

14th June '21.

Dear Maomi,

Re: JOHN FISHWICK

I enclose the items discussed and I hope they meet your expectations

I am so pleased that they are finding such a suitable site and that they will give many others some pleasure in seeing them

My father was born in KOUNGTON (7, Church St) on 23rd June 1916 and was the third son of John + Alice (nee Barnes) Fishwick, his older brothers being HAROLD + JAMES, - James died in 1941? of T.B. related illness.

John (Sno) was a Police Sergeant in the Lancs Const. and as a result moved about with the job, in the early 20's he was at KIRKHAM P.S. in FRECKLETON ST right opposite a fish + chip shop owned by James + his wife Belle, and as a result, my dad on gaining a grammar school place started at Kirkham G.S.

Moving to Leyland in 1928 meant my dad started at Baldshaws having only spent a few weeks at Kirkham. and

as we know had a long & fruitful time at his new school

He was unfortunately denied a University place due to family reasons, so went on to Saltley Training College in Birmingham in 1937, where not only did he continue his academic & sporting success he met my mother at a dance (they loved dancing) and romance blossomed.

The outbreak of WW2 seriously affected my dad's sporting life as he had definite aspirations to compete in the 1940 Olympics in Tokyo, instead he joined the R.A.F hoping to be a pilot, but not too good eyesight precluded him, so he was stationed at RAF Cosford and spent the war largely in a safe place being a P.T.I., there he rubbed shoulders with many of the sporting greats of the day, he even managed to play soccer for Derby County during the war-time league.

In 1941 he married my mother Olive & in 1942 I arrived an only child as my mother had difficulties she was unable to have any more.

In 1946 at the end of hostilities we moved to WHITEFIELD in north Manchester, but my mother was very homesick, so in 1948 we returned to BIRMINGHAM - my father having taught at Whitefield Junior school in the town for two years.

We moved to the Edington district of Birmingham and my dad started teaching at Victoria Road Juniors in Sutton Coldfield where he became heavily involved in Warwickshire Athletic scene - he moved on to Boldmere Junior as Deputy Head in 1951 and finally became Headmaster of Minworth Primary in 1954 where he stayed till his retirement in 1981

I once asked him what he considered his greatest achievement and I was surprised to learn it wasn't of a sporting nature but that in 1953 every pupil in his class passed their 11+ exam - he was over the moon.

He retired in 1981 but it did not last long as in December '81 he was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer and he had come on April 24th 1982 in hospital at Tamworth (Staffs) at the relatively early age of ~~65~~ 65 yrs old

He spoke to me whilst in hospital + our last serious conversation was about the Falklands War + he said that

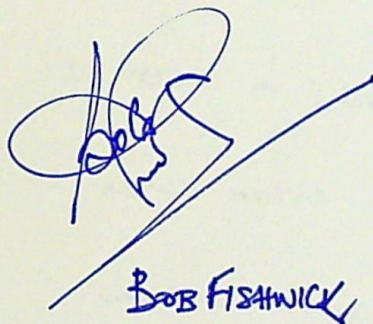
"He arrived in a war (WW1) his life was blighted by war (WW2)

and he was going to leave in a war (Falklands 1982)

I do hope you have not been bored by my memories
it is so nice to share them with someone genuinely
interested

Best Wishes

Regards



Bob Fishwick