

## **Ernest Walter Barton**

**Isle of Wight County Press – 4 April 1959**

### **PROMINENT SPORTSMAN AND CHURCHMAN**

#### **SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. E. W. BARTON, OF NEWPORT**

The Newport Football Club lost an esteemed president, who had loyally worked for the club for many years, St. John's Church, Newport, a devoted vicar's warden, the ancient King James I Grammar School a most helpful old boy, and the borough a much respected master builder by the sudden death on Thursday week of Mr. Ernest Walter Barton, of Bassett, St. John's Road, aged 77. Although not enjoying his former robust health recently, Mr. Barton had carried on his business and other activities, and had been at work on Thursday as usual. A few minutes after arriving home in the late afternoon he collapsed and died almost immediately. No inquest was necessary as his doctor was able to certify the course of death. Very sincere sympathy is felt with his widow, who fully shared his church and football interests. Their only son, Harold, a sergeant pilot in the RAF, was killed in an accidental crash on the Sussex Downs during the last world war, and Mr. and Mrs. Barton replaced the stone cross on the Eastern gable of St John's Church in his memory.

#### **FOOTBALL OFFICIAL FOR 36 YEARS**

Mr. Barton played at half-back for the Newport Football Club in his early manhood and in 1923 was appointed honorary treasurer. He ably fulfilled the duties of that office until 1954, when he became chairman of the club in succession to the late Mr. J. V. Duke, who was elected president on the death of Ald. W. Blake, JP. In July 1957, after Mr Duke's death, Mr. Barton was chosen as his successor, so altogether he had been an official of the club for 36 years. For most of that long period he never missed a home or away game, and he never spared himself in promoting the interests of the club and the game in the Island capital. Tributes were paid to him at the Cowes v. Newport match on Good Friday, and at matches at Church Litten on the Saturday and Easter Monday, the Newport players wearing black armlets, and the spectators observing a short silence.

#### **A FAITHFUL WARDEN**

Mr. Barton and his wife were very regular worshippers at St. John's Church, and six years ago he became vicar's warden, when Mr. W. G. Cutmore left to reside in South Africa. At the morning service on Easter Day the Vicar (the Rev. S. F. Cooper) expressed the congregation's sorrow at his passing, and said no incumbent could ever have had a more faithful and reliable warden. Mr. Barton's work for the church was not confined to his duties as a warden. As a member of the Parochial Church Council his knowledge of building was of much value, and he often generously carried out repairs to the church fabric and other parochial buildings at cost price.

#### **AN ACTIVE "OLD BOY"**

Keenly interested in his old school, Mr. Barton was a founder member and past president of the Old Boys' Association of the King James I Grammar School and a trustee of the school. Again, his practical knowledge of building was readily placed at the disposal of the trustees and head master when renovations and extensions were being considered, and he took a leading part in the Association's efforts to add to the school's accommodation.

From 1940 to 1945 he was a representative of the Mount Joy Ward on the Newport Town Council, doing good service on several committees, but he did not seek re-election in 1945 because of the many other calls on his time. He received his training in the building trade from his father, also a master builder at Newport, and after working for other builders for a time, started his own business, with workshops in Scarrots Lane, about 35 years ago. Mr. Barton was a familiar figure in

Newport, notable because of his habit of wearing a boater straw hat in spring and summer as he cycled about the district on business.

### **"RELIABLE, REASONABLE, AND RIGHTEOUS"**

A large congregation attended the funeral service at St John's Church on Tuesday. Mr. Barton's fellow churchwarden, Mr. H. A. Lower, was present, and the Parochial Church Council were represented by Mr. B. Charman (secretary), Major F. P. Manley (treasurer), and other members. The King James I Grammar School was represented by Major P. W. F. Erith, T.D. (head master), the trustees of the school by the chairman (the Mayor of Newport, Ald. G. C. Russell, J.P.), who was accompanied by the Mayoress, and the Old Boys' Association by Mr. A. A. Butt (president) and Mr. P. Drudge (secretary). Mr. W. G. Bartlett (chairman) and Mr. R. Barber (hon. secretary), and other officials and members represented the Newport Football Club, and Mr. W. G. Bull, J.P. (president), Mr. S. Barton (chairman), and other officials the Supporters' Club. Mr. P. Taulbut represented the players. Other organisations represented included St. John's Mothers' Meeting and Boy Covenanters, Newport Cricket Club, Newport Carnival Committee, Newport Repertory Club, Lloyds Bank, J. K. Alderslade, Ltd., Frank E. Whitcher, Ltd., H. W. Morey and Sons, Ltd., William Dibben and Sons, Ltd., Messrs. Alan Cooper, Messrs. Sidney Cooper and Sons, Messrs. Reg White, Messrs. R. Taylor and Sons, Messrs. A. A. and R. J. Westmore, Messrs. W. Matthews and Sons, Messrs. W. C. Black and Co., Morris of Newport Ltd., and Messrs. W. Blake and Son.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. S. F. Cooper) and the choir led the singing of "The Lord's my Shepherd," "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds," and one of Mr. Barton's favourites, "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven." The service concluded with the Nunc dimittis, and as the cortège was leaving the church Miss K. Lower, at the organ, played Walford Davies' "Solemn melody." The Vicar paid a further tribute to Mr. Barton's services to the church, emphasising the three points of his character as reliable, reasonable, and righteous. Mr. Barton was, he said, over 70 years of age when he became his warden six years ago and it said a great deal for his spirit that he was willing to take over that office at that age and carry it out so extraordinarily well. Only a week before his death he was re-elected with acclamation. His motto was "If something is worth doing it is worth doing well." He was sound in judgement and advice, and he built his life on a solid rock of faith.

The mourners were Mr. F. Barton (brother), Mr. W. Hayles and Mr. E. Heal and Mrs. L. Barton (brothers in law and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. A. Heal, Mrs. H. Biles, Mr. R. Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. L. Earley, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Greening, Mr. and Mrs. B. Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. L. Blackman, Mr. F. Driver, Mrs. A. Snow, Mrs. L. Rolf, Mr. K. Hayles, Mr. A. Larkworthy, Mr. L. Barton, Mr. D. Biles, Mrs. G. Pattie (nephews and nieces), Medames C. Hannam and A. C. Simmons and Mr. W. H. Barton (cousins), Mr. and Mrs. E. Earley, and Mr. N. Hendy (employee). Mrs. O. Barton (widow), Mrs. W. Hayles, and Mrs. E. Williams (sisters), and Mr. and Mrs. J. Hayles (brother-in-law and sister-in-law) were unable to attend.

Among the floral tributes were those from Newport Football Club, Newport Football Supporters' Club, Cowes Football Club, Newport Carnival Committee, Newport Football Club players, Newport Cricket Club, the vicar and churchwarden of St John's Church, members of the Church Council, Newport Charity Trustees, president and members of the King James I Grammar School Old Boys' Association, and headmaster, staff, and pupils of King James I Grammar School.

The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

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