

Charles John Barham

Isle of Wight County Press

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CHURCHMAN AND SPORTSMAN

Death of Mr. C. J. Barham of Newport

Through the death on Monday, at 17 Mill Street, Newport, of Mr. Charles John Barham, at the age of 62, the Island lost one of its most popular sporting personalities. Mr. Barham was affectionately known as "Charlie" to the hundreds of Island footballers he served so well for over 40 years, first as a referee and latterly as a prominent member of both the I.W. Referees Society, of which he had been chairman and appointments secretary, and the I.W. Football Association.

A devoted churchman, his happy disposition, cheery smile, and unflinching courtesy and consideration had won him friends in all denomination, and his efforts for young people as a Bible class supporter and speaker were keenly appreciated. In early life he was associated with St. Paul's Barton Brotherhood. During the second world war he was for a time superintendent of the Newport Parish Church Sunday-school, after which he assisted St. Andrew's Church in the same capacity. He was a sidesman at the Parish Church and deputy leader of the Bible Class.

A native of Newport, Mr. Barham was educated at the Church of England School and was apprenticed as a shoe repairer at the age of 13. At the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he joined the I.W. Rifles, being employed on the headquarters staff as a sergeant in charge of boot repairing. On demobilisation in 1919 he set up his own shoe repairing business in Pyle Street, Newport. The same year he married Miss Hilda Wheeler, who died in 1944. Because of ill-health, Mr. Barham retired in November, 1952.

Football was by no means the only sport in which Mr. Barham was keenly interested. For over 25 years he was the hon. secretary of the Newport Trades Cricket Club and this year, in recognition of his magnificent service to the club, he was appointed president in succession to the late Mr. Walter Guy. Other sporting organisations which have received the benefit of Mr. Barham's unflinching loyalty included the Island County Bowling Association, the Newport Bowling Club, of which he was a former esteemed captain, and the Vectis Roads Cycling Club.

Mr. Barham was the first president of the Island Boot Traders' Association and a founder member and treasurer of the local branch of the Tunbridge Wells Equitable Friendly Society. For many years he was a member of the Newport Conservative Club, rendering it valuable services as secretary of the thrift club, and as chairman of the committee.

There was a large attendance, fully representative of Mr. Barham's varied interests, at the funeral service held at St. Thomas's Church, Newport, on Thursday. The Vicar (the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth) who officiated, paid tribute to Mr. Barham's devoted work for the church and said that the great number present was a wonderful testimony to the esteem he enjoyed. Miss K. Lower, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., L.T.C.L., was the organist, and the hymns "Jesu Lover Of My Soul" and "Abide With Me" were sung.

The principal mourners were Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Barham (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Barham (brother and sister-in-law), Mesdames W. Hyde and G. Finnis (sisters), Mr. and Mrs. E. and Mr. and Mrs. L. Wheeler, and Messrs. F. Wheeler and A. Burt (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Messrs. F. C. Peck and G. Smith (cousins), Messrs. R. and A. Dubber (representing Mrs. H. Dubber), Messrs. F. Chiverton and R. Downer, and Mr. and Mrs. G. Mills. Mr. and Mrs. F. Wheeler (father-in-law and mother-in-law), Mesdames F. Wheeler, L. Angell, and A. Burt (sisters-in-law) were unable to attend.

{only family mourners transcribed}

The interment was at St. Paul's Cemetery. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

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