

W.H.(Bill) Findlay (b. 29/6/1927 d. 22/12/2015)

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of Mr W.H. "Bill" Findlay, a real stalwart of both Marlow Rowing Club and Marlow Regatta (now at Dorney Lake), over many years.

Bill's rowing career included twice being a losing Finalist at Henley Royal Regatta. The first of these was in the Wyfolds in 1954 to the Royal Engineers. Then in 1956, he lost the Final of the Goblets. There were plenty of wins as well, but Bill was always most proud of his Henley record. He carried on racing for many years after this and in 1964 was in the eight which came 5th in the Reading head and 10th in the Putney Head, receiving a certificate for being within 30 secs of the winners. He was always an active member of Marlow RC, being Captain in 1953-4 and again in 1969.

In any organisation, Bill was a "hands-on" man, whether as an ordinary member, Committee member, Chairman or President, and much of the building / extension work carried out at the Club, prior to the recent fire, was led by Bill's enthusiasm and practical hard work.

His "official" involvement with Marlow Regatta started when he was elected onto the Committee in 1966, and then to the Management Committee in 1977, holding the post of Chairman from 1989 until 2001. He then became President until 2011. Throughout this entire period, Bill was a pivotal member of the management team, and the leader of the "heavy gang" who installed rafts, piled the start, and oversaw all tentage etc. His involvement and leadership by example, as well as by word, was exemplary.

Towards the end, Bill suffered from Parkinson's disease, a cruel illness, which true to character, Bill fought to the end. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.