

Vera Duerdin Obituary 16 February 2013

The death of Vera Duerdin on the 4th February 2013 signalled an end to a 60 year involvement in athletics. Vera's life in athletics began in 1950/51 when, as a teenager, she joined Bury & Radcliffe AC as a competing athlete.



Her administrative career began when she became secretary of the club's ladies section and then eventually the whole club – a post she held up until her death.

Other posts that Vera held over the years include Lancashire/Gtr Manchester committee member; various North of England AA committees including Cross Country, Road Running, Eligibility and the Management Board alongside her husband Lawson, who was the Vice Chair of the

NoEAA for over 10 years.

As a team manager for both England and Great Britain, Vera accompanied teams to events throughout the world and she gained places on the Women's AAA and the English Cross Country Association – occupying the post of Championship Secretary for both the 'National' and the National Relays.

Vera was a former President of both the North of England AA and the ECCA and recently received awards from England Athletics and the North

West region for her long service and contribution to athletics.

In addition to her lofty administrative posts Vera never lost sight of her duties to Bury AC, and devoted many hours to the development of both the club and the young athletes in her care, she was always looking for new ways to maintain their interest and further opportunities for the youngsters of Bury.

Vera will be remembered with great fondness by the many people she has supported and encouraged over the years and by the athletics network throughout the country.

Comments

- Added: 15/02/2013 20:07:11

Thank you Vera for looking after us on all those running trips abroad, you knew the rules! Also for trusting us to do our own thing for training etc etc. You even made me a pair of red shorts when I couldn't get any. I hope you are with Lawson having a chuckle. Very sad to hear this news, Jill xx

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By **Jill Harrison nee Clarke**

- Added: 25/02/2013 04:30:24

In the four decades I knew Vera Duerdin she became one of the very few people I learned to admire in our sport. My initial hostility was worn away by her sincerity and kindness as I realised just how much time and energy she put into athletics and, by definition, into service to others. Vera was never condescending, always honest and was able to meet criticism with a disarming, 'Well what would you do Phil?' Inevitably the answer was an endorsement of the action she had already taken. She also had a sense of humour which expressed itself with wry comments which never descended into sarcasm. She faced her illness in recent years with determination undertaking a round of hospitals which would have worn out many others. My sympathy to her friends, of whom there are many and may she rest in peace.

By **Dr Phil Thomas**