

PETER GRIFFIN

1933-2010

Peter Griffin was a well-known personality involved in athletics in the Bristol area. A former Welsh International and one of the founder members of the Avon County Amateur Athletic Association, he contributed enormously to athletics for over six decades

As soon as he joined Westbury Harriers in 1949, he immediately entered the club's record book as a junior 220yds runner in a Medley Mile Relay. In 1951 he won the junior 440yds at the Midlands Counties Championships, running for the first time on a cinder track at Perry Barr. His only defeat that season was also at Perry Barr in the AAA Junior 440yds. He excelled again as part of the club team that won another Medley Mile Relay at the Wiltshire Police sports. That time he ran the 440 leg.

In 1954 Peter also took to running in the 880yds and continued winning the 440 for the next seven years. He also recorded several wins at the longer distance.

Following the disappointment of not being selected for the 1958 Commonwealth Games, he went to the Welsh Championships at Cardiff in the following year and won the 880yds.

In 1960 he lost his Welsh half mile title but by coming second was selected for the Welsh AAA versus the English AAA at Abertillery. During this period, he was also successful in an event not often run nowadays, the 660yds. In 1961 he represented Wales in the Welsh games at Cardiff, competing against the former Olympic champion Ron Delaney.

After a period of 12 active years of competition, 1949 to 1961, Peter then started to make a name for himself in the management of Westbury Harriers. This led to his election to Life Membership of the club in 1979 while continuing as club Chairman. In 1974 he was also one of the founder members of the Avon County Amateur Athletic Association. At the second AGM in February 1977 he was elected Vice Chairman and continued in this position for the next six years. He was elected Chairman in 1983, the second person to hold that position, following in Fred Hill's footsteps, who was promoted to President. For his services to the County Association, he was made a Life Vice President in 1986 and a Trustee in 1988 while continuing as one of the regular attendees at committee meetings. He was also a Life Member of Westbury Harriers. Peter was nominated by Ray Gooding, the then Secretary of Avon AA, for Honorary Life membership of the MCAA in 1996 which pleased him greatly when it was granted. He was elected President of the Avon Athletic Association in 1999. Peter was certainly not averse to making his opinions known, a very useful asset in our current society. His versatility as an athlete on the track has subsequently been matched by his management expertise and the authorship of a book documenting the history of Westbury Harriers. Peter was also a technical official (track); although in later years, despite a limp, he seemed to be very mobile and was often seen in a variety of places about the track!

RAY GOODING