



BIG NEWS - INFORMAL GATHERING

The big news that we are able to bring to your attention is that on the **Sunday 10th October 2010** there will be an informal gathering at the Tipton Sports Academy to which members (past & present) are invited with their friends & families. The reunion is due start around **5.00pm** and is part of a number of activities being staged by the Harriers on the day.

It is hoped that a large number of past members will be able to attend. There will be a chance to catch up with old friends and rivals!

We will also be taking the opportunity to show a number of the cine films that we have been able to collect and transfer into a modern format. These include the samples from the famous 'Tony Phillips Collection' from the 1960's & 70's, as well as some short clips from a Boxing Day Handicap (in the 1960's) and samples from Road Runners Club Archives and, hopefully, a few surprises as well.

We have been able to do this due to the significant help provided by Lucie Kerley from M.A.C.E. (Media Archive Central England) who have taken the old cine footage and transferred it to DVD for us to preserve and develop this important aspect of local history. For more information on this project please see <http://www.macearchive.org/>. Lucie will be there on the day to witness the reaction of people to the old footage.

We will also take the opportunity to update you on the progress of the Centenary Project.

You will be able to meet various members of the Club Committee give them your feedback on what else should be done to commemorate our 100th Birthday.

We will have various examples from the photographic & memorabilia collection we have gathered so far. If you have managed to find any other bits or pieces relating to your career or times with the club then please, please bring them along.

We will take a group photograph at the end of the session to record another episode in our long history of those present.

We will also, hopefully, have more details of a Formal Dinner planned for early 2011 (provisionally 26th March) to be held at a local hotel.

The reunion on "10/10/10" is free - so all you need to do is turn up.

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What's been going on?

That is a very good question. We have not been idle that's for sure. We continue doing interviews as well as gathering facts and figures about the club for our planned publications. I am told by Pete Griffiths that one is nearing publication.

We have met up with, amongst others - Keith Rollason, Mick Orton, David Denton, Tony Milovsorov, Alan Rushmer and Pete Boxley.



Alan Rushmer

We have managed to track down Andy Wilton, Paul Fowler, Tony Burkitt, Billy Carr & Jim Wright. We will hopefully meet with them over the coming months to hear their recollections.

Ray Fletcher has lent some material that helps us with the growth of the Girls & Ladies Sections. This still needs more work. We have also obtained the results from the Midland

Women's XC League through the help of Rita Brownlie (Bromsgrove & Redditch)

We have been allowed access to Bobby Bratt's archives and that of Tony Milovsorov. We have also seen what Birchfield Harriers have in their club records and archives which has unearthed some more race results and snippets through the kindness of Wilf Morgan their Archivist.

Maggie Walton, one time Team Manager, has lent us some of her photographic collection which gives more material for some of the Senior Ladies & Girls Teams of the 1980's & 90's.

We hope to gain access to the historical results from the West Midlands Young Athletes XC League which will plug an important gap in that aspect of the Club's history.



Keith Atkins organised, with the help of Robert Hazel of Tipton Library, a successful day at the Library in Tipton at which the Harriers were the focal part of a celebration of sport in the area. They even provided a Birthday Cake (see photograph)

We are currently ploughing our way through copies of *Athletics Weekly* to gather together material on the track & field side of the club from the 1970's onwards. We have reached 1999 and hope that by Christmas we will have got that part of the research up to date.

Mike Wren has now been tracked down and he is going to sort out some Veteran performances we may have missed.

Pete Boxley has promised to write up his recollections of George Law. It is small things like this that allow us to build up the bigger picture.

We are awaiting with bated breath Tony Phillip's material that documents the track & field and coaching development over his fifty year career with the Club.

A trip is due to be made down to an archive in Kent which has a significant amount of Staffordshire material from the collection of Alan Lindop which could fill in some gaps of our County performances.



Pete Boxley

We still have to arrange to meet up with Jack Holden's daughter up in the Lake District. So much to do - so little time!

We now have a large document that extends over many pages with notes, results, articles, dates and references of matters relating to Tipton Harriers. That alone is a major achievement for this small group given we started with about 20 sides of handwritten notes from the late Geoff Wood.

Not All Good News!

We have been trying to track down some film/tv footage of Ron Bentley setting his World Record but as yet we have drawn a blank. If you have any ideas please let us know.

We have to report that a number of the Club Trophies that used to be awarded have sadly disappeared without trace. No one knows when or where they were last seen.

As the Club heads into its second century it does so in desperate need of help. The Club needs qualified helpers to assist with running the Club and spread the workloads. Ideally this needs to be people who have time and enthusiasm to fill administrative & financial functions. They also need to be of an age group that can safeguard the future. If you feel you fit the bill and want to help please contact one of the names at the end of this Newsletter.

The Club website has had some problems over the past few weeks, caused by malicious software that meant that it was not

available. A trial is running again but we are still seeking a more permanent solution.

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Where are they Now ?

We would like to track down the whereabouts of any of the following :-

Terry Fones, Sandra Lappage, Dot Payton, Ken Rock, Brian & Ray Thorpe, Bob Westwood, Lee Woolridge, Mick Hill, John Hartigan, Ian Pierce, Steve Hope, Steve Portman & Paul Magner.

If you know them please get in touch with an address, email details or telephone number via one of the contacts at the end of this Newsletter.

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Sorry Officer!

Do you recall any members of Tipton being officials at events - be it referee's, timekeepers, recorders, judges or marshals etc. Please let us know. They may not have been at local events but worked at Midland & National level.

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Materials Missing In Action!

In our trawling through the various materials we have noted some gaps that we would like to ask people if they might have copies of. These are:-

Tipton 10 Mile Road Race

We do not have a complete set of results for the 1980, 1988 & 1994 races. We do have the headline winners etc from local press reports but not complete results.

Midland Counties Cross Country Championships

We are missing the full results for the above modern championships for the recent years 1980, 1983, 1986 & 1998. We would like all age groups.

The Gazette

We have stumbled upon a newsletter that was published in the 1930's called 'The Gazette" which was the forerunner of the "The Whippet". If you have any of these in your collection we

would like to have a look to see if they fill in any gaps that we have.

Minute Books & Annual Reports

We have the actual club Minute Books up to July 1976. We then have nothing from then on.

If you know where these may be, or have copies of any Annual Reports which often give a good summary of what went on within the Club, we would like to hear from you.

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Who's involved?

Just to remind you of the make up of group that has been set up with the approval of the Committee. This includes Chris Holloway, Keith Atkins & Pete 'Geno' Griffiths.

Ron Bentley (Senior), Joe Gripton, Brian Boyce & Roy Langford have been helping with some of the details.

Others also contributing have included :- Tony Phillips, John Severn, Bobby Bratt, Fred Tonks, Harry Haden, Pete Boxley, Geoff Eales, Fred Tonks, Jack Corfield, Doug Fownes & Dave Denton.

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How Can You Help?

If you have any material and recollections that you feel could be included then please come forward and contact any of the three people named at the bottom of this newsletter.

If you feel you can write something down then please do so. It does not matter if it is handwritten or typed.

If you are in contact with any other old members or their families then please pass a copy of this on to them. Also please let us have their contact details. This is in case a reunion is arranged and so they can be invited.

What are we after?

We are after any of the following:-

Old photographs	Race results
Scrapbooks	Tipton 10 Mile Race Results
Club magazines	Club badges & stickers
Newspaper cuttings	Club Ties
Race programmes	Old club memorabilia

In fact we are interested in anything if it relates to Tipton Harriers. It does not matter if it is just 1 or 100 items. We are interested.

We would like to borrow any items and we are assembling a big archive of material on the Harriers for future generations. We will then get them scanned/photographed.

This might take a few weeks depending on just how much there is.

Rest assured it will be safe with us and by helping out we will be preserving a valuable part of our local and national heritage.

So get in your lofts and sort us out some stuff!

Please get in contact with Keith Atkins (see below).

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Wanted - more pairs of hands!

We could really do with a couple more pair of hands to help. The essential work entails going to the local libraries in Tipton or Smethwick and looking up the various records they have available. You typically have to look through old newspapers, write down any material you find on Tipton or athletics in general. Sometimes you can obtain a paper copy of the item which saves you having to write it down.

This work would suit someone interested in the Harriers and local history. They might be recently retired, not working at this time or a student.

So if you have a few hours a week over the coming few months and feel you could help please contact Keith Atkins or Pete Griffiths on the telephone numbers listed at the end.

Even if it is just a few hours for a couple of weeks it will help as that represents a few less articles that they would have to do.

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Contacts

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