

# Kenneth William Bell

## 'Ken'

26<sup>th</sup> September 1930 - 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023

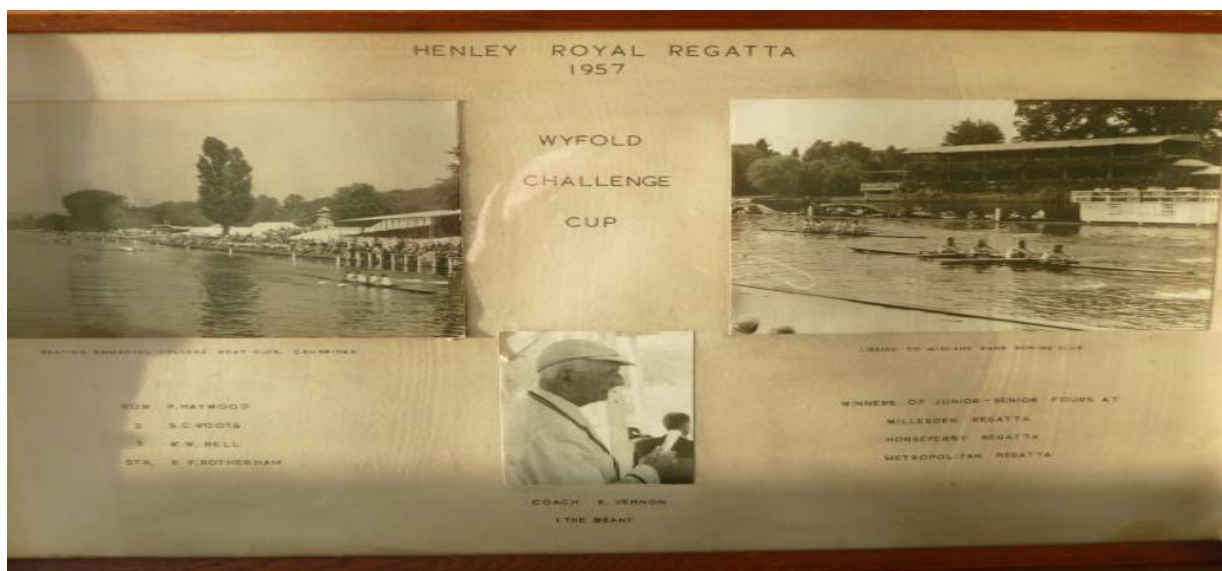


Ken Bell was an Anglian Boat Club man and also rowed with Tideway Scullers School, from its foundation in 1957, and Vesta Rowing Club.

Ken's four, with Peter Haywood, Stan Roots and Ted Rotherham, got together around 1955, coached by John Sharpe and boating out of Tom Green's boathouse by Barnes Bridge where they got hold of an old clinker four and had to rebuild it before they could row it. They also had an old WW2 Willys Jeep, which again they had to rebuild, and which they used to go to regattas.



They won novices and juniors and then went into a coxless four and won a couple of junior senior events, (an earlier form of ranking in rowing), and, being coached by Karl Vernon, had a good crack in the Wyfolds at Henley Royal in 1957.



After HRR they seem to have stopped rowing as a 4- crew, but Ken carried on in a single scull for a while before joining Vesta and becoming a very early member of Tideway Scullers reaching the semi-final of HRR Thames Cup with them.

They continued sweep oar and Head racing as here competing in the 1958 HERRING RACE. Ken is rowing at 5 for Anglian just passing Watneys Brewery. Ralph Howard is at Bow, Stan Roots at 2, Gerry Cescotti at 3, Johnny Enright at 4, Ken Bell 5, Wally Dalton 6, Peter Heywood at 7, and stroked by Ted Rotherham (Cox: P Robson).



Anglian amalgamated with Mortlake Rowing Club around 1962 becoming Mortlake Anglian Boat Club.

In 1964 Ken became the second Captain of the newly amalgamated MA, following on from Gerry Buckland, and coached a Junior Senior four, (Bert Elwell, Bob Whittaker, Brian Hannah and John Enright), which won several events in 1965. He also coached a junior eight, (including Colin Cracknell and Peter Coleman which won a couple of times.

Whilst captain of MA, Ken coached a successful Junior Senior four, (with Bert Elwell and JJ Enright), and a Junior eight.

In 1969 and 1970 Ken was Captain at Vesta Rowing Club and coached and put a great deal of effort into renovating their old slipper launch.

## **John (JJ) Enright's remembrance of Ken.**

Regarding Ken, it's all such a long time ago and my memory is failing but Ken and I were the best of friends, in fact I was his best man at his wedding to Anthea who I introduced to way back in about 1955 when we all of us worked for BEA (British European Airways) during which time he roped me into Anglian BC where we rowed many HORs together.

He was by far the best oarsman in the club at that time and joined the newly formed Tideway Scullers School which at that time was formed with the intention of competing with Barn Cottage then the best crew in the country.

Ken retained his Anglian membership but rowed many times at Henley with Tideway Scullers and I think he also rowed for Vesta.

Ken and I were very close and at the time I was playing the piano around the Pubs in SE London earning some extra money. We started up a duo with Ken on Drums which we bought cheap. We honky-tonked around the pubs for a couple of years, as I remember before he got married.

Then of course Ken coached probably the best coxless four to come out of MA at that time of Bert Elwell, Bob Whittaker, Brian Hannah and myself. We won everything in sight but failed miserably at Henley.

Ken and I remained close friends all our lives and Maureen and I used to visit them every time we came to England and they visited us likewise here in Ireland. We spoke regularly on the phone.

With Ken gone I think this makes me the oldest surviving member of Anglian.

Ken was 93.

RIP Ken