

Tribute to David Bryant CBE.

The International Indoor Bowls Council would like to pay a tribute to the bowls legend that was David Bryant CBE who died on 27th August 2020 at the age of 88.

During a career spanning more than 60 years David won 13 world titles , winning the inaugural World Outdoor Singles in Australia in 1966 and going on to win a further two World Singles in 1980 & 1988 while indoors he won 3 World Indoor Bowls Council(WIBC) the former name of the IIBC World Singles titles on the famous Coatbridge green in Scotland in 1979, 1980 & 1981. He also won a further 6 WIBC Pairs World Championships with partner Tony Allcock between 1986 & 1992 and chipped in by winning the world outdoor Triples in 1980 making it a total of 13 world championships.

And if that was not enough he also won 5 Commonwealth Games gold medals at 4 different games from 1962 to 1978 along with a host of English National titles including the outdoor singles title on no fewer than six occasions.

In his personal life David was a teacher at St Andrews Junior School in Clevedon and then at the College of St Paul & St Mary in Cheltenham before running a sports shop in Bristol, the financial rewards in bowls then as they are now were never big enough to allowed him to give up the day job.

On a personal note I first had the pleasure of meeting David at the British Isles Indoor Bowls Council Championships in Folkestone in 1984 when I marked his semi-final encounter with Michael Dunlop from Ireland and while I have many memories of a wonderful man the one that stands out in my mind was his epic encounter with my good friend Stephen Rees in the 1986 U.K. Singles final at Preston's Guild Hall when Stephen won the first 4 sets in the afternoon session in the best of 9 sets final only to see David coming back in the evening session to reel off 4 successive sets to level ay 4 each before Stephen won the deciding 9th set.

Widely acknowledged as the greatest bowler of all time, with his legendary pipe in month or hand David Bryant CBE will never be forgotten in the world of bowls.

He is survived by his wife Ruth whom he married in 1960 and their daughters Jackie & Carol

David Phillips

IIBC Secretary/Treasurer