



Gary Floate



### **Message from the President**

I did not think my first few days as President would be like this, if it carries on my reign I will be the only President who held the post when no athletes actually raced. I will be known as Gary The Plague President Floate. I hope you are all keeping well during this worrying time and that you are sticking to the rules and only training once a day. Hopefully we all be out of it soon and back training and racing. In the meantime look after yourselves.

**Name:** Gary Floate

**Born:** 1966

### **Date Joined:**

IAC Initially 1981, but left after less than 2 years to Join Newham & Essex Beagles, rejoined about 10 years ago

### **Personal Bests:**

#### **Track**

**400m:** 55.4 Tooting Bec 1989

**800m:** 1.57.2 Woodford 1989

**1500m:** 3.54.8 Crystal Palace 1990

**3000m:** 8.23.3 Walthamstow 1991



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**5000m:** 14.36.0 Birmingham 1987

**3000sc:** 9.41.1 Woodford 1986

### **Road**

**5k:** 15.01 Chelmsford 1990

**5m:** 23.46 Victoria Park 1991 (old course was short)

**10k:** 31.08 Harrow 1991

**10m:** 50.35 Canterbury 1991

**Half Marathon:** 70.30 Benidorm 1989

### **First Club Race:**

Shortly after joining I did the Havering relays, was meant to do U15 4x400, but somebody did not turn up and did U17 4x 1500, Wayne was also part of the team. Then a few weeks later I won the club handicap at Chigwell Row, got my best ever headline in paper " Gary Floates Home"

### **Favourite Race:**

Rochester 5, 2.5 miles uphill, then 2.5 down, was going for over 50 years before it stopped, Victoria Park 5 also a favourite, and relays Old Essex relays, Chingford relays and NewZealand relays over Chigwell. Sadly relays have mainly disappeared off the racing calendar; I would like to bring the New Zealand relays back.

### **Notable Performances:**

Can't say much springs out, never good enough to win a title, and only won one road race, and don't think The Walthamstow 7 gets me worldwide recognition. A few Essex track medals, but not the win. At Beagles we had a good U20 team and won, The Essex, 3rd in the Southernns and won the National team cross country titles in one year.

Biggest Disappointment: Not winning an individual Essex title, not breaking 50 minutes for 10mile and having to pack up age 25 due to persistent injuries.

### **Typical Weeks Training:**

These days I am so injury prone, it's mainly road running, with occasional attempt at a hill session at the forest with the group. In my day we always tried to do two track sessions a week, extract below from a winter and summer session.

### **Winter**

Sunday: 20 Mile Road Run

Monday: 10 Mile Road Run



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Tuesday: 20 x 400 (69,69,68,67,68,67,66,67,67,67,68,68,,67,67,67,67,67,65,66,66(67.1) 10 Miles

Wednesday: 8 Mile Road Run

Thursday: 10 Mile Road Run

Friday: 8 Mile Road Run

Saturday: 6 Mile Road Run

Total = 72 Miles

### **Summer**

Sunday: Race Essex Club's Final 1500m 3rd 3.57.0 5 Mile s

Monday: 8 Mile Road Run

Tuesday: 3 x 800(2.02,2.01,2.01(2.01.3) 6.5 Miles

Wednesday: 6 Mile road and grass

Thursday: 4 x 300(43,44,43,43(43.75) 4 x 200( all 28) 6 Miles

Friday: 5 Mile Road Run

Saturday: Race Southern League 800m 4th 2.02.1 and 400m 57.1 5.5 Miles

Total = 42 Miles

### **Favourite Sessions:**

The session above 3x 800 was a great session , really eye balls out, I did with aguy who came 5th in the Olympic trials and he was doing 3x 1000 and telling me to run faster. Also sessions of 200s were a favourite, 40 being the most I did.

### **Who is the most Famous Athlete you Trained with:**

Colin Reitz who won a medal at 1987 World Champs, then again more drinking than training. I shared a room for a week with Matt Yates who went to both Olympics and worlds. How would you improve the sport: Life bans for all drug cheats, with no second chance, and cut vets races to get more people helping with officiating and coaching at their clubs. I would also ban Park runs . Finally would want UKA to give more back to grass roots athletics.

### **Favourite Athlete or Sportsman:**

Athlete would have to be Steve Ovett, from other sports, Bruce Grobbelaar was a favourite, Bernhard Langer the golfer and who helps the Bengals have a winning season.

### **What other sports do you follow:**

Football, I follow Tranmere Rovers, but soft spot for Chelsea my first shirt was a Chelsea number seven shirt, Charlie Cooke. American football The Cincinnati Bengals were the worst team in the league last year., but always hopeful.



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**Best Country Visited:**

America where Meredith is obviously from, also South Africa is a beautiful country.

**Favourite Food & Drink :**

Steak and a bottle of Rioja

**Favourite TV Shows:**

I like old stuff like Dads Army and Porridge, Vikings on Amazon Prime was very good.

**Last Film Seen :**

Avengers End Game, but gave up half way through, as thought was boring

**Last Book Read:**

Sword of Kings by Bernard Cornwall. I read a lot and get through about 50 books a year.

**Favourite Band Singer:**

Morrissey, The Alarm, Squeeze, Half Man Half Biscuit, The Foo Fighters, Feeder  
Last Album Bought or Downloaded: I am not a Dog on a Chain by Morrissey and Urge for Offal by Half Man Half Biscuit  
Last Concert Attended: Steve Harley, but was due to see The Alarm this Week

**Any Pets:**

I have a 4ft fish tank full of tropical fish

What are your aims for next season:

I would just like to have a year of injury free running and then start thinking of races after that. Managed 11 weeks of running this year so far.

**Tell us a Joke:**

I will give you three from Tim phoned the local gym and I asked if they could teach me how to do the splits. He said, "How flexible are you?" I said, "I can't make Tuesdays." "He said 'I'm going to chop off the bottom of one of your trouser legs and put it in a library'. I thought 'That's a turn-up for the books.'" "And the back of his anorak was leaping up and down, and people were chucking money to him. I said 'Do you earn a living doing that?' He said 'Yes, this is my livelihood.'