

# Obituary: Sir Arthur Marshall

04/12/1903 – 16/03/2007



Sir Arthur Marshall, the world's oldest surviving Olympian, died on 16th March 2007 at the grand old age of 103. A 400m runner, he was a Cambridge team mate of Harold Abrahams and part of the Achilles team which won the AAA 1 mile relay title in 1925. The previous year he had been selected as a travelling reserve in the British team at the 'Chariots of Fire' Olympics. Sir Arthur was a great raconteur and at the recent opening of the room named in his honour in the pavilion Cambridge University he regaled guests with extempore reminiscences: he and Eric Liddell had met two young American women on the ship back from the Penn Relays in 1924 and had arranged a date tea dancing in Paris once their running was done. Sir Arthur maintained that Liddell was not averse to a game of poker on board ship, and was by no means as prudishly religious as the film portrayed.

Sir Arthur was knighted for his pioneering work in aeronautics. He kept his keen interest in athletics all his life: he was a trustee of Cambridge University Athletics Club, and the Chariots of Fire Relays which he promoted in Cambridgeshire are now in their 19th year.

*A detailed obituary is available at*

*<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?view=DETAILS&grid=&xml=/news/2007/03/17/db1701.xml>*

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