

Mike Barratt – Obituary (January 2013)

Mike Barratt who was vice-Chairman of the Surrey Table Tennis Association sadly passed away on Thursday 15th November. He was vice – Chairman for over 5 years and before that he was Chairman of the Surrey Table Tennis Association. As well as this he also stood on many of the committees sub-committees dealing with such things as Appeals, Disciplinary matters and awards etc. For more years than anyone can remember Mike was the Byfleet and District Table Tennis league's representative at the Surrey County Committee Meetings. He was also Chairman and Press Secretary of the Byfleet and District Table Tennis League and played a major role in the League for over thirty years. Mike was head of the Byfleet Lawn Tennis Club's Table tennis teams of which Byfleet Lawn Tennis Club's Table Tennis teams have regularly won the Byfleet and District Table Tennis League and he did table tennis coaching at his club. Another string to his bow was that he was the Secretary of the Byfleet Lawn Tennis Club.

In addition to this Mike was an England International Cross Country Runner. He gave more than 60 years of service to the Ealing, Southall & Middlesex AC, holding posts of President and more recently 15 years as club chairman. His roles outside the club included Ealing's senior cross country captain/team manager for many decades. Mike was one of those who helped found the Metropolitan XC League and was involved with its organisation right up to his death. He finished as the number one veteran in the Met League on 31 occasions. As an athlete Mike ran in the National cross country championships 39 times. His highest position in the junior race was 5th and his career in the senior 'National' stretched from his first senior 'National' in 1955 to his final one in 1998 and included seven top 30 finishes. Mike still holds the club record for the 10,000m. He also won three gold medals at the European Veterans Championships in 1978 at 5,000m, 10,000m and 3,000m steeplechase.

Mike died after a short run on Wimbledon Common, leaving his wife Pam, daughter Jane and sons Peter and Tony. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to his family, friends and all who knew him.