

Don Anthony – a life remembered at the BOA

By Philip Barker



The Olympic Family have paid a warm tribute to 1956 Olympian and ISOH member Don Anthony who died in 2012. Don's wife Jadwiga and son Marek received the British Olympic Association's "Lifetime Achievement Award" on his behalf.

"This is the ultimate accolade that we at the BOA can present", said outgoing BOA Chairman Lord Moynihan who made the presentation (above). "Don was a great character who made an outstanding contribution to Olympism and he would have been immensely proud of many things during the Games this year, how sport inspired a country and left memories that all of us will savour for the rest of our lives."

"His influence on the BOA was profound", said long time BOA General Secretary Dick Palmer. "Few educationalists have made a greater contribution than he did." The pair had worked together over for over three decades and became close friends.

Anthony represented Great Britain in the hammer at the Melbourne Olympics and founded the English Volleyball Association, but his life's work was as a pioneer of Olympic Education. He worked closely with UNESCO and was a driving force in the development of Olympic Solidarity. He taught Physical Education and in his later years supported the introduction of the Coubertin Awards which focussed on sport and ethics with the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee.

The presentation was attended by his many friends including Coubertin's great nephew Antoine de Navacelle and television commentator Paul Dickenson, a fellow Olympian and member of the "Hammer Circle" which set up an award in his honour. There were also representatives of the Olympian Games at Much Wenlock, an event he did so much to bring back to prominence. ISOH were represented by Peter Lovesey and Philip Barker.