



Bertie Oliver Scales 1932 – 2007



Bert Scales

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of Bert Scales who died peacefully on the 22nd November 2007

No one in the world of Trampolining will not know the name Bert Scales. He was a leading statesman to the sport, a superb coach to great performers, physical education specialist to some, a guiding light and a mentor to most coaches, an honest judge in competitions around the world, a friend to the lucky ones and a good husband to Biz for many years, and big brother to John & Ken. There is however more Bert than most know.

In the Yorkshire village of Swinton on a cold 25th January morning in 1932 Bertie Oliver Scales was born to the local butcher of Rawmarsh Walker & Kathleen Scales. Those Yorkshire roots never really left him and nor did the accent.

Bert was destined to be a sportsman and showed a great aptitude for sport from these earliest days. He played football, cycled and roller-skated, cross-country and cricket. He also represented the Sheffield and Hallam Boys and the Yorkshire schoolboys at Rugby. Not being content with that he represented Yorkshire Boys at Soccer and had a trial with Rotherham United Football Club. In 1947, at 15, he started Body Building and in 1950 he won the Junior- Mr Wakefield- the Junior Mr Adonis and the Junior Mr Sheffield muscle man competitions.

In 1950 duty called in the form of 2 years National Service in the Royal Corps of Signals. He continued his sporting career, with rugby, basketball and boxing. After pestering the Physical Fitness Officer daily, Bert was seconded to the Army School of PT at Aldershot and did the assistant P T I 's course and was awarded his corporal's stripes.

Bert trained as a teacher at King Alfred's College, Winchester. 1952-4. Once again sport must have taken up a lot of his time. He competed in Soccer, Athletics (throws), and Table tennis in the Hampshire League. He still did a lot of Bodybuilding and in spite of all those diversions, acquired his Teacher's Certificate with a distinction in Physical Education.

In 1953-4 having qualified as a teacher Bert went to Carnegie College of Physical Education. At Carnegie Bert again competed in Soccer, Basketball, Athletics and Fencing and did even more weight training. He then started teaching in Jersey, in 1955 and again competed in Soccer and Hockey, did more Body building and even some hand balancing. It was whilst he was there that a photograph of him, taken whilst he was on the beach frightening off the sand kickers, ended up in Health and Strength magazine and took fourth place in a Nationwide Best Abs Competition

Bert then returned to Yorkshire taught at Dearnside Boys School, 1956-58, introduced Stan Wild to gymnastics and Dorothy Hyman to athletics and the benefits of circuit training that had just become all the rage and the answer to everything for developing strength and fitness.

Bert qualified as a coach at the first UK trampoline course in 1958 and went on to lead the way and develop trampoline coaching as a physical education specialist.

Great progress was made in 1961 when Bert got the post as Assistant Organiser of P.E in the City of Portsmouth. He stayed in

remained until he took early retirement in 1988.

In those early days of Trampolining from 1961-65, Bert was appointed as a Senior Coach and Judge of the BTA and attended many Trampoline courses at the Loughborough Summer School run by Syd Aaron, later Chairman of the BTF. Bert was from

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1963-65 the Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Southern Area Gymnastics and remained in that role until the BTF was formed in 1965.

Bert was an official at the First World Trampoline Championships in 1964 held at the Royal Albert Hall. The event was organised on behalf of The British Amateur Gymnastics Association by Ted Blake who ran the Nissen Trampoline Company and who was also the founder of the BTF in 1965.

Bert along with Ted Blake & Rob Walker formed The British Trampoline Federation by amalgamating the Trampoline section of the BAGA and the British Trampoline Association. Bert as a founder member of this new body was on its Central Council for the next 36 years. In 1969 Bert was elected as BTF Chairman and took this responsibility until 1975, but remained a Council member until the end of the BTF in 2004. He played one of the most important parts in our sport by developing and running the BTF Proficiency Scheme, based on the BTA scheme and he had a major input to the coaching scheme. Bert finally oversaw the reintegration of the BTF back into the BAGA in 1999 as a member of the National Technical Committee.

Bert was National Squad Director from 1977 until 1994 when he retired after the World Championships held at Porto in Portugal. He has been an International Judge since 1972 and is currently a Category 2 Brevet holder.

Bert is most famously known as the Director of the Portsmouth Trampoline Centre of Excellence based at the Naval School of P.T in Flathouse Rd where many high performance trampolinists were developed. Biz Baldwin, later Scales, Rich Willett, Dave Pittaway, John Zeilinski John Colquhoun, Kia Wnuk, Sean McLaughlin, and last but not least, Sue Shotton, 11 times British Ladies' Champion, six times runner up, European Champion twice, World Games Champion, World Championship finalist 9 times, and Crowned World Champion in Osaka in 1984. His current pupil is Japanese International Hiroi Tokuma. What a record

With Bert, part of our sports history has passed away, but yet I treasure in my memory your gift of inspiration Bert, and the joy of the sport.

In the words of Edgar Guest "I've looked the wide world over in my search for teachers true, and from the throngs that crowd life's lanes I have selected you. God rest Bert, our friend

Rob Walker / Martin Laws



SYD AARON M.B.E.
1924 - 2007

Syd passed away on the 7th November, after losing his fight against cancer. This has to be the one and only fight Syd ever lost. I, and many others, will remember Syd as a true leader, a pathfinder in trampolining, a mentor and a true friend.

He was one of the first people to have a trampoline in Great Britain and it is from all his falls, mishaps and perseverance learning a brand new sport, with no books or instructions just trial and error, based on his strong biomechanical and physical education background, that trampolining is here today.

I, like thousands of other students from Cardiff, owe a great debt to Syd for all he did for our professional careers. I can add to that debt my trampoline career, both as a performer and as a coach.

Syd was a true pioneer in the sport of trampolining, there will never be another like him. He will be sorely missed.

John Beer