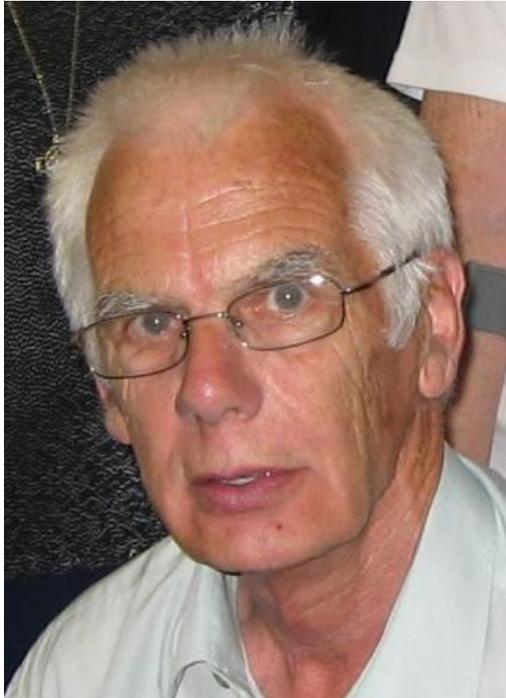


George Ogle

GEORGE OGLE, one of the North East's leading athletics administrators, died suddenly this week following a long battle against cancer. George had a colourful career as a promising athlete before taking up admin duties after hanging up his racing shoes but athletics was a huge part of his 74 years.



Proud of his Northumbrian upbringing, he first ran competitively for Alnmouth Boys Club and, after showing potential, joined Alnwick Harriers. Unfortunately, that club folded so he joined the then powerful men's team at Bedlington Harriers. Yet again, though, Bedlington also wound up so he moved on to Benwell Harriers and, just to keep the sequence running, they also ceased to be! Finally George joined Blaydon after moving there in 1961, setting up marital home with his wife Audrey who he had married the previous year. However, there was still one more club which would benefit from his services. He linked up with Tynedale Harriers and in no time at all became their president!

At the height of his athletics career George came close on numerous occasions to picking up representative honours after being crowned Army mile champion in 1959 where he set a championship record of 4min 12.9sec. He lifted the old

Northumberland and Durham mile title the same year before lining up over 880 yards against Peter Snell at the first-ever international meeting at Gateshead Stadium.

George turned his attentions to coaching for a while at Blaydon advising a teenage Mike McLeod as well as passing on his experience to a band of enthusiastic junior and senior athletes. But the call of officialdom proved too great and his coaching days were quickly put to one side. He started off in local events and was in at the rebirth of the Blaydon Race as part of the organising committee. This led on to numerous elevated posts within the sport - at one time he was president of the English Cross-Country Association (2001) and the Northern Cross-Country Association (1991/1992) as well as holding down the position of secretary of the North Eastern Cross-Country Association and the North Eastern Harrier League for many years.

George's printing skills - a trade he developed working at the Northumberland Gazette, HMSO, Ben Johnson and RR Donnelly - coupled with his dedication to local and national athletics gave him the opportunity to co-ordinate and produce English XC handbooks and programmes, North Eastern Counties fixture lists as well as being at the forefront of computerised race results. Right up until he became too ill to continue George was an active member of the ECCA and North Eastern Counties AA committees, co-ordinating and organising championship events on a local and national level.

George's funeral service will take place at St Cuthbert's Church, Shibdon Road, Blaydon NE21 5AE on Monday, September 20 at 2.45pm followed by cremation at West

Road Crematorium, Newcastle at 3:45pm.

Article Bill McGuirk 16 September 2010

Comments

- Added: 16/09/2010 16:58:33

George was a most helpful chap always ready to go that extra bit in his efforts for the sport he loved. I was grateful for his advice and help on many occasions regarding athletes, fixtures and many other North East and ECCA topics, your email and phone calls will be missed George. My sympathies to Audrey and his family

By **Robbie Wood**

- Added: 29/09/2010 16:37:52

When i first become secretary for Alnwick Harriers,i was grateful of Georges help, he was never to busy to give advise, and we would often talk about his days as an Alnwick Harrier, i would often meet George and Audrey in Alnwick when on his visits to the area, he will be sadly missed, i will say a pray for Audrey and his Family.

By **Audrey Stewart**

- Added: 07/10/2010 19:38:44

I have just returned from holiday to sadly hear of George. Audrey and family, our thoughts are with you at this time. George was one of the most helpful people I have ever met in athletics. Nothing, was ever too much trouble and he always had a smile and encouragement to go with any advice that he offered you. He will be sorely missed in North East Athletics.

By **Peter Embleton**