

Colin Watterson, 70 years old on 29th April 2008. Written by himself.

Won first title in first half of last century when in 1949 he was athletics champion of Rushen Primary School winning the high jump and all the running races. When at Castle Rushen High School he was the Middle School Champion on sports day. He was a regular member of the school football team, which went undefeated for several years and also won the School Shield Trophy. He went on to play football for Rushen United winning a junior cup medal and a Railway cup medal. He also captained the Combination team.

No athletics until he was 32 years old, which is the time he may well have been at his best apart from Laa Columb Killey annual sports where he won the Sam Parry Cup eleven times. During the 1960s and 1970s he frequently won the parishioners 100 yards, open 100 yds, 200 yds, quarter and half mile races. After giving up football and being inspired by Peter Mac's accounts of cross country races for the local paper, he joined Manx Athletics Club, and in his first winter was runner up to Steve Kelly in the cross-country league. He then competed for several years for Manx AC in the North of England men's league, doing as many events as possible to gain points. These included pole vault, high jump, discus, hammer, steeplechase, long jump, triple jump and relay. When at the Rivington Cup meeting at Bolton the Manx AC team of Dave Anderson, Steve Higgins, Neil Taylor and Colin won the 4 x 400 m relay in a then new Manx record time and they each received a commemorative spoon.

In 1979 (Manx Millenium Year) one person from each sport on the island was awarded a Millenium shield and Colin was given the one for athletics. In 1980 the IOM Veteran Athletes' Club was formed and being interested in multi-events Colin entered the European Veterans' Championship, which took place in the Helsinki Olympic stadium, where he came 8th in the Pentathlon. The standard was high as a 52 second 400 metres would not have got you in the first six. He made many friends there and still gets Christmas cards each year. He was asked to take part in the British Veterans' Decathlon Championships in Loughborough and he progressed from 7th place in the first year to 6th, then 5th, and 4th. He was very pleased when awarded the British Veteran Athletic Federation Decathlon tracksuit badge. He also took part in the 1984 European veterans Championship in Brighton when, in the first event of the Pentathlon, which was the long jump, he tore a hamstring and had to have ice packs between events and physiotherapy and heavy strapping. What pleased him most was coasting the 200m in 27 seconds and going on to take second place in the 1500m behind an East German who clocked something like 4 ½ minutes but the injury cost valuable points and a finish half way down the field was all that could be expected. He also later went to Cosford for the British Vets Indoor Track and Field Championship where he took the bronze medal position in the Pentathlon.

Some other results:

1972 Won New Years Day Cross country at Nobles Park

1979 Member of winning team in TT relay walk (vets)

Twice Island Veterans cross-country champion

Twice Island Veteran Fell running champion

Island veteran champion at 100m, 200m, long jump, triple jump, high jump, javelin and discus.

Winner of North Barrule fell race

Winner of Douglas Street mile twice (vets)

Winner Western A.C. cross-country league vets

Winner Douglas Firemen's league

Completed Manx Mountain Marathon eleven times in eleven starts

Completed Inde Coupe Triathlon - ½ mile swim, 40 mile cycle, 9 mile run.

Member of IOM Athletic Association for 13 years.