

VALE JOHN RAMSAY

2nd March 1941 - 13th May 2012

With a career in Fencing spanning more than 50 years, John Ramsay was incremental in establishing the Commonwealth Fencing Federation (CFF) Technical Commission and became the first Chair in 2002. John was dedicated to making the Technical Commission a proficient entity that would ensure CFF Championships were run as quality fencing events, wherever they might be held.

John will be remembered as a 'doer' and the Technical Committee is his legacy with its ethos of striving to excel for the sake of the athletes. John set the ground rules, literally and metaphorically for the standards the Commonwealth Fencing family have come to expect at its events.

He worked on the Commission up until his death this year (in 2012) and the members of both the CFF Executive and the Technical Commission remember well that no matter where they were in the world, they could always count on John to prepare the event with diligence, as well as to help them appreciate the many wonders of the host country. He would also always see to it that long days of hard work were combined with well-deserved relaxation. John always managed to scout out the best locations for 'après-fencing', where one could relax and enjoy wine and a meal in agreeable company.

Unfortunately, ill health dogged his later years but we must remember him in his prime at our earlier Championships where his eagle eye for protocol was tempered with a generous humanity for people of all sorts trying to do their best.

This then is his legacy: the assurance that world-class fencing will always distinguish CFF Championships and that we remain committed to maintaining his standards and vision.

John will be sorely missed, but he will not be forgotten. He was a dear friend of many in the Commonwealth Fencing family.