

Epilogue for a President

Archie Clark, who died aged ninety years on 5th December 2003, was the President of the Wychwoods Tennis Club.

His tireless work as president and before that as membership secretary and committee member over 17 years was a major element in the development of the club into a thriving concern. For my part, as Club Secretary, he was always there to give me support or wise counsel when needed. He was always far-sighted and open-minded, never showing any inflexibility, which is often the affliction of great age.

Without his help and perseverance it is quite likely that the club would not have obtained lottery funding for the installation of the new courts. I remember many morning meetings at 'Winterseeds' when Archie and Peggy provided delighted builders with bacon sandwiches and coffee, and one memorable visit to a Sports England clinic, where we learnt the finer arts of completing a Lottery form. All this help was given when he probably should have been resting, but his astonishing enthusiasm for the club would not have allowed him to consider this as an option. His inspiration will be sorely missed.



Archie Clark

1913 – 2003

Photograph on his 90th birthday

Often, while chatting to Archie over a convivial glass of wine, he would mention in passing his wartime experiences. These almost certainly had a determining effect on his character. Such was the quality of the man that it took quite a bit of digging to get him to say more.

As a Senior Warrant Officer and then 1st Lieutenant, Archie

served in the Royal Artillery. He was involved in the defence of London during the Blitz. He also took part in the Normandy Landings on D-Day+8 in the first period of Operation Overlord. Once in Europe he and his unit were sent to Arnhem, but unfortunately arrived too late to be of any assistance to that ill fated operation. These critical events were, of course, only part of the military history of this surprising man.

Although there is much more to say, it has to be sufficient to say "Thank you" from the Wychwoods Tennis Club to Archie for being there when needed and "Thank you" to Peggy for supporting him throughout the realisation of his many inspired dreams and ideas.

Ian Carrington
(Club Secretary)