

Reneé Haygarth (née Schuurman) (1939–2001)

Reneé Schuurman (61), one half of the famous South African Tennis Twins, died in her home at Amberglen, Howick at the end of May after a 12-year fight with cancer.

At her bed when she died was her former playing partner and close friend, Sandra Reynolds, who had travelled up from Port Elizabeth to be with her.

Reynolds and Schuurman, later to become Price and Haygarth respectively, repeatedly made world headlines in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Two of the most popular players on the international circuit for nearly a decade, they took the South African women's doubles title three times, the French Open crown on three occasions and were runners-up at Wimbledon in 1960 and 1962.

Schuurman took the French doubles title a fourth time with English player Ann Jones. She reached the singles semi-finals at Wimbledon in 1961 and advanced to the quarter-finals on three occasions. She added the Australian doubles title to her list in 1959 when she was also the runner-up in the singles event.



Reneé Schuurman

She went into tennis coaching at the end of her playing career and spent over 25 years helping budding young players while also assisting the Natal squads.

Sandra Price said her friend ‘fought the bravest of battles for 12 years.’ ‘We travelled overseas together six times and have remained the closest of friends since our playing days. I am in awe of her courage. She was someone special, the most compassionate of people and an incredible example to us all.’

Reneé, a widow, leaves four children, one of whom, Brent Haygarth, had to fly back for the funeral from Paris where he was playing in the French Open.

JOHN BISHOP

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