

A REVIEW OF DEREK POVAH'S LIFE HISTORY

Derek's full name was John Derek Povah but always known as 'Derek'. He was born in LIVERPOOL in 1928 and had an older sister & two younger brothers. The family moved to Derby in the late 30's with the help of his aunt (a housing inspector) and his father's acceptance of a job offer at Rolls-Royce (RR) as an 'engineering fitter'.

After attending local schools, he won a SCHOLARSHIP to DERBY CENTRAL grammar school.

In the mid-40's he left school and became a '5year ENGINEERING APPRENTICE' at RR. At the end of his training, which included attending Derby Technical College as a part-time-day student, he took up a post in a Drawing Office for a short period before leaving to become a Design Draughtsman(DD) at the National Coal Board. He worked at the NCB for several years but left to RE-JOIN RR as a DD. After a short period and based on 'LAST-IN/FIRST-OUT', Derek was made redundant when RR was making 'staff employee cut-backs'.

He then obtained a DD post at the INTERNATIONAL COMBUSTION but later again re-joined RR. He eventually joined a new project within RR which was related with annual staff appraisals before becoming Personnel Manager of the RR Nuclear Dept until his early retirement in the early 80's.

During his teenage years, he became interested in playing TENNIS. Shortly after he got married he lived in Duffield and became an avid member of Duffield Tennis Club, playing tennis at the club until he reached his late 80's.

He was also a very keen BRIDGE player after his retirement, especially the teaching aspects of the card game. So much so that he became a professional BRIDGE TEACHER. He was a FOUNDER MEMBER of Allestree Bridge Club in 1990 and later...he accepted a national award (the Dimmie Award) for 'Services for Teaching Bridge'.

I close this Review with an amusing anecdote related with DEREK. Whilst employed at Rolls-Royce, he was busy on his Drawing Board when a 'Stranger' came up to his position in the office and said

'What are you doing on your BOARD' Derek responded. 'I can show you if you are interested!!!' (5/10 minutes later the Stranger left)

A colleague asked 'Who was that Derek', Derek 'I don't know I suppose some Manager or Group Leader' Colleague. You are half right that was LORD HIVES, Managing Director of Rolls-Royce.

(The ground then opened and Derek disappeared)