

Graham Sykes

Graham was born on July 20, 1937 and attended King Henry VIII School in Coventry before working as a vibrations engineer at Standard Triumph.

Graham was a member of **Coventry Swimming Club** and became Britain's leading backstroker from 1955 to 1962, breaking several records. In 1956 Graham became the first Englishman to swim the 110 yards backstroke in less than 70 seconds, recording a time of 69.9 seconds.



Later that year he took part in his first Olympics, in Melbourne, where he finished sixth in the 100m backstroke final. In the Rome Olympics four years later Graham was named captain of the men's Olympics team and narrowly missed the backstroke finals. He took part in the medley relay team, finishing seventh.

In the 1962 Empire Games, (which became the Commonwealth Games), Graham won a gold medal in the 110 yards backstroke as well as a silver medal in the medley relay. He also won a bronze medal as a member of the medley relay at the 1958 games.

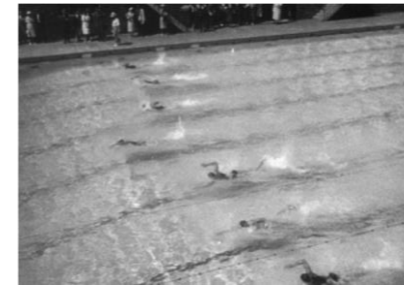


After retiring from international competition, Graham continued to compete in Britain and also became a swimming official. He went on to develop Sportsystems, the computerised programme used to record results, which clubs across the country (including this meet) still use today. He was also the chairman of COCSC for many years, and an active volunteer within the club.

Graham served on the Midland District Executive as swimming secretary from 1993-1997 and was honoured with life membership of the district in 1998.

He was also on the Swimming Committee for the West Midland Region in 2006-2007.

Graham sadly passed away suddenly in November 2008.



Empire games



1962 Perth Medal



Graham Sykes 50m opening day



Graham Sykes jumping into the swimming pool at Blackpool

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