

Members of the Class of 1989

Cecil Cooke

1924 - 1983



Cecil Cooke will long be remembered as the quiet and dedicated force in Bahamian Yacht Racing history. To many of us with whom he came into contact, he will remain the knowledgeable personality forever comfortable with nature's elements, particularly the sea.

His great strength was his seamanship, which definitely made the difference between the Bronze Medal won by the team of Sloan Farrington and Durward Knowles in the Melbourne Olympics of 1956 and the Gold Medal won by himself and Durward Knowles in the Tokyo Olympics of 1964.

A Champion swimmer himself, Cecil was perhaps more widely known in local circles for his assistance with the introduction of organized swimming in New Providence schools. He was a source of inspiration during this country's first ever interschool swimming championships, held at the former Fort Montague Hotel's swimming pool in 1966.

He remained a primary champion of The Bahamas Swimming Federation, assisting in the development of this sport throughout The Bahamas. He was a permanent fixture at all swim meets, either as an official or meet organizer.

Aside from his Gold Medal performance at the 1964 Olympics Games, Cecil Cooke's greatest credential was the promise he held for and encouraged in the young people of The Bahamas.