

Jeremy Schroeter (1952-2013)

I met Jeremy for the first time back in the late 1970s at the Clive Orpen experimented-upon courts in Hampstead in a match in which I was playing for UCS Old Boys and Jeremy for the RFA Club.

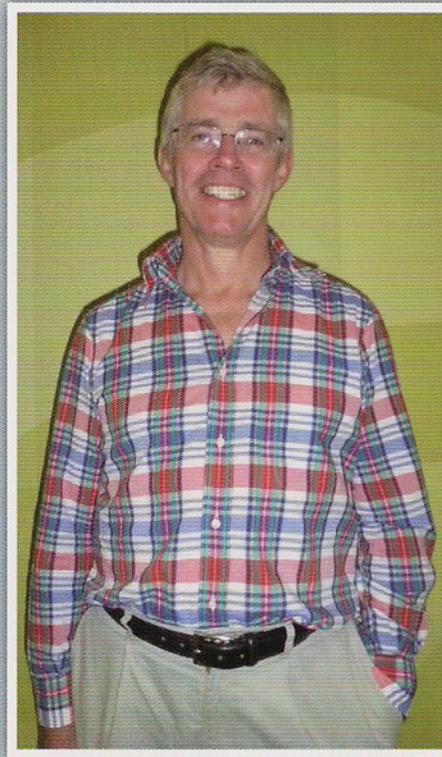
UCS Old Boys lost. In fact we got thrashed. Largely on account of Jeremy's ability to hit screaming winners with either hand from all parts of the court with deadly accuracy and tremendous power.

Following that first meeting, we started playing against and with each other in a variety of fixtures at many venues in and around London. I was very struck by his tremendous sense of fair play, offering lets to the opposition if there was the slightest hint of an obstruction and all too often refusing quite legitimate lets when they were offered to him.

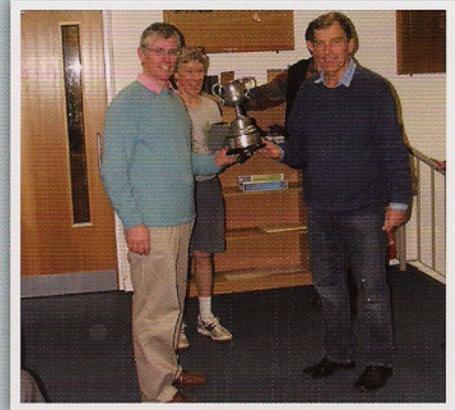
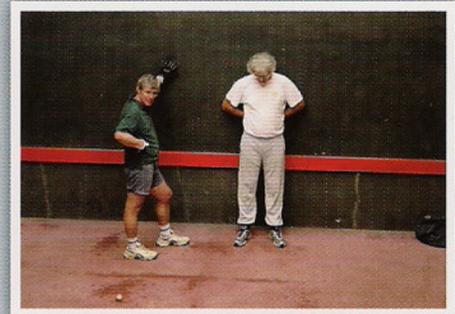
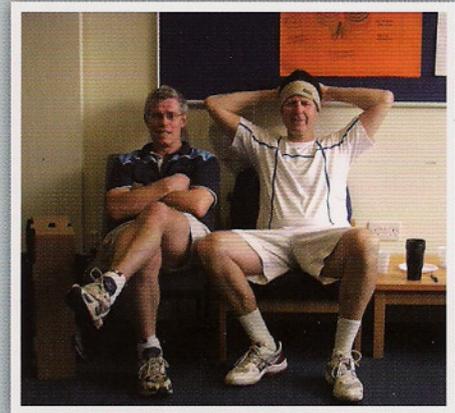
I also greatly liked his style of play which was to try to win the point with virtually every shot that he hit. Attritional fives was not for Jeremy and it meant that watching him in action was very entertaining, with a mix of cracking nicks and loud crashes into the bar, occasionally followed by the thud of the ball hitting the roof, such was the force of his shots.

Somehow we ended up partnering each other in doubles competitions – quite who asked whom I cannot recall – and for some ten years we travelled together around the country to play in most of the regional tournaments, the Club Knockout for the RFA and the National Doubles. I was a rather unfit left-hander with a flipper for a right arm, so Jeremy was the perfect doubles partner for me. He was something of a spring lamb, bounding around all parts of the court, even encroaching into the back left hand corner (my patch!) to retrieve seeming winners and then put us back on the attack, finishing off the point with a sharp cross-court shot at the front or a leap into the air for a crushing volley.

Jeremy was a Fives player extraordinaire with a rich CV of achievements including:



Jeremy (pictured, left, by Denise Hall-Wilton) was a 'Fives player extraordinaire



'His final title was a testament to his determination to live life to the full'

- Winner of the RFA Club President's Cup 8 times – 3 more times than any other player
- Winner of 9 Regional Doubles titles: South West (1), Yorkshire (1), West of England (4), North West (1), Puckle Cup (2)
- Winner of the 1983 Barnes Bridge Winchester Fives Trophy
- Runner-Up in the National Doubles Championship in 1987, 1988, & 1989
- Winner of the Veterans (over 45) Singles in 1998
- Winner of the Veterans Doubles 6 times from 1999 to 2004
- Winner of the Vintage (over 55) Doubles in 2011 & 2012

One of the most telling statistics is the last: his final victory came when he was seriously ill and was a real testament to his courage, strength and determination to live life to the full.

Even in his last months, surrounded and magnificently supported by Ellie, Richard, Patrick and Chloe, he retained the anarchic humour and 'illegitimi carborundum' attitude which made him so popular among his friends and fellow Fives players.

It was a real privilege to have known Jeremy and he is greatly missed.

David Parlyb