

## IN MEMORY OF TONY ODAMS

The sad passing of Tony Odams has been announced.

Many people playing today will not have heard of Tony with regard to table tennis but there was a time, when the sport was hugely popular during the 1950's, that Tony not only played at a high level but was also highly thought of as an administrator.

Phil Reid refers to Tony a number of times in his History of Table Tennis in Leicestershire and almost always it is on the admin front. Phil describes him as one of the most efficient Leicester League General Secretaries ever. As Phil says, Tony was not one to hog the limelight, he got on with the job and was essentially a worker. He was also the County Association's Treasure for seven years which shows his versatility.

He played representative table tennis for Leicester without reaching dizzy heights and played in the league for Leicester YMCA with such team mates as Paul Newby and Mick Beith. Phil's first reference to him as a player comes in 1950 when Tony lost in the final of the YOC doubles with Nev Wilson. Again, deferring to Phil, who says "Tony had a consistent left hand game".

During the 50's Tony pursued his main passion which was Bridge and he was, unfortunately, lost to table tennis, and he became one of the best Bridge players in Leicestershire including holding the title of Grand Master, something I learned to my cost a time or three.

Once again Tony moved into administration almost immediately and became a leader in many ways. He was one of the founder members of the County Bridge club when they bought a house in St James Road and converted it to a Bridge only premises. It is still there, and is still a thriving Bridge club.

Our thoughts go out to Tony's wife, Glenys, who recently became President of Knighton Park TTC.

The funeral is at South Leicestershire Crematorium on Thursday 15 December at 3pm.

■ John Bowness