

BANBURY HARRIERS ATHLETIC CLUB PRESENT

# The First Annual Don Sullivan Memorial 10 and Young Athletes Races

(Under A.A.A., W.C.C.A. and I.A.A.F. Rules)

on SUNDAY, 1 AUGUST, 1982

- 1.00 p.m. Colts and Minor Ladies: 2 miles, 305 yards
- 1.20 p.m. Boys and Junior Ladies: 2 miles, 1,069 yards
- 1.50 p.m. Youths and Intermediate Ladies: 3 miles, 509 yards
- 2.00 p.m. Senior Men and Women: 10 miles (measured to R.R.C. specifications)

All races will start from Kings Sutton Playing Fields, with the exception of the Colts and Minor ladies race which will start at Newbottle Spinney.

DON SULLIVAN, who died last year, was a life member of Banbury Harriers A.C., and a member of Leamington C. & A.C. He was a familiar figure in the town, and was still running the year he died (at the age of 84 he ran the Banbury '5' in under 75 minutes).

Don was a great competitor in distance races around the South of England, and although he never won a race, everyone seemed to know him.

The following obituary is reprinted from the Road Runners Club magazine No. 107, April 1982, by kind permission of the R.R.C.

## Don Sullivan

Don Sullivan (R.R.C. 46) of Banbury Harriers has died at the age of 85. He did not suffer any illness, but gradually slipped away. 'Sulli' was one of those characters whose life-long devotion to our sport has done much to enrich it.

'Fifty Years of Undistinguished Running', which appeared in the newsletter ten years ago, was his athletic autobiography, in which he said that the Olympic Marathon of 1908 fired his ambition to run a marathon one day. While in France, during the first world war, he competed in the One Mile Flat race in his company sports.

'I trained with some of my hut mates, running in army boots and slacks on roads round the camp before breakfast. I finished third because I was able to judge the pace better than most of my opponents. Next year I won the race on a very rough course, marked out on a meadow'.

He joined Banbury Harriers on returning from France, and ran his first marathon in 1930, when he was 34 years old. This was run from Southampton to Winchester and back on a warm sunny day. He was told 'Start off at a good steady pace, and don't try to race at first, and you will finish'.

Sullivan ran in twelve A.A.A. Marathons, and in twenty Poly Marathons, with a best time just inside 3 hours, between 1931 and 1950.

He was fifth, last to finish in the notorious A.A.A. Marathon of 1935, when the shade temperature was 90 °F.

He ran his first Finchley 20 in 1934, and ten years later was presented with a tankard by Finchley Harriers to commemorate finishing in fifty races of not less than 20 miles.

Eventually he ran 129 of these, failing to finish in only two; once when he attempted to race on three consecutive weeks, and once when he found the gate of the White City closed.

Half the proceeds from these races will go to the Cornhill Restoration Fund, concerned with the architectural heritage of Banbury.

Banbury Harriers wish to thank the following, without whom this event would not have taken place:

The Chairman and Committee of Kings Sutton Playing Fields Association, for use of facilities and help with organisation; The Parish Councils of Newbottle, Farthinghoe, Hinton-in-the-Hedges, and Charlton, and to Lady Birkenhead, for kind permission to run through the villages and private land; Northamptonshire Constabulary; Trumpania, and Christo's, of Brackley for kind donation of prizes; Mr. Randall of Banbury Star Cyclists for course measurement; Mr. John Jewell of the R.R.C. for advice, and for re-printing permission; To the marshalls and helpers from Banbury Harriers Athletic Club.