

Harry Archibald Williams

Isle of Wight County Press 6 April 1946

NEWPORT

Death of Mr. H. A. Williams of Newport

PROMINENT FOOTBALL OFFICIAL

Island football has lost one of its ablest officials by the death on Saturday, at his residence, Chesterton, Fairlee-road, Newport, of Mr. Harry Archibald Williams, hon. secretary of the I.W. Football Association and formerly hon. general secretary of the Newport Football Club. His passing, at the age of 62, will be mourned by footballers throughout the Island, and his loss will be keenly felt. He will be particularly remembered for his long connection with the Newport club. It was with the 1921-22 season that he commenced what became the longest period of service by anyone in the office of hon. secretary, and from which he retired two seasons ago for health reasons. The success which the club achieved, especially during the years between the wars, was in no small measure due to Mr. Williams' untiring energy, keen judgement of players, and able management. Although he shared the fortunes of the Newport club with others who had been associated with it as long, and in some cases longer, he became outstanding as its most important official. Mr. Williams did not confine his football management ability to the Newport club alone, but gave of his valuable experience to the I.W. Football Association, with which he was connected for many years. He was an acting vice-president, one of the associate's representatives to the Hampshire F.A. for about 20 years, and a member of the Hants F.A. reports committee. When the late Mr. A. W. Spanner retired from the hon. secretaryship of the Island Association just before the war, Mr. Williams was appointed his successor and he held the position until his death. He was also a member of the Newport Bowling Club. A Newport man, Mr. Williams leaves a widow, to whom sincere sympathy is extended. By profession he was a sailmaker, carrying on business in Quay-street, Newport. He made sails for the majority of the barges which used the Newport quay and the river, and he had a wide clientele among yacht owners. During the war, Mr. Williams made many canvas articles for the Free French Navy. He was also noted for his rick sheet covers, which had a large sale among Island farmers. His cheery good nature endeared him to all his associates.

The funeral took place on Thursday, the service being held at the Quay-street Methodist Church, Newport. The large attendance included representatives of the Hampshire and I.W. Football Associations, and the Foresters, of which Mr. Williams had been secretary of the Buds of Promise (juveniles). The Rev. G. J. Chamberlain officiated and paid tribute to Mr. Williams' admirable qualities and his excellent services to football. Mr. W. G. Bartlett (organist and hon. secretary of Newport F.C.), accompanied the singing of the hymns "Jesu, lover of my soul" and "Abide with me." The mourners were Mrs. Williams (widow), Mr. W. Williams (brother), Mesdames W. Cooper and T. C. McGrotty (sisters), Mr. and Mrs. P. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. N. Scott, Messrs. J. Scott, A. Holmes, and W. Cooper (brothers and sisters-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ansell (cousins), Mrs. York (niece, representing Mrs. Holmes, sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. G. Lockyer, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. McGrotty, junior, and Mr. J. Holmes (nephews and nieces).

(only family mourners transcribed)

The interment followed at Newport Cemetery, where the Foresters funeral oration was delivered by Mr. A. J. Williams.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries, © 2025 <https://www.foncc.org.uk>