

Obituary for Ian McCarthy 6/6/2019 aged 78



Ian McCarthy the legend of the Wandsworth Table Tennis League passed away on the 6th June. The following tribute was written by John Llewellyn. The expression “legend” is bandied about quite often these days but in the case of Ian McCarthy it rings true. For an amazing 50 years he organised table tennis in South London and managed to keep the Wandsworth & District Table Tennis League alive through some of the most difficult times the sport has seen.

He retired in 2017 and sadly suffered from Lung Cancer and hip problems which ultimately he succumbed to. He held the role of Chairman, General Secretary, Match Secretary, Tournament Organiser and Cup Competitions organiser over the years. He first became a member of the league in the mid 1950's when he started playing in it as a teenager. He has successfully run many different clubs from "Anchor Mission" to "Argyl" and for the last 30 years "St Pauls TTC". Even though he moved to Kent some years ago he managed a 190 mile round trip to Wimbledon every week. On the organising league committee side his first involvement was in 1967 when he became the General Secretary of the league, then almost twenty years later in 1986 he took over as Chairman of the league after Keith Hurlock retired. In 1987 he organised the closed championships and continued to do so until 2012 when Mike Loveder took over. In addition to all this he ran the 2 cup competitions as well. John Llewellyn took over Ian's various roles in May 2017 and said “Ian's contribution to the league is immeasurable and quite frankly I doubt that the league would have survived without Ian being there to keep it going, to say we are going to miss him is a huge understatement”. To all his family and friends we extend our deepest sympathies, the legend of the league is no more.