

Margaret Curtis

19th September 1933-25th February 2020

I am sorry to have to report the death of our President Margaret who passed away peacefully at a Care Home in Rugby aged 86. She had been Secretary to the Association for an astonishing 55 years before retiring in 2011. Back in 1996 the then Chairman Mac Grant commented that he was amazed at her grasp of every aspect of bridge both in Essex and the EBU. The late Dimmie Fleming once said to him that Essex was the best run County. So for all those 55 years the County was basically run by Margaret for a while assisted by her husband George as Tournament Secretary. As a player she won most of the Essex Competitions several times and represented the County on numerous occasions.

Her expertise was not confined to bridge, at the age of 20 she played netball for England touring the West Indies. She later became Honorary President of the Essex Netball Association attending all their matches whatever the weather. Her other passion was gardening and up to the age of 80 she was still doing 4 or 5 gardens a week including her doctors!

Returning to bridge she was a major influence with the EBU being a board member for 41 years including a spell as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Tournament Committee. Her achievements are best viewed by following this link in the EBU website:-

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/biographies/margaret-curtis>

I would probably be in trouble for this from Margaret as she was not into technology. To try and modernise her the Essex Members bought her a laptop as part of the presentation on her 50th Anniversary as Secretary. Attempts at training did not really work, she returned to her card index system! Very much her own woman.

Our condolences go to her family, at the time of writing details of the service are not yet known, Margaret's wish however was that any donations in her memory should go to Doctor Barnardos Home in Barkingside. This link leads to a page for donations:-

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/>

Tony Philpott
26th February 2020