

Arthur William Spanner

Isle of Wight County Press – 22 November 1941

Death of Mr. A. W. Spanner, of Newport.

Former Secretary of I.W. Football Association.

The death occurred at his residence, Nelma(?), Cypress-road, Newport, on Sunday morning, after several years of suffering, of Mr. Arthur William Spanner, who was well known throughout Hampshire and the Island as the able hon. Secretary of the I.W. Football Association for 40 years. Until his retirement from that position nearly three years ago, owing to ill-health, Mr. Spanner had been a prominent figure in football administration from early manhood, and few men in the South of England had given more loyal and consistent service for the welfare of the game. He first became associated with the management of football as hon. Secretary of the Newport club, a position he held for 10 years, and for a long time he officiated as a referee, being selected to control many important county games. On the formation of the I.W. Football Association in 1898 he was a member of the committee who drafted the rules, and was appointed assistant hon. secretary to Mr. C. G. Mursell, of Cowes. On Mr. Mursell's death in 1906 Mr. Spanner was elected to succeed him, and year after year until his retirement in 1939 he was reinstated in the office with cordial acknowledgements of his devotion and ability. He had represented the I.W.F.A. on the Hampshire Football Association since 1900 and was one of the first stalwarts of that body to be honoured with a life vice-presidency in 1932. As a member of the match selection committee of the County Association his recommendations were always treated with respect as, although he had never been a player himself, there were few better judges of a footballer. In his long period of football legislative work in the Island he won the gratitude and esteem of every club official because he was a stickler for the rules, and always kept in view the ultimate good of the game, however difficult the immediate problem might be. He would go out of his way to help any club officials, from the wealth of his experience, and was always kindly and encouraging. On his retirement from the secretaryship he was presented with a clock which was subscribed for by football officials and players in all parts of the Island. Mr. Spanner was 70 years of age and leaves a widow and two daughters, with whom sincere sympathy is felt in their bereavement. His only son gave his life in the last war. A Newportonian, he was apprenticed to the trade of compositor at the County Press Printing Works in 1885. He developed into a highly skilled workman and, with one short break, was in the employ of the County Press until six years ago, when he retired owing to failing health. When machine type-setting superseded hand composition he so assiduously applied himself to the new method that he was placed in charge of the Monotype installation. He was the prime mover in the formation of the I.W. branch of the Typographical Association during the last war and was for some years its hon. secretary.

The funeral was on Thursday, a service being held at the Congregational Church and the internment following at Newport Cemetery. The Rev. T. E. R. Langridge officiated and Mr. G. R. Barrett (acting manager of the County Press), at the request of the deceased, played the organ accompaniments to the hymns "Abide with me" and "Peace, perfect peace," and "O rest in the Lord" as the coffin was borne from the church. Mr. Langridge paid tribute to the deceased's sterling qualities as exhibited in his many activities, to his exemplary patience under suffering, and to his devotion as a worshipper at the church. The chief mourners were the widow, Mrs. A. Graham (daughter), Mr. F. H. Spanner (brother), Mrs. H. T. Spanner (sister-in-law), Mr W. Spanner (nephew), Mrs. Crawley and Mrs. Moses (nieces), Mr. J. H. Hunt (cousin), Mrs. A. Graham, Miss White, Miss Radcock, and Messrs. G. J. Eden (secretary Hants F.A.), H. A. Williams (hon. secretary I.W.F.A.) and A. E. Kingswell, of Ventnor. Mr. Spanner's former colleagues of the staff of the Country Press present were Mr. W. H. Dann, J.P.

(editor), Mr. W. G. Sibbick and Corpl. L. F. Rodaway, R.A.F. (reporting department), Miss Bartlett (office department), and Messrs. E. Melhuish, R. T. Lawn, P. Morgan, G. Jolliffe, J. Edwards, P. Appel, R. H. Allen, B. P. R. Smith, J. R. Montgomery, and N. Newnham (printing department), and Messrs. C. Eldridge and W. H. Baker (ex-members of the staff). The I.W. Football Association was represented by Messrs. G. H. Arthur (president), W. Blake, J.P. (hon. treasurer), A. W. Lallow, F. J. Rogers, and W. A. Wright, the Newport F.C. by the Messrs. V. Duke (chairman), E. W. Barton (hon. treasurer), W. G. Bartlett (hon. financial secretary), R. Barber (assistant hon. secretary), E. J. Cooper and F. Bull, the Ryde Sports Club by Capt. W. S. Russell (chairman) and Mr. L. J. Wait (hon. treasurer), the Cowes F.C. by Mr. R. Reynolds (hon. secretary), the Sandown F.C. by Messrs. N. Baker (hon. secretary) and L. Pink, the Carisbrooke F.C. by Mr. L. Williams, the Seaview F.C. by Mr. H. Wickens, the Northwood F.C. by Mr. G. H. Hunnybun, the I.W. Referees' Committee by Messrs. C. J. Barham (hon. secretary) and W. S. Warne, and the I.W. Schools Football Association by Mr. J. C. Collins. The Independent Order of Rechabites, of which the deceased was a member, was represented by Messrs. S. Ramage (District Secretary) W. H. Downer (Tent Secretary), and E. J. Green, and others in the church included Mr. A. G. Harrison (church secretary) and Mrs. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Smith, Mrs. E.J. Cooper, Mrs. J. H. Flux, Mrs. W. G. Bartlett, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. S. Woodland, Miss Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. F. Young, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Wickens (Cowes), Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Harbar, and Messrs. F. E. Whitcher, J.P., R. T. Brackey, F. Scovell, A.D. Callaway, J. A. Hayles, G. Norman, P. J. Croucher, F. H. J. Damp, E. J. Bartlett, W. and L. Upward, B. Urry, W. S. North, W. Pritchett, and H. B. J. Lower, Capt. H. A. Drudge (secretary of the I.W. County Press Company) and Mr. T. S. Mellanby (hon. secretary of the Ryde Sports Club) were prevented from attending.

Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements. Mrs Spanner and the members of the family deeply appreciate the kindness of those who sent messages of sympathy and floral tributes and are very grateful for the care and attention of Dr. A. A. Straton and Nurses Cooper and Moat.

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