

## **Malcolm Berry**

The ESFA is greatly saddened by the news that former Chairman, Council Member, Chief Executive and Life Member Malcolm Berry passed away on Christmas Eve following a long illness.

Malcolm had a distinguished teaching career in his native North-East and alongside that was heavily involved with Northumberland County SFA; he was chairman in 1970-71 and Secretary from 1977-79. He was elected to the ESFA Council in 1979 and was Chairman in the 1989-90 season. In 1991, he became the ESFA's first Chief Executive and he and his wife Lorna moved to Stafford, where they both became fully involved in community and church activities.

Malcolm's nine-year tenure as ESFA Chief Executive saw significant changes for the Association; his commitment, passion and attention to detail were instrumental in guiding schools' football through challenging times and ensured that young people were at the centre of the ESFA's decision-making.

On retiring in 2000, Malcolm was made a Life Member of the ESFA, and continued to take an active interest in schools' football. The ESFA "family" meant a great deal to him, and that remained the case during his difficult last few weeks, when Head of Administration Lorna Blakeman and National Competitions Manager Darren Alcock visited him - both joined the ESFA when leaving school and were mentored by Malcolm during his time as Chief Executive.

The ESFA extends its deepest sympathy to Malcolm's widow Lorna, to the rest of the family, and to his many friends in schools' football and behind. He will be greatly missed.