

Obituary for Andy Naylor

Many of you will have read or heard of the untimely death of Andy Naylor whilst competing at IM New York last weekend. The following tribute to him comes from his friends in Hong Kong.

After leaving the United Kingdom, Andy landed in Hong Kong in 1992 to take up a job as a fresh-faced Probationary Inspector with the then Royal Hong Kong Police Force. Andy immediately set about making his mark in the Force, and over his twenty year career he rose to the rank of Superintendent and served with the elite "Flying Tigers" counter-terrorism squad, the most highly trained unit in the Hong Kong Police.

Andy set numerous records in running in Hong Kong, many of which still stand. Among his achievements was a masters division win in the Hong Kong Standard Chartered Marathon, a 2:32 London Marathon and two silver medals at the World Police and Fire Games. But Andy always remained humble - he seemed to prize being our local tri club's reigning Beer Mile Champion just as much.

Andy always remained true to his roots, and to those around him. Fluent in Cantonese, he was dedicated to the development of a new generation of athletes through his extensive efforts with the Police Athletics Club. He was also dedicated to his philanthropic work, and served as race director of the annual charitable Matilda Sedan Chair Race, where he is remembered as a decent, friendly person who gave up his time generously, with a smile and an encouraging word for everyone involved.

Most importantly, he was a loving husband to Lynn; a devoted father to Katelyn, Tara and Sasha, three of the nicest girls you'd ever hope to meet; and a true and loyal friend. He was one of the pillars of our community, the guy who was always there to help, no matter how big or small the problem was.

One of the things that drove Andy was the belief that we could all be better than we are. He listened to your ideas and your dreams and he made you truly believe that you could achieve them, a belief that helped many of his friends do just that. He was the most inspiring person you could ever hope to meet. We were blessed to know him, and the better for having him as our friend. It is but small consolation that he was doing something that he was so passionate about when he died.

Thank you to all in the wider community who have expressed their condolences, privately or publicly, and who have been a great help to Andy's family and friends during this time.

A Facebook page is at <http://www.facebook.com/andynaylormemorial>.