

## **EULOGY DON MURRIE**

I first met Don about 60 years ago when he was playing for Broadview Baptist in the United Church Tennis Association and I was with Colonel Light United. I was playing with Geoff Ladd, who sadly also passed away a few weeks ago. We lost the first set, and early in the second set Geoff came over to me and said, "Don's not left-handed, he only serves left-handed". After realising that, I think we did a bit better in the second set.

His switch of racquet and ball after serving was so slick it was in the realms of "sleight of hand". Never dropped a ball or racquet. In doubles when serving to the Ad court (I don't call that side the backhand side because playing against people like Don, who knows where the backhand is). Anyway, on that side, sometimes, before serving he would touch the court with his racquet about 3 feet away from himself. I got to know it was going to be an exaggerated slice taking me way out of court. I never told him that I was a wake-up to it. You've got to keep some of those things up your sleeve.

When I moved to the Broadview area, I had the pleasure of being in the same team. Don was No 1 man and Claire was No 1 lady. For some reason I took his spot, but only for 2 matches when Don resumed his rightful place. He served as secretary for the club. They were good times.

When they stopped playing at Broadview, they continued at the Walkerville Lawn Tennis Club on a social basis. He was President there for some years.

Dot and I resumed our contact and friendship with them there, which continued with them in mixed doubles night competitions and then into the Veterans Association - now called Tennis Seniors. He was valued member and he, with Claire, represented the association in many interstate Carnivals. He also helped when SA conducted the Australian Championships, particularly convening the Transport committee on some occasions. Other interstate Divisions sought his advice on the organising of transport.

Don and Claire were also respected members of The Memorial Drive Tennis Club, which continued to the present.

About 23 years ago the Berri Teams Carnivals started in May of each year. I was on Don's team and we had to think up a team name. Don appropriately came up with "Boys'n Berries".

Trust Don to come up with a name like that.

Don was a good captain. Even up to this last May, when he wasn't at all well, he contacted us all, sent in the nomination form, paid the fee for us, and made the effort to put in an appearance at one match.

We will remember fondly his sliding left-hand serve, his sliced forehand returns, his inside out backhand drop shots, but more particularly, his sportsmanship, personality and his friendship.

Malcolm Beddome.