

## JOHN BURTON

The Association is indeed fortunate in having as its current President such a modest and able enthusiast as John. John's active interest in our game started over three decades ago when he learnt to play on the old courts at Christ's Hospital, courts which have been described by some as barns, because of their large size; they have since been replaced by a modern block of standard courts. His prowess was acknowledged during his student years at Cambridge where he was not only awarded this half blue but was also Captain of Rugby Fives. His sporting talent extended far beyond the realms of Fives; whilst at Cambridge he played cricket for the Cambridge University Crusaders and was an able footballer. Very few of us can attempt to equal John's interest in fifteen sports which include such diverse activities as canoeing, squash rackets and cross-country skiing.

The Festival of Britain Year of 1951 saw John embark upon a career in textiles that lasted for 25 years. He used both his linguistic ability and his business acumen during this period with British Celanese, British Nylon Spinners and lastly I.C.I. to achieve the unique distinction of being known as "Little Miss Terylene". As a business executive ample opportunity arose for him to develop his interest in travel. During much of this busy period John found time to serve the Association as Honorary Championship Secretary as well as to act as Honorary Match Secretary for the Jesters' and President of the R.F.A. Club.

His versatility and diligence attracted him to new fields when in 1979 he joined the Wine & Spirit Association. After two years of part-time study and arduous examinations including long written papers, John was awarded in 1979 the Rouger Guillet Cup for the best student of the year. His success he attributes to the university of life.

John is a man of many talents, a person who is always ready to help, who has that enviable ability of being able to write just the right kind of letter for the occasion whenever called upon. His quiet helpful manner and sound advice is readily appreciated by all who have the pleasure to come into contact with him. He is married and has one daughter who is just going up to university. He lists among his many interests painting, jazz and oriental carpets and is still a very much sought after doubles partner. The year 1951 also saw John, partnered by John Rogers, as runner-up in the Doubles Championship for the Cyriax Cup. Schoolboys are still encountering his skill as a singles player. His ambition is to keep up all his sporting interests as long as possible.