

### **Richard Eason (01/11/1945 to 06/08/2022)**

Soon after Richard and Christine Eason moved to Chelmsford in 1971, they joined Bob Cuthbert's Night School Class in bridge, and it was there that they met Peter Jones. Richard and Peter had a lot in common, they were both mathematically minded and as they commuted daily to London they soon formed a partnership, found other like-minded commuters on the train and played bridge to relieve the tedium of the journey. Bob Cuthbert soon recognised they were too good for his class and suggested that they join the Chelmsford Bridge Club. Richard and Peter had decided to learn the Precision system and it was this system that they played at CBC until Peter died. They were a strong partnership and won many club events on several occasions; the evidence of which can be seen on the plinths of the cups they won. They were also selected as members of the Essex squad to play against other counties in the Eastern Counties' League. After Peter died Richard formed a partnership with David Sparkes. They played together regularly on Monday evenings F2F and later, online; until his illness made it impossible for Richard to continue. Richard also formed a partnership with Audrey Hartley, playing for a while at Mountnessing, then later at Lingwood and finally on RealBridge.

Richard was a good player, but the most important thing Richard brought to bridge was his courteous behaviour. In the early days some bridge players intimidated less experienced player to get good results and Richard hated that. Richard was always polite to both his partner and his opponents alike; and this was long before the EBU urged "Best behaviour at Bridge".

Richard was Chairman of CBC for two separate stints of three years in the nineties and noughties; and a very good chairman he was too. Another of Richard's contributions to bridge was the help he gave to so many players who were starting on their journey to improve their game. He regularly was involved in the running of the afternoon improver sessions held at the Great Baddow Tennis Club. This help, culminated in the excellent seminars he presented during Covid 19 lockdown.

With some help from others, Richard wrote the history of the club which can be found on the website. In his narrative he occasionally refers to "others" who contributed to the running of the CBC. Be assured that Richard would be one of the "others" which he would choose not to name.

Bridge was not Richard's only interest. He was an enthusiastic golfer and enjoyed singing with his wife in the Waltham Singers choir. He and his wife had many friends and they enjoyed entertaining in their home. I'm sure all friends, bridge players, golfers and singers will miss him enormously but also, remember him most, for his very gentlemanly and considerate behaviour to all.