

LMRFC is deeply saddened to announce the loss of club founder, Doug Smurthwaite.

For those that don't know Doug, our President, Mark Hobson, has this to say about him, echoed by past and current chairmen. I am sure players and clubmen from our era will agree with their words.

"Doug was eloquently spoken and truly a great man.

Raise a glass to Doug on the 30th as this is where the club started and why we are today.

A sad loss to all of us who knew Doug. A great inspiration to me at school, to get me playing as many sports as possible and always giving me time off lessons when the rugby team had a match or a tour to France.

He was so instrumental in helping to get the rugby club started and running it as a well organised, professional outfit.

Gordon had the dreams but people like Doug made them reality.

How many hours did he spend serving us with pints after the match and organising the food, usually a hot pie from the cabinet or special favourite of Doug's, Brains Faggotts.

A true club legend as Nigel said and will be sadly missed.

Thanks for the great times, Doug!"