

## Paul Vincent Nihill MBE

Paul was the last of the Golden Era Greats\* to pass on. His titles and list of race wins (along with his retirements and comebacks) was indeed prolific. I was fortunate enough to be his rival and his team-mate; we both made our international debut in the zone match of the 1963 Lugano Cup.

As a rival I had repeated views of his back and as a friend he was always kind and encouraging and in recent years was an avid Moulton Walks supporter.

The last time we met was at the Cecil Gittins walks in 2017 (pictured) where he greeted me with a big smile and “Don’t mention Milan”, which was always the introduction. The story behind this greeting emanates from the 1965 Milan 30km where I had a rare but somewhat hollow triumph finishing in front of him. We left England in a late wintry spell and the race was held in warm spring sunshine which turned out to be Paul’s undoing, as he renewed his rivalry with his Tokyo conqueror Abdon Pamich. Their pace took them well clear of the rest of us, but Paul as in Tokyo just wouldn’t give the Italian an inch, until eventually the sun and heat took its toll and he hit the wall. Just one of many memories.

It was a privilege to be his friend – Rest in Peace

Condolences to Claire, Tony and all his family.

Ron Wallwork

*\*The six year period twixt 1958 and 1964 when GB amassed two Olympic Golds, a silver and a bronze as well as two European Golds and two bronez medals. If you count Norman Read in 1956 the stat looks even better.*

