



**Ben and Elliot Levine.**

### **Baruch (Ben) Joffe's decease,**

On December 11th, at the age of 75, Ben Joffe has lost his last game against diabetes. And it was not in a handball court which was almost the only place where we could get a smile from him. Who in Montreal, can't remember that fighter playing with his "construction" gloves.

Born in Israel, Ben has spent most of his life in Montreal, practicing two sports where he competed very much and at a high level, water polo and handball.

For many years he was considered as one of the best handball players in the Montreal Jewish community. He has been involved also in the young prospects development like Robert Laarhoven, Shawn Massey and Jacques Corneau.

He has participated in many tournaments in Canada and USA where he used to be the "serious driver" or the coach with many handball players from Montreal.

To his family and his friends, we offer our sincere condolences and we will remember his passion for our sport which was such a big part of his life.

Ben has been buried At Mount-Pleasant cemetery, in Laval. He was accompanied by handball friends like Elliot, George, Rejean, Julio and Alain.

We'll remember !

Alain Pélissier  
pour le C.A de Balle au Mur Québec

## Testimonies

Thanks for letting me know about Ben. He was my coach for many years. He was great guy and father figure.

*Shawn E. Massey, Memphis, Tennessee*

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I am sorry to hear that. Thank you for informing me.

*Robert Laarhoven, Duluth, Georgia*

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J'ai une pensée pour Ben Joffe, qui m'a beaucoup impressionné et que j'aimais bien...

*Ghislain Despots, Québec*

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Je me souviens de lui comme quelqu'un qui avait toujours le temps de te parler, de te conseiller.

C'est un pilier de la balle au mur à Montréal.

*Pierre Lefort, Montréal*

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My condolences on a great loss to your handball community and of course Canada's.....I remember Ben visiting the Nationals held in Montreal recently.....I talked with him at length but there was no mention of any illness.....he was certainly a serious student of the game who took the time to coach anybody after he viewed their matches.....and always a willing helper in many ways.....we will miss him and please extend my condolences and best wishes to the Quebec handball family from Sandy and myself.

*Brian Goto, Hamilton*

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Remember him for many years coming down to our Vermont Open tournament.

*Chris Cain, Vermont*

I played many many games with the GENTLEMAN he was.

*Joe Vaillancourt, Québec*

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Il est désolant d'apprendre le décès de Ben, surtout dans de telles circonstances.  
Pour moi, il était un homme aimable et respectueux d'autrui.  
Son amour pour la balle-au-mur n'a jamais fait de doute dans mon esprit.  
Étant un réparateur d'appareils radio et T.V., il s'approvisionnait partiellement chez moi.

Notre sport lui tenait à coeur et il y retrouvait un certain bonheur et des amis sincères.

Puisse-t-il reposer en paix !

Merci Alain de m'avoir prévenu.  
Ce n'était pas possible pour moi d'assister à ses funérailles.  
J'ai quand même pensé à lui à plusieurs reprises aujourd'hui.

Amitié et meilleurs voeux à toi et les tiens pour l'année qui vient.

*Marcel Ponton, Montréal*

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A sad day for handball.

*Merv Deckert, Winnipeg*

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Thank you so much for giving this great tribute to Ben Joffe. Ben was truly special and I had strong feelings for him.

You are to be congratulated for taking the time to advise everyone in the handball community across the country of his passing.

From the kind words of those who sent condolences, Ben will be truly missed. You did a great job.

*Jack Kowalski, Montreal*

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Thanks for the e-mail about Ben. He was my closest friend for 44 years. I met him for the first time during league handball in Montreal in 1970 or 71. That was also the time I met Marcel and played him at the Palestre Nationale. I made 11 points off of him in one game and the gallery was amazed. He was playing very well at that time. I am attaching

3 photos of Ben. The last one that I took of him in September 2012 and the other 2 are when he was young.

*Felix Tylender, Vancouver*



Ben Joffe and Jean Grégoire from Quebec.



Felix Tylender and Ben Joffe.



Ben Joffe



Ben with Elliot, George Anisef, Harry Biskin, and Harold Hoffman.  
Some of the important members of the Cavindish Club March 2003.