

# TRIBUTE TO MIKE ANDREWS



Mike (usually Mickey to his OSFC chums) Andrews passed away on 2 March after a long illness. A service of remembrance was held at Bournemouth Crematorium, followed by the chance to reminisce with his family and friends at Crane Valley Golf Club in Verwood.

Mike was in the year below me at Stationers, attending between 1958 and 1963. My memories of Mike at school are vague, probably because one rarely noticed those younger than ourselves! We did, however, really get to know each other in the OS Football Club shortly after leaving school. We played a lot together, starting in the 5th XI. I remember Mike as a skilful winger and a regular goal-scorer.

A particularly good memory is of an Old Boys 5<sup>th</sup> XI cup final, played at Cuaco's ground, in about 1969/70. Tony Ames had assembled and led a good and very sociable team and on the day many of our wives and girlfriends (the original WAG's!) came to support us. A good time was had by all, despite the fact that we lost! We both managed to claw our way up to higher levels but always fondly remembered those 5<sup>th</sup> XI days.

During the 70's we moved to Hitchin and Mike and his wife Jean moved to Bedford, but we still carried on playing for OSFC. On returning from Hitchin, I started playing cricket for OSCC and again played with Mike.

By this stage, we were living in Oakwood and Mike and Jean were in Palmers Green. Mike invited me to play squash with him at Hazelwood Squash Club in Winchmore Hill. I should have known better since Mike had thrashed me at table tennis at Lensbury's ground after a keenly fought football match. I thought I was a reasonable player but I barely got a point off Mike, who then modestly informed me that he had been Wiltshire County champion! With Mike's proposal, I was admitted to membership at Hazelwood. We played each other many times but I never beat him, in fact I do not recall him ever having to remove his sweater!

After many years working for British Telecom (BT), Mike had a complete change of career and became a postman, pounding the streets of Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill. In his spare time, he had an allotment. In December 2009, Mike and Jean moved to Verwood, close to Bournemouth, where they soon established a new group of friends.

Mike is survived by Jean and their son Timothy, who lives in London, and daughter Katie, who lives with her husband in Bath.

In summary, Mike was a keen sportsman and was particularly talented at racket sports. He was a family man and always relaxed and friendly to everyone. Even in his final months, when he knew his illness was terminal, he remained cheerful and stoical. He was a thoroughly decent bloke.

*Chris Wilkins*