

## **OBITUARY JOHN JERMYN**

John Jermyn Honorary Life Member of the VETTS and a member of the Society since 1985, sadly passed away at the age of 75 years on Sunday 2nd September. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Di and three children. John will be missed by us all.

John's contribution to Table Tennis as a player and Administrator span's five decades. He was an International Umpire and Referee and was Deputy Referee at the World Veterans Championships 1996 (Norway) and 2000 (Canada) and referee at many VETTS events.

He was also involved with the ETTA as the VETTS representative on National Council from 1992 to 2002, and Chairman of the Rules and Calendar Working Party.

Recognition of his contribution to our sport on a National basis came in 1999/2000 when he was Elected as an ETTA Vice President and he became an Honorary Life Member in 2004.

John was also involved with his original County Hertfordshire as Chairman in 1977 till 1979 and was involved with the North Herts League in various capacities for over 40 years and the last 20 years as its Chairman.

He was accompanied over many years by another table tennis fanatic his wife Di whose contribution to Table Tennis is recognised by us all.

I first came across John when I started playing local league again in the North Herts League some 25 years ago. He was then on the committee and also ran all of the League's tournaments. My first real encounter with John was when I entered the North Herts Closed in the Division 5 event during my first season. I was then a youngish Lad, with more hair and slimmer. I turned up to give my name into the registration desk, quickly to be told by John, "you are not wearing that shirt to play in my event" I responded "This is a Lacoste sports shirt why not?" John said "it is stripped and not plain as it should be". I quickly went home and changed, only to come back and not qualify from my group.

During the years John and I became great friends albeit we had to play each other on many occasions as we came from different clubs. I played for a number of years with two juniors and in one match I was the umpire with my team mate winning the first leg easily against John. As John passed me to change ends he said "He is foul serving". I knew he was a qualified Umpire and thought to myself "what is a foul serve" then remembered the ball had to be thrown up a bit. Next leg started and my team mate served, John caught the ball and said it was a foul serve, I turned to him and said very quietly "I am umpiring this game not you". We have talked, debated and laughed at this incident many times since.

John soon afterwards persuaded me to join the North Herts Committee, then got me to join the VETTS and all of this led to me becoming the VETTS Chairman. So if you wish he is to blame.

John will be missed as a friend and colleague to so many of us.