

# **Bridget CUSHEN**

**GBR**



Position sought:  
**IAAF Masters' Committee – Female  
Member or Member**

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**DATE OF BIRTH:** 16 September 1940  
**PROFESSION:** Group Secretary - retired  
**LANGUAGES:** English, some Spanish

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Bridget Cushen has been a long standing campaigner for veterans' athletics. An international track and cross country athlete and former British record holder at the 3000m, she served as the women's representative on the World Association of Veteran's Athletics between 1983 and 1993, a period when female team participation in the World Championships increased by 58%.

Always at the forefront of change, she competed in a marathon in 1973 before women were officially permitted to as part of her campaign for women to be allowed to run longer distances. Her main areas of interest and achievements are listed below:

She introduced the hammer (Rome 1985), triple jump (Melbourne 1987), pole vault and steeplechase (Eugene 1989) to the World Veterans Track & Field Championships programme, which paved the way for equality of men and women in track and field competition.

Bridget was the instigator of the introduction of drug testing at veterans international championships in 1990 and serves on the appropriate WAVA sub-committee. She has served on the IAAF Masters' Committee since 2003. She is a member of UK Athletics International Group and secretary of the British Masters Athletic Federation.

Bridget was a member of the team that successfully negotiated unity between the two existing world veterans' organisations and the IAAF in 1983. Bridget was also a guest speaker at the International Athletic Foundation seminar delivering a talk on 'Womens athletics and ageing' staged in October 1998 as part of the International Women in Athletics Year.

At home, Bridget has been instrumental in the development of veteran's athletics in the UK, having served as the Secretary of the British Masters Athletic Federation since 1984.

She was a member of the Organising Committee for the 1st European Veterans Indoor Championships held in Birmingham in 1997 attracting 1,300 competitors from 33 countries and with the World Veterans Track & Field Championships held in Gateshead, UK in 1999 when over 5000 athletes from 78 countries participated.

In 1997 she also chaired the Women's Assembly at the WMA Track & Field Championships in Durban; the first time a World Track and Field Championships had been held in Africa.

In 2004 she promoted and helped to organise the annual British & Irish Masters International Cross Country.

Bridget Cushen has been tireless in her efforts to expand the role of, and gain recognition for, veterans' athletics, at both world and national level, and UK Athletics is proud to nominate her for re-selection to the IAAF Masters' Committee.