



## ***Passing of Doug Tierney 1941-2026***

**Havering Athletic Club are sad to report the passing of our former Chairman Doug Tierney at the age of 85.**

Like many volunteers Doug and his wife Jean came to the club as parents in 1991 when their eldest son Phil became a member and soon got involved in volunteering, initially with such roles as raking the long jump pit at meetings before progressing to team managing and qualifying as officials after joining as members in 1992. Doug also qualified as a coach and as a timekeeper to add to his skills and the pair also assisted outside the club at borough events, managing the successful Havering Borough team at the London Youth Games and at the London Mini marathon for many years. His commitment to schools' and youth athletics saw him officiate and provide invaluable support to borough school competitions and numerous other athletics events over many years.

Doug also soon joined the club committee and in 1997 took on the role of Vice Chairman, before taking over as Chairman in 2000, a role that he held for the next ten years. After stepping down briefly Doug was Vice Chairman in 2012 and then again Chairman for three more years from 2013 to 2015, before stepping down from his club roles in 2016. During this period, the club left their second training base at the Mayesbrook Park track, Dagenham and successfully consolidated all activities at Hornchurch Stadium.

Soon after taking over as club Chairman in 2000 Doug was instrumental in the club's fight to ensure that the worn out Hornchurch Stadium track was replaced, spending countless hours on the project and successfully taking the lead in applying for and obtaining important grants from Sport England, London Marathon Trust and the Havering Riverside Trust. In 2004 this resulted in the complete upgrading of the stadium athletic facilities.

Just before retiring from his club roles in 2016 Doug was honoured to receive the Havering Sports Council's prestigious Doug Riden Lifetime Achievement Award for 2015. In accepting the award Doug said "The athletics club has been my life, so this honour is a really nice way to finish my volunteer activity. It is nice to be appreciated obviously and I am really pleased, but that is not why you go into it".

Club members remember Doug as a true gentlemen, a kind and friendly man who will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our sincere condolences to his widow Jean, and sons Phil and Andy and other family members.



**(pic: Gavin Ellis/TGSPHOTO) (Image: TGS Photo tgsphoto.co.uk +44 1376 553468)**