

Obituary:

Michael Sullivan (OEI 947-54)



It is with great regret we announce the passing of Michael Sullivan on the 3rd February 2020 at the age of 83. Michael, who was born in Battersea in 1936, attended Emanuel from 1947-54 and was a noted sportsman both at school and afterwards.

Michael was an accomplished student, became a House Prefect and the Captain of Rodney, was awarded full sports colours in both Rugby and Cricket and represented the school in both the 1st XV Rugby and 1st XI Cricket sides. Michael also rose to the rank of Lance Sergeant in the Army section of the school CCF. In addition, Michael was awarded the prestigious Victor Ludorum, the Athlete of the Year Prize for 1953/54.

The School Magazine *The Portcullis* commented of Michael's Rugby prowess as follows:- "Very fast. Went in hard for the line and tackle, scoring many good tries. His place kicking was also a great asset to the team".

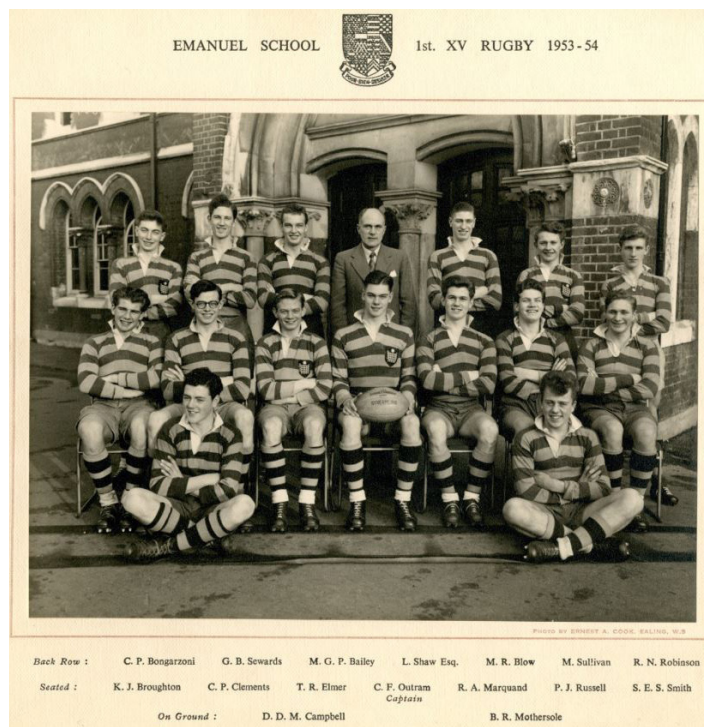
Although he had been offered a scholarship to the Slade School of Art at the end of the 6th form, Michael went into the RAF for his national service and became a radar engineer. Whilst completing his national service, he played for the Combined Services Rugby side and met his wife, Mary, whom he married in 1958.

Michael continued his association with the school by playing rugby for the Old Boys side well into the late 1950s and also represented the Hercules athletic club and subsequently the UK as a 220 yard sprinter in several International Athletic meets.

Michael achieved the Olympic qualifying time for the 220-yard sprint in time for the Rome Olympics in 1960 and was touted to be going to the Games as part of the UK sprint relay squad before a lower back injury ruled him out.

Michael and Mary had three children, Linda, Andrew and Richard, who together with three grandchildren, all survive him and whom he was very proud of.

Michael's eldest son, Andrew, is a noted Political Journalist and writer who attended Oxford University (Magdalen) and Harvard



University's Kennedy School of Government in the USA where he now lives.

Michael started a career in the Insurance industry at the end of his National Service, beginning as a Fire Inspector for Northern Insurance and ultimately became SE Manager and Commercial Underwriter for Aegon Insurance in Edenbridge, Kent, having settled in nearby East Grinstead in Sussex.

Michael played Rugby for East Grinstead Rugby Club for many years as well as being a keen squash player and golfer.

Michael retired in the early 1990s as Marketing Director for the Aegon Insurance Company.

On his retirement Michael realised his ambition of building his own home and rekindled his interest in Art, becoming an accomplished watercolourist and painter.

He is sadly missed by his family, including his younger brother, John (OE 1947-1957) and friends.

By John Sullivan (OE 1947-57)

