

Dave Evans

The quietly spoken athlete has now been with the Club for over 40 years. He was a member of the Club's elite 1970s road relay squad, taking the responsibility of running the important first leg. Since retiring from racing, he has taken on a new responsibility: coaching the Club's senior men's middle distance group.

Dave was born on the 7th January 1953, and brought up in Liverpool. He was educated at Hillfoot Hey School, where he took part in a number of sports, including football and tennis, but began to take athletics seriously when he won the School cross-country, at 15 years of age, and started training more.

He joined the Club in 1969 and, like many youngsters over many years, came under the influence of Tom O'Mahoney in his early days. He didn't have a coach as such but, when he joined the Club's senior group, he took some advice from Frank Davies, who was also a training partner. Dave competed at events from 5km to the marathon. Although only 5ft 7ins tall, he had a solid frame. Strength and pace judgment derived from hard training were his fort .

He first showed real promise in the Lancashire Junior Cross-Country Championships, earning his place in the Lancashire team that won the Inter-Counties Team Championship. The young clerk had a seven day training schedule unless racing, when he took one or two off, depending on the importance of the race. He started to perform well in local races, and matured into a quality road athlete. He broke into the elite senior squad in 1973, in the Club's Luton-to-Bedford Road Relay victory of that autumn.

In the spring of 1974, Dave played his part in the Northern 12 Stage Road Relay victory at Blackpool's Stanley Park, which kicked off the Club's most successful relay era, and cemented Dave's place in the team. Later that year, he ran a classy first leg in the Northern 6 stage at Cleethorpes, mature beyond his years, giving the team a small lead, which grew all the way to the end. A few weeks later, Dave was to help the squad bring an AAA title to the Club for the first time since 1885, when he ran the first leg at the AAA 6 Stage at Wimbledon against strong opposition, keeping the team well in contention, on the way to a final victory by 42secs. He ran even better the next year, again on the first stage, when the Club retained the title. Over the next few years he helped the team to many other victories at local, Lancashire, and Northern level, plus silver medals at National level.

Nicknamed 'little Dave' ('big Dave' Evans had joined the Club from Sefton Harriers), he showed a big heart and a cool head when running with the relay squad. But some excellent individual performances also figured among his highlights, such as finishing second to Terry Cotton in the Frodsham Hill Race, becoming the youngest winner of the Freckleton Half-Marathon, and third in the tough, highly-rated Barnsley Marathon.

Married and living in the Woolton area, this loyal Club coach is now bringing the knowledge and experience of his competition days to good effect, and is much appreciated throughout the Club.

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