

SUE STAVELEY

A TRIBUTE BY SIMON STAVELEY

As I sat down to write this, I'm struck with the fact that I really don't know where to begin or what to include when talking about Sue aka Mum. To start at the beginning and try to cover every aspect of Sue's life would take far longer than we have, but given this is trying to give inspiration on International Women's Day It becomes obvious where we need to focus.

Sue left school early and enrolled in a secretarial school. After working several jobs as a PA and secretary and getting married young, she finally eventually met John. After a while they set up their own business and this change of scenery was the catalyst to turn a very meek young woman in to someone who was the most kind & caring person you could hope to meet, but heaven help if you tried to make a fool of her.



Sue at Loton Park



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Whilst playing a major part in running the business and helping John to write magazine articles by lap-scoring for him at Snetterton and helping in the canteen of the Lowestoft & Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club, Sue became pregnant with Simon. She carried on lap-scoring and working behind the canteen counter until her bump became too big but she was back helping as soon as she could, not content with just resting.

Over time, Sue took on more & more responsibilities outside of work and home. Whilst always being an amazing mother, and balancing the books at home, she started to run the LOBMBC shop at every race meeting and making sure it was always well stocked. Eventually she volunteered to become Race Secretary of the club, all the time helping John who was Club Secretary, and managed everything that was required of running meetings including World Championships.



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Of course, there is always a sadder side to everyone's story. Sue was first diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2010 but faced it with her amazing fighting attitude.

The surgery to remove the thyroid had damaged her vocal cords and she effectively had to teach herself to speak from scratch to overcome this. Eventually she made a full recovery from this but this was rare case where lightning did strike twice. A few years later she was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma which she also fought with everything she had, all the while still carrying on her job, her marshalling, working at the boat club, and being a mum. Once again she fought with everything she had, even overcoming several bouts of pneumonia whilst in hospital which the doctors couldn't believe. Unfortunately, this second cancer was one fight that she couldn't win and she passed away far too early on June 18th 2017.

Sue touched so many people and her legacy lives on in Simon, her granddaughter Annabelle, and in the memories of everyone that she helped. To help recognise her service to the club, the VSCC now award the Sue Staveley trophy for the Novice Marshal of the year.

I hope that this will help Sue in carrying on her role of inspiring people everywhere and shows that you don't need to have a wealthy or perfect start to life to become an aspirational figure. Even after a couple of false starts, having a family, and fighting cancer Sue is still showing people how things can be done.

