

TONY SHAW 1938 -- 2014

I'm sad to report the death of Tony Shaw, who died on April 15th, aged 75. He will be much missed by Brenda, his wife of 52 years, and their two sons, David and Ian. Both Tony and Brenda had the same outlook on life. He would tell me that, despite suffering from arthritis, Brenda would never complain, her attitude being that you've just got to get on with things.

At the age of 16, Tony joined the Army where he served his joinery apprenticeship. He later became a member of the Parachute Regiment, Airborne Division. He did much of his training at Glenmore Lodge, near Aviemore, followed by spells of duty in Cyprus and Palestine and then a longer spell of duty in Kenya, in the Rift Valley. By this time Tony had taken up running in his spare time, often competing against bare footed Africans who would set off like rockets at the start of races.

Back home, after nine years army service, he became employed as a joiner with two local firms, later becoming self employed. Tony was very meticulous, taking great pride in his work. He applied climbing skills in his final job at Antler in Bury, where his abseiling and rope techniques came in useful when replacing large window frames.

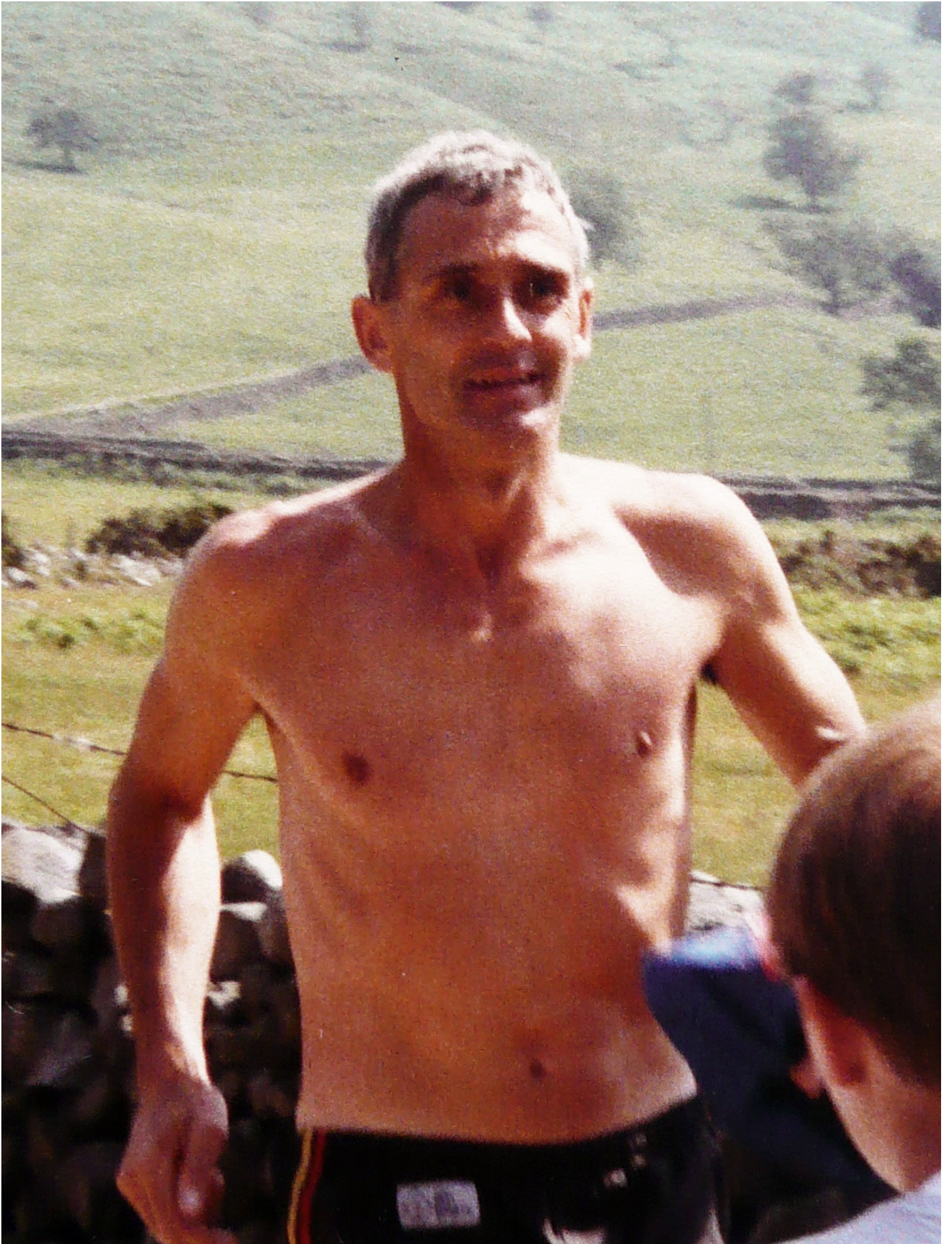
From about 1975, by which time Tony was in his late 30's, he increased his running training in order to improve performances in his beloved Wasdale event. He showed me a clean pair of heels, not only at Wasdale, but in other classics such as Ennerdale and Borrowdale. Over the next seven years he would regularly finish in the first 10 or 15 in these tough races. His time in the 1976 Wasdale race was 3 hours 54 minutes, giving him 5th place. Hardly any achieve such a fast time, even today. He recorded 3 hours 58 minutes at Ennerdale and

3 hours 5 minutes at Borrowdale. With Tom Sykes, Tony won the 1976 Karrimor Mountain Marathon, A Class event. This was held in appalling weather conditions over the hills of Gal-loway. Typically, he gave full credit to Sykes' brilliant navigation.

He was quite pleased to complete the Lake District Bob Graham Round, but more delighted to have assisted Steve Tosh, the youngest person at the age of 17 to have completed the round. Tony held the Saddleworth 5 trigs record for five months in 1977. He recorded fast times at Skiddaw and Ben Nevis. At the age of 62 he posted a time of 2 hours 10 minutes in the 2000 Ben Nevis race, defeating 250 younger runners. He recorded a fast time of 2 hours 35 minutes in the Manchester Marathon. He came 4th in the Lairig Ghru race, organised by Eddie Campbell. Tony never walked up hills, he always ran up them. He was rather scathing when he saw teammates walking up a hill...he would tell them "What are you walking for; get running!"

In the early 1990's Tony switched from Rochdale Harriers, where he spent 20 happy years, to Todmorden Harriers and, together with Alan Ainsworth, myself and two of Tony's favourite dogs, Murphy and Meg, spent many happy hours running and walking over the beautiful Calderdale countryside, each outing followed by a couple of pints of real ale. He was appreciative of the efforts of Chairman of Todmorden Harriers, Mandy Goth, who would organise packruns, Sunday runs and social get-togethers. Bill Smith asked Tony to fill in a questionnaire for inclusion in Stud Marks. His answer to the question "How would you summarise your running career?" was a gem. He wrote- "We can't run, but we've shifted a few pints!" This was his modesty coming through. Despite what he said, Tony could run and run very well.

Let's remember Tony as a man with a good sense of humour. To me he was an amusing and entertaining walking companion. Above all, he was a top class person and a true friend.



Tony Shaw 1938-2014