

John Ingram 1932-2014

John Ingram died from cancer at the age of 82, only a few weeks after attending the opening of the new courts at Cambridge. As an excellent player of Rugby Fives and a long-standing coach of the Eton variety, John was particularly delighted to see the realisation of his friend Jock Burnet's dream of courts once more at the University. He had been an assiduous supporter of the Past versus Present throughout all the years when Cambridge was court-less.

John learned his Fives at Merchant Taylors' in Northwood, and after National Service he went up to St. Catharine's College read Natural Sciences. A big man and a talented games player, John captained the college rugby team, bowled fast for the college cricket team and won half blues for Rugby Fives in 1955 and 1956, partnering Alan Taylor, who remembers him "for his incredible tenacity – and lengthy reach!"

John taught first at Fettes, then moved to Harrow, where he taught sciences, coached rugby at all levels, refereed for the London Society of Referees, commanded the CCF and became a housemaster. Like all Rugby Fives players he found it took some time to get the hang of the version of Fives played at Harrow, his best shots constantly soaring out of the back of the court, but in due course he became master in charge and an enthusiastic member of the beaks' team for the annual match against Westminster Masters, where his physical presence dominated the court.

In retirement this "gentle giant", as fellow OMT David Cameron recalls him, was an elder at the Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Northwood. He is survived by his wife Ann, his children Kim, Mark and Sarah and three stepchildren, to whom we send our condolences.

Bob Dolby, with thanks to Dale Vargas



John Ingram (r) playing for Merchant Taylors' Ist IV v. Alleyn's School 1951