

## **COLIN WATTERSON**

Colin, Brenda, Members & Friends.

Firstly may I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express on your behalf our Appreciation Respect and Affection that we all feel for Colin, who is to step down as Chairman of our club after 32 years.

He and Gordie Brew at Western Athletics are the longest serving Chairmen of any Athletic Club in Great Britain.

32 years is a fantastic record and by my reckoning that is chairing around 320 committee meetings, officiating at hundreds of events as well as all the behind the scene duties that goes with the job. He has nurtured and welcomed many new members onto his committee.

At events he has always been there to encourage members as they competed and also he was the first to show his appreciation and thanks to Marshalls Timekeepers and Volunteers who have turned out to help run the event.

I would also like to thank Brenda for being there to support Colin and the club over the last 32 years, for all the times she has marshalled, for all the gallons of tea she has made and for all the mind blowing lap scoring she has done.

The most memorable meeting Colin chaired was in 2007 the A.G.M. at St Johns football club. Collin arrived with a bit of a limp but dismissed our concerns and went on with the meeting. It was only when the business had been completed that Marie Jackson investigated further and it transpired that the draw bar of his trailer had fallen onto his foot. Marie made it quite clear that he must go straight to A&E. He was admitted with a badly broken foot and a long recovery followed. But Hey Ho the Vets A.G.M. had to come first.

The Respect we have for Colin as an Athlete is well earned, excuse the cliché but he can Walk the Walk, Run the Run and Jump the Jump.

Colin won his first athletic championship at School in the first half of the last century at primary school. More athletic awards followed at Castle Rushen High School plus 12 wins in the 100yards flat race at the Laa Columb Killey. He was captain of Rushen United second team and won a Railway cup medal when he played for the first team.

Colin competed in the Pentathlon at the European Veteran Championships in Helsinki in 1980 and again in 1984 in Brighton and Crawley. In Helsinki he also competed in the High Jump and the 100 meters.

Colin also competed in the British Veterans Decathlon Championships at Loughborough University 4 times and twice at Cosford.

May I remind you of some of his local achievements:

1972 Won New Years Day Cross Country at Nobles Park

1979 Member of the winning team in T.T. relay walk (vets)

Twice Island Veteran Cross Country Champion

Twice Island Veterans Fell Running Champion

Island Veterans Champion at 100mtr. 200mtr. Long Jump, Triple jump, High jump, Javelin and discus.

Winner of the North Barrule fell race

Winner of the Douglas Street Mile Twice (vets)

Winner of the Western A.C. Cross Country league (vets)

Winner of the Douglas Firemen's league

Completed the Manx Mountain Marathon eleven times in eleven starts

Completed the Ind Coup Triathlon half mile swim, 40 mile cycle, 9 mile run.

Member of the I.O.M. Athletic Association for 13 years.

There was one Mountain Marathon though that must be worth a mention. We can only assume that Colin must have had a particularly hard day on the farm the previous day. Well he stopped for a sleep or was he just giving the others a bit of a chance? After all his best time was just over 6 hours. We must ask him where exactly he decided to take a kip.

The affection we have for Colin is because he is a real Gentleman as well as a Sportsman. Speaking to many of you over the last few days I'm beginning to think there is enough here for a book. If Sir Alex and Cav can do it why not Colin? We may all have a copy next Christmas, Colin Watterson Farmer Athlete Philosopher, and on the cover there he is in the now famous Helsinki Red Trackey

He has set the Vets Quiz each year when we have had our dinners

Told the odd dubious joke.

Treated us to his memories of growing up around the Sound area, when he took us for a Vets day out on the Calf of Man

Hosted the Chairman's Sports at the Farm at Ballakilpheric in Jubilee year.

But my favourite Colin story ever comes from Brenda:-

In 1974 Brenda had just moved to the Island to be with Colin. Colin, Dave Anderson, Steve Higgins and Neil Taylor had competed in and won the 4 x 400 mtr. relay at the Rivington cup meeting in Bolton, setting a new Manx record.

Brenda was working at Giibson's Pharmacy in Onchan. So off she went to buy the Green Final and brought it back to the shop. And there they were the winning team.

Colin with Hair and Beard doing their own thing---A bad hair day by any standard.

As Brenda was perusing the photo her colleague came up to gaze over her shoulder, and with a sharp intake of breath pointed at Colin and said Oh Good God imagine waking up next to that in the morning.

The paper was closed Brenda just nodded and said nothing. It's not often that Brenda is lost for words.

It only remains for me to say – Thank you Colin.