

Les Williams Obituary 15 June 2011

Les Williams 1927-2011

A gentleman and a gentle man

Les Williams, a permanent feature of Liverpool Pembroke and later Liverpool Pembroke and Sefton for decades. A meticulous administrator, official and coach he was a credit to his club, county and to the sport generally. Although his background was distance running with Victoria Park Harriers he came north and took to coaching the high jump and hurdles in particular. He was renowned for his technical expertise and had an extensive library he had clearly studied in detail. The many athletes he coached will recall his knowledge, commitment and empathy.



As a colleague in the club he was utterly loyal and reliable and took on many routine and onerous tasks cheerfully. He particularly loved the Scouse humour and repartee of Merseyside and chuckle at the banter. He never jumped to immediate conclusions but would mull things over before presenting a carefully thought through case. I miss his advice. He represented for me the finest elements of athletics, the old fashioned Corinthian spirit, sadly in decline.

He was above all else a gentleman and a gentle man.

My thoughts go out to his wife Brenda.

Charles Gains, Chair LPS

Funeral Details

Tuesday 14th June at 11.30am at [St.Michaels Cof E Church, Church Lane, Aughton, L39 6SB](#)

The church is located just off the A59 in Aughton at the junction of St.Michaels Road & Church Lane.

Comments

- Added: 01/06/2011 14:30:05

A coach and administrator of great quality never shy from taking on responsibility Les was a regular at local events. County treasurer for many years and then later President of Merseyside County AA as well as being President of Liverpool Pembroke Sefton until his illness forced him to step down in 2009. Thoughtful and

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wise are my lasting memories of this very giving man. It was great a privilege to have known Les

By **Robbie Wood**

- Added: 01/06/2011 20:41:52

I was devastated to hear of Les Williams passing away. He was a cornerstone of LPS&SH AC, and devoted his whole life to athletics, both as a coach and administrator of the highest level. All those lucky enough to have associated with Les have lost not only a great clubman but a friend. All our thoughts go out to Brenda his wife, in her tragic loss.... We will sorely miss him... Dave McComb Snr, and family.

By **Dave McComb Snr**

- Added: 03/06/2011 14:29:42

The wise words that Les spoke will not be forgotten and his help when I was a newcomer in officiating. May he rest in peace. Margaret

By **Margaret Crompton**

- Added: 03/06/2011 20:52:26

During the 80's and 90's, Les was one of the special coaches, which made Kirkby Stadium a great place for athletics. With interest in Combined Events, helped produce athletes such as Linda Wong(4594) Alex Kruger(8131) Steve Rogers(7295) Steve Garlnd(6676) from Pembroke and Merseyside. Sad Loss

By **Robert Mckenna**

- Added: 05/06/2011 18:39:35

Although Les was one generation prior to my involvement with Victoria Park Harriers(London) I had the privilege of meeting him, both in London and whilst I was living in Bolton. May we add our condolences and remember him in every way our Northern Colleagues have already mentioned - he was a fine man and great ambassador for our sport

By **Major Carr**

- Added: 05/06/2011 23:05:20

It was sad to receive the e-mail from Charles Gains about Les passing away. He was a quiet unassuming gentleman. On behalf of my club and as Chair' of Merseyside County AA I wish to add our condolences to Les's family and all at LPS.

By **Arwel Wiliams (Taff)**

- Added: 07/06/2011 12:46:08

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I first met Les when I joined Victoria Park Harriers in 1948. We were both club athletes enjoying our chosen sport. Both of us attended coaching courses at the CCPR in London and had the ability to pass on our knowledge and experience to younger promising athletes. In 1962 I moved to Switzerland and a couple of years later Les moved to the Liverpool area. We both continued doing what we liked best, namely, coaching. We kept in regular contact by letter, meetings and phone until the last phone call from me on 9th March this year. I knew the health of Les had deteriorated and a few minutes after Brenda has filled me in on his condition, she asked me whether I would like to speak to him. I said yes. She showed him a photo of me which helped trigger off with whom he was going to talk to. By recalling little things from the past, I rekindled some of his memories but he was having difficulties finding the right words. I am so pleased I made the call and when Brenda took the phone again, she said she had never seen him so cheerful and perky for a long, long time. My call did both of them good, which in turn did me good. I did not believe it would be the last call to Les so I am so pleased I made it. At this very sad moment in time, my wife Gerda send Brenda our heartfelt condolences and wish her much strength. Ken Prevost (Victoria Park Harriers and Leichtathletik Club Schaffhausen)

By **Ken Prevost**

- Added: 08/06/2011 17:59:05

Les was a very modest, humble man. Indeed I must have known him almost 30 years before I discovered through my research of LPS, that he had coached one of the country's best long jumpers, Geoff Hignett, in the 1970's. When I asked him about this he pondered for a few moments (as was his way, Les never spoke in haste) and merely said, "Not bad, could have been a reasonable sprinter too". That was Les to a 'T', never prone to hyperbole his thoughts and deeds were always preceded by measured consideration. His quiet demeanour disguised a depth of knowledge, built over the years, which would be the envy of many today. He gave countless young athletes a solid grounding in athletics but made in greatest mark on two multi-eventers. Steve Rogers was both an indoor and outdoor AAA's Champion; Alex Kruger went to two Olympic Games and is still no 3 on the British all-time list. Behind them all was a quiet man who never stood out in a crowd, the way a good coach should be.

By **Dave Brown**

- Added: 12/06/2011 20:26:21

A true athletics gentleman, he encouraged and took interest in athletes regardless of what club they represented.

By **Joe & Mike Ehlen**