

## **ATHLETICS CANTERBURY INCORPORATED**

### **Life Member Nomination: John Gamblin**

**Proposed by John McBrearty at the Athletics Canterbury AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

Mr Chairman,

Born in 1959 this person is still an active participant in the sport as well as being a well-respected official and administrator.

Raised in a rural Canterbury town this person came into the sport in 1975 while at secondary school and was a member of the local Harrier Club. A source told me that the person I am proposing for Life Membership was not a particularly good runner, and in fact the word “hopeless” was used along with the comment that there was an interest in eating pies.

Upon finishing secondary school our nominee undertook a joinery apprenticeship which was duly completed before heading to Christchurch around 1983 looking for a change in career.

It should be noted that while a member of the local Harrier Club this person served on the Club’s Committee.

On arriving in Christchurch, this person joined what was known then as the Christchurch Harrier Club, some years before it amalgamated with the Avon Athletic Club, known today as Christchurch Avon.

During the time spent as a member of Christchurch Avon our nominee has filled many roles in the Club including serving on the Committee, Club Captain and President, to mention just a few. The Club’s website informs me that this person is a Life Member of the Club.

Although not currently listed on the Club Committee or as an officer, he is the organiser of the annual Kennett Cup Steeples, a position he has held since 2004.

Our nominee became involved in Centre administration when he served on the Committee of the Canterbury Road Running Association in the 1980s & 90s before this group merged with the then Cross Country Committee to form what we know today as the Cross Country & Road Committee.

I am of course talking about the current Chairman of the Cross Country & Road Committee who took on the position in 2009, having served on the Committee for the two years prior.

Under his watch as Chairman, he has chaired the Local Organising Committee for the NZ Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships in 2013 and the Athletics NZ Cross Country Championships in 2011, 2014 and again this year. He also gave valuable assistance when the NZ Secondary Schools Cross Country Champs were held in Ashburton in 2011 and was a Canterbury Cross Country & Road Selector from 2004 to 2012.

Earlier I referred to our nominee's supposed lack of running ability in his early years. This is not the case today with him finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in his age group at the Athletics NZ Marathon Championships in Rotorua in 2014. Although I don't know the exact figure, and I'm sure he will tell us, he has clocked up well over 30 consecutive years participation in the Takahe to Akaroa Relay.

Although his first love is cross country and road, he has always been available to help out at major track and field events such as the NZ Track & Field Champs, the International Track Meet and of course at the Christchurch Secondary Schools Preliminaries and Finals days.

Having worked with this man over the years, I can vouch that he is an ideal person to have on a Committee. He is very pro-active and when he undertakes to do a job you can be sure it will be done, and done extremely well. His work in recent years in helping to organise and MC the Athletics Canterbury Awards Dinner is testament to that.

Mr Chairman, it gives me a great deal of satisfaction to nominate a fellow lad from Ashburton, John Gamblin, as a Life Member of Athletics Canterbury.

John McB  
8 July 2015