

Arwel Williams

Arwel (or "Taff" as he is known to most of us) was born in 1958 at Tywyn in Gwynedd, but came to work in Liverpool in 1975. He already had a background in athletics, having represented his County in the Welsh Schools Championships as a 100m sprinter.

He followed a well-trodden route when he went training with the Harriers during the regular Club evenings during the summer at the Liverpool University track at "Wyncote" on Mather Avenue.

After a few years, largely due to a new working role which involved shift work, Arwel drifted away from athletics and played cricket for many years. But around 1990 he returned to the sport when, like many parents, he took his eldest son to a Club training session at Wavertree, although this was before our Clubhouse was constructed. Also like many parents, Arwel soon became involved in LHAC, giving his time to "back room" work. Then, after the Clubhouse was opened in 1993, he and his wife and other parents started the Harriers shop.

It was just a matter of time before his enthusiasm, diligence, and sheer doggedness took him into a succession of roles. Working alongside Ernie Gallagher (or, as Taff says, "as Ernie's understudy") he became a Middle Distance Coach and also managed several Club teams at young athlete and at senior levels.



Ernie clearly taught his understudy well, and would have been pleased with the legacy of precision and dedication that continued after Ernie's death. Arwel became a strong co-ordinator within the Club, and has held the post of Secretary since 1997. Even with that workload, he still finds time for regular coaching and for team management. He even had the time and initiative to launch the Liverpool Harriers web site several years ago.

But if you were to think Arwel is fully occupied with his Club responsibilities, you would be wrong. Apart from his "day job", where he has worked in a Law Enforcement Agency for the past 36 years, he is part of the management team of both the Merseyside AA and the Merseyside Athletics Network.



If you go to any athletic meeting around the area, you are likely to see Arwel officiating - be it cross-country, road relays, or a track and field meeting - and his list of formal qualifications to date is somewhat impressive. He began coaching Middle Distance runners, for which he has a Level 3 qualification, but is also a National level Field Judge and Endurance Official (Level 3), and is qualified in Track Judging and Time Keeping (Level 2). Most recently, at the Northern Athletics AGM, he was appointed to their Board which oversees the way cross-country develops in the North.

Reflecting the way sporting activities have to be managed today, he has also gained qualifications as a Tutor in Endurance/Health and Safety and Risk Assessment.

People who put in this amount of time and effort deserve recognition within their sport. Arwel is already highly- respected by those who know him, and is seen quite often in the background of TV shots at major meetings. But the Olympic year 2012 sees him selected as an official on the biggest stage of the lot. We look forward to seeing him alongside the greats of athletics at the London Games.

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