. The greatest T Shirt that he produced, although a little biased obviously, was the picture of me in "stocks" and the quote "bring me the head of "Dave Farrell"!!! Awesome bloke I will also miss those bear hugs. RIP Big Fella

By **David Farrell**

- Added: 23/06/2010 12:04:13

what a character, the John McCririck of the athletics world !! No voice of booming encouragement was more detectable during a race. My continued urge to dress up wackily was surely most inspired by the Xmas Eve Hat Runs ! Andy " The Youngster " Brown monikor picked up by John from Roger Norton's inadvertent YEP reference to me in 1996 - when aged 28 !)

By **Andy Brown**

- Added: 23/06/2010 13:15:49

That really is very sad news to hear. John was instantly recognisable at all endurance, particularly cross country events, with his infectious personality and dare I say booming voice, supporting his Leeds AC team members. His throaty roars usually gave me advance warning of when I was about to get over-taken from someone wearing Blue and Yellow and certainly added to the atmosphere of the event! Condolences to all who knew him, no doubt my sympathy to his family and friends is shared by all at Alty.

By **Matt Barnes**

- Added: 23/06/2010 13:39:25

I heard John, then heard about him, then met him in that order. I only knew him for 10 short years and was privileged to work for him at the National Cross Country Championships in

January. In his club news reports he wrote many kind and humorous comments about my attempts to run. He was also never short of encouragement for Alex. Many more eloquent tributes have been written above, but the message is the same throughout – we ALL loved him to bits. RIP John. Jenny, Alex and Alistair Davy

By **Jenny, Alex and Alistair Davy**

- Added: 23/06/2010 14:35:25

Athletics in the UK exists because of the clubs and clubs exist because of people like John Lunn. In my dealings with him over the years, mainly via the Northern League, he always had the sport at heart. He was a fountain of knowledge and I admired the way he was progressive in his thoughts on league issues. It was only in recent years I realised we had a mutual interest in real ale (I should've guessed !) - I'll have one for you tonight, John.

By **Mike Harris**

- Added: 23/06/2010 16:21:18

I've lived in London most of my life but spent five years at Leeds University. There were two notable Leeds City athletes who influenced my running life at that time. One of those was the late great Jack Bloor who I trained with regularly in the late seventies. The other was the unforgettable John Lunn. My first real contact with John was when he entered his "British Irwin Club" team in the Leeds University relays. They were Leeds City runners disguised under various irreverent pseudonyms. Athletics Weekly would normally filter out these names in the results but one year they printed all of them! I was Leeds Uni Cross Country secretary for three years and John kept threatening to take a one year course at the university and eventually did so in 1979/1980. He competed in a number of the university's fixtures that winter and even won a bronze in the BUSF 10,000m that summer when he was in his late thirties. My home club was Old Gaytonians AC (now Harrow AC) so to John I was the Gayest of the Old Gays – totally politically incorrect of course. I met John many times over the years since I left Leeds. On one occasion he was guest speaker at the Leeds Uni Cross Country Club dinner. His speech was full of his regular anecdotes, anyone he knew was in for a slagging off and of course he delivered it without reference to any notes! I only have two photos of John. One was when he attended my stag do in the Chemic in Leeds in 1998 where he is pictured kissing me. Most grooms get a kissogram – I had a Lunnogram. The other is a picture someone took of me and my then girlfriend after the Leeds Uni Past v Present race in 1980. John is captured in the background making disparaging remarks about us to one of the other competitors. Priceless memories. The National won't be the same without John to greet you with a hug. Goodbye John – the athletics world will be poorer without you.

By **Dennis Orme**

- Added: 23/06/2010 17:52:52

I first met John as a 15 year old, 32 years ago when I joined the club, it was he who took us out on Tuesday night and Sunday runs. Like everyone else I have been persuaded by him to turn out for the club in unfamiliar events, and if it hadn't been for John I wouldn't have become a very average steeplechaser! His passion and knowledge for the sport were unbelievable, he will leave a hole at the club that can never be filled. The things I will remember most are the 'at run on Christmas Eve from John's house and in the early days paying a quid to wash your legs in a bucket of water when you got back, his bloody limericks (though I did one about him on the coach coming back from the British League in the early 1980s and he had no comeback), his first meeting with my wife Maria (also at a BAL) when he walked up to her called her Mrs Twons and gave her his customary kiss, his singing of "the women go crazy for a short arsed man" whenever I was racing cross country and not least the noise he made putting a shot or throwing the hammer in those ridiculous leggings! We will all miss you Lunny (and you probably still owe me a pint) Twons, the short legged man

By **Phil Townsend**

- Added: 23/06/2010 18:37:15

I first met John in the late 80's when I resigned from Helensburgh AC so that I could join a club nearer home having left Faslane Naval Base. On my first visit to Leeds City I spoke to John and before I had even told him the club I had left he gave me our finishing position in each league we had participated in the season that had just finished. He had guessed the club which in itself wasn't too hard once he knew I was based in Scotland with the RN but to reel off all that information, pure genius. I last met him a while back when I popped into the Grove Inn in Holbeck and he was the same irrepressible John. I have many more happy memories from my time with the club. He will be sorely missed and if there is a heaven I'm sure he will be busy organising his first open track and field meeting by now. Rest in Peace mate.

By **Carl Lockwood**

- Added: 23/06/2010 18:56:19

I have just heard the sad news of John's untimely passing and after speaking with my old running mate Tony Gill and sharing a few Lunny stories felt compelled to add a comment. I got to know John after guesting for Leeds AC in a D, E or F team in the Aaron relays and subsequently becoming a member of the British Irwin club (complete with vest) and being taken by John on the 'Tonge Rd run (pubcrawl). In subsequent years I dragged a 'Godiva' team up to the Aarons and was made especially welcome by John, who seemed to know more about our club's history and achievements than we did and seemed to get as much encouragement from John than the Leeds guys did. It was a measure of John that he was as enthusiastic about others' performances as his own team...a genuine athletics fan. In later years our own statistician (Steve Wankling AKA Curtis) drew on John's enormous knowledge of stats and enabled him to give accurate commentaries at major events. From someone who was not a member of Leeds AC I was envious of the stature that John brought to the club. I

feel for your loss and that of UK athletics in general. Irreplaceable and never forgotten. Sympathies to his family and friends.

By **Martin Slevin**

- Added: 23/06/2010 21:09:53

I first met John at University - happy, happy, days, always unconventional, always the light of the gathering, you always knew when John was competing, or meeting in the bar. Later we frequently met at AGM's of the various leagues, when John would certainly sum up the situation in a few crisp and earthy comments. Always progressive, always seeking to improve the provision for the grass roots club athletes, John was behind many of the major changes introduced in recent years. On Sunday I was privileged to go through the high jump rules with him and assist some new people who John had enticed to assist the young athletes team. He will be sorely missed.

By **chris betts**

- Added: 23/06/2010 22:42:52

Very sad news. Leeds City won't be the same without John. I've got used to seeing John as soon as I enter the indoor track at South Leeds, always ready with a booming greeting, usually also with a comment about fell-runners and sheep. Thanks to John I had a new nickname within minutes of joining the club and cross country won't be the same without hearing "Asbo!" yelled at me with great gusto at races. His support for the team was legendary. You'll be sorely missed John and my thoughts are with your family.

By **Adam Osborne**

- Added: 23/06/2010 22:46:06

John was the first face I saw when I turned up at South Leeds one spring evening to join Leeds City AC. It was clear from day one he was the soul of the club. His personality, booming voice and wardrobe choices always raised a smile, and his witticisms from the Announcers box would always cheer you up after a bad performance. He would always then manage to find a positive in that performance when reporting it as 'The Scribe'. John helped me out an awful lot with some of the events I've organised. His advice was and remains invaluable. I'm not sure I've ever met anyone else who knew so much about so much - a real inspiration. I also saw John at Gateshead on Sunday and genuinely remember thinking how his unique brand of friendly banter made the day so much brighter. Athletics has always been more fun with John around.

By **Matt Barton**

- Added: 23/06/2010 23:24:04

19 years ago as a young under 13 cross country runner i remember my first night up at carnegie. i had to go to the old white pavilion to see where i had to go and with whom. a bearded colourful john approached me and asked "sprint chuck or distance". i had the delight of training with his son Matthew for 2 years there and through my changing of several clubs and events over this long period, john always kept in touch and was always there to offer advice.....he was a genuine spokesperson for athletics and athletes in the region always striving to take it foward.i will also miss updates on the best real ales of the month.....my thoughts are with Dorothy and Matthew, so long john i am sure wherever you are is now a better place with you there

By **Darren Thomas**

- Added: 24/06/2010 10:24:01

'How do you sum up 40+ years knowledge of a legend in just a few words? Well, in his earlier years, The Llunn - his British Irwin Club nickname - shaped the lives of so many 'stars and hackers' with his ready wit and repartee and, to quote The Reader 'an encyclopaedic memory'. Whether as a songwriter or raconteur he has his own irreverent niche in history with his joint reworking of Yesterday still very much in prominence in the Manchester University Songbook. Following that came The Ballad of The West Yorkshire League, Athletical Pie, St James Infirmary Blues, Arthur Cockroft's Lonely Pukes Club Band (It was in the year of 61 that Arthur Cockroft taught his boys to run, And they've lost more races than they've won, but they've run in wind and rain and sun, So let me introduce to you, The boys who've run for all those miles: Arthur Cockroft's Lonely Pukes Club Band!)and more, together with the tale of The Battle of the Weetwood (between the tribes of The Irwin and The Edward) formed the basis of his early legend status. As a youngster, who could fail to be impressed when, on his bachelor night, he was baptised in ale by his numerous like-minded university mates mid way through an impromptu strip!! (and no, he had already coined 'Monstra Pudendum') Alas, the big man has gone to join Drummond (his faithful Border Collie) on The Rainbow Bridge, but his legend endures.'

By **Brwsi**

- Added: 24/06/2010 10:40:27

All John's friends at Cleethorpes AC. will be sorry to hear this sad news. John was a great friend to us all and helpful on so many occasions particularly in the Northern Senior League. He was always a welcoming prescence at athletic matches. Our sympathy is with Dorothy and his family; we shall miss him greatly.

By **Anne and Dave Roberts**

- Added: 24/06/2010 12:08:13

I first met John in the mid-1980s while a student at Manchester University. John was one of the few officials who tolerated (if not encouraged!) student antics and when I turned up to a

Leeds City open meeting fresh from the Isle of Man Athletics Festival wearing a T-shirt with 'Fat *****' written across it, he didn't seem to mind me racing 800m in it. It did earn me the nick name 'Fat *****', however, which he has called me for the last 23 years. John has to take a lot of the credit for inspiring a bunch of student runners to become decent senior athletes, many earning GB/England vests. I will miss your bear hugs and your shouts of 'Come on Fat *****' when I'm racing, John. My thoughts are with Dorothy and Matthew.
Anne Buckley

By **Anne Buckley**

- Added: 24/06/2010 12:28:53

I first heard (then met) John as a shy 14-year old who had just joined Leeds City AC. Over the years I got to know him as a friend and team-mate and I will miss him greatly. His unique humour, dazzling wardrobe with a wide selection of wackily-coloured leggings and terrible t-shirts, his shouting of foul foreign language (Cojones being one in particular) after a bad throw, his irreverent stories, his unrivalled knowledge of obscure rugby stats, advice on real ale and his fun yet inoffensive nicknames. I have so many fond memories of John, but the particular memory that stands out for me was when John and myself were competing for the Leeds Senior B team in Cleckheaton back in 2003. It was his last throw in the hammer in which he beat his PB. Afterwards the whole stadium (and possibly everyone within a 3-mile radius) were treated to John's screams of delight! The athletics world has lost a true legend and without his drive, enthusiasm and knowledge, Leeds City AC would not be where they are today. My thoughts are with Dorothy and his family. R.I.P.

By **Dave Milnes**

- Added: 24/06/2010 13:47:36

I will never forget the effect John had on all my family whenever they met him. John was always erudite and polite. I've been privileged to see the other side of John, the volunteer on the Embsay Steam Railway where he spent many a happy day. . I met him one afternoon on the train to hand over papers for the work he was doing compiling the Northern archive. We shared a can of ale (legover), hence my nickname Lord legover. You'll be dearly missed Mr Chuff-a-Choo (That's how he signed his emails to me).

By **Alan Johnson**

- Added: 24/06/2010 14:02:32

I first met John Lunn in the mid sixties when I was about 17 and John was in his early twenties. I admired John greatly and he quickly became a sort of role model for me. I'm not sure whether that was in spite of his getting me drunk on rough cider and ordering curries that were far too hot for me, or because of it. Perhaps I can shed some light on the issue of T-shirts. The first significant one I remember was from that time. It was plain white with the bold statement "Peace Artist" emblazoned on the front. In the interests of historical

accuracy, of which John I'm sure would have approved, I must say that I do not know for sure whether John designed the shirt himself or not. Shortly afterwards though he did design the British Irwin Club T shirt with the club motto cunningly disguised in Latin on the front and the club salute depicted on the back. John, drawing on his deep knowledge of heraldry, described this salute as "Two Fingers Rampant on a Field of Argent" if I remember correctly. Well what did I learn from this "role model"? I gradually learned, through John, that life is not a means to an end. It is an end in itself. John, of course, would have rightly pilloried such pretentious drivel. Thank you John for being my friend. I will never forget you.

By **Pryderi**

- Added: 24/06/2010 14:31:34

I have known John many years now since we were both members of Leeds Athletic Club before the amalgamation. I remembr in the 70s when himself and Ray Barrow talked me into becoming team manager for the Northern league team which I managed to take into the BAL. After 5 years John took over the A team and I moved down to manage the B team, he was always ringing up on the Friday night before a match to tell me he was pinching some B team members for the A team and telling me who I could get to take their place, he always knew who could do what and where to find them. I doubt that any one person will be able to take on all the jobs that John did at the club and outside the club. Comiserations to Dorothy and Mathew, RIP John. Barrie

By **Barrie Knowles**

- Added: 24/06/2010 14:49:12

I met John when I joined Leeds City in 1979 as a 13 year old and once met never forgotten could not be a more apt description. He was an absolute legend both for his tireless work for the club and his energy for getting things done. God bless you John

By **David Wild**

- Added: 24/06/2010 18:05:34

Reading all the above tributes from all those who had known John, many of the funny stories have again brought a smile to my face despite the sadness of learning he has gone ("far too soon"). Over a pint after training he many a time recited his repertoire of Colemanballs which used to amuse him no end. He himself had his own classic style of commentary, as referred to by others, and I'll always remember him coaxing me, no athlete, to do the 100m in 2 C team matches on weekends either side of the Blackpool Marathon. He said, "If Pop'd have ran that 100 at the pace he ran last week's Marathon he'd have done a damn sight better job." The things I'll remember are his stories about answering the call of nature in hilarious situations - once not realizing he was actually mooning the occupants of a train standing at a signal - and once during a 5-mile race where he ran in someone's house, with the owner's blessing, went upstairs to the loo, and sat there having a conversation with the

guy's wife who was sat behind a curtain in the bath. He always greeted me with a cry of "Does yer arse fit yer?", which was the nearest he got to the Russian for hello. Why he did this I will never know, but that was just him. John worked closely with me to start off the Leeds City website, always always dropping more news items, results, rankings, reports and revisions to the club history in my lap, and continued to contribute in those ways right up to the end. The "Scribe" or "Chief Ranker" will be well and truly missed by Leeds City and the Athletics world in general, as he is by his friends. Cojones!! and rest in peace mate!

By **John Pop**

- Added: 24/06/2010 21:05:08

Like Arthur Cockcroft I have known John for along time. When I read of his death in the Evening Post today my memory immediately recalled him beating Stewart Dobson to win the Yorkshire Champs as a Youth. You wqil be missed John. RIP.

By **jacl lawton**

- Added: 24/06/2010 22:01:15

I can hardly imagine going to races without hearing John's voice somewhere around the course. He took such an interest in everyone's efforts from international runners to others just trying to finish. He knew when I'd had a 'good one' and would help me enjoy the moment more. Athletics has lost a wonderful enthusiast and organiser. I will really miss him.
Martin Farran

By **Martin Farran**

- Added: 24/06/2010 22:11:07

John was a great character and good company to be with he put so much time effort commitment into leeds city ac I fondly remember him been president of the club for many years organising the aarons xc meetings year after year and been the A team manager for track and field when i was C team manager many years ago john was a great help having not seeing john much in recent years playing a new hobby in bowls he is someone you would never forget john had his moments and could be moody but who cares this was the make up of the big man John was always grateful thankfull and sincere towards you for jobs you did within the club cheers john

By **Ian Brine**

- Added: 25/06/2010 00:19:11

I first encountered John as a 10 year old, when i joined the club in the mid seventies. As others have said "once met, never forgotten". His contribution over the years to Leeds City A C is immeasurable and the man himself irreplaceable. It was a real hammer blow to learn of

his passing and feels like a close member of the family has left us. Along with my late father (for whom he wrote a moving obituary in club news a couple of years back) John was a great influence on me and one reason why i'm still competing in the high jump for the same club all these years later. On early evening homeward bound coach jounries from British League matches,there were the memorable detours off the motorway,along country roads and ending up at some cosy little pub,for a meal and a few pints. John would have earlier earmarked a particular one,selling a choice beer or two.Then he'd be on the phone to Roger Norton with details of how we'd performed that day. All the memories are fond. I feel privileged to have known you John and i will never forget you. Cojones !

By **Steve Linsell**

- Added: 25/06/2010 02:28:29

Very sorry to hear of John's passing away. Though I hadn't seen him in a while he is a hard man to forget. I knew John from the early 1980's as a youth at Harrogate AC and later while running for Skyrac and Leeds City. John was one of the most enthusiastic and endearingly barmy people I have ever known and as I read the tributes on here it's clear that everyone has a John Lunn story (or six). I remember running from his house one Boxing Day with about 20 other blokes and he gave me a right rollickin' in front of everyone for not bringing any cake like he had told me to, he just told it how he saw it. His track commentaries were legendary and over the years I was amongst countless folk on the receiving end his "banter" at 100 decibels over the PA whilst warming up or even during the race. He was able to get away with stuff like that because he was "Lunny". RIP John.

By **Chris Devlin**

- Added: 25/06/2010 09:41:50

John Lunn was a stalwart of Man Uni CCC as well as Oxford and Leeds having spent a year or three with us and taking an active interest in Vice Presidents' activities thereafter - until he "crossed the floor" to join Doss AC (LUCCC). His name is still well known within MUCCC as he presented Lunn's Old Tin Pot for competition among each Freshers intake. He also wrote and presented a song book, mislaid at some point but (mostly) lovingly restored by YT and others. Unfortunately missing one or two old folk songs that had fallen out of use by my arrival at Manchester in 1976. If my lurchers were not to hand and I felt in need of having my face lovingly licked by a hairy harrier I would occasionally allow him to come within arm's length. Condolences and respects also on behalf of Salford Harriers who have been pleased to compete with and sometimes beat Lunn's Leed City teams.

By **Chris Paul**

- Added: 25/06/2010 11:01:04

When Roger Norton phoned on Tuesday to tell me John Lunn had died I found it hard to take in.I met John in1959 he had just won the Yorks Youths XC he was a real star locally.Over the

years following to his untimely passing his star shone even more. What a character, friend, my introduction to the post training drink, and yes the hugs and kisses. Reading all the comments from the people whose lives John touched brings so many fond memories of him flooding back. John you were a one off, irreplaceable.

By **Mike Baxter**

- Added: 25/06/2010 12:54:15

Sad news which I only found out today. Memories go back as far as 1964 when you turned up to run with Manchester University CCC in our first race of the season over the border in North Wales at Bangor. You could run; on the return journey I think you demonstrated to the individuals (and the old lags of the MUCCC) in a City centre pub in Chester that you were something else as well (we survived getting kicked out!). John had come to Manchester to do his teachers training certificate after Oxford. I will miss you John. Thanks for all the memories, the friendship, the advice, the comments over the year's since. I will remember what is now the last "bear hug" in March this year at the 12 stage relays - ironically in Wythenshawe Park, MUCCC's home in those days when you ran for us, where we had numerous battles, all of which you won. Condolences to your family and friends.

By **John Driscoll**

- Added: 25/06/2010 13:25:15

We'll miss you John. There was never a dull moment when you were around lad. One of the old school who loved the sport and gave it everything and never asked for any return.

By **Peter Moon**

- Added: 25/06/2010 13:45:09

John and I worked on a number of events together, the last being this year's Nationals, and I had the utmost respect for him. I often relied on him and gladly took his advice. I'm still very much in shock and can't really believe the sad news. He was a very good friend and one of the greatest characters I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Sue and I still can't believe we'll never again be greeted by his hugs and kisses. Athletics has lost a wonderful character – we shall never ever see his kind again.

By **Ron Needham**

- Added: 25/06/2010 14:46:07

My wife Sue and I are so sad to hear of the passing of "Mr Leeds City". Like many others before, John was the welcoming voice when I joined Leeds City as a coach in the early 90's. John never let me forget I was not from Leeds but from "posh" Harrogate. I have to own up to supplying John with some of his outrageous t-shirts, and accompanying him as he trawled

the "shocking pink tights stalls" at the Nationals to find matching tights. Dearly missed John, but never forgotten. Our sympathies to Dorothy and Matthew. Tony & Sue Mawson

By **Tony & Sue Mawson**

- Added: 25/06/2010 15:31:23

John I knew you from the early seventies and you never changed! Always full of life and 100% athletics. Great knowing you and your memory will always be talked about for years to come. May your god go with you.

By **Roy Bailey**

- Added: 25/06/2010 21:57:04

Roger Norton's obituary of John captured his character very well. A man of great intellect and many talents, but most of all a wonderful human being. Once John identified what needed to be done he got on with the job and saw it through. We are all poorer for your loss John but richer for your contribution, athletics has lost a wonderful treasure.

By **Robbie Wood Liverpool Pembroke Sefton**

- Added: 25/06/2010 23:28:25

The big welcoming hug, the foghorn voice, the lycra pants and the banter. John you will be missed.

By **Andy Parker**

- Added: 26/06/2010 09:35:12

There was no other person in the world that could have persuaded me to have a go at the steeplechase, rest in peace my friend or have I just seen an angel sprinting across the sky not wanting to be kissed by a hairy monster?

By **Steve Haywood**

- Added: 26/06/2010 20:53:46

One of my memories of John goes back to the late 1970's when I joined Leeds City at age 14. It was at the annual Leeds City Disco where he would always get up and dance to the number 'Brown Sugar' by the Rolling Stones. His dancing obviously left a lasting impression on me, as now whenever I hear that song I always picture him singing and doing this peculiar kind of shuffling movement around the dance floor! I will miss him at the cross country races, where his booming voice could always be heard cheering me on, still calling me 'Woody' and shouting his friendly abuse to make me run faster!

By Carole Schofield (Wood)

- Added: 26/06/2010 22:41:21

Like most Northern runners I'm sure, I didn't actually know John personally but I was certainly well aware of him, you couldn't not be. John McCole and I were always a little bit jealous that our club didn't have such a larger than life inspiring character giving us all a big verbal kick up th'arse from the touchlines. Loved his passion and his banter. Guess it's up to the passionate ones in our generation of runners, once our bodies have packed in (not long for me now), to try and offer something of a Lunnion contribution to our clubs. Even if we provide only a fraction of what he appeared to bring to Leeds, we'll be all the better for it.

By Rich Burney Liverpool Harriers

- Added: 27/06/2010 19:39:52

The Young Athletes' League AGMs will be so boring in future. You kept us all on our toes.
Ellen Molloy

By Ellen Molloy

- Added: 27/06/2010 19:42:46

I happened to speak to an old Leeds City team mate this afternoon and I was deeply saddened to hear of John's passing. When I finished my conversation I mentioned this sad news to my wife who had never met John. I was quickly able to describe what John did, his role as my Team Manager and Track Rep. in the 80's and 90's and his untiring work for the club. However, when she asked me what he was like, I was unable to find the words to fully describe the man in any form that does him justice. My feeble attempts settled on a true larger than life character and a good man! He will be missed.

By Richard Houchin

- Added: 28/06/2010 01:35:40

I first met John when I was a 12 year old boy running Cross Country and 800/1500 races for Leeds City. I always admired his positive attitude, sense of humour...and, of course his fashion sense. He would wear one blue and one yellow sock and various Leeds City attire in his hair. I always wanted to be a good runner like John, after seeing him win the Leeds and District back in 1974 (when I came 4th in the colts race). Like so many other athletes that crossed the path of John I found him to be a great motivator, a positive role model for the club...but more than that he loved his running. We trained together for a short spell back in the early 80's. His infectious enthusiasm never left me, and although not having much else in common (apart from both living in Farnley) we both just loved to run for the sake of it. A great role model, a unique man, a super runner...without equal in the history of Leeds City. God bless you John. Condolences to Dorothy and Matthew

By **Trevor Wilson**

- Added: 29/06/2010 12:16:32

What a shock, typical John, no warning,,just two fingers and "i'm off". But what a void now he has gone. First met as a Leeds St Marks member in the late 1950's, he was not without an opinion then. Again at Manchester University he certainly lit up the scene there. His contribution to athletics was massive. So John no more hugs or kisses, no more abuse. It's going to be a duller place without you. What a star. Mike Smith

By **Mike Smith**

- Added: 29/06/2010 17:24:56

I shall miss John for his knowledge,enthusiasm and humour and the Yorkshires will not be the same without the hairy embraces.Look down on nexr years county champs John and just maybe your team will win ! Seriously though a great deal of the credit for the success of Leeds must go to John and it has been a pleasure to know him.

By **ian wainwright**

- Added: 29/06/2010 21:12:04

Just been re-reading the hairy monster's account of the Northern XC 31/1/76 which begins 'So we ganned awa' to the land o' the Midnight Broon Ale, whaur they aal runs tappy-lappy doon the lonnen an' Big Bren sinks slaaly in the clarts on Toon Muir.....' and the 1975 Redcar 10 which started 'along the prom from outside the Municipal Gentleman's Lavatory' - he was always at his best when in the manor of, to further quote John, 'the Morpeth National Institution', James ('no comment')Alder! That year John managed to pass and beat 'the legendary Morpeth Flying talker' for the first time ever. A cause for celebration for John and I suspect for once Jimmy made some comment or 2!.

By **Brwsi**

- Added: 30/06/2010 09:00:26

This is a very sad loss to Athletics. John was about the craziest person I have had the pleasure to meet. Always funny, engaging, compelling, and insightful. I think he did more for Hammer throwing than most in terms of making it fun and enjoyable and showing anyone can have a go He will be sorely missed!

By **Steve Minnikin**

- Added: 30/06/2010 18:08:04

John will be very sadly missed,always made me smile.Deeppest simpythy from all at Kingston Upon Hull Athletic Club.

By **Dean Lewis KUHAC**

- Added: 01/07/2010 00:44:52

First met John in 1972 when I was a Fresher at Manchester University. He had presented "Lunn's Old Tin Pot" to be won by the first Fresher in the Freshers' Trials. As in most races, I did not win. John's paths and mine crossed many times over the next four decades. When our club house burned down it was John who said, "No way are we collecting for you Lancashire bxxx!!" He then proceeded to announce over the tannoy that everyone MUST contribute to the Sale Harrier Phoenix fund or their lives wouldn't be worth living. Recently I met up with John at the National Road Relays. Sadly I have washed off the great sloppy kiss he gave me after shouting to all and sundry, "Bruce Baby". We will not see the like of JL again.

By **Bruce Green**

- Added: 01/07/2010 07:41:07

I was very sad to hear of the death of my old friend John Lunn. I first met John in the mid 60's when he came to teach at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Darlington, where I was a pupil. As I was already a keen runner we soon became firm friends and over the next few years we trained, raced, drank and partyed together. I can still vividly remember the striptease he performed at my 21st birthday party, and the perilous rides home from training on the back of his motor scooter. I am still the proud owner of a British Irwin Club tea shirt with the famous 2 finger sign! He was with me when I married my wife Carol, and I was with him when he married Dorothy, a lovely lady. He was an amazing man with a great enthusiasm for athletics and for life. He will be sorely missed. God bless you John.

By **Dave Hewison**

- Added: 01/07/2010 09:06:07

John will be sadly missed by all of us - characters are few and far between especially the ones prepared to put their head above the parapet and be heard and counted often enriching our experience of the sport with fun and humour. John regularly complained of the bad weather, tongue in cheek, over the border here in Lancashire but never failed to be there whether at Witton Park or on the tops at Sutton in the 12 stage exchanging 'banter' with the old and the new. George Kirby now in his 80s recalls his own last ever venture on to a track, a long time ago, as a last minute replacement in the 4 by 100 relay at Middlesbrough when John spotted him - on the mike John hailed 'Chr... its George Kirby with the baton' much to the amusement of the crowd. Never to be forgotten John - condolences to his family.

By **Tony Wood**

- Added: 01/07/2010 11:07:25

John will be missed by all those who had dealings with him. I knew him from my days with Middlesbrough and Cleveland Harriers and I found him funny and always ready to offer advice whether it was on coaching or organising people or events. He was a star in the days when athletics was all about people who cared about the sport and sought no reward except the satisfaction of helping others.

By **Gwyn Potts**

- Added: 01/07/2010 12:34:37

I have just seen the news, and just realised that his funeral is taking place as I read all the tributes. I first encountered John at University (me at Liverpool, him at Manchester) and remember his amazing knowledge - ranging from history to the dirtiest songs I've ever heard. Then he taught at my old school, at I ran with him when I returned to Darlington on holiday - more happy drunken evenings and political arguments. The real challenge was to keep away from him, to avoid being embarrassed by cuddles and kisses and insults! When I saw him at the Northern 12stage it was the same old John: "How do, Fazakerley!". Nothing had changed... but it has now. What a guy!

By **Frank Davies**

- Added: 01/07/2010 16:15:54

We couldn't stop smiling as we read the comments. Perfectly describes this lovely character of athletics. Bless you John for all the happiness you spread around and for a job well done. We shall miss you. Brenda and Colin Robinson. Rochdale Harriers.

By **Brenda Robinson**

- Added: 01/07/2010 19:43:13

so now the great man has gone and what a send off I doubt Lawnswood has ever had so many people in for one tribute to a true icon of a man. many people from all parts of the UK came to pay tribute to one hell of a man yet even as we gathered many of us expected this booming gruff voice to sound and a man clad in resplendent mutli coloured leggings to appear alas it was not to be. the place was packed and the eloquence of Roger "Reader" Norton was a fitting reminder of how he had a lasting impact on all of us, the emotional tribute on behalf of leeds city was delivered by Veronique, whilst the personal touch was endorsed by lifelong friend and fellow legend Arthur Cockroft, who had us all in tears as he looked forward to renewing his friendship when his time came (but not for some time we all hope) the poignant message from Mathew of whom John would be so proud as he was a tower of strength for Dorothy gave us a glimpse of the shy intovert personal family man as Mat commented that he would miss the quiet chats with him, the watching of the rugby and the walks that they had, we all have our thoughts and memories of John and mant fitting tributes were paid including a small number sharing a beer in the 3 shoes what is clear is that he will leave a huge void, one that can never be filled many thanks to all who came

today from far and wide to pay tribute to a real legend as always John saw the funny side as the song rang out "when i'm dead and Gone" God Bless you John Gony

By **Gony Gill**

- Added: 01/07/2010 20:20:40

What a sad day for us all. I first met John for the first hat run to be held at Whitehall Mansions on christmas eve.The intention was fun,conviviality and lots of mud especially down paddlers alley,the steaming heap and cockersdale. Dorothy provided some wonderful christmas cake.John? what else-the ale! boxing day was the usual lung burster round the park.The handicapper[JL]saying"youre in with a chance if you get stuck in"-forgetting to add"If you've got Kenyan genes." Being the Leicestershire outpost of the British Irwin club our paths crossed infrequently- usually the National and being greeted by the usual bear hug and kiss. What enthusiasm,loyalty and an example to us all.I'll miss you John.Show 'em what to do upstairs. richard spirett

By **richard spirett**

- Added: 01/07/2010 21:51:55

It is with great regret that I was unable to attend John's passing today. I'm sure it would have as colourful as in life, as he will in resting. I first knew john following my transfer to Leeds City in the 80's, from Wakefield Harriers, when he then asked me to the long jump in a NYAL meet.....I had no idea what that was about....I was there to run!!! That didn't matter to him....and off I went. It didn't matter to him if you were an occasional runner or an international, he still treated you with the same manner. I hadn't seen him for years, and recently seen him this year at the Yorkshire and Northern X-country races....and absolutely nothing had change....the same friendly abuse!!! He will, as everyone has said before me, be sorely missed...and the world is a worse place. I hope the beer is good there Lunny....RIP

By **Andy Rodgers**

- Added: 01/07/2010 22:14:54

I could not make it today John, to say my fond farewells, but Kirsten was there. Alas it's not farewell, its great memories, and it comes to us all, just too early in some cases. I will always remember how welcome you made me feel on my arrival in Leeds (1987), rather later than many of your friends, but still I was accepted in to your fold. I never was a Leeds City boy and you always made me laugh when you referred to my club 'No Ham and Essex Bagels' the rest is too rude to mention Ha ha. You were a one off John and a genuine bloke, we will all miss that humour, god the things you came out with, I'll never forget those Buckley comments and your detailed (ha ha) past with John Sherban's mum!!, rest well John and love to Dorothy and Matthew. Hoch McGandie and Mistress Lardie (Rob and Kirsten)

By **Rob Cameron**

- Added: 02/07/2010 19:56:28

We will be dedicating next week's 5k race on Weds 7th July in Hyde Park to Lunny. Start time 7.30pm, with a minute's applause beforehand. Entry on night at Lees Uni Gryphon Gym on corner Woodsley Rd/Belle Vue Road, start at Wellington Statue, Clarendon Rd park end. Entry forms and past results: <http://www.leedscityathleticclub.org/> thank you, Greg

By **Greg Hull**

- Added: 02/07/2010 21:56:40

Sad news which I only found out today. My memories go back as far as 1981 when John first met me but I couldn't understand what he was saying as I am deaf, so he spoke to my coach Wilf Parish at Carnegie College, Headingley and then introduced me to join Leeds City AC. If he had not done this I would never have had the great pleasure of meeting some great athletes and friends as once I had started to compete in local and national leagues. I was then given the opportunity to compete in Deaf international athletics competitions in other countries. So I owe a great deal to his encouragement in the past. I was member of Leeds City AC from 1981 to 1997. It is with great regret that I found out that John's funeral was organised yesterday as I wished to be pay my respects to him. Also my mother asks me to say how sorry she is to hear this news. She and my father often came with me and John would always at some time wander round and join them for a chat. We as a family will not forget him. Occasionally I bumped into him at the family history fair as we are very keen genealogist as well as the sports field. It is very sad news, Leeds City won't be the same without John. His support for the team was legendary and will be sadly missed. God bless you John. My thoughts are with Dorothy's family.

By **Chris O'Connell**

- Added: 03/07/2010 18:13:15

I have just returned from a couple of weeks holiday to learn of John's sudden passing. While his contributions to athletics were wide and varied as the comments in this column testify, my memory will be of a larger than life character who could deliver insult and embarrassment (those hugs!) with such obvious good humour that one just had to laugh with him. The sport has lost one of its great characters.

By **Leo Carroll**

- Added: 05/07/2010 13:16:49

I too overlapped with John at Oxford, but hadn't seen him for forty years. Once seen, though, never forgotten! I continued to hear about him through "Athletics Weekly" (as I did the sad news of his death) and Leeds City's website. For a few years John was a second-claim member of my club, Thames Hare and Hounds, which organises the Varsity Cross-country match and he ran for us against Oxford. I see from one of Thames's Annual Reports that

John came second when Ron Hill broke the World Records for 15 miles and 25,000 km at Bolton in 1965. I'm sure that he enjoyed representing the white rose against the red. John and I came from different backgrounds and I think that John played a bigger role than some of my tutors in the vital role of challenging the assumptions with which I arrived at university. We always got on well, though. The coach bringing us back from a match would stop at a country pub, John would be one of the first to get his pint and would then announce that "Messrs Eady and Lunn, the Unholy Alliance (a reference to his history studies, like "Edmond the Tight") of Harrow and Leeds Modern Schools, will take on all comers at bar billiards", which we duly did, not unsuccessfully. He kindly put me first - at least there was a better chance of my beating him with a cue in my hand than there was with running shoes on. I was sorry to hear about the heart trouble - we could have swapped cardiology stories. Incidentally the staged deadheat in the Varsity Cross-country match enabled both John and Roger to say that they had been in Oxford's scoring team, which one of them could not have done if they had raced it out. My deepest sympathy to Dorothy and Matthew.

By **Anthony Eady**

- Added: 06/07/2010 16:40:37

It's 3 o'clock in the morning in deep mid winter down in NZ and I'm back in work having been called in to dislodge another piece of steak stuck in someone's gullet ... nobody chews anything properly down this neck of the woods! I click on the BBC Sport website and see that a Dave Webb has been selected for the European Champs at the Marathon. "Not that young fresh faced David Webb I used to know?" I thought, so went for the first time in a long time to the Leeds City AC website ... and to read the news about John's untimely departure I suddenly feel very homesick! I'm sorry I missed the chance to say Goodbye, although when I left for NZ in 1999 John did send me off with a bright yellow T shirt with "SHEEP" emblazoned across the chest and the words "There's more sheep than people down there ... you'll have fun"! Like so many others I came to Leeds City from a club elsewhere (Copeland). For years living in Newcastle I'd resisted the suggestions to join Gateshead, but Leeds City seemed to be more my sort of club ... and a large part of that was down to Lunny. I won't drone on ... I need to go to bed, but my fondest memory of John? The Northern 12 stage Road Relay at Leeds in 1997 (ish). I was 12th runner and we were out of medal contention, but that didn't matter to John. Just over a minute ahead was a team wearing an orange vest and diagonal black band ... Border Harriers. John and David Farrell had been tearing into each other all afternoon as the placings yo-yo'd, but John had been (almost) silenced as the last runners set off. Suffice to say that day I ran like a man possessed (but still "slow as shite" if you listened to John), but I caught the Border runner midway down the return hill, sat on him and then unleashed a finish onto the track ... and John put his head back and howled to the heavens, akin to a werewolf, and I'm certain he could be heard down in Sheffield! I was greeted with a sweaty all-enveloping hug at the end as I had brought John "the head of David Farrell" (see Dave's comment above). Let us all be thankful that we were privileged to know John Lunn. In my line of work I see too much death, grief and suffering, and I have come to realise that all we can do on this mortal coil is make a difference to other people's

lives. John made a difference to oh so many lives and this message board merely skims the surface. May we all strive to do the same. RIP John.

By **David Rowbotham**

- Added: 07/07/2010 09:17:05

I've known John for a long time at Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway. I help to run the cafe there and John did the bar on the train. He always came in the cafe for changing a note. He was a nice person to talk to. I won't forget John. I only found out on Tues 6 July I was shocked he will be sadly missed at the railway. One weekend John came into the cafe and told me he sold 60 bottle beers on the train that day. RIP John by Ken Pickles

By **ken pickles**

- Added: 07/07/2010 15:30:38

I first met John as a pupil at Matthew Murray in 1970. He was a skilled teacher, enthusiastic and charismatic. Forty years on I can still recall his tales of the ship at Sutton Hoo and Swein fork-beard all interspersed with anecdotes about popular culture, the Railways and boxing. I knew at the time he was a unique person and am saddened to hear of his passing. RIP Townsman of a stiller town

By **Peter Williamson**

- Added: 09/07/2010 05:52:23

It saddened me to hear of John's passing. I fondly remember his fashion sense for muted leggings. My condolences to Dorothy.

By **Dave Schofield**

- Added: 13/07/2010 21:02:44

Farewell John, gentleman, scholar, true wit and raconteur. Your presence behind the bar in the buffet car on the train to Bolton Abbey will now always be missed and will never be quite the same again. Thank you John for all your efforts and for your very special, individual contribution to the success of our railway.

By **Stuart Bell**

- Added: 14/07/2010 21:09:14

I've just looked at all the above comments and I thought I was the only person who got Kisses and Hugs from John. What a star - God Bless.

By **Malcolm Heap**

- Added: 15/07/2010 20:37:37

I missed John's funeral and have found it hard to write something here because I know The Scribe would have put it all so much more eloquently....but here goes: My first Lunn encounter: Northern Cross Country Championships at Heaton Park, 2003. Leeds City Men strike gold. John is passed a microphone and asked to comment... "A Bonny Bunch of Bastards!" echoes at full volume across Manchester. My final encounter: taking my nephew on Embay Railway just a few weeks ago; John commanding the bar; us unintentionally buying beer. Passionate, nonconforming, outspoken, wonderful – John we'll miss you.

By **Ruth Wilcox**

- Added: 16/07/2010 08:12:59

i was on the train at embsay on wed 14th with my husband ken and son michael we run the cafe at bolton abbey station we sat in the buffet bar which john run and i can remember many time s he was a gentleman never a wrong word spoken i will miss john rip from anne and family

By **anne mary pickles**

- Added: 18/07/2010 23:23:35

I first met John when I was a Hull Spartan in the late 70's. It was hard to miss him either vocally or visually...there were few male runners with hair in bunches. Even though I was with a rival club he offered opinions and advice, Many years later I've moved to Leeds and my children have taken up running...and in their first cross country "met" John, (without megaphone).I enjoyed telling them of the legend that is John. Like many others I suspect, he never knew me, but we all knew John. And I'll still tell my tales.

By **Sam**

- Added: 01/08/2010 12:11:58

I'm not very good on the PC but I have just looked @ the comments of John Pop, Tony Gill,Artur Cockcroft & a few others I knew. John Lunn Will be sadly missed by so many as the majority have already said.After speaking to his sister inlaw the other day Jean who lives just around the corner from me & my wife.He willbe sadly missed RIP Mate Russ Pike

By **Pike**

- Added: 02/08/2010 15:17:20

Just found out about the sad news as I checked the Leeds City website. John was my team manager during the early 80s, and a great deal of our success in the BAL was down to him. Always over the top, always outrageous, always good fun. He made a massive contribution

to the sport in our region, and I'm sad that I won't see his sparkly eyes and bushy beard ever again. Deepest commiserations to Dorothy & Matthew

By **Trevor Burton**

- Added: 19/08/2010 10:28:07

Just saw the news. I knew John from the late temple newsam/Irwin arms days where his erm... "demonstrative" manner was quite a shock for a young lad from Belle Isle. It was his infectious enthusiasm that kept me (though clearly out of my depth) coming back for more training/beer. There are numerous memories... Irwin arms, 3 horseshoes, Fartleks with sudden route changes to slow them fast guys down!, the Headbangers weekend.. groan! and bear hugs... one memory was the nos74 bus up to west park where mally brine and myself sat as far back on the lower deck as possible (not hiding really) when John got on paid his fare saw us and shouted at the top of his voice his weekends race time interspersed with other choice words! Thanks for the memories John think i, I'll dig out my Irwin Arms vest and go for a run. Cheers jon headbanger.

By **Jonathan Sage**

- Added: 11/10/2010 04:07:15

Sad news indeed, I have only just found out about John's passing. There are some names on here I have not heard of since the eighties when I ran for the club! Deepest sympathy to Dorothy & Matthew

By **Duncan Burgess**

- Added: 28/09/2011 21:18:25

A belated tribute to John from myself. I only just discovered that he is no longer with us. I left Leeds in the early 70's and played Rugby in the North east and South Wales where I now live, so our paths never crossed again. As a young athlete in the late 60's, John's irreverent style and sense of humour were a breath of fresh air. I always enjoyed training and socialising in John's company. I particularly recall a trip to Manchester University for a crosscountry event. John had entered all of the Leeds City boys under assumed names that had typically rude undertones. My condolences to Dorothy, whom I hope may remember me and to John's family.

By **Steve Kemp.**

- Added: 27/06/2012 00:10:57

I first met John 10 years ago as a nervous 13 year old at my first Leeds City club night when John, with his warm character, helped ease my nerves. He showed me around the club and put me into the right training group... his friendliness and welcoming personality is why I and

so many other runners at Leeds are still involved with the club today. On that night I first met him, I had no idea that he would be present at training every club night and every race that I ever competed in. Not only that but I could guarantee that whenever I ran past him during a race, he would shout both my position in the race but more importantly my position within the Leeds team. John's dedication to Leeds City AC was altruism in its greatest form. From his detailed club news posts (which were often posted up before the official results were even posted up) to his attendance at every Leeds City event, his involvement was remarkable and left a great impression on me. It was a pleasure to know you John. RIP.

By **Oliver Ziff**