

Richard Simpson

Once again with a heavy heart we acknowledge the death of someone we all knew and respected - two weeks ago Richard Simpson, a stalwart of the club for many years who had suffered from lymphoma in recent times, died suddenly at home.

Richard played enthusiastically for Shirley & Wythall for 15 or more years, in both winter leagues (Birmingham and Leamington Districts) and in the BSL occasionally. He captained our Fourth Team in the BDCL for 10 seasons, relinquishing the responsibility only last season. Successes included promotions in 2005-06, 2009-10 and 2016-17.

He represented Warwickshire many times in the national County Championships.

He paused his chess-playing career this season in order to devote more time to looking after his wife Claire.

Richard served in the Royal Navy for nearly 30 years, working with radar, radio, mechanics and nuclear weaponry. Colleagues describe him as a phenomenally clever man (a Chartered Engineer, Chartered Mathematician, Chartered Scientist and Fellow of the Institute of Management) with a kind and humble heart.

He joined the staff of KES in 1996, to teach mathematics, as well as which he helped run orienteering and after-school squash, served as Treasurer of the Common Room Committee and took on a data role for the admissions exams.

Outside the classroom, he may best be remembered for his work nurturing the school's chess teams - something he continued to do even after his retirement.

He is survived by his wife Claire, daughters Annabel and Jessica and five grandsons.

I know we will miss his passion for the game, supportive and inclusive nature, and his generosity with his time, his wide knowledge on many subjects, including, but not limited to classic cars (Lagonda & Aston Martin in particular, British in general), Mathematics, chess theory, teaching, naval history, Kings Norton and people.

The funeral will be at 11:00am on Friday 22nd December, at Redditch Crematorium, and afterwards at Kings Norton Golf Club.

<https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/living/bereavement-services/redditch-crematorium-in-worcestershire.aspx>

<https://www.kingsnortongolfclub.co.uk>

For those who cannot attend in person, there is a live feed. Please email me for details.

Best Regards,

Gordon S.G. Christie, Secretary, Shirley & Wythall Chess Club