

C.T. REICHWALD

Based on Colin Beale's obituary that appeared in "The Blundellian" of Autumn, 1980.

Chris Reichwald died on the 19th May at the age of 59. He had endured with characteristic courage an accumulative illness of much pain and no hope.

Leaving Oundle in 1939 he gained admission to St. John's College, Oxford, where his studies were limited to one year only, for at the age of nineteen he volunteered for War Service. He served with outstanding distinction in the Queen's Royal Regiment in North Africa and Italy. For his indomitable courage as Battalion Signals Officer he was awarded the Military Cross at the age of 22. He also gained the American Silver Star. As a result of having his right leg severely shattered by a shell he was invalided out of the Army

In 1946 Chris went up to St. John's again. His achievements at Rugby Fives compel speculation on what even greater successes might have been achieved without the impairment of a limp. Partnered by Walter Gluck he won the Cyriax ~~the~~ Amateur Singles Championship for the ~~West~~ Cup. He was also an able cricketer.

in 1948

He graduated in Modern Languages in 1948 and joined the staff at Cranleigh School. After an exchange visit to Grahamstown, South Africa, he and his family went to Blundell's in September 1954 where he was a Housemaster from 1958 to 1973.

Chris's greatest love lay in Sport. The standard of Blundell's Fives he metamorphosed within a period of five years. When Chris undertook the coaching in 1954 the courts seemed to have two uses, one for the wet weather tennis practice and the other most certainly not for Fives. Such was the enthusiasm that he generated that in 1959 Blundell's won the Schools' Doubles Championship. Nor was that triumph a flash in the pan, for Chris produced several Blues, and the School's successes at the West of England Schools' Championships - winners of the Singles in 1966 and the Doubles in 1965 and 1966 - in which Chris revelled in the Easter holidays, kept Blundell's amongst the leading schools for Fives. The many happy old Blundellian Fives matches against the School went to show how much O.B.'s appreciated the zest for the game that Chris had inspired in so many of them.

Chris was also a great player and scholar of cricket, as well as being no mean performer on the squash court. In post-war years he was unable to play rugby but he made himself a first class rugger referee in which capacity he made an invaluable contribution to Blundell's rugger. Chris Reichwald was essentially a gentleman of courage and integrity. All respected him.

The belated inclusion of the above is much regretted.