

Tributes to Bob "Sid" Hearn

Jimmy Murphy: So sad to hear about Bob (Sidney). Not too many of us left from the Long Acre form room. We had many a laugh in those good old days.

Dave Cook: Sid was an absolute gent.

Colin McKie: Loved the bloke and great company too. He had a great life, another big loss.

John McGhee: He truly was one of the top blokes I've ever known. He always had time to listen to me and gave me so much good advice when I was a kid on the Life. God bless him. Wally, Benny and now Sid, that's some card school.

Kevin Hedley: He was always lovely to me, helpful and he had some great stories. God bless.

Geoff Duffield: Sid was a great friend and a colleague in the old [horserace] form room for many years. He was a serious cribbage opponent of mine and our games often drew large audiences. Because of the wait for the four-day declarations, and cancelled meetings in the winter months, there were plenty of opportunities to get the cards out. Sid also played for the Life's football team, often in goal. He was a born comedian, and kept our the spirits up in the form room on Bank Holidays when we worked our backsides off. Sid was unique.

Emma Hart: I remember Sid very fondly from the Life get-togethers. Such a very nice man, and always interested in what I was up to when I chatted with him.

Hilary Watson: I'm so sorry for the loss of your friend Sid Hearn, I remember him as quite a character and he and [my late husband] John got on very well. Sid even came to our wedding in Macclesfield!

Mick Malone: When the Sporting Life Guide closed, Sid was one of many that were recruited on to the Life, and he joined us in the form room where Alfie Richards was our guvnor. Sid was always suave, well turned out in bespoke suits. He had accounts with Alexandra Tailors and Weaver To Wearer. Always great company, he had a fantastic sense of humour. The Life's 20 year reunion gave us all the chance to meet up again with our partners, and I had the pleasure of meeting Mary Helen. Sid will always be known as the Life's 'senior member of staff'.

Fred Parsons: I remember time spent with Sid as a colleague, especially during our later page comp days. He was a dry character with a certain style – and he enjoyed the golf days too.

Chris Gundry: Bob is at rest and rid of a horrible disease. Sid, as he was known to us all, was a seriously popular member of the Life team. In fact, I would go as far as to say I don't know one person who didn't like him. He was as laid-back as they come, and his cheeky smile and laughter will never be forgotten, nor his ability at a card table or with a snooker cue in his hand. With other Life friends Benny The Wad and Wally Watkins having recently left us, we can all hope there is a reunion with Sid as we talk. I can see them now around the baize poker table – Sid "The Man", Wally "The Kid" and Benny "The Shooter". (For those of a younger persuasion, those nicknames were characters in the great 1965 poker film The Cincinnati Kid.) Condolences to Bob's wife Mary Helen and his two boys. Your deal Sid. Rest in peace.

Mark Jeffries: I was very sad to hear of Sid's passing. He was a lovely man. I remember him being quite a staunch old-school Labourite and always ready to stick up for his colleagues in any

dispute with the management. He was always erudite and fair in his arguments, a fine wit and great company. A huge loss to everyone who knew him. My deepest sympathy and condolences go out to all his family, friends and loved ones. RIP.

Dave Curran: Sid was my favourite out of all the Lifers, what a guy he was. The working day went so quickly with him as he was just so funny! He, along with Colin McKie, Paul Bristow, Frank McGhee, Chris O'Keeffe and dear Len Poole really looked after me and made me feel welcome when I arrived in 1994 to do my placement year from Uni. I remember when Sid first introduced himself to me and I asked him how long he'd been at The Life, his reply was "43 years". I couldn't take it in how long that was, I'd barely turned twenty one at the time! Sid was such a great character and it was fantastic to see him at the big reunion a few years ago; he hadn't changed one bit! My condolences to his family and friends.

John Curle: My lasting memory of Sid is that he was a fine, decent man and great company. I am honoured to have known him.

Peter Thomas: Many of those we have lost I knew only briefly, as I arrived at the Life at what you might call the end of a unique era, but I remember them all as fine colleagues, decent men and great characters who made working life a lot of fun.

James Lambie: I didn't get to know Sid all that well when I was in the office (my loss), but a couple of years ago Hopper [Paul Duffett] dropped in with Sid and MH on one of his Scottish tours. I guided them around some of the more scenic pubs in the area with Hopper manfully taking the wheel, and I got to know Sid a lot better. He had a wry sense of humour, saying that as his Parkinson's progressed he'd be well qualified to work behind a bar as a cocktail shaker! What a star. My condolences to MH and all his family.

Jeremy Chapman: Very sorry to read about Sid. I didn't know him that well but he danced every dance when it came to Life reunions, and was a heck of a character.

Mick Connaughton: The Grim Reaper has been particularly cruel in the past few months. Very sad to hear about Sid who I obviously knew well – I echo the many tributes already posted here.