

**North Dulwich Lawn Tennis Club
154 East Dulwich Grove
London SE22 8TB**

RICHARD RITCHIE



The club was deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the untimely death of **Richard Ritchie**, a club member who was greatly valued by all of us and whom we will really miss both on and off court.

Ian, the Captain of our club 'Vet(eran)s' team describes Richard as a *“regular, enthusiastic member of the team, as well as an active contributor to the post-match socialising!”* Stuart thought of him as a *“wonderful friend, both on and off the court... always dapper, with his hat and all, a true gentleman...”* and Ambra agrees that Richard was *“always a gentle person on the courts, always with a smile on his face and modest in all his wins”*. Wei writes: *“I am so saddened to hear the news about Richard. Richard was a true gentleman: friendly, calm and with a genuine interest in others...”*

On one of the first times she played with Richard, Karla remembers hitting a really bad shot and swearing. She apologised straight away but Richard commented in his very kind and polite manner *‘that is not language a lady like you should be using’*. Karla says she *“felt quite embarrassed by that and I’d like to believe that since then I swear less on court...”* We can all imagine how Richard would have uttered this gentle reproof in his perfectly modulated tones.

Kirsty is not alone in remembering how she would always try to nab him as a doubles partner if he was around at social, an endorsement, indeed, echoed by Andy C, his partner in the championships for two years, and Allan, who remembers how helpful Richard was when he first joined. *“I always seemed to win more with him than without.”* Richard’s game, like his character, was unflashy, unselfish, and with no shortage of finesse.

Kirsty also remembers bumping into him at Herne Hill station and noticing him scribbling in a notebook. It turns out he was learning Serbian in his spare time, ... as one does! This would not surprise Philippa, who says: *“Richard wore his erudition so lightly...”*. She will *“miss his calm presence and quiet courtesy on court and his witty and interesting conversation off court”*. We would have loved to have seen him in action at the Bar and can only imagine the vast extent of his professional skills.



Yen Lin has also known Richard since he first joined, on Open Day, May 2013: *“... how the years do fly! I was always fond of Richard.* Some of our archetypically ‘Richard’ memories are from ‘après-social’ beers on summer evenings. Gary remembers fondly these long deep conversations, with Richard’s timely remarks and dry wit: *“I always had a lot of time for Richard from day one”*. On one such occasion, Philippa asked which Oxford college Richard had attended. Yen Lin does not recollect the answer as he was too busy thinking: *“Yup, we may not have the most members, but we have the best!”* Andy McC had regular singles games with Richard during COVID restrictions, and recalls him chatting in his laid-back way about his wife and three grown-up children. Richard was a *“very proud husband and father”*.



On another occasion, the gang was at the club until quite late at night, mainly listening to Canadian club member Morgan’s adventures. Yen Lin’s overriding feeling was that Richard was *“such a mellow chap the hours just seemed to fly by”*. This was Richard’s style and gift – he could make people feel good, and interesting, and worthwhile without actually saying anything specific.

Rest in Peace, Richard
