

An Appreciation

The sudden death of John Butler last week came as a shock to all who knew him. While we knew he had a few setbacks of late we did not think his race of life would be over so soon.

I first met John when I came to Dundrum in 1985, he was then an officer with Dundrum Athletic Club and I was running with my home club Moyne. We immediately linked up in the athletics scene travelling to races and County Board meetings together even though we were involved with different clubs.

I would have known his brother Pierce who was living in Moyne along with his wife Mary, because their family were involved with the Moyne club.

John was great company and lived a life of action. He was always on the go, his first sporting love was hurling and he won many West titles with the Kickhams and followed his five sons with great interest on the GAA field and also his grandchildren. He also had a great interest in athletics especially Cross Country even though he never competed although his light frame and enthusiasm would indicate that he would have made it as a runner. His sons competed at juvenile level with Pierce progressing to senior level. He kept the club going almost single handed in the late eighties.

Having settled down in Dundrum ironically enough alongside his other brother the late Ned and his wife Joan along with their seven sons, the Butler family were never too far away. Now living and working in Dundrum, encouraged by John but never forced I joined the local club in 1991. Dominic Moore also joined the club at the same time. Together with the local lads who had been nurtured as juveniles by John and others through the eighties we won the County Senior Cross Country in Coolquill later that year. This started a run that has not seen the club out of the top three since then. That day gave John great pride especially as his own son Pierce led the team home to victory.

What I remember mostly about John was his great energy and enthusiasm for life he was a man of action and loved the outdoor life and social scene. With a shrug of his shoulders he was on to his next adventure with Mary by his side. His popularity was there for all to see with the many callers to his residence and the huge turnout at his funeral over the two days.

On behalf of Dundrum Athletic Club and Tipperary Athletics County Board sincere sympathy to his wife Mary sons DJ, Pierce, Johnny, Ger, Aidan and his brother Pierce and all their extended families. Thanks for the memories John may you rest in peace. jm