

OBITUARY.

All associated with sport in Ryde will feel the loss of Mr. **Francis Henry BRADING**, of 66 West-street, Ryde, who passed away on Monday at the age of 48, after a short illness.

For many years a member of the Old Ryde Football Club, now known as Ryde Sports, he will be remembered by many supporters as a player who always gave of his best. A tower of defence in the half back line, he was one of that great team which won four cups in a season. In that year (1920-1) the Ryde Football Club qualified for six finals, and successfully contested four of them. The trophies won included the Portsmouth Senior Cup, the Isle of Wight League Cup, and the Douglas Hall Cup. Mr. BRADING also acted as captain and as trainer during two seasons before the War. His football career commenced with the Church Lads Brigade F.C., and the St. John's F.C. He later played for Ryde Red Star, and for Binstead in the Ryde and District League. Before and after the war he turned out for Ryde Football Club, and was respected by all as a clean player on the field, and an equally clean sportsman of the field.

At the outbreak of war he joined up at once and rapidly rose to the rank of corporal-saddler in the R.A.S.C. He was demobilised in July 1919, suffering from the effects of poison gas. With an ex-Army friend He opened a saddlery business in Beckenham, and while resident there played for West Beckenham in the Kentish League. He later removed to Ryde, and in 1928 started a boot repairing business, and was soon able to employ help. His nephew, Mr. R. MANNERS, became his assistant. Two years ago he was taken ill with pleurisy, from which he never fully recovered, and a recurrence of his trouble during Christmas of last year hastened the end.

Ryde Sports Club will mourn the loss of one who had been a staunch servant, and the community will regret the passing of a sportsman, and a business resident. Sympathy is expressed with the widow, and the parents, in their sad bereavement. The funeral takes place to-day (Thursday).
