

## *Terry Haley*

### *Link to Terry Haley/Jack Dawson Memorial Evening*

Terry Haley, the Guildford Table Tennis Association's foremost player for many years, has tragically died aged 47. He contracted throat cancer a year ago and eventually lost his battle with the disease.

Haley was the product of the GTTA's coaching scheme in the 70's and first became involved as an eight year old when he could barely see over the table. He was introduced to the sport by Derek Rust of the Cranleigh Club and played for a variety of clubs in the Guildford League including Abinger, Ash and Pyestock before joining Merrow in the late 90's and forming a title winning partnership with John Robinson and Mike Fisher. He remained with this duo until two seasons ago when he decided to take a break from the sport.

His achievements were outstanding. He was individual Singles champion on eight occasions, the first in 1985 and most recent in 2003. At the height of his powers he was ranked in the top 50 in England and when he joined the ranks of the Veterans he reached no 15 in the country. At county level he represented Essex, Sussex and Surrey and also represented GTTA in the National Team Competitions.

His enthusiasm for the sport and life in general was immense and he rarely missed a Presentation Evening and he did have a year as Association Chairman towards the end of his playing career. He will be missed by all who had the great fortune to meet him and is survived by his wife Tracy.

As testimony to the high esteem in which he was held the funeral at Chichester was attended by many table tennis players from Surrey and Sussex.

*John Callcut*

*(Chairman Guildford TT League)*

*(May 2008)*