

Cleveland Orienteering Klub carries Olympic Torch

Cleveland Orienteering Club is proud to announce that long term member Jon Williams of Norton has been selected as an Olympic torchbearer.

Jon was initially a runner at school and as a member of Middlesbrough and Cleveland Running Club (now Mandale Harriers) running both on track and cross country, and at one point delivering a time of 31 minutes for 10 km.

His interest in orienteering was sparked by an inspiring teaching colleague Lou Gommersall at Springfield Secondary School (now the Urban City Academy) who dedicated much of his time to teaching students about orienteering and taking them away on training days and to national competitions.



Jon joined Teesside and Cleveland orienteering club (now Cleveland Orienteering Klub) to develop his interest in the sport and in the early days served as a committee member and later Chairman.

For many years Jon was an international level orienteer. He won a gold medal in the 1983 Continental Cup Relays in France and was twice Northern Orienteering Champion in the 1970's. In 1985 he completed the London Marathon in 2 hours 29 minutes. As his running ability waned with age, he concentrated on coaching children in the orienteering schools programme and within the club. In 2005, whilst orienteering, Jon suffered a massive stroke, leaving him unable to walk and confined to an electric wheelchair. Despite this, Jon has invested time and money in ensuring that he can get into the forest to remain an active club member. He continues to plan, control and help at events and, using his deep knowledge of the local geography, and serves on the club mapping committee. He remains a qualified coach, enjoying working with junior orienteers, both locally and on training weekends. He gives encouragement and confidence, helping them to develop their orienteering skills. He sets an excellent example, and is an inspiration to other members of the club.