

George Henry Lambert

Isle of Wight County Press - 13 October 1951

NEWPORT AUCTIONEER'S SUDDEN DEATH

MR. G.H. LAMBERT

His numerous friends in the Island capital and among the agricultural community in all parts of the Wight heard with profound regret of the sudden death, at a football match at Newport on Saturday, of Mr. George Henry Lambert, of 64 Carisbrooke Road, who was very well known and much esteemed in his business and many other activities.

Mr. Lambert was 63 years of age. An old player of the Newport Football Club, he had continued his interest as a member of the committee for many years, and it was when watching a 2nd Division Hants League match between Newport Reserves and Pirelli-General, at Church Litten, that he collapsed just before the end of the game, and died in a few minutes. He had not enjoyed good health since he had a severe heart attack just before last Christmas. He leaves a widow and son, with whom sincere sympathy is felt.

Although it was not his Christian name, Mr. Lambert was always known as "Joe", and he was one of the most popular men in the Island capital because he was always ready to lend a skilful and enthusiastic helping hand to any deserving cause. He was the second son of the late Mr. H. Lambert, who for many years was in business as a baker and confectioner in St. Thomas's Square. He was educated at the former Portland House Academy, and after early training with Sir Francis Pittis and Son, auctioneers and estate agents, joined the staff of Messrs. Henry J. Way and Son over 40 years ago, and had continued with them ever since. He frequently assisted in the auction sales in Newport cattle market, where he enjoyed the friendship and esteem of all, and during the last war he carried out, with characteristic integrity and ability, important work in connection with the Ministry of Food livestock control as deputy chairman of the auctioneers' committee responsible for the local application of the regulations. Other ways in which he did valued service for Island agriculture were as recorder at the annual shows of the Royal I.W. Agricultural Society for many years, and in his duties in connection with the annual wool fairs, of which Messrs. Henry J. Way and Son were the founders.

In spite of being a very busy man in these directions he found time to do much clerical and organizational work to help local causes, most of it of a voluntary character. He was for 22 years until 1948, hon. secretary of the Newport Conservative Club, and his wise direction of the club's affairs brought it from a state of financial anxiety to one of comparative affluence. He acted as hon. business manager of the former popular company of entertainers, the Wight Strollers, and in later years had acted in a similar capacity for Miss Nesta Meech's pantomimes and other productions which have raised large sums for charity.

In his younger days Mr. Lambert was prominent in sport as a footballer (as already mentioned) and as a cricketer. He captained the Newport Trades C.C. XI for some years, being a good forcing batsman who scored several centuries, and a skilful off-break bowler. He was also a good billiards player.

His experience as a bowler led to his being appointed bombing sergeant during his service in the first world war in France and Italy with the Gloucestershire and East Surrey Regiments. Before that war he had served for a few years in the I.W. Rifles. In 1926 he joined the Special Constabulary and was one the "specials" who, in 1936, formed the first local section of the Royal Observer Corps. In spite of the heavy calls on his duties in connection with livestock control he did regular watches with the corps for the greater part of the last war, and was awarded the Special Constabulary long service medal.

The funeral service was conducted at St. John's Church on Wednesday by the Vicar (the Rev. S. F. Cooper).

Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2019
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>