

We are sad to report the sudden death of former Rugby Fives Association President, Ron Colville, whilst on holiday in Devon with his wife, Mary, at the age of 62. Ron was educated at Strand School from 1933-1940, where he learnt the game of fives under extreme difficulties - the courts were open; doors recessed into side walls and a 9 foot high sloping back wall - not to mention the drainage slots at the bottom of the walls!

In 1948 the Strandian Fives Club was formed and he played regularly for them until the Club disbanded in 1970. Ron joined the R.F.A. Club in 1952 and he continued to play for them for at least 25 years.

In 1952 he was elected to the Rugby Fives Association Committee and he served as Secretary, and produced the Handbook as well, until his job took him to Sweden in 1963.

He remained on the Executive Committee when he returned from Sweden in 1964 and became President between 1976 and 1979. After his Presidency he continued to work for the Association as the Archivist until his recent death - some 35 years of service to the Governing Body of Rugby Fives!

His career was, like many others, interrupted by the war. As a student of German and French at King's, London, he joined the Navy, helping ferry troops across the Channel after D Day, and also saw service in the Red Sea, where he was bombed, and in India. After the war he spent time at the Board of Trade; with Outspan Oranges as a Sales Manager, but finally he went into teaching Geography - always his first love - after completing his degree course.

He started teaching at Bexley & Erith Technical High School; he then moved to Colfe' Grammar in Lee, and finally to Mary Datchelor as Head of Geography from 1973-81. Fives was not his only game - he was a keen squash player and also an exponent of the ancient game of Royal Tennis. He played regularly at Hampton Court where he once won the Druce Cup, beating D.J. Warburg due entirely, as Ron put it - to an extremely advantageous handicap!

On his retirement he became Administrative Director of the Bromley Little Theatre; he was also involved in Meals on Wheels, Books on Wheels - both helping housebound people, and he also lectured at adult evening institutes - a rather hectic retirement!

Ron is, perhaps, summed up best in the words of a former President of the Association, John Burton, who said:-

"Ron put a great deal into the game, was utterly reliable, and with all that had integrity and a sense of humour".

It was not just the games of Fives that he put so much into - perhaps he should have said the "game of life".

Ron will be sorely missed by all those that ever knew him, or worked with him. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, Mary, who always maintained that she married Rugby Fives as well as Ron - the portable typewriter even went on honeymoon, so that he could type out the minutes whilst they were away!

D.E. Gardner