

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN BULL

On the 29th December 1977 the OBA Treasurer, John Bull, died of a brain tumour in Park Royal Hospital. He was 38 years old and had been ill for only two weeks. He was cremated at the Breaspear Crematorium, Ruislip, on the 5th of January. Prior to the cremation, a service of remembrance was held at St Emmanuel's Church, Northwood. It was attended by some 300 of his friends, many of whom were OBA members. That alone says something for the man.

John joined KGS in 1950. He completed his academic career competently, if somewhat casually, in 1956. Those of us who knew him best sometimes wondered how he found any time for study given the breadth and depth of his outside interests. He was a good and highly competitive all round sportsman, representing the school at rugby, athletics and tennis. As a Sea Scout and later a Queens Scout, he developed a keen interest in sailing which he retained until his death. He joined the Old Creightonians Rugby Football Club in 1956 and was a regular member of the 1st XV at the early age of 18. Despite his propensity to dislocate his shoulders he retained his first team place and became club captain for a season. He was still playing rugby three weeks before he died.



In the early days of Tentelow Lane, the Rugby Club became his second home and remained so until the ground was sold. Many of us threw ourselves wholeheartedly into the building of the club house and the hectic preparations that preceded the opening of the ground. Few of us, however, had the persistence to continue with the grind of running the club on a day-to-day basis. John was one of those few. Despite these efforts, he was one of the first to recognise the problems created by the termination of the school intake and the need to convert the asset which the OBA had into a form more suitable to its needs. Nevertheless, as Chairman of the Rugby Club, he was instrumental in ensuring that those who still wished to continue with their chosen sport could do so.

John was an enthusiast being completely committed to everything he did. He was very much a family man, devoted to his wife and three young children. He also ran a demanding and successful business but still found time to meet the needs of the Association which most of us in less demanding situations could not match.

John died suddenly at the age of thirty-eight but, in that half a lifetime, he did more than many would be proud to complete in a full one.

Those of us who knew John are richer for knowing him and poorer for his passing.