

Michael Ricketts (staff 1977-2001)

In December 2012 a man died who was not just our former Boatman, but one of the best loved people who have ever worked at Bryanston. He died on almost the very day that Bryanston acquired a brand-new Empacher eight. There was no competition for the name on the bows.

“Let us now praise famous men and our fathers that begat us.” These words from Ecclesiasticus 44.1 are remarkably apt as we remember Michael: “... men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding ... wise and eloquent are their instructions ... All these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times ... There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported... The people will tell of their wisdom.”

Not for nothing did one former Bryanston coach name Michael the wisest man in Wessex.

From time to time when I have nothing special to do I think, not of what discs I shall take to my Desert Island, but of what friends – friends chosen for their essential skills, their companionship and for their distinction as human beings. Michael is always included in that list and for all three reasons.

At the 2013 Henley I bumped into Tom Davies (Captain of Boats 1999) who said, “I learned more about leadership and being a gentleman from Michael than (from) anything else at Bryanston.”

Alan Shrimpton (Former staff and H '55)