

NEIL BEASLEY

I am saddened to report the death of Neil Beasley after a long illness. Neil was for many years synonymous with Blaby Bridge Club. When I joined the club in 1980 Neil was the Club Captain, a position he held for some years. He and Pat made newcomers feel welcome and encouraged their development as players. He later had a lengthy spell as Club Chairman and finally relegated himself to the Club's League B team, which he captained for several seasons. Neil was a great supporter of the club's activities, in particular the weekends away we organised for a number of years. Sadly his eyesight deteriorated and for that reason he was unable to return to bridge when we resumed face to face play after the lock down.

Neil also made a significant contribution to the organisation of bridge in Leicestershire over many years. He had a two year spell as county chairman and was for a number of years one of our EBU shareholders, in which capacity he represented the county at EBU shareholder meetings. But his most weighty contribution was as a very long serving Tournament Secretary. In this role he was responsible for organising the various competitions run by LCBA, sending out adverts, organising venues and ensuring the availability of a TD. Coupled with this he liaised with the EBU to ensure that the Master Points players won in LCBA competitions were registered with the EBU. All this was achieved with masterful efficiency and the minimum of fuss. When he stood down in 2020 he and Pat were both given Dimmie Fleming awards by the EBU to recognise their outstanding contribution to the development of bridge in Leicestershire. This is an honour that very few people connected with bridge in Leicestershire have been granted.

Neil was also involved in the Leicestershire chess world, and he and Pat were keen supporters of classical music concerts at de Montfort Hall.

Dave Pollard – July 2024