

## **Giles Foster**

**Members will be sad to learn that Giles Foster passed away on Monday 23rd February 2015 at about 12 noon in the Bradford Royal infirmary, having been in hospital since Thursday the 12th.**

**Giles was born and brought up in Maidstone in Kent and grew up with a love of music, playing both the cello and piano. He moved to university in Leeds in the late fifties to study Maths and also began playing bridge. He was quickly taken under the wing of the - then international - Rita Oldroyd and she helped him to develop his game.**

**After leaving university, he moved into teaching and what became a 30-year Maths teaching career.**

**Giles had a very long and illustrious bridge career both in Yorkshire and nationally. He was a Grand Master and played for many years at national level with Rita and more recently with Richard Winter and Steve Ray. He often played for Yorkshire in the Tollemache and won the Waddington Shield on 9 occasions with 4 different partners. He was in the winning team in Division 1 of the Yorkshire League at least 10 times. In 1985 he won the very prestigious National Spring Fours with his Nottingham partner Wille Crook and later won the Silver Plate in 1990, Crockfords and the Brighton 4 star teams in 1992 and the National Teams Congress in 1996. Giles has been runner up both in the Hubert Phillips Bowl (twice) and the National Inter-Club Knock-Out.**

**He was not in the best of health in recent years, but his appetite for bridge was undiminished. He won the last two events he played in: the Mixed Pivot Teams (December 2014) and the Yorkshire Pairs in January 2015. He leaves behind his wife of 33 years, Sheila, who has also recently begun to play bridge in Giles' footsteps. We would all agree Giles had a quick wit and was very congenial at the bridge table. His natural enthusiasm and positive nature made him great company away from bridge too. We will certainly miss him.**