

Frederick John Garbet Obituary

Fred Garbet died in April this year (2016). He is greatly missed by his wife Joan and their two Daughters Lorraine, and Janine, and three Grandchildren, Charlotte, William, and Jack. Fred and Joan would have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 2017.

Fred was an honorary life member of the Thames Valley Table Tennis League, having been a playing member for Molesey Table Tennis since the early 60s, and having served as a general secretary for the league.

Fred was born in Clerkenwell, London on the 12th April 1934, and an only child. His Family moved to Ditton during the war years, and he moved to Molesey following his marriage in 1957. Married life was interrupted by National Service in the RAF for two years.

Fred's first passion in life was playing football, for his works team (Vickers, now part of British Aerospace) where he was employed as an Apprentice Toolmaker, and the local Ditton Football Club, but after retiring from playing he took up table tennis, and joined Molesey TT Club.

Table Tennis became a family affair as Joan also turned out for Molesey, and their Daughter Lorraine under the watchful eye of Fred, achieved great success at under 14 level, achieving a top five England ranking.

Lorraine's success almost certainly played a part in his enthusiasm for coaching, and he spent many years assisting the Surrey Table Tennis Association, and Graham Spicers, as well as at local level with Molesey, where for many years he held an early evening session for younger players looking to both learn and improve their game.

He never quite reached the heights of his daughter success, but managed to play up to the division 2 of the Thames Valley League, at a time of course when the league enjoyed a much higher number of divisions.

His playing career was cut short in his 60s when he suffered a stroke, but he continued to act as the club secretary at Molesey, and was to continue to be seen on playing nights for many years, until ill health started to affect him, and he stepped down in 2012.

He did however make sure that I provided league tables and averages at the end of the season to keep him up to date.

Fred was very committed to the promotion of the sport, and gave so much of his time over many years, and we thank him for that.

The funeral was attended by representatives of Surrey Table Tennis Association, Thames Valley Table Tennis League, as well as Molesey Table Tennis Club Members, which was very much appreciated by the family. Thanks also to Alexandra TT Club who sent their sympathies.