

Ethel Minnie Bruce-Drayton

Isle of Wight County Press – 7 October 1961

DEATH OF MRS. E. M. BRUCE-DRAYTON

NEWPORT VICTORIA SPORTS CLUB SECRETARY

Newport Victoria Sports Club, of which she had been a founder member and for over 30 years honorary general secretary, suffered a great loss on Wednesday by the death in St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Ventnor, of Mrs. Ethel Minnie Bruce-Drayton, aged 73, of Rookwood, 5 Avondale Road, Newport.

The second daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. Abraham, of Newport, Mrs. Bruce-Drayton devoted her life to her church and the sports club. She was held in the highest esteem by those who knew the efficient way in which she carried out her duties.

The Victoria Sports Club celebrated its golden jubilee in April of this year. Mrs. Bruce-Drayton had held every office in the club with the exception of that of president, which was held by the late Mr. G. H. Arthur and then by her brother, Mr. E. H. Abraham. Before going to Avondale Road she lived for many years with her brother and sister-in-law.

In both the first and second world wars she organised a Victoria Sports Club concert party to entertain troops and helped run a services canteen at Legh Richmond Hall from 1939-45. She was also responsible for many tableaux entered by the club in the town's annual carnival. She had served on the Carnival Committee for many years and was a member of the I.W. Arts Association.

She worshipped at St. Thomas's Parish Church and was responsible for a stall at the annual bazaar each year. For some 20 years she had been a member of the Parochial Church Council. Some years ago she was an active member of the Philharmonic Society. For 43 years she was cashier at Messrs. H. Lower and Sons and was previously employed by the late Mr. J. H. Williams, butcher.

The funeral service is being held to-day at St. Thomas's Parish Church, Newport.

Isle of Wight County Press – 14 October 1961

THE LATE MRS. E. M. BRUCE-DRAYTON

FUNERAL OF NEWPORT VICTORIA SPORTS CLUB SECRETARY

There was a large attendance at the funeral service at Newport Parish Church on Saturday of Mrs. Ethel Minnie Bruce-Drayton, of Rookwood, 5 Avondale Road, Newport, general secretary of the Newport Victoria Sports Club, whose death was reported last week. The

vicar (the Rev. A. P. Lumley) officiated and the Rev. W. E. Grimes (vicar of Shorwell) read the lesson. Miss K. E. Lower, the organist, played "Be Thou with me" (Bach), "Jesu, Joy of man's desiring" (Bach), "Prelude" (Harris), "Sunset and evening star" (Parry), "Come unto Him" (Handel), "Brother James's Air," the 23rd psalm, and the hymns "Thine for ever" and "There is a land of pure delight."

The vicar, in a tribute to Mrs. Bruce-Drayton, recalled her long association with the social activities of the town and in particular with the Newport Victoria Sports Club. He referred to her service with Messrs. H. Lower and Sons as cashier for 43 years and of her work as a member of the Parochial Church Council for 20 years. For more years than that she had been a member of the church social committee.

The family mourners were Mrs. H. M. Calpine (sister), Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Abraham (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. H. C. Calpine, Mr. and Mrs. I. Croad (nephews and niece), Mr. J. Dove, Miss F. Urry, Mrs. A. Grant, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Coward. Mr. H. H. Abraham (brother) and Mrs. P. M. Boyes-Watson, B.A. (niece), were unable to attend.

There was a large representation of members of the Newport Victoria Sports Club in the congregation, and the club officials who attended included Mr. J. J. Drudge (vice-president), Mr. E. H. Upward (deputy chairman), Mr. S. G. Kemp (assistant general secretary), Mr. M. Wavell (general treasurer), Mrs. V. Barber (tennis secretary), Mrs. B. Lansley (table tennis secretary), Mrs. T. Baker (hockey secretary), and Miss T. E. Kemp (social secretary). Other firms and organisations represented were Messrs. H. Lower and Sons, Messrs. Dabells, Messrs. Upward and Rich, Ltd., I.W. Grocers' Association, British and Foreign Bible Society, Parochial Church Committee, Newport Aid to Lepers Society, Newport Carnival Committee, and the Church Army.

Among the large number of floral tributes were those from Messrs. H. B. J. and H. A. Lower, the staff of Messrs. H. Lower and Sons, Newport Victoria Sports Club, the Parochial Church Council, Newport Tennis Club, Newport Carnival Committee, and Messrs. Dabells' senior staff.

Interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Messrs. H. and F. Damp, Ltd., made the arrangements.

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