

A Tribute To

Brigadier Garth Alfred Hewish MBE
Vice President, Devizes to Westminster Organisation
By Robin Meads

Garth Hewish, born in 1936 and who died in July 2013 after a long illness was, together with W. Hughes, the first Royal Engineer crew to take part in the DW in 1961 for the Junior Leaders Regt, Royal Engineers Canoe Club. They were placed 44th in a time of 38 hours 16 minutes. Garth entered again in 1963. The JLRE, with full RE Divisions was then well represented from 1964 onwards.

Garth was a keen sportsman and became more actively involved with assisting the DW Organisation over the years, eventually assisting his friend and business colleague Bob Birt, as an Umpire from 1995.

In 1989, Garth was instrumental in arranging for the Army Team Trophy to be presented to DW by the Royal Engineers for the fastest team of Army (regular or reserve) crew.

Garth was also tasked by DW with persuading a member of the Royal Family to be Patron of DW for our 50th year and was successful in arranging for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to honour DW with this role.

In the early nineties, Garth took on the post of Vice President of DW a post that he held until his death. In later years, he chaired Annual General Meetings and, due to his personality, these were always delightful and very happy occasions

During his Army career, Garth served in several theatres and achieved the rare distinction of earning both a commando's green beret and a Parachutist's purple beret. He took the commando course at a late age and after one exercise was found fully clothed in combat kit, asleep in an overflowing bath ! He was also honoured with an MBE.

After retiring from the Army, Garth took up a post with Mabey & Johnson the bridge builders and engineers and was involved in the supply of bridges during the Bosnian conflict.

Garth suffered from emphysema for several years prior to his death. He is survived by his wife, three children and one grandchild. In addition to about 300 mourners, mainly from the Army, his funeral, with military escort, was also attended by Bob Birt, former DW Chief Umpire and Robin Meads, DW Vice President.