

## **David Edward Rule**

David Edward Rule, who went aloft on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2013 Aged 85, was born in Havant, Hampshire, the eldest of five boys. The family moved to Swaythling, Southampton, and the brothers enjoyed a happy childhood playing their favourite sport, football. David's brother, Alan (Nobby), became a top club professional footballer and David was a Director and a Shareholder of the successful company that owned the Eastleigh Football Club Ground.

During the Second World War, David served with the Military Police in Italy but, unfortunately, was seriously injured when the Jeep in which he was travelling hit a landmine. After his recovery, he was posted to Andover where, as a drummer in a band, he met his future wife and Land Army girl, Joyce, at a dance where his group was performing. A wonderful marriage and three children followed.

After the War, David continued his work as an office boy with Thorn Lighting. This was to be his career and he worked his way up to the position of Sales Manager for the South of England and Jersey where he was well known among the Dignitaries, organising an annual banquet and continuing to do so beyond his retirement.

A familiar face around the Port of Southampton, David was a Mess Mate in the Southampton Master Mariners' Club, supporting social functions and playing for the Cricket Section. He was also an active Freemason.

An extremely intelligent and well read man, particularly on the subject of History, David had specialised knowledge of the Titanic Disaster and the First World War. Indeed, he gave informative talks on both topics at our Club Suppers. He loved music, poetry and prose and, such was his depth of feeling, was a poet himself, writing both lyrical and amusing work.

First and foremost, David was a family man but had many friends, due to his kindness and generosity. and always gave of his time. A big man with a big heart who will be sadly missed.

*Edwina Smart*