

Obituary – Bernard Dickerson MBE

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Bernard Dickerson, 89yrs, on 5th February 2023.

Bernard's daughter Rachel has kindly provided this obituary and a record of his police service.

My dad joined the MOD Police in October 1964, becoming a dog handler, which he really loved, and retired from the force in November 1993. During this time, he served at RRE Pershore until 1978, when the station was closed, transferring to CBDE Porton Down until his retirement. He did also serve abroad in Singapore which was a Country we as a family fell in love with.

My dad and his dogs were involved in the Solstices, Cruise demonstrations as well as at CBDE. He loved working with the dogs and was involved with the MDP Dog Demonstration Team attending shows across the Country. In 1985 he won the Western Area Dog Trials and was runner up in the UK National Finals, he came 8th in the UK Biathlon at Melton Mowbray with his service dog Marco.

In 1986 he came second in the Western Area Trials, finishing sixth in the Nationals and eighth in the Biathlon.

In April of his final year of service he won the Chief Constable's Shield, the Southwest Winner's Shield and the Chief Constable's Replica Shield with his service dog Sherman.

He also attained the Police Good Conduct and Service Medal.

After his retirement he had a job working at Wilton House helping to clean the antiques.

He also had a very active refereeing career which spanned 50 years and has received a continuous service award from The Football Association. Along the way he became a mentor and assessor of other referees in the Suffolk area. In 1976 he won a competition in the newspaper to be in the commentary box for that year's FA Cup Final.

He also taught swimming with Salisbury ASC and was also a teacher of people with disabilities for swimming, and an ASA Tutor/Assessor, and helped to set up a swimming club for the disabled, as well as assisting one week a year with the Holidays for the Disabled 30/60 Group.

In 1992 he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his police work with the dogs and the community.

He was the first person in the Country to hold the Institute of Advanced Motorist Certificate for car, obtained in 1971 and then for motorcycling, obtained in 1977.

During all of this he found time to make me a lovely dolls house, complete with electric lights, carpets, and decoration, which I was given as a Christmas present, I spent hours and hours playing with it. Sadly, I don't have it anymore, but I do have the book that he used to make it.

He had a long and full life, he was just 89 when he passed away, and I'm so proud that I am his daughter.

Bernard's funeral will be held on Monday 27th February 2023 at 1.15pm, Oak Chapel, Crownhill Crematorium & Cemetery, Danstead Way, Milton Keynes MK8 0AH