

Email received from Jan Johns – 4th February 2008

I'm so sorry to let you know that Mike Johns passed away this morning at 5.30 am. He was where he wanted to be, at home, with Gail and his son Dominic.

The extended Johns family were at his side for most of the weekend.

He still managed to punch his fist in the air when Liverpool won, so fighting until the end.

What is quite remarkable is that Mike made it to the Hereford tournament in January. It was something he wanted to do, and he was really looking forward to it. Table Tennis was his life, and he wanted to spend some time with his friends before he went. He understood that for many people it was difficult for them to see and talk to him. But he appreciated every word and kind wish, and loved coaching Di through her matches.

Regards from Jan Johns

MIKE JOHNS - THANKS

Thank you so much for all your kind wishes and thoughts, and for those of you who could attend the funeral. We had phone calls from people wishing us well, and e mails from Australia.

It was an amazing send off with over 170 people at the church. Mike would have been so proud. Ian Johns delivered a very touching eulogy, and I don't think there was a dry eye in the church when 'You never walk alone' was played.

It really was a celebration of Mike's life, and the gathering after the funeral was full of reminiscing and laughter - just what Mike would have wanted.

(He was also probably laughing with the angels at the fact that half the attendees followed the wrong funeral car to the crematorium!)

Thanks again to everyone. What a wonderful community we have in the table tennis world!

Jan and Bri

MIKE JOHNS

by Dave Harvey

I have just heard of the extremely sad news about the loss of a true Table Tennis legend in Mike Johns, who died this morning (4th February 2008) from what was diagnosed as Asbestoses.

Mike was a truly great player who played for England on many occasions and was ranked in the top 3 of the country in the senior lists at his height.

He was an early exponent of the high "Chinese Type" serves and was a fabulous player whose loop on both wings was truly devastating (as personally I can testify to in the many drubbings I was on the receiving end of from Mike).

He was a great competitor, a gentleman on and off the table, and I count myself very lucky to have been one of thousands of friends that he made not only in the UK but also worldwide.

He spent many years in Australia before coming back here, where he won many National Veterans titles as well as serving on the ETTA committee with distinction as Marketing Director etc.

To the end Mike bore his illness and fortitude and dignity and fought like the true champion he was.

Deepest sympathy is expressed for Mike's family, brothers and all relations. He will be missed by everyone very much, but like the legacy he has left to our sport, will not be forgotten.