

## **Brian Hall (20/8/1937 - 30/8/2010)**



Brian was an international athlete on the track and over the country, an organiser of races, an administrator and a determined battler to improve athletic facilities in the Winsford area of Cheshire.

Brian was a prominent middle distance athlete in the early 1960's competing with a small group of top athletes for Manchester & District Lads Club Harriers taking part in races from 800m to 6 miles. Probably his best year was 1962 when after gaining an England vest in the International cross country championships (held in Graves Park, Sheffield) he then later in the year gained a GB vest on the track at 1500m. Most of his best track times were set that year, including a mile in 4mins 0.1secs during a period of several attempts to break the 4 minute barrier. That time put him 4th on the UK list for the year, plus a 2 miles in 8:38.8 (2nd on UK list) and a 3000m steeplechase in 8:49.8 (3rd UK). In 1961 he was a member of relay team which set a UK National record for the 4 x 1 mile

event

Moving to Winsford, Brian formed the Winsford Athletic club in the early 1970's which later merged with Mid-Cheshire AC to form the now well known Vale Royal AC. During the 1970's he was a prolific organiser of races within Cheshire and in addition was instrumental in getting a shale track built at Knights Grange Sports Complex in Winsford. In later years, while ill, he drove forward a plan to convert the track to a synthetic surface. Although unsuccessful in the complete project, Brian lived to see a synthetic surfaced high jump area, javelin runway, long/triple jump runway and a throws cage completed a few weeks before he died.

Brian was a very stylish runner who competed with great tenacity, a feature he also demonstrated when he was involved in projects such as the track at Winsford. He was the road race permit officer under the NCAA for a number of years for East Cheshire and Greater Manchester (District 8). He was elected as a Vice President of the Cheshire County Athletic Association for his contribution to athletics in the county. He took a considerable interest in the performances of new athletes and was delighted when his grand-daughter, Hannah Weedall, competed for English Schools in the World Schools cross country in Italy.

Brian's funeral will be held on Tuesday, 7th September at 1:30pm at the Over United Reformed church, Swanlow Lane, Winsford, CW7 1JE. This is at the junction of the A54 and B5074 near to the centre of Winsford.

John Driscoll  
2 September 2010

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**Comments**

- Added: 07/09/2010 17:37:14

During my time at Vale Royal Athletic Club Brian was a total gentlemen who devoted large amounts of time towards developing new athletics facilities. Brian was forever at meetings promoting his vision and drive to improve the facilities in Winsford. Brian was also very fond of influencing new talent at the club and encouraging aspiring athletes to reach their full potential, whether it be as a serious athlete or participating just for fun. I am equally proud to have met Brian and worked under him in promoting the need for new facilities and hope one day the track at Knights Grange will be fully completed in memory of Brian. Already good things have happened and this was due to the hard work of Brian and his team. Long may it continue. Best wishes to Gary and the family Neil Templeman

By **Neil Templeman**

- Added: 08/09/2010 11:03:08

When I summoned up the courage to attend an athletic club ( Winsford AC ) for the very first time I couldn't have met a more inspiring coach than Brian Hall. It is thanks to him that I am still involved in athletics as Chairman of Phoenix Athletics Club in Brighton and also as a coach. I still remember Brian vividly, he made athletics come alive and seem a worthwhile and exiting thing to do. I will never forget the help he gave me. I send my best wishes to his family.

By **Paul Collicutt**

- Added: 10/09/2010 10:01:17

Brian was a top middle distance athlete at his peak in the early 1960s. George Kirby invited him regularly to Witton Park to the big invitation meetings there where he narrowly missed breaking 4 minutes for the mile battling with the likes of Derek Ibbotson and Peter Keeling. A loss to those at Vale Royal who have fought for good facilities for our sport in that area. Condolences to Brian's family.

By **Tony Wood**

- Added: 01/02/2011 20:59:36

Brian was a Hero of mine,as a young lad doing athletics with M&D.L.C.H.He always had time for the youngsters,he was a great example to all coaches everywhere.God Bless Him..

By **Martin Screen**

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