

## **16/07/2022 Ken Allen from Olton Club**

It is my sad duty to report that Olton club member Ken Allen sadly passed away on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. He was 71 years old.

Ken had played for Olton Chess Club since the 2005-6 season, where he appeared in Birmingham League Division 4. Previously, Ken had played for West Warwickshire club and later Solihull, when the two clubs merged.



Ken was a keen player and studied his openings. Arriving for a match, he was always eager to get started on the game. Whatever the result, would talk enthusiastically about what he should have done and where the opponent varied from the book.

Last season, Ken played in Division 2. There were occasional appearances in the Leamington and Worcester League teams over the years. Mostly these were cover for regular team members, but Ken was always happy to help out when needed. His grade at the start of last season was 1728.

Ken's funeral was on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00am at Waseley Hill Crematorium, New Inns Lane, Rubery, B45 9TS. At this we learned that Ken started in the brick-laying trade in Stoke on Trent before moving to Solihull. After starting at the Rover works in the early 70s, he met Phil Maddocks (Longbridge C.C) and started playing chess. Later, he became a teacher at a Solihull school.

His passions included Jazz & Blues music, real ale and motorbiking This included watching the Isle of Man TT, travelling all around Europe with his wife riding pillion and getting into scrapes whilst camping in pouring rain. He was a keen union man, but never discussed it at the club.

Richard Reynolds

Olton Chess Club