

Colin England was born on the 7 September 1945 in Chelmsford, Essex.

He was raised in Grays, where he attended Mill Lane Primary School. When the school was demolished in 1990, their honours board was moved to Grays Museum, Colin was featured in gold leaf for 1956 and was both horrified and delighted to find himself displayed in a museum.

His mother Daisy also featured on the same board. Colin's younger brothers, Keith and Tony also attended the school, as did Keith's wife Evelyn.

Colin played football at County level until his mid-twenties, when he picked up his first golf club. He had his first (and only) hole in one in 1978, although he never stopped trying for a second. Hope sprang eternal.

Egged on by Johnny Speight, Colin completed the London Marathon in under five hours, with the money raised going to SPARKS Charity.

Colin was a proud and active member of the Golf Club Stewards Association, serving as Chairman of the Southern Section and also National Chairman. He served on the Executive Committee from 1977 until his retirement in 2011. He was both touched and honoured to be awarded life membership of G.C.S.A.

He spent the last 17 years of his working life at Mill Hill Golf Club where he continued to organise Celebrity Golf tournaments hosted by the stewards and for the benefit of SPARKS Charity, he also organised golf trips for the stewards.

Joanna remembers one such trip to Jersey, it was early October, and the hotel was full of pensioners, about 4 coach loads, celebrating a three-day Christmas break, Colin's friend Brian had a video camera and because of a passing resemblance, a group of Christmas holiday makers were convinced that Colin was Boysie from Only Fools and Horses, Brian asked them not to pester him for autographs, he also intimated that the rest of the cast were staying elsewhere, the Grand Hotel. The following morning a gaggle of pensioners were waiting outside the Grand Hotel, in St Helier, waiting for David Jason and the rest of the cast to appear. Colin's nickname, Boysie was well earned and there are probably some people still unaware of his actual name.

Joanna also remembers another outing which Colin had organised on a trip by ferry to France, Colin was waiting on the dock for stragglers to arrive, Joanna said that she would get on the boat and wait for him, she went into the restaurant and ordered a bottle of champagne and informed the waiter that they were waiting for one more.

The waiter asked if she would like him to call for him on the ship's tannoy, he returned and informed her that he had spoken to the Purser and checked the manifest and Colin England was not on the list, yes, you've guessed it, the ship had sailed without him. He did make it, just in time for the last four ball, which he won.

Colin organised many charity golf days for the SPARKS Charity, with friends like Chas & Dave and John Conti. He actually raised, in total, a quarter of a million pounds.

They bought on Camposol in 2002 and on retirement moved here on the 1 April, Colin decided that they would move on April Fool's Day. They did a stock take at 10am, handed over the keys at 1pm and were on the ferry from Dover at 5.30pm, he certainly didn't do things by half, that was the sort of man he was.

Colin loved his life in Spain. He enjoyed his days out with the Trevi Golf Society. He looked forward to his weekly poker game and the occasional game of snooker.

He enjoyed days out for lunch with friends and neighbours, especially mini golf, which was always his first suggestion. He was a very contented pensioner.

His taste in music was Elvis, Rod Stewart, Dean Martin, Chas & Dave and Military Bands, not forgetting Showaddywaddy, in fact anything that you could sing along to.

For his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday they organised a Showaddywaddy tribute band, in the Trevi Bar, Joanna had invited about 70 people, but to her horror it was announced on the local radio and about 450 turned up.

Colin was a private man, whose feelings ran deep, he had a clever analytical mind, a quick wit and a dry sense of humour. He was unwaveringly loyal to his friends and family.

Above all he was 'My Little Soldier' and I loved him with all my heart.