

## Gate Post No. 138 September 2022

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### William (Bill) Barrack Tribute



Harrogate Rugby Club is sad to announce that Bill Barrack died, aged 80, on Monday 29th August 2022 following a diagnosis of terminal bone cancer several months ago.



Bill was born in Kirkwall, Orkney, leaving the island at a young age and moving to Aberdeenshire. He joined the Army Medical Corp where he was highly rated and after serving abroad he made his home in Newport, Shropshire.

As a young man Bill played rugby for Newport Shropshire, the British Army, the RAF, Combined Forces Far East and for North Wales whilst based in Cheshire with the Army.

He was a formidable rugby player as both a prop and in the second row and he made many friends at both Newport Rugby Club and also at Stourbridge Rugby Club. It is rumoured that his style of play led to his nickname of 'Wild Bill.'

When he came to Yorkshire in 1977 he played for West Park Leeds where he was on the committee and later became their Chairman. Whilst at West Park Leeds he met and married Veronica Morgan, who was the club's physiotherapist, and they spent many happy years together.

At Harrogate Bill became a long-standing servant to the club fulfilling several officer roles, including President, Chairman and Secretary, but was equally happy mopping up changing rooms, unblocking sinks or changing lightbulbs. He was Membership Secretary 1999/2000, Hon. Secretary of HRUFC from 2008 to 2022, Fixture Secretary from 2000 to 2022 and Press officer: 2011 to 2022.

Bill had a tremendous sense of humour and the following tribute appeared in the match programme 26/2/2011:

‘It was in the 1976/77 season when, according to the "Shropshire Star" and the "Newport and Market Drayton Advertiser," ‘Bill Barrack excelled in the lines out for Newport against Luctonians in a 10-4 victory.’

Known as the Shropshire Reaper, over several seasons, Barrack took no prisoners and his brutal approach whilst starring for Newport (Salop) had been nurtured in Orkney when he was infamous as the Orkney Ogre. Time spent in Aberdeenshire had hardened his granite like approach to rugby and this reputation had followed him through his services career. Shropshire was where he earned county honours as an enforcer and from there he moved into Yorkshire where the name ‘Wild Bill’ Barrack was acquired from his ‘Crazy Horse’ style of play.

As club secretary at Harrogate he was seen as a Saturday “power dresser” and an influential officer of the club whose special responsibilities included ensuring that the beer was in good order and that it is tested at fifteen minute intervals throughout the day.

Bill was an outstanding servant of the Harrogate Club for many years and earned huge respect from the members. He was voted Touchline International of the Year for 2007/2008.

Bill attended the Harrogate clubhouse seven days a week, performing administrative, call handling and management roles.

Every week Bill produced a large volume of avidly read editorial for the match programmes. He was also a terrific ambassador for the club – his knowledge of the game and willingness to commit his own time to promote the club and the sport was unmatched. He was unique. His time investment, knowledge and hard work were outstanding. He travelled to all Harrogate’s away games and at the age of 79 he endured a 15 hour day attending an away game in the south-west, but still managed to produce a full match report by first thing the following morning.

Bill was a true rugby man who embraced the game with enthusiasm, dedication and respect.

Away from rugby, Bill was a great fan of opera and attended a weekly opera appreciation class in Harrogate.

(Tribute composed by Brian Forshaw)

**Longest Day Training and Coaching Saturday 6th August 2022**



On Saturday 6th August 2022, Men's Rugby Director Martyn Wood, Chairman of Rugby Roger Shackleton, Defence Coach Gary Mercer, Head Coach Sam Fox and Forwards Coach Richard Ward organised a marathon 'Longest Day' training and coaching event at Rudding Lane. The day began at 6.30 a.m. and involved team building sessions and rugby coaching sessions throughout the day, finishing at 4.00 p.m.

### **RECRUITMENT – STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH**

Following their first season back in National 2 North, Harrogate RUFC are looking to appoint a strength and conditioning coach / player-coach to join the senior men's coaching team. This role is part-time, consisting of training on Tuesdays and games played on Saturdays.

For more information on the role, please contact Martyn Wood by email ([woodmartyn@hotmail.com](mailto:woodmartyn@hotmail.com)) to arrange an informal conversation.

### **Brian Shenton.**



Brian Shenton has now moved from Harrogate to live down south, nearer to his family. We could not let him leave without paying tribute to all the work he has done over many years for Harrogate and Yorkshire Rugby.

He was born April 11th 1940 in Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire and from the age of eleven played rugby for his school, St. Joseph's College, Stoke on Trent. In the 1960s he played for his Birmingham College team and Birmingham United RUFC. From 1967 to 1969 Brian worked in New York and played rugby for Manhattan RFC which included tours to the Bahamas, Bermuda and South America.

Following spells with Orrell, Streatham-Croydon and Mitcham he came to Harrogate in 1981 and coached the junior section until 1988. From 1985 - 1991 Brian became a referee with the Yorkshire Referees Society. He was also involved with various committee roles for the Yorkshire RFU from 1986 and became Yorkshire RFU President for the 2003/2004 season.

One of many highlights in Brian's rugby career happened on Saturday 5th October 1991 when the Yorkshire RFU hosted the England World Cup Squad for a training session at Claro Road, the home of Harrogate RUFC.

A full programme of activities was organised for the day including a coaching clinic for Harrogate's junior players, a training session for the England Squad, junior matches for King James's School, Knaresborough and Northallerton followed by screenings of international games after lunch.

For the 2009/2010 season Brian was voted HRUFC Touchline International of the Year.



We send Brian our very best wishes and grateful thanks for all he has done for rugby as he moves on to a new life in the south of England. The photo shows Brian with his two sons on a visit to Ridding lane.

### **England World Cup Squad Training Session at Claro Road, the home of Harrogate RUFC.**

During his time as an officer with the Yorkshire RFU Brian Shenton was instrumental in organising an England squad training session at Claro Road.

England Squad 1991: Simon Hodgkinson, Nigel Heslop, Will Carling (Captain), Jeremy Guscott, Rory Underwood, Rob Andrew, Richard Hill, Jason Leonard, Brian Moore, Jeff Probyn, Paul Accord, Wade Dooley, Mike Teague, Peter Winterbottom, Dean Richards, Jon Webb, Damian Hopley, Dewi Morris, Paul Rendall, John Oliver, Micky Skinner.

The England Team Doctor was Terry Crystal who was a GP in Leeds for many years. He played over 150 games for Harrogate and captained a midweek social team, York Unicorns, for many years. He went on to complete a diploma in sports medicine and was initially Doctor for Yorkshire RFU, The North of England, Leeds Rugby League and then in 1994 was appointed the Doctor to England RFU.



He was doctor for all the England tours in the 90s including two World Cups and was doctor for a total of 83 internationals.

He was appointed doctor for Leeds Tykes for the 2001-2 season and was medical officer with Leeds United FC. Terry continues to be a very popular after dinner speaker for all kinds of sporting occasions.

