

OBITUARY

ANDY BUNTING

by Ian McKenzie

The funeral of the much-loved Andy Bunting was held in Cambridge in April. The order of service had photographs of him with a big smile and you could easily imagine that smile broaden and the laughter come tumbling out.

Andy's son, Michael, gave a moving eulogy and said he adored him. "It looks like you have filled the place, Dad," he said to a full congregation. He explained how Andy's lifelong friend, Chris Hughes, had donated a kidney to him when he was struck down by a hereditary disease.

Chris, the former Prince CEO, spoke movingly and with humour of Andy's life, covering two areas where he was at the heart of the squash community. He ran a very successful squash club in Cambridge, turning it around, and later became Prince's global ambassador.

"We began work together, the three of us (Andy, his first wife Jill and Chris) and together we changed the face of world squash," explained Chris. "We had the most glorious time of our lives.

"Andy moved among the great and good of the squash world. He recognised developing talent and there lay his greatest skill.

"Andy didn't just hand out the gear and pay over a few bonuses, he gave of himself. He gave of his enthusiasm, his wisdom and his general being."

Peter Nicol, for five years the best player in the world, visited him before his death and said he was like a father.

Tributes have flowed in for Andy, many of which can be found on Facebook.

Here are two:

Rodney Martin (former world champion): "I spent a lot of time with Andy while on tour. Nothing was ever too much trouble. He had a great sense of humour and always had a smile on his face. He simply loved the game."

Ted Wallbuton (former World Squash Federation CEO): "He was universally liked and respected. I will never forget his quick, sharp wit and engaging smile."



Andy wrote for this magazine, a perfect fit as guest columnist for the humorous 'From the Gallery' column. Hughes summed it all up by saying: "He could make people laugh."

At the end, the congregation filed out past Andy's coffin for a last goodbye and everyone placed a daffodil on it. If you knew Andy and you see a daffodil, pause for a moment and watch it light up into a brilliant smile and then listen for the laughter.