

Farewell *"Brighton Evening Argus."* chuckle of *May 2nd, 1988.* king witch

ALEX SANDERS, the "King of the Witches", has died — but he had the last laugh on some of his critics.

A bizarre figure, he was often in the news, notably when he put a curse on a Bexhill Light Operatic and Dramatic Society production because his wife had a row with the musical director.

Major rows followed and a group of other witches eventually reversed the spell.

But in a deathbed revelation, Alex told friends it was all a publicity stunt and he had never cursed the show in the first place.

Alex, 61, of Church Road, St Leonards, died at St Helen's Hospital, Hastings. He had been suffering from lung cancer.

Although he was famous throughout the world among people involved in witchcraft, he died virtually alone.

Witch Kevin Carlyon, 29, of London Road, Bexhill, said Alex's crowning as King of the Witches caused dispute in the world of witchcraft and many believed he should not have the title.

He said there will be more arguments soon when the



Alexandrian Movement of Witches — named after Alex — holds discussions in a bid to crown his 16-year-old son Victor as the new king.

His former wife was concert pianist Gillian Sicks. Kevin said she forbade her children to have anything to do with the occult.

Alex Sanders claimed to have been initiated into witchcraft by his grandmother when he was just seven and he went on to run large covens.

Kevin said Alex was both a black witch and a white witch and did some good and some evil.

Occultists from all over the country are expected to attend his funeral, which is likely to be next week.