

## Tim Cook, RIP



It was, with great sadness, that we learnt of the sudden death of Tim Cook on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019. He and his wife, Ann, had recently returned from the cruise of a lifetime aboard the QE2 to Perth followed by an extended stay with family. Ann reported that Tim had experienced some recent heart problems, first diagnosed at the beginning of 2014, when he went down with pneumonia. He had also collapsed on Rye golf course in May 2017. A relatively recent change in medication appeared to alleviate the situation and offer encouragement. On Thursday afternoon, however, he suffered a cardiac arrest at home and although stabilised by the emergency service and rushed to St George's, he suffered a further arrest on arrival. Sadly, despite the best efforts of the staff there, he passed away shortly afterwards.

### **Adrian Patrick – Mayfield Bridge Club Chairman writes;**

Tim was very strong bridge player – one to be respected and feared! He was a loyal and valued member of the Mayfield for many years and served on the Committee since 2013. He was a Tower of Strength and he played a major role in reviewing Disciplinary Procedures and producing the new Club Constitution in 2015. Tim embraced the New Technology and was responsible for producing our Duplimated hands in recent years. He edited the Mayfield Newsletter including the last issue on returning from Australia with his own anecdotes from the trip – playing bridge with lesser mortals. Tim was the “go-to” person to discuss difficult hands; whether in the bidding or the play. Tim also served the Surrey County Bridge Association well over a number of years, becoming its President in 1998.

### **Dave Norman, Club Captain, adds:**

Tim and I first played together in late 2014 and soon found that we shared both a good understanding of one another's styles as well as a dry sense of humour. After a handful of games we were playing to a decent standard, largely because Tim impressed on me the need to play solid pairs bridge before looking aggressively for "tops".

He reintroduced me to national competitions when we played in the Brighton Swiss Pairs in 2015, staying in the top 30 throughout, and ending 20th out of nearly 300; if I hadn't butchered a hand in the last match, we'd have been 9<sup>th</sup>! His poor health unfortunately restricted further opportunities. In our four years playing at Mayfield we won the Liz Phillips Cup, the Teams Cup, the Open Swiss Pairs, and (for Mayfield) the Wanborough Cup.

We always respected each other's view, and never fell out over any differences - only learning by them. It was a privilege to have played bridge with Tim and to have counted him as a friend.

### **Roger Morton adds:**

I first met Tim when I re-joined Mayfield BC towards the end of the 1990's. We soon formed a fairly regular Club partnership. We had some modest success, winning the Norman Cup (our Club Pairs Championship) in 2005 and 2008.

To echo our Club Captain's comments above, Tim was a strong partner e.g. he won our 2014/2015 Mayfield Cup for the best member performance over the whole year. Probably his most notable result, however, was winning the 1998 Surrey County Teams Championship (the Lady Rose Cup) with Mike Ellis, Bob McMurray & Ian Fraser. Tim had also featured in two winning 'Wanborough Cup' County Club Teams Championships representing Mayfield in 2011 and 2016.

Tim and I had many things in common. When we were a lot younger, we had both started our Club bridge in the Midlands at the Stafford BC. We both played Golf and we entered the Surrey County Bridge/Golf tournament at Hindhead a couple of times. As a young man, Tim had joined my own club on Epsom Downs, but latterly, he had moved to Tyrrells Wood and then to Rye before ill health forced retirement from the game. Tim's golf standard, hovering just above a single figure handicap, was a lot better than mine!

Coincidentally, our families had crossed paths many years ago. Tim started his career with Coutts Bank having first been interviewed by my future father in law, Dick Robertson who was a senior Coutts executive at the time and later, President of Ashted Cricket Club. Allegedly, they just discussed sports over a cup of coffee. Tim got the job!

Tim joined me on the panel of Bridge Lecturers for Fred Olsen Cruises in 2003. This involved hosting the bridge activity on one or two cruises per year. I have fond memories of one assignment when we were together on the same ship with our wives Ann & Jean, this time sailing to the Canaries on 'The Black Prince'. We were supposed to be helping Olsen to recruit more bridge players to their Cruise holidays!

Ann recalls one notable afternoon on this cruise, the same day that England won the Rugby World Cup Final. "We were crossing the Bay of Biscay in a gale and Tim took the Bridge lesson. He was hanging on to the flip chart with one hand and a nearby railing in the other with his assistant (me) supplying regular updates of the score." It's a tale that he often used to tell.

I will miss Tim both as a Bridge player and a friend. My thoughts are with Ann and the Family at this sad time.