

John Sarjeant (1924-2018)

John Edmund Lionel Sarjeant was born 28 July 1924 in China, the son of Ralph Lionel & Matilda (nee Chasty) Sarjeant. Ralph had sailed from Liverpool to Hong Kong in October 1920 & married Matilda in China in 1923. In September 1939 the family was living at Avondale Road in Bromley & Ralph was an engineer. John was still at school, he attended Eltham College.

In the 1940s John served in the RAF volunteer reserve & was promoted to leading aircraftman in September 1944. Subsequently he served in the RAF & was appointed as a flying officer in March 1950. He married Jean Stewart in 1949 in Bromley.

John was a fine & keen cricketer playing regularly for Old Elthamians, he used to like to play on both a Saturday & Sunday. He was a prolific batsman, a highly competent off spin bowler, sometimes taking 100 wickets in the season, and a good fielder. He enjoyed his cricket & very often opted for it rather than bridge in the summer months.

He was also a great dog lover and throughout the 1960's he had a gorgeous Alsatian girl who he always brought to cricket with him. She was called Rixi named after one of our great lady players.

John first success in KCBA competitions was winning the Buck Cup in 1953 playing with Bill Bowen. At the time it was the main pairs event in the Kent calendar. He won the cup at least another three times over the next twenty years, including two more with Bill Bowen.

The Arnold Cup was dominated in the 1960s by a team including John, Mike & Daphne Williams, Mike Buckley & Bill Bowen. In the years between 1959 & 1969 this team won the Arnold in nine of the eleven years. Altogether John won the Arnold Cup fourteen times.

He also played regularly together in national competitions. In 1963 he partnered Bill Bowen & the other pair were Mike & Daphne Williams in the EBU Autumn Congress & won the Eastbourne Bowl which is the main teams cup. They repeated this success three years later in 1966.

John was part of the Kent team which won the Pachabo Cup in 1966 playing with Mike Williams, Mike Buckley & Bill Bowen. This was the first Kent victory in the competition since it was only open to the winners of the main county teams competition (Arnold Cup for Kent). Over the years this team had a good record in the Pachabo as they also finished second, third & fourth in other years in the 1960s.

Kent reached the final of the Tollemache for the first time in 1970 and John played in the final with Mike Buckley. He was also part of the team which qualified for the final again in 1971.

John was given the honour of being non-playing captain of the England Junior Camrose team in 1972, 1973 & 1974. He was also non-playing captain for a couple of Camrose teams in 1972 & 1973. A few years later he was NPC of a British Ladies team in a Common Market championship.

The 1972 Junior Camrose team included a Kent player Pat Collins & John was instrumental in introducing Pat to Colin Bishop who together then become one of the

leading Kent pairs for 15 years. John playing with Denis O'Donovan (as a substitute for Saturday afternoon) and Lynn Jones together with Pat & Colin won the Daily Telegraph Cup in the late 1970s.

John also achieved national success in 1985 when he won the Silver Plate, his partner was Denis O'Donovan.

Over the years John won nearly forty KCBA cups, including the Arnold Cup fourteen times. A list of all Kent cups won by John listed at the bottom of the page.

John worked as a Lloyds Underwriter in the City of London. When he retired, he and his second wife, Valerie, moved to Spain and after a short while relocated to New Zealand to be nearer to John's brother who was in poor health. They returned to England in 2016.

John passed away in Hastings hospice after a long illness on 28 October 2018.

KCBA cups won by John

Arnold Cup	1959, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1972, 1977, 1979, 1983 & 1986
Arnold Plate	1984
Birkle Bowl	1977
Brook Cup	1960, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1968 & 1980
Buck Cup	1953, 1968, 1971 & 1974
Dyer-Smith	1956
George Griffiths	1980
Gill Cup	1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1977 & 1980



From left to right: Lynn Jones, Patrick Collins, John Sarjeant, Denis O'Donovan and Colin Bishop

Photo from the late 1970's – Kent's Daily Telegraph Cup winning team