

WALTER WEYNDLING

- an appreciation.

Some three years ago The Technical Committee of The Southampton Master Mariners' Club was disbanded and the responsibility for organising the annual Technical Seminar was delegated to two members of that committee. I was one and my friend and colleague, Walter Weyndling, was the other.

From the outset we were agreed that any discussions on the seminar would be conducted in a social environment, restricted to a maximum of five minutes and would end with a firm decision.

For our first meeting, Walter arrived breathless and slightly late and, before he had sat down, announced "I've got someone from the MAIB". A minute later we reached agreement on the date, speaker and format for the seminar - and Walter rushed off to attend another meeting at Winchester. It was ever thus.

Walter was a man of boundless energy and many organisations throughout Hampshire, and beyond, benefited from his willing and active participation in their work. His strong Christian belief and ability to make friends easily made him the obvious choice to serve the community at large - and Walter gave of his time and advice unstintingly. It was pointless to advise Walter to "slow down" - everything was carried out at "maximum revolutions" and there was always another meeting to attend.

Over the years he contributed a very great deal to the Club and his contributions to The Church Committee, The Technical Committee and The General Committee were invariably pertinent and sensible. His ability to see the opposing point of view and his inability to fall out with anyone made him a welcome committee man!

Those of us privileged to attend his funeral were agreed that the Vicar got it absolutely right when she surmised that, on reaching The Pearly Gates, Walter's first words to Saint Peter were "Now, what can I do to help?" THAT is Walter and THAT is but one of the reasons that we all miss him so much.

To Gaye and the family we send our love and condolences.

CRK 22.2.05

There will be a Memorial service held at Winchester Cathedral at 14.30 on 1st April. Members welcome.