

**27/09/2021**

### **Tribute to Laurence John Wheatley**

I was sad to learn belatedly of the demise of Laurie Wheatley.

It is a pity that the BDCL did not know about his passing at the time.

I seem to recall playing him on board one when I was at West Midlands Municipal CC & he was playing for Birmingham University, presumably as a mature student.

Eventually, he joined St James Chess Club, which morphed into Greenlands.

I also played him (& won) in the BDCL Div 4 Indy Final in 1994.

After which, I affectionately called him "Mr Yellow Comb" because he kept his yellow comb by the side of the board & combed his locks every few moves, when not eating his crisps or rustling his bag!

He tried to get me banned from the division 4 individual because he said that I was too strong!

More than 20 years later, the BDCL Individual tournaments changed to graded events, but not until I appeared in numerous finals in the meantime. However, Laurie effectively, finally got his way.

He was often innovative in his chess organisational thinking and I remember his vigour when the BDCL celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 1997. He was one of several organisers that enthusiastically drove forward ideas to commemorate the year.

As 2022, will be the 125th Anniversary of the BDCL, specifically on August 31st, it seems fitting to commemorate the event as a mark of respect to Laurie.

Laurie served as the BDCL Morry-Wood Committee chairman until his demise.

I last saw him at Mike Rees's funeral early in 2020.

Rest peacefully, Laurie.

Laurence John Wheatley 28 July 1931 - 23 October 2020 (aged 89).

- From Lee Collier

### **Tribute to Laurence John Wheatley**

Laurie was a founder member and Chairman of the BDCL Morry-Wood memorial competitions which are tributes to two great chess contributors, William Ritson Morry and Baruch Harold Wood who died in 1994 and 1989 respectively. He was a very competitive chess player with a phenomenal attention to detail, a skill which he used

during his time as a Chemist. Even in his 80s Laurie was still striving to improve the Morry-Wood competitions and even the BDCL Individuals competitions. Laurie's guidance and experience will be greatly missed.

R.I.P.

**- From P Maddocks**