



Obituary:

James (Jim) Edward Melvyn Maile (OE1952-60)



We are saddened to announce the death of Jim Maile (Marlborough 1952-60), who passed away in October 2020 after an eighteen-month battle with Parkinson's Disease. Jim, who was born on 23rd December 1940 and attended Tennyson Street Primary School, was a great supporter of Emanuel. He enjoyed keeping up to date with school news and kindly donated many photos from his sporting era.

As a Battersea boy, after passing the 11+ exam, Jim applied to attend Emanuel School and after interview was delighted to be offered a place. Although he performed well academically, his passion was sport and he excelled at rugby, athletics and, in particular, cricket. He was a genuine all-rounder. There were early signs that Jim had the makings of an outstanding athlete after winning a sports medal in 1953 whilst in his Second Year. There was better to come as Jim regularly played for the top rugby and cricket teams, including three years in the 1st XI between 1957 and 1959. In his final year, as Captain of Marlborough House, he accepted the Macbeth Cup after an exciting triumph on Sports Day. Jim won

the 440-yard race on Sports Day and was known for both his prowess in sprinting and longer quarter-mile distances. The family home in Seaton, Devon, is covered with photos from Jim's various teams and sporting achievements going back to his school days.

Some years ago, Jim very kindly donated his 'Full Cricket Colours' blazer badge to the school archive; it was a great honour to receive this precious item, as in those days they were very difficult to earn. Beyond sport, Jim also sang in concert choirs and won a Modern Language school prize in 1957. Outside of school, he was in the Scouts and played in an 'unofficial' school football team, the 'Bawbee Rebels' which competed in Sunday morning fixtures.

Jim's family noted that if there was an international Test Match or Rugby Union on TV he was often glued to the screen for many hours. His lifelong love of these sports surely came from his immersion in sports at Emanuel. In 2008 there was a fifty-year reunion at the school of the members of the 1958 1st XI to which Jim belonged. The team had remained

undefeated for the entire season, which also included a short tour of Somerset – a feat known to have been achieved on only one other occasion by an Emanuel cricket team. Jim was a natural and a fine all-rounder, his *Portcullis* profile of 1958 noted: "A very promising batsman with a beautiful style. At his best when playing forward on the offside, although against faster bowling he is inclined to flash his bat without moving across. A brilliant cover-point fieldsman and an accurate and tireless medium-pace bowler who really swings his shoulders to get pace off the pitch."

After leaving school Jim started working in insurance and was delighted to discover that Cornhill (and later Willis Faber) both had thriving Sports Clubs which he joined with enthusiasm. During this time, he married Gill and they had two daughters, Kate and Emma. In 1974 the family relocated to Devon and have lived there ever since. Jim's career took him into Local Government in Sidmouth, where he became Chief Administration Officer for the Planning Department, retiring in 2002. Being a lifelong sports fanatic, Jim made many good friends in Seaton with whom he played golf, bowls and snooker as well





PHOTO BY ERNEST A. COOK, EALING, W.S.

Standing : R. N. Chignell Esq. K. Dickson B. A. Pilcher D. G. McMillan A. M. V. Cooke P. J. Lewis A. M. Rigby
 Seated : J. E. M. Maile M. F. Radford R. G. Tarrant M. J. S. Harland T. R. Woodcock
 HON. SEC. CAPTAIN

as participating in many raucous cards sessions. In later years he suffered from severe nerve pain for which the doctors could offer no explanation before his eventual Parkinson's diagnosis in 2018. Sadly, the medication he was prescribed did little to alleviate his condition and the last eighteen months of his life was very tough. However, he met all the difficulties it presented with stoicism and a wry sense of humour.

Back in 2007, when the School Archive was in its early stages of development, having family heirlooms donated to the school helped us develop our collection significantly. What made the cricket blazer so special was the fact that we knew how much it meant to Jim, as he had treasured it for fifty years. He undoubtedly loved his old school and wanted other OEs to be able to see this lovely piece of vintage clothing. We assured him it would be on permanent display and this is a promise we have kept for over a decade and will continue to honour.

Jim's passing is a great loss to his surviving family of Gill, Kate, Emma and grandchildren Henry and Joe who said "He has left a huge gap in our lives, but we were privileged to have been so important to him as he was to us. He was kind, pragmatic, loyal and fun loving, and we will always miss him."

Tony Jones, Archivist



PHOTO BY ERNEST A. COOK, EALING, W.S.

v : J. A. B. L. Cuddon Esq. M. R. Sutton M. T. Robinson A. Sweetsur M. V. Fryatt C. J. Bruton P. N. Reed M. Campbell J. E. M. Maile W. C. Neath Esq.
 Front row : E. F. Burton P. J. Lewis C. P. Larkum M. H. Lewis C. L. C. Hedge A. E. Arnaud C. M. White
 HON. SEC. CAPTAIN
 On ground : K. M. Browne J. A. Leech I. B. Cooke