

13/09/2022 Simon Jones Obituary (1964 - 2022), Walsall Kipping

It is with sadness that Walsall Kipping Chess Club have to announce the death of Simon Jones.

For over twenty years he was a longstanding and committed member of the club. He was also a stalwart member of Bushbury Chess Club. He applied himself to playing enthusiastically for both clubs.

Simon was an uncomplicated character who enjoyed the simple pleasures in life, of which chess was just one. At Walsall Kipping he played for the club in the Birmingham, Dudley leagues and Staffordshire Cup Competitions, he also captained for the club in the Dudley League. He was probably one of the most reliable players for the club, in turning out to play matches in the league and just ordinary social nights. He won the Club "All Play All" competition this summer, which is testament to how committed a player he was for the club.

He was a solid player who had some quirks in his game. He was legendary in the club for when he checked the opposing player, he would place the piece on the board firmly then say loudly "Check". The zenith of the Simon Jones "Check" experience happened at the Club's 75th anniversary, celebration simultaneous, in which the Grandmaster Keith Arkell played. Amongst the thirty players it was Simon who was the first to check him and he announced it in a loud voice that had everyone laughing (the fact that he lost the game is neither here or there).

He was an active member of a church and enjoyed local travel. Nobody could match his encyclopaedic knowledge of local bus and train services!

Personally I will miss him very much and am proud to have called him a friend.

- Peter Nixon