

I am writing this email on behalf of my Father Adrian "Tom" Aylett who ran with John for the tribute section when published if possible please.

Please find enclosed a photograph of my father (far right) and John at a reunion evening at Pontypool Active Living Centre a few years back.

It's with great sadness that I have heard the sad news of John Collins death.

John was a great friend and fellow athlete whom I've known and competed with for over 50 years.

He was a stalwart in Welsh Athletics

My personal condolences also that of all fellow Gilwern Harriers Runners to Johns family at this time  
Adrian Aylett

We knew that John had been seriously ill lately but his passing is nevertheless distressing news.

I personally knew him for 50 years or more and saw him as one of the sport's innovators. He paid a leading role in the formation of the Gwent League and the Welsh Athletics League.

Apart from anything else he was a true gentleman and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

Alan Currie, Neath Harriers

So very sad to hear the news. Irreplaceable.

I think that its all been said but what an enormous loss to our sport. I can recall the first time I met John in a Pontypool League race. I knew his name from his V of A days. I think that he had at least 2 brothers and all were runners.

I worked with him very closely in the production of The History of Welsh Athletics and can vouch for his absolute dedication to our sport. What a loss!

Clive Williams, Cardiff AAC

Really sad

I will always think of JHC as 'one of the real gentlemen' in athletics in Wales, someone who not only wanted to compete for so many years but who gave some much in so many other areas of our sport.  
Peter Morris

A Very Sad Day for John's family and our sport. God Bless him.

Derek Williams, Les Croupiers

Deeply saddened by the news – a true gent and such an enthusiastic worker.

I will miss him greatly as I 'm sure many others will also

Derek Price, Brecon

I knew John for more than 55 years as a friend, fellow athlete and official. We competed against each other many times and he was always a true sportsman whatever he result.

I ran with him in numerous relays; noteworthy ones being Cardiff to Caernarfon and John O' Groats to Land's End

He had a vast knowledge of athletics and an outstanding memory of races and events of bygone times.

Goodbye John.

Your old friend

Dil Robbins

Many of you will have heard the sad news of the passing of our very own John Collins.

John was a legend.

His contribution to athletics in our area and far beyond has been enormous for well over sixty years and he will be sadly missed by everyone connected with the West Glamorgan League.

As an athlete, administrator, official or supporter, John always gave 100%, but what set him apart from most was his undiluted, infectious love of our sport.

From local school athletics to dealing with athletes at the highest level, John made no difference in how he treated anyone.

Help. Support. Friendship. Respect. Sportsmanship. These are the things John offered to the people he dealt with, always delivered in his own polite, courteous manner. He always looked for and saw the best in people.

As a competitor he competed fiercely in the West Glamorgan League over many decades, before finally refereeing at matches when illness prevented him from running.

Our sport has lost a true gentleman.

Kevin Corcoran

Sad to hear that world of Athletics lost another great Swansea Harrier. He was a mainstay down the Morfa during my formative years with the club. As I've gotten older I appreciate how he and others kept the club going, when it was so easy to walk away and let others do the grass roots level due to life. He was one of the characters that you thought would always be there. RIP John, enjoy your rest and thanks for everything!

Carl Leonard

All at Neath Harriers are deeply saddened by the sad loss of our good friend John Collins. John was a regular volunteer at our events, he had been the referee at many of our road events as well as cross country events we hosted. John had also been an official at track and field meetings at the Neath facility, always reliable, professional and thorough, but always with a smile and a relaxed approach. His enthusiasm for the sport was infectious and he was always willing to advise and support to ensure that all participants had a positive experience.

I ran many times against John on the roads and on the country, he was a tough, uncompromising competitor who always gave 100%, but was always generous in praise and respectful to those he

competed against. In short he was a true gentleman, a valued friend and a great ambassador for the sport of athletics. He will be sadly missed, truly irreplaceable.

Steve Jones

Chairman

Neath Harriers AC

John became a Life Member of Welsh Athletics in 2007 and is one of two Vice Presidents of Welsh Athletics, He was Secretary of Swansea Harriers from 1968 to 1975 and 1999 to 2005, Chairman in 1998 and a Life Member of the club. His contribution to officiating has been enormous as a Starter and Field Judge. When he was awarded for his services as an official in 2014 he had helped at 79 meetings in the course of a year. John was 79 years old and will be greatly missed by so many people in our club and in Welsh Athletics. He was a true sportsman and gentleman in every sense of the word. He was full of enthusiasm for Athletics and knew and encouraged so many others no matter what club they were in. He was one of our biggest contributors to Athletics in Wales.

Barrie Owen

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Alan