

## **A TRIBUTE TO GLENYS ODAMS. 1932 – 2025 Aged 92.**

Glenys moved to Leicester from Northamptonshire very early in the 1950's and soon began to make many friends, eventually marrying Tony and having three children, Tim, Helen and Sally.

Throughout her life she had many interests not least of all table tennis, her first club being Leicester TTC who had their headquarters in the basement of the Saracen's Head in the Market Place where, in particular, she struck up a friendship with Shirley Pickering, a friendship that was to last until the very end.

Around 60 years ago the Saracen's Head decided they wanted the space for other things so the club had to make other arrangements with many moving to Belvoir YMCA. But Glenys, along with Shirley and the latter's father Brian, decided to move to Knighton Park where Brian became their team captain.

There was an immediate tribute from Gillian Wisdich of Desford Village: *"I recall her in my early days learning the game at K Park in the hut on Ave Rd Extension, and her then husband who did some coaching I believe. I think they had a son Tim. She was a lovely person I recall and over the years I had some good games with her"*.

I am not one to publish lists of titles won, not least of all because it is easy to miss a few along the way but Glenys certainly had her fair share of accolades. Looking through my scrapbooks for the 60's and 70s when I was Press Officer back then I notice a large number of League and Midland Counties references. And I know there would be many made by Phil Reid who looked after County matters during that time.

She could laugh at herself. Barry Robinson fondly remembers finding her at Knighton Park one day a few years ago in the act of cleaning. He said "You scrub up well" and she thought it hugely funny. But it also underlines the sort of thing she would be constantly doing for her club in helping out.

One competition I would mention, though, is the Rose Johnson Memorial Trophy, the annual handicap event for women which she won no less than five times. And she donated a handicap trophy to her club and, not all that long ago, paid for improvements to the kitchen area. Such was her dedication which is why Knighton Park were so pleased to be able to offer her the post of Honorary President, a title she wore with pride.

I have my own memories of her, and not all on the table tennis front. Glenys was also a keen and competent lawn bowls player and I played a few mixed pairs events with her at the Leicester Indoor Club in Slater Street some years ago. As ever, she was very competitive but very fair and encouraging.

Even broader were her interests which brings us to cricket. When moving to this county she immediately fell in love with cricket and Leicestershire County Cricket Club in particular and supported them through thick and thin from then onwards.

After being a devoted supporter for 25 years she was appointed onto the club's Board in 1976. A trailblazer if ever there was one as she was the first woman to be appointed to the board and, on hearing of her passing, they immediately issued a very warm message and obviously thought a great deal of her support and all the work she did for them.

Her husband, Tony, who pre-deceased her was a pretty good table tennis player himself when they first married before he turned his full attention to Bridge. He founded the County Bridge Club and became one of the top players in the Country let alone Leicestershire.

Our sympathies go out to her children, Tim, Helen and Sally and the rest of her family with the assurance that people remember her as a family orientated mum who also turned her hand to all sorts of other pursuits as well as building friendships that remained for the whole of her life.

Rest In Peace, Glenys.

John Bowness.