

Remembering Reg Mead MBE

The school would like to remember Reg Mead MBE who died on Friday 8 June., aged 97. Reg Mead, of Wolverton, awarded an MBE for services to athletics. In his youth, Reg played football for Buckingham Town and hockey for North Bucks. However, it is athletics, inspired by attending the famous Whitsun athletics meetings at Wolverton Park in the 30s, 40s and 50s along with several thousand spectators, to which he dedicated much of his life. He made substantial contributions in three areas of athletics:

Coaching: Reg qualified as a sprints coach in 1949, throws in 1951, pole vault in 1953 and weight training in 1993. As a schoolteacher at Buckingham School and as a coach at Wolverton AAC, Buckingham and District AC and Milton Keynes AC, he coached an enormous number of athletes over the years, including three who won English Schools' titles.

Designer: Reg spent a year at Loughborough College in 1956/7 as a mature student, studying for a Physical Education Diploma. His thesis looked at ways that schools could design and make their own athletic equipment in woodwork and metalwork classrooms. He invented the chain hammer, for use in training, and a wooden "starting gun", both of which are still sold today. He improved the design of the hammer, adding the swivel head, and of the standard hurdle, which form the basis of the modern equipment.

Officiating: Reg was secretary of North Bucks Schools AA for seven years in the 1950s. For more than 25 years he was President of the Bucks Schools AA. He organised and officiated at countless meetings over the years.

Reg was awarded the Sport MK award for Services to Sport in 2001 (see picture, right) and was awarded an MBE in 2005 for Services to Athletics.

Mr Mead was a teacher here at The Buckingham School and his involvement with the school continued after his time teaching, by supporting our Athletics students participating at County events.

The wonderful Swan wood carving that takes pride of place in the school's main reception was crafted by Reg. The school will always treasure the carving and the memories of the dedication and contribution Reg made to our school and the support he gave our students.