

**PLAYER, 18, DIED DURING SOCCER FRIENDLY**

An 18 year old Ryde man died on Sunday Afternoon after collapsing with a suspected asthma attack during a friendly football game in Newport.

Former Ryde High School pupil **Toby LYONS**, of Simeon Street, had a history of respiratory problems. "He had been an asthmatic ever since he was a baby", said Toby's mother, Mrs Sylvia LYONS. "But he loved sport and never let his asthma stop him from doing anything. He had not had a serious attack for about five years."

Toby, a trainee project control assistant with John BROWN Engineers and Contractors Limited in Portsmouth, was having a kick-about football game with friends at Nine Acre Playing Fields, Newport, when he complained of feeling short of breath. He made his way, alone, to Westview Road, adjacent to the playing fields, where he collapsed. A resident called an ambulance, which took Toby to St Mary's Hospital, where he was found to be dead on arrival.

Andrew LAINCHBURY, 17, of Swanmore Road, Ryde, one of the footballers, said, "towards the end of the first half Toby said he could not breathe very well, so I told him to rest for five minutes. When we went to start the second half I couldn't find him. Then I saw an ambulance turn up and we all feared the worst."

Another friend, Shaun MANSBRIDGE, 23, said Toby had been very keen on keeping fit. "We used to go cycling together, play football and play volleyball down on the beach at Sandown," said Shaun. "He had got himself a mountain bike in June as he was trying to get fitter, and we went all over the Island this summer. He was a smashing guy to be with."

This week many of Toby's friends were with his parents, Jeff and Sylvia, his grandmother, Mrs Ethel GARLIC, and his younger brother James, 14, at the family home.

Toby was active among the Ryde group of Jehovah's Witnesses. His mother said he had planned to work part-time so as to have more time for his work as a Witness.

Coroner's officer Mr Neville CARR said the cause of death was natural causes and there would be no inquest.

The funeral will be held today (Friday) at the Kingdom Hall, Brading Road, Ryde, at 11.15am.

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