

## Colin Searle

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of Colin Searle. Colin passed away three days ago. Colin was a member of South Birmingham Chess Club for many years from 1972 onwards. I first met him when I hitch-hiked to Brighton with Martin Smyth back in 1971. We went to see Chris Shephard at Brighton University and Colin was a friend of Chris's and they both belonged to the local chess club. I said to Colin "If you get a job in Birmingham after graduating, you must come and join our chess club". Colin graduated and he got a job in Birmingham working for Fletcher Computers who were based in Sheldon. He then joined our chess club.

From 1972 onwards we had a chess club with many strong players. In 1973 we managed to get two teams in division one. Our 1A team consisted of players all aged under 24. They were Chris Shephard, Chris McSheehy, Colin Searle, Terry Walker, Ted Weekes, Martin Coward. Derek Price was disappointed that he didn't make the first team, but he was too old at 28 !

Colin arranged for us to send a team to Bristol in 1973 to play in the British Lightning Championships where we played under the name of *The Gambiteers*. It was a two day event and great fun. The individual event took place on the Sunday where in one of the rounds, I was paired against a young Nigel Short.

In recent years Colin suffered from ill health and had two strokes and not fully recovering having been left without the use of his right arm. He also belonged to the Stratford Chess Club and played for the club regularly in the Leamington League.

Terry Hare-Walker

South Birmingham Chess Club