

## **Mike Doyle - A Life in Athletics**

The athletics world knew Mike best as a leading officer of Warwickshire County AA, as a timekeeper for Track, Cross Country and Road Racing, and as a Committee Member of the English Road Racing Association.

He was Treasurer of Warwickshire for 5 years, a very diligent Trophy and Awards Secretary for 7 years ensuring that awards actually found their way to the correct recipients and then were returned for the next year's presentations, and at the same time as Permits Secretary for a period of 11 years, checking and issuing Road Race Permits, providing that questioning and regulatory experience needed to ensure the safety of our runners. From 2011 onward when UKA's ideas on participation in running became a little more organised Mike became a founder member of the Run Britain Regional Licensing Panel, bringing his extensive knowledge of current races within Greater Warwickshire to their decision making.

Mike's experience as a Telecoms Engineer also regularly came into prominence in addressing communications issues for endurance running, between road race marshals out in the country and their race control and medical HQ.

He was a long term timekeeper at T&F meetings for county and regional competitions but also for local club and schools events which he always supported and which brought him into close contact with parents and others who were not normally involved in athletics. At least one other timekeeper helping Mike at a mid-week Solihull Schools event was surprised to be introduced by Mike to Baroness Karen Brady, who was there as a parent! Yes, it's who you know, and he did!

But his real expertise was with Pam as his scribe, being generally recognised as the most accurate recorder of times achieved in road and cross country races in the region. He would manage to provide accurate times for upwards of 600-700 finishers rarely missing one – an intense period of concentration by both of them. Thanks Mike!

*With thanks to Alan Edwards for the above.*