

## **20/01/2015 - Colin Hammersley (updated 24/01/2015)**

Colin Hammersley passed away on the 1st January 2015 aged 81. I first met him in 1959 when I came to Birmingham to live. He was playing top board for the City club at that time and did so until 1966 when the club had by then merged with Erdington folded.

I do not know much about Colin's chess career before 1959 but League Records show that he won the Division 3 individual in 1953/54, was runner up in Division 1 1956/57 and League Division 1 Individual Champion in 1963/64. He played for Kynoch 1967/68 season and helped that club to win the Championship against a strong challenge from Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield. Up until this time when someone mentioned the word 'Batchelor' to me I conjured up an image of Colin. At the time apart from chess he played competitive bridge and snooker and also participated with a certain group of chess players with a penchant for poker.

His first marriage came as a total shock! He enjoyed a happy married life with his first wife until her untimely death in the late 1990s. Some League members will remember Colin playing for Kynoch in the mid 1990s. He then married Margaret who had just lost her 2nd husband and moved to Market Harborough. Colin was a man of forthright views a loyal friend and good company. His funeral is at 12.30 p.m. at St. Dioysius Church, Market Harborough on the 28th January.

### **Keith Ingram**

#### **Chris Evans of Mutual Circle has added the following :**

Colin was a member of Mutual Circle for several years between 1969 and 1977. More recently he donated to us his collection of Mutual Circle Newsletters from the 1940s and 1950s. (These can be viewed at <http://www.mutualchess.co.uk/> ). In consideration of this generous gift Colin was made a life-time 'honorary member' of our club in 2011. He maintained a keen interest in Mutual Circle and its players, continuing to follow our affairs through our weekly news bulletins until shortly before his death.