

At the Annual General Meeting of Athletics Canterbury held on 3rd July 2008, Mr Bryan Kerr and Mr Alan Tucker were duly elected Life Members.

Bryan Kerr (as presented by Mr Don Chadderton)

Bryan Kerr has been associated with athletics in Canterbury for most of his life, as an athlete, official, organiser and administrator.

That list does not really do justice to the positive contribution Bryan has made.

Perhaps he retired too early from his first association with the sport after competing at New Zealand Championships as a 400-metre runner, but he was heavily involved with rugby which became his focus for a number of years when he played for Canterbury B, coached & refereed.

When he returned to athletics, in 1974, it became a major passion for him - again.

As a competitor in veteran events he succeeded at almost every championship level at which he competed:

- Canterbury
- New Zealand
- Australian
- and competed at the 4th World Veterans Games in 1981.

It is worth noting, that in his free time he helped as an official too.

As an official & administrator for veterans, Bryan was heavily involved in maintaining results, records & organising meetings for which he was awarded Life Membership of the Canterbury Master's Association.

His contribution to athletics did not stop there.

Throughout many of those years Bryan was an official at interclub meetings too. His leadership of masters' athletics led to a place on the Track & Field Committee where he made a more than useful contribution.

During my term as Chairman of that committee, I valued Bryan's positive contribution to many discussions. He was always analytical, direct and never waffled.

Bryan's wide experience in sport enabled him to bring a different and positive perspective to a number of issues.

Some were based on simple commonsense. One example of that was the idea of having athletes register their interest in competing in hurdles events when arriving at the stadium. That essentially simple idea has saved Duty Clubs countless hours of labour over recent years when it is time to set out the equipment for the day.

Bryan will be found almost anywhere there is an athletics meeting, be it for children, masters, schools, or interclub at local level but he travels widely to national events too.

In recent years, his body has become partly mechanical, after the replacement of various joints, but his enthusiasm, good humour and efficiency, which is anything but mechanical, has made him a welcome sight at any track & field meeting to his colleagues among officials & administrators.

For all his positive contributions to our sport, I am delighted to recommend that Bryan Kerr be awarded Life Membership of Athletics Canterbury.

Don Chadderton

3rd July 2008