

Peter Carlile (1941-2014)

I first met Peter at the inaugural British Universities Championships held at Bedford in 1960 and subsequently got to know him better when Leeds toured to Edinburgh. As a consequence of the warm camaraderie so typical of après-fives, he and his then regular partner Jack Slater persuaded me to go down to Leeds for my P.G.S.E. year. It was a wonderful time: I shared a house with Peter in Highbury Road and, although Jack Slater was not around to defend the Universities title he won with Peter in 1962, Leeds had three pairs in the semi-finals that year. Off-court our friendship blossomed and remained strong for over 50 years.

Peter had been a pupil at Alleyn's School in South-East London and remained a loyal Old Boy, despite the fact that, after graduating in dentistry, he set up practice in Rawdon on the outskirts of Leeds. Initially Peter continued to play a lot of fives and was a keen Jester, and I well remember trips with him to Durham, Sedbergh and Halifax. He became a keen golfer at Bradford Golf Club, enjoyed club cricket and along with Eric Marsh was a regular participant in a tour I ran to Shropshire. Later he became a member of Yorkshire C.C.C. and was usually to be found at Headingley tests. In the winter months he was a keen supporter of Otley Rugby Club. Peter continued with court games, playing squash and latterly taking up real tennis. But, in truth, there was no game in which he was not interested. He particularly liked a day at the races, whether flat or over the sticks and at one time had a share in a couple of horses. Above all, although Peter was competitive, it was the bonhomie of sporting occasions that really fired him, and whether it was trading anecdotes at the four-ale bar or singing a chorus from La Traviata in the shower, Peter was always the most clubbable of men.

Peter is survived by his lovely and devoted wife Gill, their son Nick and a host of friends whose paths he crossed over the years. No-one who met Peter will ever forget his warmth, his charm and his infectious sense of fun.

In terms of Fives titles won the list is not endless, but it is impressive: the British Universities Championships Doubles in 1962 with Jack Slater and in 1965 with Mike Roberts, the Heath Old Boys Open Doubles with Jack Slater in 1962, 1964, 1965 and 1968, and the Scottish Doubles in 1963, again with Jack. But wherever Peter moved, in Fives circles or elsewhere, his presence enriched the occasion. Peter Carlile was truly a man for all seasons.

Rick Wilson

