

## **Keith Picksley 1936-2021**

We are sad to report that Keith Picksley, one of the founders of Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club, died on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at the age of 84.

The first meeting of the club, where Nottingham Nutters merged with Crazy Paviours, was held at Keith's house in Bulwell in 1967.

Keith was very active in both Notts Athletics Club and Notts Orienteering Club for over 40 years. He was a fine runner having completed a 10 mile road race in under 55 minutes when an M40. He strongly believed that competitors should put time and effort into helping run their sport and he did a lot of voluntary work for both Notts A C and Notts O C. For many years he served the Notts Amateur Athletic Association and was instrumental in organising 11 Inter-County Cross Country Championships on Wollaton Park, which served as selection races for the World Cross Country Championships. During the 1970s Keith organised an annual Track & Field match called "Salute to Sport" which attracted many big names in the athletic world including a young Sebastian Coe. He had strong opinions on various sporting matters and was not afraid of expressing them. There were quite a few letters from "Picksley, Bulwell" in Athletics Weekly over the years.

In orienteering Keith planned the JK Relays in Shining Cliff Woods in 1970 and went on to plan various other events despite his commitments to athletics. He was a regular helper in the start team including being in charge of the starts at the very successful 1985 British Relay Championships at Sherwood Pines, which was televised. Keith was a member of various successful relay teams with Bert Bradshaw and Tony Farnell in the 1970s and more recently in the winning teams at the British Relay Championships in 1980 and 1997.

On at least seven occasions Keith came in the top ten of his age class in the JK or the British Championships and possibly his best year was 1980 when he won the M43 Class at the British Championships in the New Forest and also came third in the JK in Galloway.

Keith had a keen wit and dry sense of humour. He contributed far more than most and will be remembered with the greatest respect.

Keith leaves three sons, Andrew, Mark and James, all of whom ran for NOC when living in the area.

Mick Lucking

NOC Team Manager