



Alan Heads

1943 - 2019

Alan Heads was Chairman of ESFA in season 1997-98, a proud and plain speaking Northumbrian who served schools football with distinction.

Following teacher training in Sheffield Alan returned to his native north east and began his teaching career in Whitley Bay as a geography specialist. He was an accomplished sportsman and played table tennis and cricket to a good standard as a young man and later turned to golf, playing at one point to a handicap of five.

Alan immediately got involved running football teams in his school and when Hillheads School became absorbed into the newly created Monkseaton High School he took a particular interest in the senior age group. With his support Monkseaton developed a strong reputation and gained considerable success in ESFA national competitions. He took a wider interest in the administration of schools football and became Hon. Secretary of North Tyneside SFA and served for many years on the Executive Committee of Northumberland SFA. In 1987 Alan was elected onto the ESFA Council as a regional representative with responsibility for the senior age group national competitions and a national selector for the ESFA Under 18 squad. Under Alan's guidance many players who had been part of the ESFA Under 18 selection process found soccer scholarships in American universities. His enthusiasm and attention to detail served ESFA well until his retirement from Council in 2003.

Alan was greatly helped and supported in his football work by his wife Liz. They were great travellers taking every opportunity to enjoy cruising, exploring America and very regularly absorbing the sunshine of Tenerife. Sadly Liz died suddenly whilst on holiday in Tenerife in 2016. Alan too died suddenly in June this year after a short illness.

Alan was a blunt and straight speaker who was prepared to stand up for the things that he believed in and his contribution to schools football locally and nationally was immense.

Written by Dennis Fulton for the ESFA