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## ❄️ BRIAN SUGAR R.I.P.

Probably only a few of you will recognise the name of Brian Sugar. It comes with great sadness to inform members that Brian, a long-standing Scrabble player for many decades, passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. He had only just turned 70 in October.

Brian was a member of the London League up until the late 1980s. He was one of the earliest advocates of match-play (play-to-win) Scrabble in the UK, at a time when the collusive "high score" format was in full swing. He was, along with a few others, instrumental in setting up the ABSP (then called the APSP) in 1987.

He won the Reg Lever Cup (1980 and 1982), the John Meikle Cup (1984) and The Pinner Tournament in 1996. He held many roles within the League. He ran Sunday Drives, he produced the monthly fixtures, by hand without the aid of computers, organised and posted the monthly mailing to members (even hand delivered some of them), edited 10 issues of the monthly newsletter in 1986, and was Treasurer at some point too. He was also the New Members Liaison Officer which often included current members in the vetting of new members.

He had largely disappeared from the Scrabble scene in the past decade with very occasional appearances at the Ilford Tournament.

*Brian is pictured here from the BMSC in 2006 where he finished 4<sup>th</sup>.*



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*"A constant Scrabble companion for about 20 years from the late 70's. Sadly, I had not seen him for many years. He had lots of ideas about the game which caused me to examine my own play for the better.*

*He enjoyed the telephone as a means of communication. I recall him giving me some good advice as to how to play my opponent in one of the NSC finals that I won. Liked him a lot and regret his passing."*

Philip Nelkon London League member

*"Very sad to hear - I played him regularly when I first joined the LSL in the late 1970s. A tough player to beat and a dry sense of humour. RIP Brian."*

Mike Willis Former London League member

*"Very sorry to hear about Brian. I remember him well from my early days in the London Scrabble League. A formidable player. RIP Brian."*

Ashley De Safrin Former London League member

*"I'm very sad to hear this. Brian was always enthusiastic and good company. Very touching to read all the words from the stalwarts of the early days. RIP Brian."*

Elie Dangoor London League member

*"Brian was one of my favourite sparring partners in the early days and a stalwart of the early tournament/competition scene. So sad to hear this. I'd been wondering what he was up to these days having last seen him at BMSC 2014 (where he looked exactly the same as he did 30 years prior!)."*

*Fond memories, too of a venture to the North American championships in Las Vegas with Phil Appleby and Mark Nyman in 1988. RIP Brian, and thanks for all that you did for the Scrabble scene."*

Allan Simmons Former London League member

*"This is very sad news. I have many great memories of Brian, from the 1980s and 90s.*

*Picking up on Allan's post about Las Vegas, I recall Brian continuing to wear smart shirts and long trousers in the intense heat, while everyone else was in shorts and tee shirts."*

Phil Appleby Former London League member

*"So sorry to hear this - Brian was a pioneer of play to win events, and he was extremely tough to beat. He was on the phone daily discussing bets with my Dad, and I'll always remember a great pic of him standing in the middle of Central Park, NYC, with his head buried in a huge wordbook, totally oblivious to his surroundings, and a big smile on his face. He made me smile too. RIP Brian."*

Mark Nyman Former London League member

*"Very sorry to read this. I have many memories of Brian: his Sunday invitationals at the Holiday Inn in Bayswater; midweek games in Les Nyman's kitchen; his blue v-necks; his delight at finding somewhere that sold English food in Singapore; his random 'phone calls with anagram teasers; his unbridled enthusiasm for Scrabble, and his kind heart. RIP Brian."*

Terry Kirk Former London League member

*"Echoing many of the other comments here ... Brian was a great Scrabble player, and keen promoter of match-play. I remember him well from the early days (1970s and 80s) in the Bayswater Holiday Inn, the London Scrabble League matches, and various tournaments. He would always want to check whether I could solve some new anagram he had found. RIP Brian."*

Darryl Francis Former London League member

*"Many memories of Brian especially in my early playing days at the Sunday drives in Bayswater, Cambridge and of course Redbridge Scrabble Club tournaments. RIP Brian."*

*You always made me smile and I will miss you."*

Rachelle Whiteoak Former London League member