

Tony Dawes 1930-2018

The RFA learnt of the death of ADR (Tony) Dawes in May 2018 from the Office of the Old Bedfordians. They informed us that Tony had died at the age of 87 and that although his mobility had had not been great in later years he had up to that point been blessed with good health and had lived a full and active life. He left his wife, three children, five grandchildren and a stepdaughter.

Tony attended Bedford School from 1937 to 1949, along with his elder brother, Michael. Tony was an impressive gymnast and also became a renowned Rugby Fives player, winning the National Schools' Singles competition in 1948 and 1949. He then went on to win the Amateur Singles in 1950, 1951 and 1952, along with the Amateur Doubles in 1950 and 1951, with JR Nicol and ER Conradi respectively. Tony is the youngest recorded winner of the National Singles, aged 19.2.



Tony in 1948 with the Schools Singles trophy

Following school Tony joined the Royal Air Force, reaching the rank of Squadron Leader. Though he did not continue to play Fives at a high level, he did become a formidable opponent on the squash court.

There is a record of Tony joining with fellow national and schools champion John Pretlove to play in the National Doubles at Allyn's in 1983. Both in their early fifties, they won their preliminary match and then gave two eventual semi-finalists, Heron & Howe, a good game in the next round.

After a career with the RAF and a stint at the Ministry of Defence Tony entered civilian life working for the Royal Society of Medicine in Wimpole Street as the Administrative Services Manager. In his later years Tony took up golf. He was a great supporter of Bedford School and the OB Club, and always tried to get to reunions and events if he could. He is pictured below with the Bedford School 1st IV in 2011.



2011



Tony with Tom Wood at Bedford School c. 1985