

Edwin Stracey  
1922 - 2010

It is with regret that we hear of the sudden death on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010 of Eddie aged 87 years who was well regarded by all, and as a friend by many at Middlesbrough Bowling Club.

He was born in Cannon St Middlesbrough in 1922 going to school locally and leaving when he was 14 years. At 16 he joined the Tees Valley Water Board and when he was 18 in 1940 he joined the RAF where he trained as an Instrument Artificer. He served in many locations including India but he talked most about his service in Northern Ireland. He was stationed at Lough Erne where he was instrumental in maintaining the air worthiness of Catalina amphibious flying boats which patrolled the North Atlantic protecting the shipping convoys by searching for German U-boats. He was proud of his service with the RAF in WWII such that in the years following his service he was a keen member of the RAF Association taking part in Remembrance Day events and march past in London.



Following his demobilisation from service he rejoined TVWB putting his training gained in the RAF to good use. He retired from the water board in 1984 having served 46 years

Following his retirement he joined Middlesbrough Bowling Club and was soon involved in its efficient running. He was elected by the members to the management committee and was asked to serve on the development committee. With his good friend Ted Lloyd he volunteered to help with the maintenance of the bowling green and surrounds.

February 1986 he together with Bill Walton Peter Evans and Ted Lloyd attended in wintery conditions the first EBA Northern

Region Bowling Green Maintenance Seminar at The Scotch Corner Hotel which was to prove the first of many such seminars held at different clubs in the area all attended by Eddie. His involvement with the green maintenance continued for many years and latterly when he was unable to contribute physically he would attend the morning working sessions and walk around the green casting his expert eye over the proceedings before joining the other greenkeepers for a cup of strong tea and a chinwag.



*Eddie enjoying the sunshine with friends following inspection of the green*

Eddie also enjoyed his bowling but eschewed the more competitive game displayed by the "A" team preferring the more gentle approach of the Walker Cup, spoons and Middlesbrough League games for which he was a selector. However one year during a photo call for winning teams he accidentally

attached himself to the "A" team photo and is shown for posterity sharing their achievement with pride.

Eddie with his good friend Ted Lloyd enjoyed a weekly trip to a pub or restaurant for lunch. Together they wrote an illustrated book giving each venue a star rating for comfort, service and quality of food. Ted would say that their trips into the countryside were made more interesting by Eddie's running commentary on the water mains in the area which he had worked on while employed by the Water Board.

A proud moment for Eddie was when he was made an Honorary Life Member of Middlesbrough Bowling Club for services rendered.

Edwin's funeral service took place on Friday 22 January 2010 and as well as family and his many friends was attended by representative standard bearers of the British Legion, his coffin was draped with the flag of the RAF with a single wreath in the form of an RAF roundel. A bugler sounded the last post followed by reveille.