

IN MEMORY OF DAVID SEARLE, 1937—2010

FORMER CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER OF ILFORD ATHLETIC CLUB



The picture shows my Dad, David Searle, racing for Ilford AC in the 1960's. As a lifelong member of the Club he was the Treasurer for many years and did a term as Chairman during the 1980's. Dad also organised Ilford AC's feeding station at the London Marathon from the first race in 1981 until he retired in the mid-2000's.

After his racing career Dad became an AAA starter and marksman, travelling all over the South East as

well as officiating at home meetings. I have many fond childhood memories of Cricklefields; some of you may even remember my brother and I naughtily playing in the steeple-jump water and the long jump sandpit!!!

Sadly, Dad's had a series of mini strokes which led to Vascular Dementia. We lost him in 2010. Dementia is a really cruel condition - the body is present but it feels like the person has gone. They are disorientated and confused and it can be very difficult to reach them. Something that really spoke to Dad was old athletics photos and pictures of his dad (my Granddad) who played for Leyton Orient in the 1930's. He eyes would light up looking at them and he had a huge beaming smile. The memories they unlocked seemed to really give Dad peace.

The Sporting Memories Network is a charity that trains Memory Makers to work with Dementia sufferers and older people with depression by using archive sporting images, memorabilia and reports to trigger favourite memories, and provide stimulating and fun activities that promote wellbeing.

It is an honour and a fitting tribute to my Dad for me to take part in the BUPA Great North Run on September 7th, raising funds for this wonderful charity. I would be really grateful of your support, Ilford, and if you would like to donate please go to my Just Giving page.

Thank you,

Katie Mansfield (Havering 90 Joggers).



www.justgiving.com/Katie-Mansfield2

OR TEXT GNRK£ (Insert your chosen donation; £1—£10) to 70070