

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 1951

**OBITUARY**  
**MR. A. P. BIGGS**

The death occurred on Thursday at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, where he had been a patient only a few days, of a well known Island sporting personality in the person of Mr. Arthur Percival BIGGS, of Winton Villa, Monkton Street, Ryde. He was seventy-one.

Mr. BIGGS was the son of the late Mr. Samuel BIGGS, and was formerly in business as a photographer. As a young man he was among the leading runners in the county, with several Island championships to his credit, and in 1908 achieved the distinction of being selected for the Olympic Games trials in London. His best distance was two miles, but by a mistake he was assigned to the famous steeplechase event and failed to be placed, thereby losing his chance of representing England in the Games. Early in the century he was an active member of Ryde Harriers, and took a leading part in reforming the Club in 1931, when he was elected as chairman.

Mr. BIGGS was also largely instrumental in the formation of the I.W. Cross Country Association 20 years ago, and was a former Treasurer and Secretary of this Association. In addition he was Hon. Secretary of the I.W. District Committee of the Hampshire County A.A.A., referee at the annual I.W. Schools Athletic championships, and until last year was Assistant Secretary of the Ryde Carnival Association. At one time a keen cyclist, he once rode to London to compete in an athletics match. A widow, two sons and four daughters survive him.

The funeral service took place at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday, followed by interment at Ryde Cemetery, the Rev. D. FORD (vicar) officiating. Mourners were Mrs. BIGGS (widow), Messrs. A. P. and A. G. BIGGS (sons), Misses M. and D. BIGGS (daughters). Ryde Harriers were represented by Mr. G. SWAIN (President), Mr. E. T. LEAL (vice-captain), Mr. R. R. RAYNER (vice-chairman), Mr. C. G. SMITH (secretary and treasurer, also representing Mr. G. W. ATTRILL, chairman of the I.W. Cross Country Association), Mrs. S. READER (also representing Mr. N. LOCKWOOD), and Mr. C. DUNFORD. The I.W. Cross Country Association was represented by Lieut. Col. C. L. ELLERY, O.B.E., T.D. (President), and Mr. F. E. E. SEARLE, J.P.; Ryde Carnival Association by Mr. F. H. HELLYER (secretary) and Mr. R. H. BAGWELL (treasurer), the I.W. Schools Athletic Association by Mr. A. BIGGS, and Ryde Regatta Committee by Mr. R. RASHLEY.

Several floral tributes were received.

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