

ABW (Alan) Taylor 1931-2018

Alan Taylor, Captain of CURFC 1955-56, has died at the age of 87. Alan was a loyal supporter of the Past versus Present and a generous contributor to the new suite of courts; it was therefore no surprise, but a touching gesture, that a member of the family wore Alan's Sparrows tie at the funeral.

Alan learned his Fives (in the company of Dickie Jeeps, later to be England Rugby captain) at Bedford Modern School from 1941 to 1950. After National Service he went up to St Catharine's to read Music and first played in the Varsity Match in 1954. Checking the scores from that year we see that he and his partner, playing at third pair, contributed a very large margin of points to what was a significant defeat of the Old Enemy. He must have been very frustrated the following year when, as Hon.Sec., he was prevented from playing by "the onset of an infectious disease more common to children". Cambridge lost by just 29 points. However, in his Captain's year, 1956, the result was reversed, in a closely fought match won by 238-228 much to Alan's longstanding delight.

Alan held two teaching posts, both as Director of Music, firstly at King Edward VI Grammar School, Retford, then for the remainder of his career, for 35 years, at Haberdashers' Aske's in Elstree. For details of an extraordinarily rich and distinguished life in Music, please read the tribute published by his family. In 1982 Alan was awarded the MBE for services to Music and Music Education; in 1997 he was made a Freeman of the City of London.



1st VI Bedford Modern School 1949 –

Alan Taylor front row left