

## Keith Richardson

The English chess world lost one of its most devoted players when Keith Richardson became critically ill during a chess congress in Cannes and died subsequently in the UK.

Keith was a man of many talents which are not well known due to his quiet modesty. A high standard cricketer (he turned down professional terms), a member of Lords, a low handicap golfer, a successful career in banking and financial advice. English chess owes Keith a significant debt of gratitude in his role as Chairman of the Permanent Invested Fund, which has grown significantly in value as well as paying regular income to the ECF.

Chess playing was his lifelong love. He became a leading Midlands player and played well in the British Chess Championship. Keith would have done much better over theboard, but for an addiction to severe time trouble. His true metier was correspondence chess. He became Britain's first correspondence grandmaster in 1975, when he was placed third in the 7<sup>th</sup> World Championship. Keith added a second medal when he was a member of the British team that was third in the Eighth Correspondence Chess Olympiad 1977-1982. Keith was particularly proud of his 3 successive victories over Estrin the World Champion.

In later years he played extensively, (only made possible by Fischer 30 second increments, he said) including English Senior Teams. Keith, Julian Farrand and myself played in numerous European tournaments together over the last 15 years despite the increasing impact of Keith's Parkinson's disease. It is worth mentioning that Keith won his first 3 games at Cannes despite the onset of what became his fatal illness. Julian and I have lost a very good friend with whom we shared many good times and bottles of wine.

Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Sandra and his two sons.

Ray Edwards