

Allan Higgins

Allan died on the 2nd April in East Lancashire Hospice from Melanoma Cancer.

He was born in Castle Donnington on the 30th November 1939 and brought up in Woodville Derbyshire. He was working in Hull for J H Fenner when they asked him to take over as Works Manager of a subsidiary Company in Church Accrington making Lifting Equipment for the Coal Mining Industry.

He joined Bolton Bowling Club around 1982/3 at a time when Lancashire had welcomed other imports from Yorkshire viz. Alec Atkinson, David Hoffman & Simon Archer. Incidentally the recognised founder of the Lancashire County Bowling Association was also a Yorkshireman in Ernest Spedding, owner of the Scarisbrick Hotel in Southport.

Bolton was a very young Club. Allan very quickly rolled his sleeves up to meet the urgent challenges facing it. He designed the Club Badge based on the Town's Coat of Arms. He was the inspiration and leader of the acquisition, dismantling and re-assembling of the original Pavilion sourced from Weeton Army Camp.

He played his part in formalising the Administration structure of the Club, which was initiated by Alan Braden, former Musical Director of Associated Rediffusion and later Thames TV.

Allan had a particularly successful time in 1985 and 1986 on the green. He won the County Pairs with Gordon Niven in both these years. In 1986 they lost in the second round of the National Championship Finals at Worthing Pavilion to David Rhys-Jones and David Bryant. In the same years 1985 and 1986 he won the Northern Counties Fours in rinks skipped by Tom Armstrong (1985) and David Holt (1986)

Allan was an international umpire and officiated at the 1992 World Championships at Worthing. He enjoyed his time as an Umpire and was an active member of the English Bowls Umpires Association.

Allan was a supporter of all Presidents of the National Association and travelled the Country playing matches on their behalf. He made many friends throughout the Country.

The Commonwealth Games were held in Manchester in 2002. Allan was appointed Competition Manager by Bowls England. In essence he was also the “local man” and he would have to fix the unexpected as well be responsible for specific tasks. One of his responsibilities was to ensure that all the equipment was acquired.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to bowls he was awarded at various times four Honorary Life Memberships – Bolton FGBC, Bowls Lancashire, English Bowls Umpires Association and the EBA.

Allan is survived by his daughter, Julie Fullalove, and son Andrew Higgins.

His Funeral takes place on the 17th April (Thurs) at 1.15 at All Saints Church Clayton le Moors, BB5 5HT and Accrington Crematorium Burnley Road Accrington BB5 6HA at 2.15.