

Derek F Cheeseman 21 May 1929–11 December 2019



Derek was born in New Malden, Surrey. His mother, Daisy, and father, Thomas, a silk buyer, already had a son, Mike, born 14 months earlier. Unfortunately their father died in Como, Italy, when Derek was only 21 months old.

The two boys were sent, age six and seven, to Ballards, near Croydon, which became the Royal Russell School, a boarding school established as a charitable institution for 'orphans of warehousemen, clerks and drapers' livery companies'. Derek spent many happy years there taking part in every sport possible, especially swimming. He had a penchant for languages and sciences and stayed on to do his Highers, now A levels, but as there were no dedicated teachers available so he was not very successful.

During the Second World War, the family moved to Macclesfield after the family business warehouse burnt down. Derek and his brother loved spending their school holidays cycling all over the area and in August 1945, even cycled 20 miles to Old Trafford to see the fifth Ashes Victory Test. They left their bikes on the verge outside – and at the end of the day's play, they were still there.

He did his National Service, joining the Wiltshire regiment on April Fool's Day 1949. He enjoyed his time in the army as a corporal and typically engaged in any sporting activity available in order to avoid doing anything more arduous. In particular, he boxed and, needless to say, played cricket, alongside Ken Barrington. After National Service he joined the Royal Insurance in Fleet Street where he made many lifelong friends. His weekends were spent playing cricket for Malden Wanderers, followed by Wigmore, and hockey in the winter for Spencer.

After being taken ill in 1964, he transferred to the Royal Insurance branch in Banbury. He immediately joined Banbury Cricket and Hockey Clubs and also, slightly bizarrely as he was not known for his singing ability, Banbury Operatic Society.

He played cricket every summer weekend and on occasional weekdays when he could. Cricket and hockey were a big part of Derek's life and he loved going on cricket tours with Banbury and later with Barclays as well as to Clacton with the Hockey Club.

In 1972 he left the Royal Insurance after accepting a job as area manager for Barclays Insurance in Oxford. The following year he moved to Deddington with Jill and Claire. Rachel was born in 1975, followed by Will in 1980.

Derek started coaching the under 13 cricket team which included Will and some of his school mates. This continued well beyond Will playing in the under 16s side and progressing to the men's team. As an active chairman of the club for many seasons, Derek organised advertising for the fixture card and did a sky-dive for his 80th birthday to raise funds for the Club and Dogs for Good. Latterly he was President of the Club.

The Cheeseman Family

