



Kevin Jones 1955 - 2010

messages from Minneapolis



How we have to appreciate every minute. The older we get, we can no longer take for granted the relationships and time we have. It was just yesterday I sat at the Rugby Lions pitch sipping a fresh cider with KJ and his cynical humor...What a good man!

I had the opportunity to meet KJ in 2003 on the MRFC tour and he opened his arms then and started with a simple pint of gesture to a player he had no idea whom he was.

Over the past 7 years KJ was always the first to say hi, offer a drink, try and be funny and showed respect while I was club President of MRFC on the tour of 2009 and the OL tour of 2007.

I am truly humbled and honored to have known KJ, I understand and know he was a staple to the OL family and has many friends here in MN, USA.

It will not be the same next time I am in Rugby, but his spirit will always live on.

I send my greatest condolences to the KJ family, OLRFC and anyone who was touched by KJ in their life.

What a great man!

God Bless - Chris Babiash, MRFC

Very sorry to hear about the OL's loss this past week. I had the pleasure to meet KJ a few times, he was a great guy and really embodied the spirit of rugby, on and off the field. - Andy Renner

I hope his family had a good week with him leading up to it. This is never easy.

I can't believe the news...KJ was such an awesome person and I only the best memories of him. - Homer

I spoke earlier this evening with Mr. Stuart Birch, who delivered the heartbreaking news of KJ's passing. I then passed the news along to Big Jack and we had a long talk reminiscing about KJ and really all of us and the bond we share. I told Jack that KJ was 53 and "Big" replied; "Oh no!....I'm 53 and KJ's in a lot better shape than me!". I laughed and then I cried. I could tell even on the phone that Birchie is taking it badly. Hell, I'm not taking it very well. I've been looking up my old photos of KJ and of course can't find one without a big smile on his face. That and the good measured sense that he had and the perfect hair.....even when it had gone gray it still suited him. I'm drinking the finest whiskey I have in the house in KJ's honor...I'm sorry...Honour for you Brits. We tried to get a hold of JD but he is away on vacation. I know he'll be devastated. We are all devastated.

With much love and grief: - Jerry Fogelberg

KJ will be sorely missed. He is the first of our "inner circle" that has passed on to the next life. We will meet him there. They say that..."Whomever will shed their blood with me on this day, will forever be my brother!" or something like that. That's how it is with us. You don't have to say it.

Please pass this on to whomever, especially those who knew him best. I wish I could see him one more time. He's one of those guys who played such a central role in the Metropolis-OL relationship. I'll always remember that smile and the twinkle in his eye whenever he was around us. - Jeichten

I'm still in shock and can't really put words to it. I had such a good time talking with KJ at the England-Scotland U20 match last March and he was a great delight that evening and pretty much every evening. I love the guy. This is a huge loss for everybody who knew him. What a GREAT guy. I've known Kevin since the '94 tour and he was one of the guys who brought a smile to everyone's face, whether he was shaking your hand, or planning some mischief...when he'd get that gleam in his eye. He'd snicker a bit, and you knew 'something was up' or 'about to be up' and he'd always appear to have nothing to do with it...but those in the know, knew...Damn. What a great guy. I'm speechless.

Please pass along our sincere condolences to KJ's family. It couldn't hit us harder than anything. I don't know if I ever met a more steady, congenial, more pleasant person than KJ. He truly was our brother. He is in our thoughts and prayers. I hope it of some comfort for his family to know just how much he is loved and admired on both sides of the Atlantic. If a man were ever measured by the quality of his friends, KJ would have few equals. I will miss all the superb advice that he gave me that I always ignored.....then came limping off the pitch only to be admonished by Mr. Perfect Hair and Good Sense. Who will be the voice of sanity now? Certainly none of us!