

Julian Gordon

It is my pleasure today to say a few things about our latest nonagenarian member, Julian Gordon. Julian has been a member of the club since 1984 and came within a year being a charter member. He has made every Saturday run since he joined except when he's been out of town which is also a pretty good record. Now we've all heard a lot about Julian over the years recognizing there are two significant sides to Julian. Number one is his Impressive technical accomplishments in the biomedical field and two are his equally impressive credentials in the world of running.

I'd like to start with his scientific background. After Julian received his PHD he began working as an Assistant Professor at the Rockefeller University in New York from 1964 to 71. While there he made some impressive discoveries which are too complex for me to go into it at this time. Next he was group leader at the Meissner Institute in Switzerland. While there, along with some colleagues, they developed what is known as the Western blot which is a procedure for analyzing proteins. The paper they wrote has been referenced over 400,000 times in their field, which is a record for technical papers. Finally in 1984 Julian moved to the North Shore Lake Bluff and began working at Abbott Labs and developed many medical products while he was there. He reached the level of senior research fellow during his time at Abbott from till 2005 when he retired. Not one to rest on his laurels Julian immediately started to help develop another company which has been quite successful.

As I mentioned Julia's accomplishments in running were almost as impressive as his technical accomplishments. Julian started running when he was in Switzerland in the early 80s so naturally when he came to the US and Lake Bluff, he joined the Lake Forest Lake Bluff Running Club. Since that time as far as I can tell, and I probably don't have all the right data, he has run over 188 races which is almost 3000 miles racing. He has run the Chicago Marathon at least 24 times mostly as a pace leader. He was so good at this two years in a row when he was the pace leader for the 3:40 pace, one year he came in in 3:39:30, the next year was 3:41 so that gave them what they wanted in terms of a pacer. In addition to Chicago, he also ran at least another 38 marathons totaling up to 62. In the US he's run Oklahoma City, New York City two or three up in Wisconsin, Big Sur, Portland, Marine Corps, Boston and of course Chicago. Internationally he

has run quite a few: Prague, Berlin, Paris, London, Geneva, Denmark, his late wife's home country where he ran in the Hans Christian Andersen Marathon.

He has had many impressive times. As far as I can tell, he has run three hours 39-minute marathon and a one hour and 43-minute half marathon. The thing that really struck me was that Julian did not start running until he was 55. But another thing that struck me the most was that Julian's last marathon was just a few years ago when he was 83, his last half marathon he was 86 and finally his last, so far, Pumpkin Chase was three years ago when he was 87. So he held up pretty well over the years while lot of other older runners have broken down and just not made it that long.

In addition to all of this, he has run a lot of the local races including the Swinging Bridge which we held for three years. One of the stories I remember from one of the runs was that there were three guys over 70 in the race. Julian, Ed Packel and yours truly And that year all three 70-year-olds fell at least once and somebody fell three times and I'm thinking it was Julian.

I know this all sounds awfully impressive but it doesn't stop with his running Julian has also skied at least six Birkebeiners (35 miles) plus a similar race in Europe so he basically covered it all.

I now would like all of you to join me wishing Julian the happiest 90 birthday that he can have and that he just keeps on going in his impressive style
Thank you.