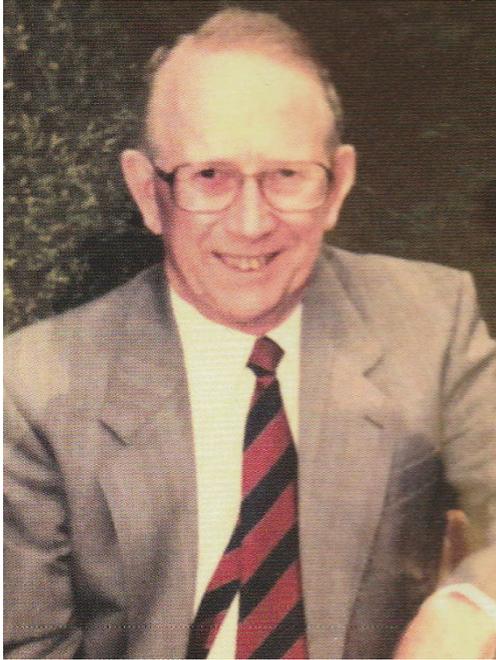


KEN DANIEL 1934-2018



Ken first became involved with the Kent County Playing Fields Association - Charity (KCPFA) in 2002 a year after his wife Shirley. Initially he joined the Golf Committee and was responsible for every aspect of the Cecil Leitch 5 Club Competition. His diligence, accuracy and attention to detailed preparation resulted in the smooth management of each event and successful financial outcomes each year. On finals day he would meticulously record the scores of each player adjusted for handicaps, until a winner in each category was found. In addition he and Shirley would source the main prizes every year and buy the golf balls for the ball raffle. This he did for the next sixteen years culminating in this year's competition held at Redlibbets Golf Club. He had informed the Secretary then that the next year, to be held at St Augustine's Golf club, would in fact be his last as other priorities and advancing years became apparent, sadly it was not to be.

In 2007 he was elected to the Management Committee whose members serve as Trustees to the Association and for the next three years remained active on the Committee during a period of change and modernisation, until his resignation in 2010. Here was a man dedicated to the tasks he took on, a man of integrity and high principle. He was stubborn but always correct in his detail, manner and observations concerning the charity. As Secretary I was used to Ken's corrections and observations to the minutes recorded at meetings, and he was always right, although on some occasions the smallest detail might be raised which caused amusement. I welcomed his judgement and in truth his work ethic and the resulting corrections made me look more efficient than I am. He was a true professional in every sense and a much valued colleague.

We have heard wonderful loving tributes and memories from those closest to Ken; many more are being echoed from far and wide, none more so than from friends, members and staff of the **Dartford Golf Club** that this very quiet, disciplined and devoted man has played, served and graced for more than 53 years. More than a third of those years in an official capacity. He joined Dartford Golf Club in 1965, diligently recording, as we have since discovered, paying 30 guineas – that must have included the joining fee. It also told us much about Ken's constant attention to detail and the finer points, dotting the I's and crossing the T's.

It was abundantly clear that Ken was already very well respected, both for his playing ability – his handicap was 5 – and the knowledge and experience gained from business and travel. His patience and work ethic were serving Dartford well. He was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1973. It became a very turbulent time for directors. They were faced with strong, and, at times, bitter opposition from the membership over plans and costs for the ambitious extension to the clubhouse. Ken remained a stalwart supporter of Board decisions and the project, never seemingly troubled and was so very proud when it all came to fruition in his Captaincy year 1979.

Dedication to the office of Captain was second nature; the "Fridaynighters" enjoyed it to the full with him. He retained that single-figure handicap for over 20 years. All down to a short

game that many a professional, or any golfer for that matter, would pay good money for. And that wonderful putting stroke. I'm sure that there are many others, like me, who, at times, would happily have picked up that golden wand and done nasty things with it after having a certain win snatched away. He had six holes in one all carefully recorded in his meticulous and most beautiful hand-writing style: date/iron or wood/distance/hole and venue. Records of his Dartford playing honours have been archived except for one still showing in the clubhouse, winning the 1984 Hulsewood Plate with his old mate Harry. He achieved honours at Kent Captains with Les Cox in 2007 and Brian Rose in 2010.

1993 and Ken once again was elected to the Board. The roof and the flat had been completed, a new locker room was almost up and ready but again the membership was dissatisfied and comprehensively rejected a proposal that the Club would keep a VAT refund due to members. And so in 1995 Ken was elected Chairman of the Board, a most difficult day-to-day challenge for a voluntary, unpaid person of any skill. Of course he coped quite easily. Ken edited the booklet called "The Final Chapter of the History of Dartford Golf Club" recording the events and achievements from 1991-1997. A framed record, produced by Ken hangs in the Clubhouse.

However OAP STATUS was far from finality for Ken. He did retire from Chairman in 1999, but continued as the Club's historian up until 2012. A due and just reward came to Ken when he was elected President in 2004. In his inaugural acceptance speech – in a very rare show of emotion – he boldly punched the air when announcing that 28 had held the office before him, only 5 of those had also been Chairman and Captain, the last as long ago as 1954. Ken had his triple crown, so to speak. His Presidency ended 18 years of elected official service. Ken was still organising the Dartford Junior Open up until 2016.

The eulogy from his long-term friend **Peter Embleton** remarked on the amount of time Ken spent on officialdom, his generosity, his principled integrity and suggested his legacy might be "**think not what you can gain or take out but what you can put in**".

Ken was a most respected and selfless gentleman, unique in his own right in a world where much is taken for granted or payment expected. Despite his advanced years he continued to be active in all aspects of his life including holidays abroad every year with his beloved wife Shirley and on the Dartford Golf Club where he spent many happy years as a former President, Chairman, Club Captain and player. Ken will be missed by all who knew him as a kind and gentle man who preferred to avoid the limelight but was ever a vital cog in the engine of life.

NB I would like to sincerely thank **Peter Embleton** for kindly allowing me to use large parts of his eulogy both text and information which he read at Ken's funeral, to pay tribute to Ken on behalf of the KCPFA.

Paul Peacock – KCPFA Secretary- September 2018