

David "Taff" Powell
- Paddy and Malcolm's tribute



David "Taff" Powell, who died in December 2020, was a faithful member of the Society from 1988. He served on the committee for almost two decades from 1989 to 2008, and was then awarded Complimentary Life Membership in recognition of his valuable contribution.

A much-respected Head of House and craft teacher (with the skills of an accomplished cabinet maker) at Bournside School for many years, Taff would never have claimed to be more than a social, midweek cricketer, not least because rugby was his lifelong sporting interest, both as a player and as a legendary and devoted officer of The Old Patesians R.F.C. In committee he was not the most voluminous speaker, but in the best convention of worthy contributors he would make timely, pertinent, relevant and valuable points, rarely wasting a word. He also possessed a rare diplomatic ability, and from the Society's early days he is fondly remembered for using this to good effect as a buffer between restaurant staff and one or two of our more demanding officials at pre-meeting meals!

Many will know him also as the welcoming concierge at the entrance of the Old Pats' marquee at so many Cheltenham Cricket Festivals. We recall his geniality and bonhomie there, just as we enjoyed his naturally friendly company in and around the Victory Club, where he was renowned for welcoming new members, and for invariably being first to shake the hand of a visiting speaker.

Taff's roots were in the Brecon area. He trained as a teacher at Loughborough Colleges, and played alongside Alun Pask in the early years of Loughborough's rugby fame, with footballer Tony Waiters in the same cohort. Unsurprisingly, his fervent support for Wales rugby was unmatched, apart perhaps from his devotion to the Old Pats, and one doubts that he ever missed a Cardiff international until this past year.

His cricket friends, both those in this Society and so many others in the locality, cherish time spent in his company, as indeed we do his memory.

Paddy Murphy
Malcolm Brown