

From: RFA Handbook 1966-67

### L. G. W. PUCKLE

In 1925 Puck (as he soon became known) joined the Clove Club. Good-looking, powerfully built, reserved and laconic, he at times, in his immaturity, gave the impression of taciturnity. But this was only a passing phase, and soon there was to develop a personality of great strength and determination, the keynote of which was a rock-like dependability. He was fearless in his opinions, yet considerate for lesser men. Probably his outstanding quality—a sort of Churchillian characteristic—was his refusal to accept defeat even at the eleventh hour.

Elected captain of the Clove Club in March, 1928, Puck remained in office until his death in 1965.

In 1927, a number of fives enthusiasts from many clubs got together and founded the Rugby Fives Association. The following year the basis of the Association was widened and Puck was elected to the committee. Indicative of his popularity he has remained on that committee ever since. His sound commonsense and wise counsel have proved invaluable in the development of the game over the past 38 years.

Up to the outbreak of war, the Rugby Fives Association organised fives on a county basis. Puck was a regular member of the Middlesex county team, probably the hardest team to get into because of the proximity to London—the home of rugby fives.

After serving in the Royal Navy during the war, Puck came back, and he immediately started to re-establish the Clove Club. His hands had lost none of their skill, and soon the club was well on its way to its former eminence.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Puck was the way in which he maintained the highest standard of play right up to the end. Of late years, as one would expect, he was not as nimble as he once was. But the shortcoming was completely disguised by superb anticipation and incredible volleying powers. Recently he has teamed up with his son, Keith, making one of the very few father-and-son pairs ever seen in the game.

With his tragic death the Clove Club and Rugby Fives itself suffered a grievous loss. To us in the Clove Club this loss was the most poignant, because he was nearer to us, and so much part of our life. Guide, mentor and friend to so many he has left a gap almost impossible to fill. One says "almost" advisedly, because he has left behind him his son, Keith, who has so much of his father's qualities. With typical pertinacity and drive he has determined that the club shall go on as before and shall attain those heights his father had always envisaged.

This will be the true memorial to a name which will always be honoured as long as fives is played.

Leslie George William Puckle