

John McTaggart

John McTaggart was an amazingly generous, hardworking and long-serving teacher, coach, administrator and official of our sport at all levels.

He was one of those guys who you assumed was called Mr Athletics or more precisely Mr Track and Field.

Jock, as he preferred people to call him, was involved in Athletics as an administrator and official for more than forty years. His administration and officiating involvement saw him hold positions at School, Club, Children's, Secondary Schools, Provincial and New Zealand level.

John was a teacher at Kaiapoi High School until his retirement, where he was heavily involved in organising their athletic sports and coaching or organising trips for their athletes.

Over the years John was honored with Life Member of the Kaiapoi Athletic Club, the Canterbury Children's Athletic Association, Athletics Canterbury and the New Zealand Secondary Schools Athletics Association. Athletics New Zealand also awarded him a highly prestigious Merit award.

For many years John was a big part of the driving force behind the Canterbury, South Island and New Zealand Secondary School Track and Field meetings. John represented the schools from the top half of the South Island on the NZSSAA Executive, flying to Auckland quarterly for a one-day meeting, "his latte treat" as he called the trip. He always attended the Track and Field Championships as a key official. He was heavily involved in programme planning at all events, knew the rules back to front and was usually seen in meetings working as either Meeting Manger or Referee, both positions of great responsibility that require a vast knowledge of the sports rules and the ability to communicate well with other officials. John did both very well with his own special style, we all loved. Many of our current officials will have learnt a lot about the running of our sport from John.

Behind the scenes, among other things, he was a builder and repairer of equipment and looked after two-way radios and sound systems on a weekly basis.

John wasn't just a serious official; he is also capable of having a good laugh. He shared a story once about the Canterbury Track and Field Committee deciding it would be good to have some music playing during afternoon meetings. As nobody else volunteered to provide the music, he whipped out one of his favorite Scottish music tape and played that all afternoon. He said somebody else provided the music the next week.