

Peter Wells

1924 - 2018

Peter Wells was one of the stalwarts of the Royal Canoe Club, attending the club for the first time when he was 5 years old, an association that was to last for 89 years.

A canoe sailor of some repute, he was married to Joy, who was also an accomplished canoe sailor during the 1950s. Their craft, Greensleeves and Wake, were well known in sailing circles towards the front of the fleet. Peter continued his association with the canoe sailing fraternity as both treasurer of the BCU Sailing Committee and the representative on the ICF Sailing Committee for many years.

Peter followed his father (Eustace Wells) as Commodore of the Royal Canoe Club from 1963 during a difficult period in the 1960s and 70s when the club's fortunes varied and membership numbers were relatively low although the facilities at Teddington continued to produce racing and marathon paddlers of some repute representing Great Britain at world championships and a wide range of international events. Sailing from the site declined as the craft became more inclined to 'open' waters and the fickle winds on the Thames were less attractive. Peter's term as Commodore came to an end in 1976 although he continued as a trustee of the club, a position he held over a period of 60 years.

In 1993 Peter became the first Chair of the Royal Canoe Club's Charitable Company and the club set out on a period of acquisition and rebuilding which was unprecedented in its history to that point. Peter retired from that role in 2011 and resigned as a director in 2016 leaving an organization that is successful in delivering a wide range of canoeing activities alongside rowing and skiff racing through a partnership with the Royal Canoe Club at its heart.

Peter was remembered at the annual general meeting of the club which took place on 25th April following his funeral on the 12th April near Guildford.

David Lawrence

