

Brian Champion – President Bideford CC

It is with much sadness we report the passing of our President Brian Champion on Wednesday 27th January, 2021. A little bit of Bideford CC has gone, but won't be forgotten.

Brian was born in 1935 and raised in and around London before moving to Westward Ho! in 1982. He attended Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School where he played cricket, rugby and football.

He spent the War in London - he was never evacuated - as his father was in the RAF stationed at Biggin Hill. Brian worked in engineering for Marconi, being involved in designing night sights for Chieftain tanks as well as working on Challenger 1 and sea wolf missiles.

He played his cricket at Billericay Cricket Club before moving to Westward Ho! where he immediately became part of the club here, firstly as player, but then as coach, umpire, Chairman and latterly our President.

He played cricket in the Sunday 2nd team and also in midweek friendlies.

He was our club chairman from 1993 to 2009 and then succeeded Peter Adams as club president in 2015. Being a very practical person he was always involved in various projects within the club as well.

He soon became colts cricket organiser and for many years he was Chairman of the North Devon colts league and he was also heavily involved with the running of the district youth cricket programme.

After his career ended as a player he took up umpiring and for many years he umpired for Bideford 2nd XI. He was the first ever winner of the Tony Miller award for umpires.

In 2009 he attended a test match in Cardiff with Andy Davies where they were both presented with an award from the ECB for services to youth cricket. He was well respected within the cricket fraternity and his involvement continued until ill health prevented this.

Brian was a life-long Tottenham Hotspur supporter.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years Colleen and his daughter Karen and son Andy. Our condolences go out to them all. A number of tributes have already been left on our Facebook page:





Alec Hodges

To say I am sad to hear this news would be a massive understatement. After garden cricket with my Dad, Brian pretty much singlehandedly taught me how to play the game, how to captain a side and what it meant to be part of a team. He would tell you straight if you bowled badly, or if you played a poor shot, but always gave encouragement & advice on how to improve. A warm & wonderful man, a fantastic servant to **Bideford Cricket Club** and a huge part of my young cricketing life. Thoughts are with all the family and friends of Brian. RIP



Like · Reply · 2 d



David Tanner

Brian was so influential. He was Bideford Cricket Club for so many years. Many young players owed him a debt of gratitude. A fine innings well played.

Like · Reply · 2 d



Rob North

So sad to hear this news. He taught me so much and will live long in the memory of others a true legend RIP Brian.

Like · Reply · 2 d



Matt Betsy Bettiss

Very sad news. Brian was a big influence on me during my time at the club. Gutted 😞
RIP Brian

Like · Reply · 2 d



Emma Louise Champion 🙌

Thank you so much everyone for your kind words. It's so wonderful to see how loved and appreciated he was! We'll make sure Colleen sees all the messages 🍷 ❤️

Like · Reply · 2 d



Liz Davies

Brian was a true clubman and a good friend to me for nearly 40years RIP Brian. Andy

 Ian Hayter Admin
😞 RIP Champs 😞
Like · Reply · 2 d  1

 Tom Brend
😞 ❤️
Like · Reply · 2 d  1

 Ike Aviston
I was very sad to hear of Brian's passing. Brian was a great help to me when I joined Bideford Cricket Club. I had some great times in the Club listening to Brian's wit and humour. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Brian's wife and family.
R.I.P. Brian
Like · Reply · 2 d   3

 Paul Hayes
😞
Like · Reply · 2 d  1

 Lee Seville
Absolute legend of a guy, very sad news. Rip.
Like · Reply · 2 d   2

 James Starkey
Sad news. A true gent and great clubman. Will be missed by many around north devon cricket
Like · Reply · 2 d  1

 Darren Willcocks
Rip Brian. Gutted to hear this. Was a massive part of my development at the club. 😞
Like · Reply · 2 d   5

 Hannah Luxton
A true gentleman ❤️
 1

Love · Reply · 2 d



Peter Stevens

RIP Brian sad to hear this he was such a nice bloke and the reason I enjoy cricket so much he will be missed

Like · Reply · 2 d



Chris Luxton

Such sad news. I first met Brian some 35 years ago where he taught me how to play and love cricket, he managed me in colts cricket until I was 16 and I also had the pleasure of playing alongside him as a senior.

What Brian did for colts cricket and Bideford cc was nothing short of remarkable.

I have had the privilege of calling him a good friend for most of my life and he will be sadly missed.

Love to all the family.

Like · Reply · 1 d



Sam Hughes

Very sad to hear of Brian's passing! Condolences to the family and Bideford cc.

Like · Reply · 1 d



David Thompson

RIP Brian. A true legend. Taught me alot about off spin when I was starting out playing senior cricket

Like · Reply · 1 d



Neil Bloor

RIP Brian. An absolute diamond who made my brother and I very welcome when we played during our annual holidays in the mid 90s, so much so that when I attended Exeter Uni Bideford was my first choice club despite the distance. A true clubman and an abs... [See more](#)

Like · Reply · 1 d



Rod Hannam

Brian was an inspiration to so many past and present members of Bideford CC as a player, coach and Chairman. Some people are impossible to replace and will always be remembered with great fondness and respect. RIP Champ.





Lauren Bettiss
Sad news, RIP Brian x ...

Like · Reply · 2 d  1



James Ford
One of the best RIP Brian  ...

Like · Reply · 2 d   2



Chris Tanner
RIP Brian, played a big part in my time at the club especially in the colts. ...

Like · Reply · 2 d  2



Neil Blackburn
Sorry to hear this. A great servant to the Club and a lovely man. RIP Brian ...

Like · Reply · 2 d  1



Darren Hart
Sad to hear this. A true gent. ...

Like · Reply · 2 d  2



Jeff King
Sleep tight Brian  ...

Like · Reply · 2 d



Rachel Allin
So sad to hear this. Brian was a true gentleman who made everyone welcome down at the club. Our thoughts are with the family. RIP ...

Like · Reply · 2 d  1

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 d



Alastair Hughes

Sad, sad news. RIP Brian, he taught me so much and was always there to support me at colts and seniors cricket. LBW C.C. Will always have special place in my heart because of Brian and he is one of the main reasons that I now coach youth cricket. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this difficult time.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 d



Gareth Brooks

Very sorry to hear this. RIP Brian



[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 d



Martin Hockin

Player,captain,coach,umpire,chairman,president Brian did it all for Bideford Cricket Club. A true clubman who spent countless hours at the ground for the benefit of others. A lovely man, who I had the honour of knowing for nearly 40 years. RIP Champs, we'll miss you.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 23 h



James Morris

I'm so sorry to hear this sad news about Brian. Like so many others, he was my coach throughout my junior cricket at Bideford, he was such a kind man, great fun and so supportive. He put in so much time and effort helping us and we were all so lucky to have him as our coach. He will be missed by so many and my thoughts are with his family x

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 21 h



David Berryman

A good man for Bideford cricket club R.I.P. Brian

