

A TRIP TO JAPAN



WHY DID my wife Peggy and I, aged 73 and 75 respectively, join 120 other mature people and take off for Miyazaki, southern Japan, early in October? The clue lies in the fact that we had all packed athletic kit. We were going to compete in the Tenth World Championships for Veteran Athletes -women over 35 and men over 40 competing in five year age groups.

First, the bad news, neither Peggy nor I reached the finals of our events. Peggy narrowly missed the 100 and 200 metres, while I, building up after a double hip replacement last year, was well out-classed in the 800. The good news was that we joined 12,000 other athletes from over 60 countries around the world, met old friends from previous championships and

were treated to 10 days of exciting competition, starting with a spectacular Japanese opening ceremony.

It had been my responsibility, as Vice President of the World Association of Veteran Athletes, to oversee the planning for the championships, and for over two years I had worked very closely with the Japanese Organising Committee. I had made two previous visits to Miyazaki, and on each occasion I had been overwhelmed by the friendship shown to me, and the great appreciation of advice I was able to give. I was impressed by the organisational efficiency and by the interest shown by the Miyazaki Prefectural Government. The interpreters had played a marvellous part in all this and continued to do so throughout the championships.

Many people will not have heard of Veteran Athletics because the media generally do not give it space, or if they do, they concentrate on the wrong people; old people shuffling around the London marathon, when they should be concentrating on the 40 year olds beating many good club runners in about 2 hours 20 minutes or the top 65 year olds well inside the three hours. The World Association of Veteran Athletes works hard to dispel the geriatric image of our sport and is ahead of their field in admitting women in all events contested by men, including the pole vault, triple jump, steeplechase and hammer.

aerobic capacity in order to become better athletes. We feel that sport keeps us healthy and gives us a reason for visiting new places. The trip to Japan was worthwhile in so many ways. We saw and experienced things that we shall never forget and we cemented friendships. Now I am beginning to help with the preparations for the next World Championships in Buffalo, USA in 1995 and we both have resolved to train that much harder.

Bill Taylor

President, British Veterans Athletic Federation,

Vice-President, World Association of Veteran Athletes.

Around the country many of us are using Yoga and Aerobics classes to help improve suppleness and increase

CYSTIC FIBROSIS WEEK 16TH - 24TH APRIL

This is the 30th Anniversary of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust. From 1964, every penny raised has enabled the C.F. Trust to make such remarkable progress in the field of C.F. research.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is the UK's most common inherited life-threatening disease with more than 6,000 affected children and young adults. Thirty or forty years ago a baby born with CF was only likely to live a few months. Now, thanks to improved diagnosis and treatment, 75 percent of babies with CF survive to adolescence. However, despite all these advances some three people a week die from the effects of Cystic Fibrosis.

During 1994 the CF Trust will spend more than £2.5 million on vital hospital and university research, the development of specialist CF centres to treat people with Cystic Fibrosis and other back-up services.

Finally, 1994 is a very special year for the CF Trust which is marking its Pearl Anniversary. On behalf of everyone at the CF Trust, thank you for your support. I wish you an enjoyable and rewarding 1994 Ad Venture Season and successful sponsorship.

G.J. Edkins, Executive Director, CF Trust.