

## National Council 13<sup>th</sup> April – In Memoriam

**Sylvia Coombs** We learned of the death on 31 January of Sylvia Coombs, a life Member of the League since 1996. Sylvia had been the League's General Secretary for some years in the early 1980s and received the League's President's Trophy for 1984/5. She was the league's representative to Bucks County TTA for some time and was a county player.

**Ed Londy** passed on 28<sup>th</sup> January, aged 96. He had played in the league for many years, his final match being in 2017 aged 90, which is a huge achievement. Always a kind and patient personality and a gentleman of the sport, Ed took his table tennis seriously and was always willing to support the league and its tournaments, albeit without great personal success. For many years, Ed played for Newport Pagnell, then moved to play out of the Kingston Centre after it opened. For all his efforts, Ed was awarded Life membership of the league. He will be fondly remembered by long-standing league players.

**Mick Miles** passed away on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, aged 82, following a short but devastating illness which required hospitalisation for his final few weeks. Mick had continued to play league matches up to Christmas and his illness and untimely death came as a great surprise to many who knew him. Mick started playing in the league some 20 years ago, always for the MK Club having previously played in Luton. Some players recalled having played against Mick in Luton and also having learned the basics of the sport from him.

**Graham Moore**, captain of Mursley Mallards in Division 7, passed away suddenly on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. This was Graham's second season in the league, having had a successful first season when he was part of the Mursley Merlins team who won division 7 in 2022/23. Graham was an enthusiastic well-liked player who was looking forward to his impending retirement and to being able to play table tennis more regularly.

**Ralph Hughes** passed away on 15<sup>th</sup> August, aged 82. His daughter has indicated that Ralph endured a rare illness diagnosed some 3 years ago, but that he never complained and showed remarkable resilience and dignity, as well as strength and courage, as the illness progressed. Ralph was a stalwart of the League for some 40 years until the 2014/15 season. He played for about 20 years at Newport Pagnell Table Tennis Club, including Ron Osborne, who played alongside Ralph for some 30 years.

**Tony Clift**. The passing, after a short illness, of Tony Clift who up until his passing was Chairman of Wolverhampton & District League for 44 years and Secretary for 36 years.