**Brian Beale: 1936 – 2020**

It is with much sympathy that Brian is no longer with us. Like many of us who know Brian, we met him through running. Brian was already an active runner when he founded Burnham on Sea Harriers in 1981 alongside Graham Slocombe. Always an active runner, Brian was a regular participant in races on road and cross country, at events held locally, regionally, nationally and abroad.

Brian was the catalyst behind the stability, drive and culture of the club. A club that has become widely welcoming, friendly and one upon which Brian's influence has always been present and active. Much of the club's success is owed to Brian, where his knowledge and understanding of running, athletics and organizing events have been areas where we have all sought Brian's guidance. For many years Brian was ably assisted by Sheila Baker, creating a formidable partnership in the running of the club. Even when membership numbers dropped, Brian, assisted by Sheila, were always there to support the club and attract new members or to promote running as an enjoyable, social activity accessible to all. A focal point of knowledge for races, Brian was integral in the delivery of the Burnham half marathon and Brent Knoll race, key fixtures of the Somerset Series. His athletic knowledge extended to the rulebook as a regular race adjudicator on Somerset series events, alongside the races he organised and in his role as Club Secretary as well as County Secretary. Brian administered the Somerset Series race standings, pestering race directors for results to ensure compliance and maintain the integrity of the Somerset Series as a popular, diverse series of running events held all around the county. In 2015, Brian was an integral member behind the organization and delivery of Burnham and Highbridge parkrun. Even though his health reduced his ability to provide some of the foremost volunteer roles such as Run Director or timekeeper, Brian was ever-present at this weekly event by processing and validating the results.

Brian had a quick, dry wit and an opinion that was lively, enthralling and one that captured attention. He had a passion for football, supporting Portsmouth and enjoyed generating a banter - letting colleagues know of a Portsmouth win or success, thriving on the demise of the clubs that we all followed. We all have memories of Brian driving his little white van, fully laden with signs and race equipment. Many people will have an experience or story to tell of a journey with Brian if you were lucky enough to travel with him!

Brian leaves a running legacy in Burnham and across Somerset. Burnham Harriers owe a great deal to Brian in its recent success as membership has grown, Brent Knoll and Burnham half marathon seen increased participant numbers and Burnham & Highbridge parkrun has gained much respect from the parkrun community on its organisation and delivery. Much of that is owed to Brian. Brian's knowledge and enthusiasm for running has influenced many runners across the county and beyond and we'll take with us wisdom and a continued determination to run and to promote Burnham Harriers in the spirit that Brian developed from the start.

Steve Dorrall - Burnham Harriers Club Secretary