



ALAN MASON
(1940 – 2007)

Alan died on 17 November after a mountain bike accident. He was a founding member of Harlequins OC in 1968, Manager of the British Squad from 1975 to 1981 and the driving force behind the establishment of orienteering in South Africa in 1982.

He took part in many sports: football (as player and coach), running, orienteering, tennis, nordic skiing, cycling and kayaking. He was very knowledgeable about all sports. His interests were wide: art, music, dance, theatre, cinema, ecology, wildlife, current affairs. He read avidly. He was an accomplished cook.

We knew him as a successful orienteer and a popular clubmate. He organised and planned events. He was a well-respected and efficient British Squad Manager. While working in South Africa, he brought together a number of people who had orienteered in the UK to form the first O club there, became its chairman and produced the first maps. Sadly, he had to stop competing after knee operations in his 50s, but his interest continued unabated.

He was employed as an inspection engineer in the civil engineering industry and this took him all over the world. Working mostly on the construction of power stations and petrochemical plants, he ensured that the work conformed to design specifications and complied with safety standards. He

was not one to compromise - some projects ran late and over-budget when he insisted that substandard work was redone.

Alan's cheerful personality and enthusiasm for everything in life made friends everywhere. He was always encouraging and ever helpful to Squad members ... and to all of his friends. During a job in the Philippines, he came to love the country and its people. Although most had little material wealth, they were rich in the generosity of their hospitality and the warmth of their friendship. He returned often and made a significant difference to the lives of many young people there, paying for the education they could not afford.

He is greatly missed.

John Bennison

There is also a tribute from South African orienteers at <http://www.roc.org.za/>

The funeral service is at 13.00 on Tuesday 11 December at the Robin Hood Crematorium, Streetsbrook Road, Solihull.

This is on the South side of the B4025 road, about 800m East of the Robin Hood Island on the A34 Stratford Road (Map ref 139/118 803). All friends are welcome to this celebration of Alan's life. There will be a reception afterwards for old friends to talk about the good times. Family flowers only; donations to UNICEF.