

To The Memory of Peter Richardson

On Sunday 11th September 2005, Pete Richardson, our good friend and Club Captain died whilst taking part in the final of the Bucks Cup. His brother, Brian Richardson, who was at that time our club President, set about honouring Pete's memory and the first event took place on the 17th July 2006, at our Club premises. The Dennyside Bowling Association make an annual visit to Princes Risborough Bowls Club and the occasion is popular and usually well supported by our members. So, it made a suitable fixture around which to plan the first commemorative event. For Brian, the memory of the event remained raw and he was still finding difficulty in talking about it. He decided it better to convey his thoughts and explain the purpose of the day on a welcome card given to each guest.



The content of that card is reproduced below.

Welcome to all our friends & the Dennyside Bowling Association from the Officers & Members of Princes Risborough Bowls Club

It is my wish that this occasion be dedicated to the memory of my brother Pete, who so tragically died last summer.

Most of you are here by invitation and will have your own special memories of Pete. Some will have known him as a fellow club member. He was born and bred in Princes Risborough and first joined this club in 1977. Apart from a short break away, he had always played a prominent part in the life of this club - in later years as Club Captain and Team Manager. Others of you will have known him through the wider bowling fraternity in County and National competitions.

What we all came to understand about Pete was that he had two passions in his life - his family and the game of bowls. He did a great job at bringing the two together and so was able to enjoy the best of both worlds. His two sons Wayne and Jamie were down to play today and are seated amongst us; wife Brenda and daughter Michelle have been busy in the kitchen preparing and serving today's meal.

Pete's very last moments on this earth were spent enjoying what he loved doing the most. He was out on the green, playing in the Bucks Cup Final and Captaining the Risborough team he had selected - with his side 7 points up after seven ends. On the sidelines giving their support were his brother and sister and along with his wife, were his daughter and youngest son. His eldest son was skip on the next rink.

Given that we are all mortal, you can be sure that he would have been the first with the comment "if you've got to go - what finer way! "

Our opponents on that day were Olney Bowls Club and I am delighted that they were able to send representatives to join us today. The inscription on the trophy and the County Year Book indicate that in the year 2005 the Buck's Cup Final was "not played". This is unique in the history of the competition. Not only does this create a special bond between the two clubs - it will also remain as a poignant reminder of Pete Richardson.

Knowing that his favourite breed of dog was the Labrador, I have set up the Pete Richardson Memorial Fund with the express purpose of buying a 6 to 8 week old puppy - which of course will be given the name Pete. It will then require some 12 months training resulting in a total expenditure of about £5000 in order to develop the pup into a guide dog for the blind.

I am most grateful to The Denny's Association for so generously agreeing to make this cause today's nominated charity.

All that remains is for me to wish that you continue to enjoy the remainder of your visit to our club.

Thank you
Brian Richardson
P.R.B.C. President and fellow Denny's member

Post Script: Mick Leggett was at that time Club Captain and had already boosted Brian's initial efforts by choosing the same cause for his charity initiatives. Needless to say, all targets were achieved and the charitable work continues.

Each year since, friends from around the County, promote and run an open competition for the under 25's. It is of course always held at Princes Risboro' and appropriately, Jamie Richardson was in the pairing that won the Peter Richardson Memorial Trophy in its inaugural year.