Obituaries

Geoff Smith (40-42)

Geoffrey Gerard Smith was the eldest of the Smith brothers who attended Conway. He is survived by Roger (50-52) and pre-deceased by Chris (53-55). He was raised in Derby and except for WWII, may have become a banker like his grandfather. His father was a Rolls-Royce engineer who also built and flew gliders, introducing Geoff to the sport while in his teens; he managed to fly solo before joining Conway.

After Conway, Geoff joined the RNR and after training at Greenwich, joined the battleship *Malaya* in Scapa Flow where he found he was the only RNR midshipman. After Malaya, he spent time on mine-layers before being seconded to a naval unit onboard the Italian Line Saturnia which had been converted into an Italian troopship before being captured and converted into a Red Cross vessel. After a spell in Malta, where he was hospitalised with sandfly fever, he returned to active duty, joining HMS Gardiner for N Atlantic convoy duties. Now a sub-lieutenant, Geoff stayed with Gardiner to the war's end. One of his last duties was to guard, briefly, 16 crew of U-boat 532 which had surrendered on 14th May 1945. Geoff was armed with a revolver and told to await an army escort to take the prisoners to a nearby camp. For the rest of his time in the RN, Geoff was a navigator returning US Loaners (LSTs etc) to US ports. After demob in 1946 in New York, he went to Canada. After time on the Rosedale Park as Third Mate, he left the sea and joined March Shipping in Montreal. He was also RCN(R) with the rank of Lieutenant. Involved with the Canadian Sea Cadets for nine years, he commanded RCSC *Magpie* and RCSC *Victory*, before his company sent him to Toronto, ending his Reserve activities. Geoff later joined SNC-Lavalin, a major Quebec-based construction company, which involved assignments in Europe, Iran, Argentina and Peru.

He retired in 1990, settling in Montreal where he volunteered for various community services, including the Veterans Hospital where, over a period of 20 years, he helped disabled ex-servicemen participate in group activities, such as ninepin bowling. When not helping his son Michael at his hardware store, he spent some of his free time at a ship model club and completed a very fine model of the *Seeadler*, a WWI German raider.

Geoff was a devoted family man, a quiet, unassuming person and a good friend who could always be counted upon to help others less fortunate. Geoffrey passed away peacefully on 5th November 2012, with loving wife Sandra at his side. He is survived by Sandra, his children Maichael (Linda) and Diane, and his grandchildren Kimberley (Mark Cachia), Geoff and Melissa Belak.

Colin Harvey (49-51)

Colin died last November after suffering from skin cancer for 10 years, which sadly spread to his stomach. His funeral in Toronto was attended by over 200 people, from Conway, the cricketing community and colleagues and former students. He is survived by his wife Jennifer and their two sons.