

Maureen Paxman

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of Maureen Paxman, A past President of Worksop Harriers & AC, a Life Member of the club and very much loved by all who knew her.



18th October, 1940 -- 24th December, 2015

A lifetime in athletics, at the highest level

Maureen's interest in athletics began when she competed as a sprinter and hurdler for Bridlington High School in the Yorkshire schools championships. As she would say 'in the days when Yorkshire was a proper County'.

In the very early 1980s she began her officiating career at the very first indoor athletics open meeting at the Bassetlaw Centre, organised by her husband. She passed all athletics exams with flying colours and with excellent assessment reports became a senior UK track official.

She was Referee, or officiated at all levels of athletics from Notts Mini League and Indoor Sports Hall to local, Midlands and National Leagues as well as County and Midlands Championships. One memorable story from the evening City League related to a paarlauf event. The men, in teams of two, ran 3000m doing half a lap each. It was getting dark, but Maureen spotted that one chap came past twice and asked what he was doing. Between gasps of breath he shouted 'my mate is on nights and has had to go so I'm on my own'.

She attended major televised events, from the World Student Games, Olympic Trials, where she was Clerk of the Course, televised Grand Prix, European Cup and European Indoor Championships.

However, what she loved most of all was grass roots schools competitions in Notts, leading to the major event, which is the English Schools Championships, where she was a technical official for many years.

Maureen also supported Cross Country events. She was a Recorder at the first European Cross Country Championship held at Alwick Castle. She was also Referee for the National Cross Country Relays, was a Judge/Recorder at the men's National Cross Country Championships, a huge competition with over 2000 competitors in one race. She officiated at the Robin Hood Marathon, Worksop Half Marathon, County Cross Country Championships and many other Cross Country, Road Running and Trail Running Races.

On top of all this Maureen supported all the officials in the county by being the Notts Officials Secretary for many years.

She was also involved in education and training of officials by organising courses long before UK Athletics took over this role.

She was Minute Secretary, then Secretary of the Track and Field Committee. Meeting Manager for the very first joint Notts and Derby Track and Field Championships. A Past President and Life Member of Worksop Harriers and was also awarded Life Membership of the Midlands Athletics Association.

Finally, Maureen's legacy is that our County has well trained officials and young athletes who have gone on to represent their County and Country.