



South Australian Masters Athletics

HALL OF FAME



John Hore

Member of SAMA for 24 years



Inductee No 7: John Hore



BIOGRAPHY

John Hore was born in Adelaide in 1948. Coincidentally, the same hospital on Glen Osmond Road, was the birthplace of his wife Cathie almost exactly two years later. They met up 16 years later at Gawler. Due to the nature of his father's vocation the family relocated on a regular basis every 4-5 years and John spent his youth growing up in several of Adelaide's suburbs as well as regional areas.

IT EXPERTISE

At the age of 17 John entered into a 5-year cadetship with the Electricity Trust of South Australia (ETSA). Job placement was combined with day/night lectures at the SA Institute of Technology (SAIT) (which amalgamated with the SA College of Advanced Education in 1991 to form the University of SA).

During his employment with ETSA and ElectraNet (with the former's privatization in the 90's) John, as a Senior Technical Officer, was at the forefront of technology in the development of applied electronics, an advanced branch of engineering which deals with the application of existing or known scientific knowledge in electronics, instrumentation, measurements and control for any process, practical calibration of instruments and embedded systems.

Soon after joining SAMA in 1999 John started developing a computerised event management system to replace the existing manual system that had for some time placed great demands on the club's officials and volunteers. This was an important step as the SAMA competition program was growing rapidly at that time and new ideas and methods were needed to handle the work and continue this growth phase.

John used his IT expertise to apply relatively inexpensive consumer electronics technology and the computer software he developed is significant, not just for preparing start lists for races throughout the year, but because it allows the production of handicaps for every person in every race (and to refine the handicap algorithm when necessary). Results produced give competitors a breakdown of how they performed relative to their expected result and also age graded percentages.

Most recently John developed a computer program for recording and updating participation and performance points for the 'Achievers Award' (for both Winter & Summer competitions).

As SAMA doesn't have access to electronic timing, John introduced a video camera with an inbuilt timing function to resolve queries. This takes time, but it ensures that the fairest outcome results.

Results are posted to SAMA's website (which he originally designed) and are usually available within hours of completion of that day/nights competition, eg. it takes John 1 ½ to 2 hours each Wednesday evening (after competition) to finalise sprint results and then load the results onto the website. Previous results can be looked up easily.

In recent years John has produced various bits of technology to refine the timing of our races and lower our dependance on officials. Initially, a 100m 'wire' had to be rolled out to connect the start gun to the clock / video / timing system located at the finish line. Now, the connection is done by wireless communication. He is continuously refining the coordination between the electronic 'start gun' and the race clock, ie. the 'firing' of the gun automatically starts the clock and timing system.

Precise finish line times are now captured from the gun start electronically and recorded on high speed video for accurate times. Close finishes require camera video checks. SAMA can now identify accurate times to 1/100th of a second which ensures that all necessary data (together with wind gauge readings) can be produced to claim National records.



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In addition to developing these systems John is still in attendance operating them at most mid-week summer track & field meets as well as on Saturdays for the winter competition.

SPORTING PROWESS

Growing up, tennis was John's summer sport but hockey was his love and he soon developed his skills in this sport to quite a high level. He was Captain/Coach of the Campbelltown City Hockey Club's A Team in the 1970s.

During a 10 year period of employment in Clare John was instrumental in the establishment of the Men's Clare and District Hockey Association. For this, and ongoing services to the club, he was awarded Life Membership. The Club has amalgamated with the Balaklava Hockey Club and is currently represented with 5 teams in the Barossa Valley Hockey Association competition as the Clare and District Hockey Association.

Whilst in Clare, and now in his 30s, John was continuing to play hockey at a top level and was chosen to play in the State Country hockey team in 1983. After selection, however, he damaged his knee, but he hid this from the selectors and managed to complete the carnival with some satisfaction.

A knee reconstruction was required, and John remained in plaster for 6 weeks. An initial stint in the hospital ICU was also required.

On returning to the city in 1987, John continued playing hockey until a second knee reconstruction (the other knee) was required in 1990. Subsequent nerve damage because of the operation finished his sporting life for many years.

John's interest in sport was maintained through his children during this second 'lame' period. John's youngest son, Adam, was a very quick sprinter with a state U16 100m record and a national bronze medal. He trained with Geoff Whitehall.

Geoff's enthusiasm rubbed off on John and he started running again, initially with Enfield Harriers and later the Vets in the late 90's (becoming a member of SAMA in 1999).

John always maintained his interest in hockey and in recent years has resumed as a player in weekend competitions. He is also representing South Australia in over 70 (age) teams at national competitions and Australia at international level. In the last 12 months he has competed the O70s World Cup in Japan and the Australian O75 team in the Oceania Trans Tasman competition in New Zealand.

SAMA ADMINISTRATION

John joined the SAMA committee in 2001 and first became an Office Bearer, as Vice President, in 2005/06. He continued in this position until 2008/09. He then took on the role of President over a four-year period from 2009/10 until 2012/13. On vacating this position, he continued in SAMA's administration as a committee member for a number of years.

In 2009 and 2016 John was a member of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for each of these two highly successful national Australian Masters Athletics Championships held in Adelaide.

The 2016 Championships featured the highest number of entries for a Championships since the annual event was introduced (the number since superseded).



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AWARDS

The importance of the way John has utilized modern technology to assist in the running of Masters events was recognized by Australian Masters Athletics (AMA) by installing him as the winner of the 2007 Administrator / Official of the Year.

In 2011 SAMA honoured John with Life Membership for his “exceptional service to the club over a period of at least 10 years”.

John was awarded Life Membership of the Clare Hockey Club (now incorporated as the Clare & District Hockey Association) for services to the club.

MASTERS COMPETITION

John joined SAMA in 1999. In the 50-54 age bracket, John was competing against some ‘gun athletes’ (Geoff Whitehall, Hans Van Bavel, etc.) and performed strongly in events from 100m to 400m.

Due to ‘issues’ with his reconstructed knees (and later back problems) John was unable to sprint to his satisfaction, however, and so developed an interest in distance running as a member of Peter Sandery’s training group.

Over the years John has continued to run in both SAMA’s Winter and Summer competitions (and State Championships) over a variety of distances. On a Wednesday evening he usually runs in the first sprint race and then the last (distance) race of the night.

The highlight of recent performances occurred in December 2021, when John won the annual Masters Handicapped 800m event at the prestigious Bay Sheffield Carnival held at the Colley Reserve in Glenelg.

PERSONAL QUALITIES OF THE NOMINEE

Since joining SAMA as a member in 1999 John has contributed 24 years and countless hours of voluntary work to the club. His highly developed administrative and technical skills have been invaluable to SAMA as has his tireless application and dedication to the various duties he has been tasked with (or volunteered to undertake).

Over the years John has been instrumental in technically improving aspects of SAMA’s competition. He has introduced computers to manage self entry screens, entry printouts, handicaps and web results.

Timing systems are continually updated and precise finish times are now captured from the gun start electronically and recorded on high speed video for accurate times.

At all times John has remained typically self-effacing and unassuming, not seeking attention or admiration for the important outcomes of his efforts.

He is willing to pass on his technical expertise (to volunteers and helpers) and has a pleasant manner in clear communication.

His efforts have been acknowledged by both AMA and SAMA by awarding him with the high honour of Administrator/Official of the Year (AMA, 2007) and Life Membership (SAMA, 2011).

In competition, his sportsmanship is of the highest standard and he maintains an interest in actively participating in both summer and winter competitions.

It is recommended that John’s 24 years of exemplary service with SAMA together with his strong personal qualities warrant his elevation into the SAMA Hall of Fame.



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7TH AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES

25 September – 3 October – Santos Stadium, Adelaide

Rank	Name	State	Distance
1st	Bob Banens	ACT	4.87m
2nd	John Hore	South Australia	4.54m
3rd	Peter Young	Victoria	1.25m

AMG 1999



Bay Sheffield 2021



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