

**Elsbury Oliver White**

**Isle of Wight County Press  
29 March 1930**

**Death of Mr. E. O. White,  
of Newport**

**A Veteran Island Sportsman.**

The numerous friends he made during over 40 years very active association with Island business life and manly sport of all kinds deplore the very sudden death of Mr. Elsbury Oliver White, of Palmerston, Whitepit-lane, Newport, which took place on Thursday evening. Mr. White, who was nearly 75 years of age, had enjoyed remarkably good health, and although he had complained of slight indisposition during the last few days and had consulted a doctor for the first time, there was apparently nothing to cause anxiety. On Thursday morning he cycled into the town as was his custom and was chatting with a friend (Mr. Brackey, of the High-street) in his shop when he suddenly collapsed under a heart attack. He was taken home in a car and, under medical attention, revived, and during the afternoon was able to read a newspaper. After his removal upstairs to bed about 6 p.m. he had another heart attack, which proved fatal.

Mr. White may well be described as the doyen of Island athletics. From his early days he had taken a keen and helpful interest in many forms of healthy outdoor sport, boxing, running, and cycling being his favorite pastimes. Of fine physique, he was as a young man a skilful boxer, and for many years he was the acknowledged local champion at his weight. Numerous old lovers of this sport recall the thrilling contests he had with Mr. C. W. Macfarlane, another well known boxer, who formerly resided at Newport.

When advancing years prevented his active participation in the sport his services as referee were always sought for local tournaments, and he was a scrupulously fair adjudicator, who would immediately prevent any competitor receiving undue punishment. Consequently all meetings at which he officiated were models of what boxing control should be, and his attitude in this respect was typical of the high standard of sportsmanship he set throughout his life.

He was even more prominent in the cycling world. One of the earliest members of the old I.W. Cycling Club, he retained his association with it to the last. When cycle racing was in the hey-day of its popularity he gained the highest honours of the organizations controlling it, being chairman of the Southampton centre of the National Cyclists' Union, a member of the general committee of the Union, and an official judge of the sport. In 1908 he was honoured by being appointed an umpire of the cycling events at the Olympic Games at the London Stadium.

He was prominently associated with the old I.W. Amateur Athletic Association, and continued his interest in running and general athletics by becoming president of the Newport Trojans Athletic Club and a vice-president of the Newport St. John's Athletic Club. In short, there was no form of clean sport in the locality in which he was not keenly interested, and in every association of this kind his high sense of sportsmanship, fairness, and perfect courtesy tended to a high level of conduct.

As a lad at Newport Mr. White was apprenticed to the printing trade, but he left this calling and, after a period away from the Island, returned and became a commercial traveller. He subsequently acted as a representative of Messrs. W. B. Mew, Langton and Co., visiting their houses and military camps throughout the Island and on the mainland. He continued in this post until a few years ago and made many friends.

In recent years he extended his business interests by becoming a director of Messrs. W. J. Rugg and Co., Ltd., Weeks, Ltd., the Needles Hotel, Ltd., and K. Gray and Sons (Shanklin), being chairman of the first-mentioned firm. He was one of the oldest members and a Past Grand of the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows, a brother of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons, and a member of the Newport Literary Society, where for some years he served on the committee. Both he and Mrs. White have been regular worshippers at the Parish Church for many years, and for a while he was a member of the Church Council.

Very sincere sympathy is felt with his widow and his two sons and daughter in their sudden bereavement.

The interment will take place on Monday at Carisbrooke Cemetery, following a service at Newport Parish Church at 2 p.m.

**Isle of Wight County Press  
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**NEWPORT**

**Mr. E. O. White's Estate.** — Mr. Elsbury Oliver White, of Palmerston, Whitepit-road, Newport, chairman of Messrs. W. J. Rugg and Co., Ltd., wholesale tobacconists, of Newport, who died on March 27th, aged 75 years, left estate of the gross value of £5135 16s. 3d., with net personally £4423 15s. 6d. Probate has been granted to his widow, Mrs. Louisa Jane White, of the above address, and Leslie Selborne Long, of Uandi, Ratcliffe-avenue, Ryde, secretary. He left 10 guineas to Leslie Selborne Long, as executor, £25 to his daughter Elsie Winifred White, £10 each to his sons Bertram Hayden and Harold Elsbury, 5 guineas each to St. John's Amateur Athletic Club and the Trojans Amateur Athletic Club, both of Newport, his residence to his wife for life and then for his daughter Elsie Winifred White, and, subject to some specific bequests to his sons, he left the household effects to his wife for life and then for his children, all his shares in Walter J. Rugg and Co., Ltd., K. Gray and Sons, Ltd., and the Needles Hotel Co., Ltd., and monies due to him in trust for his wife for life, and then, his shares in the Needles Hotel Co., Ltd., to his son Bertram Hayden, his shares in K. Gray and Sons Ltd., to his son Harold Elsbury, and his shares in Walter J. Rugg and Co., Ltd., to his daughter Elsie Winifred White. The residue of his property he left in trust for his wife for life, and then equally between his children, Bertram Hayden, Harold Elsbury, and Elsie Winifred White.

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