

NEIL RILEY - *personal profile*

RODNEY House - Harlow College 1953 - 1960



Neil Riley: April 2013

It is difficult to recall all those years ago but some things stick in my memory. Much revolves around football as I loved playing. In winter we would kick a ball around in the old shed that provided one side of the Quadrangle. One day the ball hit a roof window, it broke and the glass fell and cut my lip.

Several stiches later I returned to playing again and I still have the scar to this day from the sewing up of the wound at the hospital.

The “boys” I recall were Oliver, a bit of a fighter but good hearted. Richard Ellis, who use to live in “New Harlow” and whose father ran a greengrocers. There was Seward, Careless, Senior and Busby. I recall Raybould as a great footballer and Jeffreys as a fair haired athlete who won most of the distance runs.

I left Harlow in 1959 when my father changed jobs from running the Herts and Essex Water Company, which main office was in Old Harlow, next to the main Post Office. We moved to Hatfield where I went to the Grammar school there.

I played far too much football and did very little studying. Eventually I ended up working at William Gee and Sons, Solicitors in Bishop’s Stortford. There I studied for my law

degree and eventually got married and moved to Elsenham, near where Stansted Airport is today.

Then my wife, two young daughters and I moved to Burton on Trent, then to Penarth in South Wales where I joined the legal department of the National Coal Board. After 12 years there we moved to Dorking in Surrey where we live today.

I was seriously ill when 40 years old due to a viral infection and had to retire early from work. I am now the Chairman of The ME Association.

ME stands for Myalgic Encephalopathy, (sometimes called Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). I spend my days managing the charity which is run by staff from offices in Buckingham and The High Peaks.

I have happy memories of Harlow College. It was terrible at educating me but I learnt self-reliance, a love of sport and a certain toughness, which has stood me in good stead for the rest of my life.

You can email me at [Neil Riley](#)