

In Loving Memory of

Phil Ridgway

16th December 1951 – 28th August 2021



Service to be held at
Stockport Crematorium on
Monday, 13th September 2021 at 10.45am
Service conducted by Reverend Alison Termie

Order of Service

ENTRANCE MUSIC

Stand by Me by Ben E King

WELCOME

PRAYER

**CELEBRATION OF
PHIL'S LIFE**

COMMITTAL

BLESSING

EXIT MUSIC

Baba O'Riley by The Who



Phil and Clare, Aug 2018



*Tom with William,
Mark with Leo, Sarah,
Chelle with Layla,
Ian and Becky, 2021*



PHIL'S LIFE

Born in 1951, Phil grew up in Urmston, Manchester, with his parents (Marion and Vernon) and older sister, Annette. They lived next door to his grandparents (Grandpa Arthur and Grannie Annie) allowing an early enthusiasm for tennis to develop with games across the fence.

The family used to go for a two-week holiday each year to Cornwall in Grandpa Arthur's car, with firm instructions not to exceed 60mph. Phil greatly admired his Grandpa, a respected sportsman with a mischievous sense of humour (as did Vernon), and appears to have taken the 60mph max speed as a good rule for driving for life. At Junior School he started to show his aptitude both academically and in sports, playing right wing for the school football team which won the schools district league. He was never convinced this reflected any significant skill on his part, attributing the success to a star player, Although it sounds as if he was hampered by wearing his older cousin's boots, stuffed with cotton wool!

At 11 he joined Urmston Grammar School for Boys where he ran in the cross-country team and played table-tennis (having learnt on the dining room table), reaching the heady heights of first team captain for the league winning school team.

Rebellion wasn't ever far from his mind however, and he'd take any opportunity to deal, but he was ultimately caught after skipping assembly too regularly. This appreciation for Bridge was shared as part of a regular four with life-long friends Graham, Steve and Gavin.

He tried to select two languages at 'O' level, but was only allowed to take one, resulting in instead taking a second science (with maths and Latin), which started to steer his path towards his future career.



After meeting a friend of his Sister, who was already studying Civil Engineering, he decided this would be a good option, after all (he noted), who wouldn't want to harness the great forces of nature for the benefit of mankind? He spent the next 3 years at Nottingham University, making more life-long friends at Cripps Hall of Residence and particularly enjoying the survey camps each Easter, often in scenic locations such as the Hope Valley.

Feeling it was a little more social, he switched to playing tennis at Bromsgrove Tennis Club, where he made more enduring friendships, playing in the leagues and weekend mixed tournaments. Luckily at the club he was judged on match results rather than style or finesse, with determination and endurance valued! He was proud to be part of the men's team that became champions of the Hereford and Worcester 1st Division in 1981.

He met Clare at a guitar evening class, and they found they had a common love of the outdoors, being active and folk music. They married in 1983. As the Redditch Development Corporation was being wound down, they moved to Marple Bridge in 1985, where Phil ultimately became a team leader in Structural Engineers with Manchester City Council. Tom was born, followed by Mark and Ian. Along with family life and regular family camping holidays, Phil played at local tennis clubs, bought a motorbike, designed a house extension, and encouraged the boys to be actively involved in their own sports. Phil often watched the boys play football at the weekend and even took his mother (also an avid football enthusiast) along to watch the world renowned quality of the local Marple Athletic teams.

He started cycling regularly when the Foot and Mouth epidemic of 2001 closed down all the local footpaths. He loved being part of the South Manchester Cycling Touring Club, exploring the beauty of Cheshire and the Peak District and enjoying the friendship of like-minded fellow members. When he led Sunday rides, he gained a reputation for very hilly routes. At night he'd fall asleep at night planning routes in his head! He was proud of finishing twelve gruelling 'Wild Wales Challenges', 80-90 miles of cycling in stunningly beautiful hilly Welsh scenery, persuading club members and the family to join him. (Photo from 2014)



Family holidays were often camping and youth hostelling in Britain and Europe with some foreign city breaks, and in recent years the boys organized two amazing 'holidays of a lifetime' to Morocco and China, travelling as a family. He was immensely proud of the boys and their partners, and to welcome three grandchildren.

After retiring almost 6 years ago, he made many friends via the Marple and District U3A, enjoying being part of the committee as Treasurer and earning new skills. He also regularly visited his mum before she died, aged 100, in a local care home. He continued to cycle 100 miles a week until six weeks ago. He started to write his memoirs recently and introduced them by saying that

“I want to record that I have had an excellent life, and consider myself very lucky...and that Clare and I have had a wonderful 38 years of happy marriage.”



Phil with his grandson, William, 2020



His mother's 100th birthday, Dec 2019, with sister Annette



Phil, Dec 2020

Thank you all for coming today, for your messages of support to the family and in sharing in the celebration of Phil's life.

After the service the family would be pleased if you could join them for lunch at Marple Cricket Club, Bowden Ln, Marple, SK6 6ND.

Donations in Phil's memory supporting Mind, Cancer Research UK, Fight for Sight & Sustrans can be made in a collection box at the back of the chapel, or online at

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-portal/someoneSpecialPage?pagelId=1308440&newPage=true>
(& search for Phil Ridgway, if link doesn't work properly)

Funeral arrangements by
Memories Funerals,
25 Compstall Rd, Romiley, SK6 4BT,
Tel 0161 546 0512