

09/01/20 - In memory of Mike Rees - By Alan Ruffle

In 1957 Mike was my next door neighbour in Lozells Birmingham. He was a member of Lucas Chess club and active in all kinds of administrative chess club roles, He was a kind gentle man. I was an eleven year old schoolboy in short trousers attending Gower Street school and Mike was kind enough to give me some chess coaching. We played regularly and my game improved. I joined Lozells Chess Club and my game further improved so that I began to beat him on a regular basis.

I left home and I did not see Mike for many years although we had a number of chess orientated email communications. His role during this time was as Web Master for the Birmingham League.

In 1995 I met Mike in a Division five Birmingham league game. I was playing for West Midlands Police and Mike was still with Lucas. You guessed it! I lost.

Thanks for everything Mike, Knowing you has been a pleasure.
- Alan Ruffle

Message from Phil Maddocks

Dear friends and chess colleagues, it is with sadness that I have been learned from Mrs Andrea Rees that her husband Mike died in hospital this Saturday morning 21/12/19 at about 01.00 hrs. Mike knew many people in the chess circle but I do not know them all - could you please inform anyone I have missed and who does not yet know.

For me, Mike ranks alongside the all-time chess administration legends such as Crump, Wood, Morry, Rowe and others. Mike was a great friend to me and I will never forget him.