

Athletics pays tribute to Bob Smith a fantastic servant to Newham & Essex Beagles



Bob Smith along with World and Olympic champion Mo Farah as the Beagles as he manages the team to national silverware.

Picture: NEB

sport

Bowls

It was a game apiece between Central Park and North Greenwich as the two clubs met in the Cribbs Triples League and the Ilford & District League over the last week.

In the Cribbs it was North Greenwich who earned bragging rights winning on two of the three rinks played.

Sue Flynn and her team of John Lapping and Denis Lynch started well in their game, winning four of the first five ends, but from there it went horribly wrong.

There was no stopping North Greenwich as they won 11 of the last 12 ends to take the match 23-8.

Ken Cutts and his team of John Huckstepp and Tracy Hicks were in much better form, going 20-5 in front by the 11th and despite a five end fightback, they ran out winners by 24-12.

The third rink was another disappointment as Pam Oldham, Jim Grummett and captain Eddie Grigg were beaten 21-12 to leave the final score at 56-44 to North Greenwich.

But just three days later, the Central Park boys gained revenge as they won two of the

three rinks themselves in the Ilford & District League.

Best on the day at the East Ham club was Grummett and his team of Mo Hackett and Flynn who moved into top gear when the score was 12-12 to score nine shots on the next three ends and run out winners by 21-14.

Hicks and her team of Bill Giles and Cutts won 18-13 in their match and with Oldham, Huckstepp and skip Harry Morley going down by a narrow 18-14 it was Central who took the match 53-45 and eight of the 10 points.

Meanwhile, Plashet Park bowler Moosa Patel had a hard-fought win over George Warren of the Phoenix club in their Group 5 Waur Trophy clash.

Patel took an early lead and held it at 10-5 at the halfway mark, but left-hander Warren fought back to level at 13-13 by the 17th.

It was Patel who held his nerve though, going back in front at 19-16 and seeing the game out by 21-19.

Next week, two Plashet Park bowlers in Moosa and Bashir Patel will collect their county badges in a match at Herne Bay against Kent.

They are believed to be the first Asians to achieve this.

Athletics

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Tributes have poured in to Newham & Essex Beagles following the death of club stalwart and legend Bob Smith last week.

Bob finally lost his brave fight with cancer last Wednesday and people from all over the athletics community were quick to pay homage to the man.

"Such a lovely man, one of a kind," tweeted World and Olympic Champion Christine Ohuruogu. "Had all the time in the world for ALL the athletes and is a major loss to Newham and Essex Beagles. RIP BOB."

British 400 metre record holder Iwan Thomas also paid tribute saying: "Very sad to announce just months after the passing of my coach Mike Smith that his son Bob lost his battle against cancer last night."

Beagles' club patron Tony Shiret knew Bob throughout his time at the club as well as at England Athletics and he paid a special tribute to his 'friend'.

"I am lucky enough to have known Bob from when he was a very average high jumper 30 years ago, over a period when he achieved heights on behalf of the club and London's athletes which were remarkable," he said.



Bob Smith congratulates Beagles' Christine Ohuruogu after her Olympic gold medal in Beijing back in 2008.

Picture: NEB

"At the peak of his powers, he assembled one of the greatest club winter teams and inspired a London participation scheme alongside the 2012 Olympics that involved over 200,000 Londoners.

"Throughout all this time he was one of those unique people who were incredibly knowledgeable, enthusiastic, supportive and loyal and this made people want to turn out which is a rare gift.

"He was the heartbeat of our club and a great man and we are already missing him."

Bob's family, Jo, James and Janet thanked everyone from the athletics world who had supported

him during his illness.

"We are heartbroken at his loss, but it is of great comfort to see the affection and respect all had for him.

"Bob followed his family 'trade' in athletics, but to us he was not just Bob the athletics man, but also an incredibly caring, kind and loving son, father and brother. We will miss you Bob and will try to be as strong as you were."

The Beagles also made a statement saying: "Bob was an extraordinary person who touched the lives of many with his enthusiasm and unwavering commitment and loyalty and he will be deeply missed."

Athletics



Matt Baptiste was at the inter-counties championships on Saturday.

There are few stronger events than the Inter-Counties Championships at Bedford and Beagles athletes had to work hard to get themselves in the places.

Beagles new boy George Armstrong battled his way to second place with a throw of 55.95 metres in the discus, where Matt Baptiste was 10th as well as well as seventh in the shot.

Thomas Head was a battling seventh in the hammer, while Jonathan Broom-Edwards, fresh from his silver medal at the

World Paras, leapt 2.06m to be fifth in the high jump.

Emma Nwofor was ninth in the long jump and also made the final of the sprint hurdles, while Lennox Thompson managed a new best of 52.21 to be fifth in the hurdles.

Will Rial also managed a new best in finishing ninth in the steeplechase, while Susanna Banjo and Victoria Ohuruogu were fourth and fifth in the 400m final.

Emmanuel Sosanya and Akeem Akintokun both made the semis of the 400m on what was a tough day.