



THE ISLE OF MAN VETERAN ATHLETES' CLUB



Affiliated to IOMAA, NEAA & BMAF

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Hon. Sec.	Lesley Christian	Hon. Treasurer	Gill Churcher
Committee members:	Sarah Goldsmith, Mike Gellion, Robbie Lambie, Enid Watson, Jock Waddington, Vinny Lynch		
Race Secretary	Marie Jackson.	Hon. Auditor	Ian Turnbull
Marathon organiser	Christine Bathgate	Membership Sec.	Peter Cooper
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Official course measurer and collator of the Running Shield	Alan Postlethwaite		
Collator of the Racewalking League	Robbie Lambie		

Welcome to new committee member Vinny Lynch who has come to join us.

New members: Welcome to Christina Morgan and to Russ Bevan who both ran in the Spring Handicap, and to Neil Cushing, David Findlay, Alison Corlett and Helen Cullen.

Vets in action He may be Minister for Transport but he does very well on his own two feet. Dave Anderson recently won 2 medals at the **British Master Athletics Federation Championships**. He got the silver medal in the 400m in 55.76 secs and the bronze in the 800 metres in 2.12.86, only one second behind the silver medallist. Dave moves up an age group soon, so watch this space. Marie Jackson and Michael George took part in the 50 km **Racewalking Championships** in Stockton on Tees last weekend with great success: Marie took gold in the ladies' race in 5:37.32 and Michael took silver in the mens' with 5:06.45.

London results: Well done all our FLM runners despite the weather. The 3 holders of Club places all did very well. Phil Motley finished in 3:56.35, Lesley Christian in 4:31.08, and Wendy Sandford in 4:34.13. Other Club finishers were: Alan Kelly 3:54.27, Mo Kelly 5:06.42, Lynne Quine 4:29.35, Sue Ackroyd 4:55.21, Martin Bell 3:56.35, Bethany Clague 4:15.48, Moira Hall 4:29.35, Geoff Hall 5:04.27, Ian Callister 5:00.55, Richard Radcliffe 3:19.37. Dave Quine was unfortunately taken ill with food poisoning and dnf. Commiserations to Dave, take a packed lunch from home next time. Gail Griffiths ran the **Blackpool marathon** in 92:11, which is a pb and made her 87th overall and 8th woman and 4th veteran woman.

Stan Sille was recently 12th in the **Nacht von Loon** 15 hour walk in the Netherlands. He covered 115.75 km which is an increase of 6 km over last year.

UK racewalk rankings 2007: If you haven't seen them in your Masters Athletics magazine received recently, look on page 31 and you will be surprised by the number of Manx walkers. We're definitely the racewalking capital of the world! Also, look at Ady Cowin's excellent coverage on our Club website.

OBITUARY Sadly, It has not all been celebrations and achievements. It was with great shock and sorrow that we heard of the sudden death of Brian Goldsmith at the Easter weekend. Brian was one of the most popular members of the club, always friendly, enthusiastic and encouraging to others. He was also a sportsman of note, having run a sub 3 hour marathon, and a sub 60 minute 10 mile. Later he took up racewalking due to injury and completed the End to End walk in 8:23.16. His 10 km times varied between 61 and 62 minutes and he completed the Syd Quirk half marathon racewalk in 2:19.16 and the Peel to Douglas 10 mile walk in 101.30. A minute's silence was held for Brian at the Spring Handicap. Brian will be much missed by many people. Our thoughts are very much with Sandie and all the family as they face the prospect of rebuilding their lives without him.

Happy birthday Colin! I don't usually do birthdays, they are the preserve of that old git Peter Mac, but on 29 April our long standing Chairman celebrated his 70th birthday. Colin has had a long and distinguished athletics career, read about it further on in this newsletter, and see the many photos on our website.

Next year, on 14 November 2009, our Club will be hosting the British Veteran Cross Country Championships, which will probably be held on the Pulrose course. It is intended to form a sub-committee to run this event, with, of course, the co-operation and help of the main committee. If you are interested, please get in touch with any committee member.

Club fixtures

10 August	Salclear Marathon and ½ marathon	21 September	Ramsey Bakery End to End Walk
31 August	Union Mills Garage Open 20 km walk	23 October	Blackrock Vets Autumn handicap
2 November	Haldane Fisher Syd Quirk ½ marathon		

SALCLEAR ISLE OF MAN MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON 10 August

Enter now: Don't leave it til the last minute! Entry forms and full details on our website, or if you would like a printed copy through the post, get in touch with Christine Bathgate, Telephone 880483

24 February Arthur Jones Fell race MFR

This 15 mile course replaced the old Bradda Fell race but still included the dreadful climb to the summit of Cronk-ny-Airee-La the hard way.

8. Rob Holden	2:39.48	20. Dave Salter	3:42.46
10. Rob Sellors	2:42.04	21. Paul Trees	3:53.59
11. Rob Webb	2:44.04	22. Lewis Veale	4:00.14
13. Dave Young	2:55.29	24. Dave Quine	4:27.14
14. Ian Callister	3:00.08	26. Geoff Hall	4:27.20
17. Graham Stigant	3:07.48	27. Gareth Evans	4:27.41
19. Roger Moughtin	3:26.12		

1 March HSBC Securities Services Manx Harriers Open Walks and 10 km run NSC

<i>5km walk</i>		<i>10 km walk</i>	
8. Henry de Silva	35.23	2. Vinny Lynch	62.09
10. Brian Brough	40.58	5. Bethany Clague	71.53
<i>20km walk</i>			
5. Peter Kaneen	1:39.57	10. Jock Waddington	1:49.53
6. Michael George	1:40.45	11. Chris Cale	1:55.23
<i>10km run</i>			
10. Kevin Deakes	39.56	23. Garry Ross	45.58
11. Neil Wilson	40.18	24. Wendy Ross	46.36
12. Alan Postlethwaite	40.52	26. Alan Pilling	47.30
13. Graham Stigant	41.09	27. Martin Bell	48.15
14. Mike Gellion	41.10	29. Simon Cox	49.03
16. Gail Griffiths	41.38	30. Geoff Hall	49.42
18. Barry Moore	42.07	31. Bethany Clague	51.20
22. Dave Anderson	45.53		

6 March Ramsey Bakery Firemans runs final round Ramsey

<i>3 laps</i>		<i>Actual times</i>		<i>One lap</i>		<i>Actual times</i>	
3. Lesley Christian	42.02	2. Miriam Kelly	14.01				
4. Richard Radcliffe	32.14	9. Stan Hall	11.59				
6. Dave Quine	41.18	11. Kevin Vondy	9.24				
9. Wendy Sandford	42.48	18. Kevin Deakes	10.38				
10. Barry Moore	32.15						
13. Moira Hall	41.48	<i>Final league positions</i>		<i>1 lap</i>			
14. Stephen Brown	32.47						
18. Alan Pilling	38.49	9. Miriam Kelly	319 points				
20. Mike Gellion	32.32	11. Kevin Vondy	315				
21. Geoff Hall	39.35	12. Stan Hall	314				
23. Ray Pitts	36.47						
25. James Bishop	34.23						

Final league positions 3 laps

2. Lesley Christian	349 points	9. James Bishop	268
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3. Dave Quine	320	10. Steve Wilmott	267
5. Richard Radcliffe	295	11. Geoff Hall	266
7. Moira Hall	286	12. Alan Pilling	264
8. Barry Moore	284		
Fastest woman of the league Gail Griffiths		32.27	

9 March IOMVAC Leinster Management open 20 mile race NSC

This pre-marathon run attracted 36 entrants, 32 of whom finished the race.

4. Rob Sellors	2:11.13	24. Bethany Clague	3:01.34
8. Richard Radcliffe	2:20.57	25. Lesley Christian	3:11.52
9. Robb Webb	2:21.57	26. Wendy Sandford	3:13.18
10. Neil Wilson	2:24.11	27. Moira Hall	3:14.32
11. Phil Motley	2:25.37	28. Gareth Evans	3:15.05
12. Stephen Brown	2:25.43	29. Pat Blackburn	3:15.10
14. Alan Kelly	2:38.45	30. Dave Quine	3:17.37
19. Martin Bell	2:55.58	31. Lynne Quine	3:19.53
20. Michael George	2:57.59	32. Maureen Kelly	3:31.36
22. Alan Pilling	2:59.41		

21 – 23 March Easter Athletics Festival

The weather was horrible for the sporting weekend, causing some competitors' boat journeys to be delayed so that they missed races and the marshals and helpers were very uncomfortable in spite of being padded out to look like telly tubbies.

Friday 21 March 10 km road race at Port Erin Men

48. Kevin Vondy	37.58	83. Barry Moore	42.35
52. John Holden	38.31	87. Stephen Brown	43.53
61. Paul Cubbon	39.50	90. Les Brown	44.23
69. James Bishop	40.55	92. Lewis Veale	44.33
73. Kevin Deakes	41.11	100. Dave Anderson	47.37
77. Richard Radcliffe	42.03	103. Garry Ross	48.08
78. Terry Bates	42.06	105. Alan Pilling	49.26

Women

18. Gail Griffiths	42.57	48. Wendy Sandford	55.00
28. Sally Walker	46.51	49. Lesley Christian	55.02
31. Wendy Ross	47.39	56. Pat Blackburn	57.37
32. Bridget Kaneen	48.16	57. Miriam Kelly	57.37
44. Bethany Clague	52.04	61. Sue Furner	60.28

Saturday 22 March Peel Hill Race

64. John Holden	26.52	Women	
79. James Bishop	28.28	20. Gail Griffiths	20.06
92. Barry Moore	30.50	42. Sally Walker	22.52
96. Les Brown	31.35	44. Bridget Kaneen	23.17
102. Simon Cox	33.47		
104. Alan Pilling	34.27		

22 March Manx Mountain Marathon

18. Rob Sellors	5:42.13
33. Robbie Callister	6:26.27
52. Ian Callister	6:57.31
98. Gareth Evans	8:26.43
105. Dave Quine	8:45.19
112. Mike Gellion	9:47.05
113. Roey Crellin	9:47.09
113. Alison Brand	9:47.09
114. David Doyle	9:47.09

Half Marathon

9. Rob Holden	2:04.59
11. Dave Young	2:08.23
14. Roger Moughtin	2:22.07
18. Lewis Veale	2:28.32
31. Geoff Hall	2:58.35
33. Lorraine Stigant	3:00.54
40. Rob Gillanders	3:15.57
42. Moira Hall	3:18.15

Thanks to Blackrock Fund Managers and Dave Nixon for photocopying without charge and help with the posting.

23 March 5 km relays and races Douglas Promenade – individual times

Men

67. John Holden	18.41
81. James Bishop	19.37

Women

21. Gail Griffiths	20.06
49. Bridget Kaneen	22.59

93. Barry Moore 21.06
110. Geoff Hall 24.16

54. Bethany Clague 23.37

27 March Blackrock Veterans Spring Handicap walk and run NSC

Entries were not quite as good as hoped for these two races, due to injuries and general feeble excuses. There was a visitor from Northern Ireland in the walking race, a German gentleman Norbert Will, who has raced on the island before. (These races are open to registered veterans from all over.)

5 km walk Actual times

1. Simon Cox	28.45	7. John Stubbs	29.22
2. Liz Adams	42.24	8. Vinny Lynch	28.22
3. Dave Tasker	34.44	9. Norbert Will	30.40
4. Margy Killey	33.04	10. Alan Kinvig	32.09
5. Jock Waddington	23.58	11. Jane Mooney	32.58
6. Ian Callister	29.36		

6 mile run Actual times

1. Debbie Loader	45.25	12. Moira Hall	50.06
2. Russ Bevan	49.51	13. Andy Fox	35.06
3. Lesley Christian	50.46	14. Kevin Vondy	35.22
4. Martin Bell	46.08	15. Mike Gellion	39.27
5. Barry Moore	40.44	16. James Bishop	39.27
6. Andrew Lodge	51.08	17. Alan Pilling	47.18
7. Dave Quine	52.45	18. Stephen Brown	39.47
8. Geoff Hall	47.25	19. Peter Cooper	44.23
9. Alan Kelly	43.29	20. Christina Morgan	69.08
10. Wendy Sandford	52.59	21. Alan Postlethwaite	41.31
11. Kevin Deakes	37.40		

30 March HSBC Securities Services IOM 5k walking championships NSC

There was a disappointing turnout for this race.

1. Peter Kaneen 25.05
2. Vinny Lynch 29.10
3. Liz Adams 43.18

5 April Sean Craig & Sons Snaefell fell race

5. Rob Sellors	52.33	25. Geoff Hall	71.43
8. Rob Webb	53.45	28. Dave Quine	79.21
13. Lewis Veale	57.53	30. Lorraine Stigant	87.24
18. Ian Callister	62.04	31. Gareth Evans	87.26
22. Paul Trees	66.09		

6 April Sara Killey Memorial 50 mile walk (formerly known as the Seven Stations Walking Challenge)

This is only the second year of this race but it has already established a tradition - for bad weather. 122 starters suffered rain and sleet, of whom 39 completed the whole route. The joint winners were our own Jock Waddington and Mark Hemsall, who knocked a few seconds of last year's winning time. See Bethany Clague's personal write-up further on.

Finishers

1. Mark Hemsall	9:21.15	<i>Kirk Michael</i>	
1. Jock Waddington	9:21.15	Chris Cale	4:31.38
11. Alan Kinvig	10:49.08	Gordon Corran	4:40.29
14. Bethany Clague	11:03.06	Lisa Motley	4:52.28
17. Mike Gellion	11:36.13	Sue Jewell	6:26.17
21. Maureen Cox	11:47.48	<i>Peel</i>	
21. Simon Cox	11:47.48	Sean Hands	2:47.22
		Michael George	2:52.21
		Marie Jackson	2:58.07
		Jane Mooney	3:13.37
		Vinny Lynch	3:26.30
		Kevin Tasker	4:01.23

Ramsey

48. Sue Biggart	6:05.44		
63. Colin S Moore	8:21.41		

11 April HSBC Ramsey Commissioners Park Runs rd 1 Mooragh Park, Ramsey

This being the first race of the season was a scratch race.

3 laps

1. Kevin Vondy	22.35	25. Dave Corrin	27.44
8. Kevin Deakes	24.31	27. Stan Hall	29.06
11. James Bishop	24.56	29. Alan Bagley	30.16

12. Mike Gellion	25.09	34. Alan Pilling	32.02
16. Stephen Brown	25.44	35. Eddie Brew	32.11
17. Barry Moore	26.19	36. Steve Willmott	32.35
18. Les Brown	26.32	38. Alison Corlett	37.27

18 April Scott Physiotherapy Dave Philips Road race rd 1 WAC

This was the first race of the season and was held on the new course at St Johns. This made the races slightly longer than in previous years, but the course is better and less prone to traffic problems. There was a good turnout, and of course both races were scratch.

4 laps

4. Andy Fox	26.54
11. Kevin Deakes	30.45
13. Alan Postlethwaite	31.31
14. Les Brown	31.57
16. Mike Gellion	32.38
17. Barry Moore	32.40
24. David Griffiths	34.08
25. Alan Kelly	34.15
26. Debbie Loader	34.17
28. Dave Anderson	34.37
29. Ian Callister	34.52
30. Dave Corrin	34.53
31. Garry Ross	35.07
33. David Doyle	35.36

2 laps

1. Kevin Vondy	13.29	34. Stan Hall	35.37
15. Peter Pierce	17.59	35. Peter Cooper	35.38
18. Wendy Sandford	19.36	36. Rob Gillanders	35.43
20. Lesley Christian	19.53	39. Wendy Ross	37.21
21. Neil Cushing	20.13	40. Bethany Clague	37.41
22. Dave Tasker	20.28	43. Geoff Hall	38.48
25. Alison Corlett	21.00	44. Martin Bell	39.08
28. Miriam Kelly	21.25	45. Alan Pilling	39.27
32. Maureen Kelly	22.37	47. Steve Willmott	39.51
33. Ingrid Sugden	22.53	48. Moira Hall	40.39
37. Arnie Jacobs	27.05		

25 April HSBC Ramsey Park runs rd 2 Mooragh Park

These races were handicapped, actual times are given. Good to see Arnie running again.

1 lap

13. Wendy Sandford	14.58	27. Ingrid Sugden	17.37
21. Miriam Kelly	16.50	28. Arnie Jacobs	20.02
23. Maureen Kelly	16.59		

3 laps

3. Geoff Hall	31.18	18. James Bishop	25.30
4. Martin Bell	31.00	20. Kevin Vondy	23.13
5. Dave Griffiths	27.15	22. Mike Gellion	25.56
6. Alan Pilling	31.19	23. Barry Moore	26.59
8. Steve Willmott	32.28	24. Stan Hall	29.41
10. Alan Postlethwaite	25.36	26. Lesley Christian	35.09
12. Ian Callister	27.48	28. Kevin Deakes	25.42
13. Bethany Clague	30.41	30. Dave Corrin	28.55
14. Stephen Brown	26.04	32. Eddie Brew	37.39
16. Richard Radcliffe	26.07		

24 April Ramsey Duathlon: Several members took part in this.

8. Paul Cubbon	1:05.01 (total times)
10. Graham Stigant	1:06.33
20. James Bishop	1:11.19
25. Gill Churcher	1:15.02
30. Ken Watterson	1:20.28

MY CENTENARY OLYMPIC LONDON MARATHON, April 13th 2008

By Bethany Clague.

This race commemorated the 1908 London Olympic Marathon and the official race distance. After 3 years of applying unsuccessfully for a place through the ballot, my fourth attempt resulted in a place.

I decided, as this would be my seventh marathon, I would run in a costume. I wanted to be able to run easily and quickly so a womble or banana was out. I opted for a pirate. As the bodice was far too big, I

stitched it to my sports bra. The skirt was cut as it was far too long and I wore my lycra running shorts underneath and over the black-and-white striped tights with skull-and-crossbones on. The tights were a little short and I knew they were likely to chafe, if not disintegrate! I had black and white cuffs, a pirate choker and a skull-and-crossbones bandana, to which I added a pirate flag and a Manx flag. I abandoned the eye patch as my eyesight is bad enough anyway! The obligatory 'red laces for hearts' finished the attire. I also rejected the cutlass due to security issues, but a multi-coloured parrot, called 'Percy', velcro'd to my left shoulder added extra interest. I ran a mile on my treadmill in my costume to test it out, as I was too embarrassed to be seen outside in Onchan! I hoped the parrot would not peck my left cheek to pieces as my left arm moved back and forth!

I arrived in London on Friday 11th April and collected my race no. 16995, for the blue start in zone 8, my kitbag and my timing chip, from the exhibition centre at ExCel. This was large with many stands – running merchandise of all kinds, charities, running organisations and a pasta party.

On Sunday, at 8am, David and Ernie left me at London Bridge, to find a café, and I headed off with thousands of runners for the start. It was confusing as to which platform to go to, as the trains were going to the different starts – red, green and blue, and I needed blue -Blackheath. I stood waiting on platform 5 with 200 runners as a train pulled up. The doors opened to reveal runners packed like sardines inside! Nobody was going to get on! An announcement said there was another train at platform 2. I ran across to find an empty train! I got a seat and the train pulled off five minutes later without it being crowded!

Arriving at Blackheath I followed runners to the blue start. After queuing up for half an hour for a portaloos, I gave up as the queue had hardly moved and it was 9.15am. (I know that every portaloos in South-East England was at the London Marathon – at the start or on the course at every 2 miles. There were also urinals for men.) I handed my kitbag in and found zone 8 – near the back as there are only 9 zones! I did wonder why zone 8, as I thought my predicted time of 4 hrs 30 mins was not that slow. Several runners commented about the parrot, and then talk turned to finishing times etc.

At 9.45am I could see runners running in the distance – we were off. It was warm when the sun was out, but cloudy and threatening rain. The slower runners would get wet. The zones started walking forwards. It took me 9 minutes to cross the start. The hot air balloons were magnificent, and my parrot seemed happy to bob up and down on my shoulder.

It took me about 18 miles to feel like I was running by myself and not being swept down the London streets by a huge wave of runners. It was an amazing experience and the crowds grew and grew in numbers, getting louder, even deafening. I 'hi-fived' with many children. People shouted 'come on pirate-girl!' and 'look at the parrot!' The Manx flag was noticed several times too. At 2 miles I joined the ladies 'squatting' behind the portaloos, as the queue was too long. We all laughed – nowhere else would you experience that! Nobody cared – we were all runners aiming to finish the marathon. We all had the same goal – the camaraderie was great!

The low point was 10 miles – a torrential downpour! Everyone was soaked and the crowds seemed to thin out and were subdued. I took my glasses off, as I could not see anything with them on. My parrot was bedraggled and started losing his feathers! By 12 miles the rain stopped, sun shone, crowds got bigger and I passed the amazing Masai warriors with spears and shields. 'Tower Bridge' was phenomenal – a dream come true. The noise was deafening from the spectators. I waved for the cameras and then took Percy (Parrot) off, as he was trying to break my jaw. I held him for the rest of the way.

The Isle Of Dogs was a wonderful experience. It was very narrow and twisty, surrounded by glass skyscrapers, and full of people cheering. Several times tears ran down my cheeks as I was overcome with emotion. Filled with exhilaration and strength I passed many runners, having to weave my way through them, flags flying behind my head. There were so many drinks stations, several I passed without taking water, and people had jelly babies by the bagful. The underpasses were deafening with cries of 'oggy oggy oggy!'

About 24 miles I hit the embankment, just as the rain then hit me – torrential again. But I knew the end was near. The crowds were enormous, the noise sounding like roaring trains. It drove me towards Westminster. I then was puzzled to not be running down the Mall. The course turned onto ‘Birdcage Walk’, and the Palace loomed ahead. Racing round in front of it, I turned into the Mall to see an amazing sight – the finish gantry! I knew a PB was likely and was delighted to finish in 4 hours 15 mins 48 secs. I had run all the way and finished 9 minutes quicker than the 2007 IOM Marathon, (not bad with a parrot, 2 flags and stripy tights!)

The organisation was superb. The chip was removed, medal awarded, photo taken with a wet Percy, which amused the equally wet photographer, the goody bag and essential space blanket. A celebratory pint with Ernie and David in a very crowded pub was downed before the trip back to the hotel.

I suffered one blister, lots of chafing and very sore quad muscles. Percy is now half bald! On Monday we went back to the finish to see the Palace ‘properly’. There was no sign that the marathon had taken place – no water bottles, water puddles, changing tents or 60,000 people.

The London Marathon was terrific. It was a privilege to be part of a celebration of running life. Each runner had a story; each runner a reason for running London. I ran to celebrate the best 4 years of my life – I have a job, I am physically and mentally well, I am happy, and I achieved my dream – to experience the sound, sights, camaraderie and challenge of the London Marathon.

SARA KILLEY MEMORIAL 50 MILE WALK 2008

(Formerly Seven Stations Challenge)

This walk, taking in the seven fire stations on the IOM, to raise money for the ‘Fire Services National Benevolent Fund’, was held on April 6th 2008. It starts at 8am at Port Erin Station and follows a 50-mile route taking in Castletown, Peel, Kirk Michael, Ramsey, Laxey and finishes at Douglas Fire Station. Competitors can finish at any station and it is an ideal preparatory walk for the Parish Walk in June.

I started with 121 walkers on a cold Sunday with snow melting on the ground. When I reached the top of the Ballamodha Straight it again started snowing, but as I was racewalking I was warm enough! Through St John’s and Patrick the weather turned to hail, hitting me painfully in the face. I reached Peel at 11.35am, ahead of schedule, and Ernie was there to offer me more water and food as he was supporting me for the rest of the way.

After a toilet stop in Ramsey, I was annoyed when no. 37 walker overtook me. This annoyed me intensely and from there to the finish ensued a terrific battle between Michael and myself. I never caught him but came close many times. At Laxey I was really tiring and in pain. I was there at 5.15pm, again well ahead of schedule, and was going to slow down until I heard the amazing news – you’re 3rd lady! I knew I could not let any lady overtake me so I dug my heels in and went for the finish 7 miles away.

The hill down to Whitebridge was excruciating! My feet and legs were in so much pain I had to walk on the balls of my feet. Michael got ahead as I gritted my teeth and prayed! At St Ninian’s a blister I knew nothing about burst on my left heel causing me terrific pain. I limped on and soon Quaterbridge appeared. Ernie got me across the main road safely and I clocked in at Douglas. It had taken me 11 hours 3 mins 6 secs to walk 50 miles. I was delighted! I averaged 4.5 miles an hour the whole way racewalking.

I finished 3rd lady and 14th overall. 122 walkers started with 40 walking the whole way, (of which 14 were ladies). The 2nd lady finished 7 mins ahead of me and the 4th lady was 30 mins behind me, although I was unaware of this during the race. It was very well organised with many firemen marshalling at towns. Even the sun was shining by the end of the afternoon – not a snowflake in sight! *By Bethany Clague.*

Colin Watterson, Club Chairman for 25 years, 70 years old on 29th April 2008

A brief resumé of his athletics career.

Colin won his 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.

Surprisingly, Colin did no regular 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.

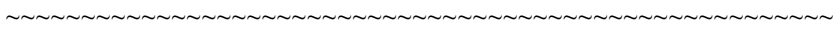
In 1979 (Manx Millennium Year) one person from each sport on the island was awarded a Millennium shield and Colin was given the one for athletics. In 1980 the IOM Veteran Athletes’ Club was formed and being interested in multi-events, Colin entered the European Veterans’ Championship which took place 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 track suit 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 of his 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, 200, 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.

Colin is a full time farmer and has not really retired from sports – he still participates regularly in throwing the wellie, and mud-wrestling with cows .



Thank you for all the articles and photos received. Please keep sending them:- short news items and all photos to Adrian Cowin at metmann@hotmail.com and longer articles to myself.