

Tony Burgess

Tony passed away on 19th December on his 82nd birthday. Tony may not be a familiar name to some but he along with Kay, his late wife, played a significant role in the development of the modern day cat fancy. They bred Chocolate Point Siamese under the Karibur prefix but it is the effort and energy that he put in to committee and other work for which he should be remembered.

Surrey and Sussex Cat Association, Supreme Cat Show, Siamese Cat Club and many others benefited from his involvement and commitment. His plain talking and no nonsense approach was appreciated by all and (dare I say!) a little feared by some.

As Show Managers he and Kay took the Surrey and Sussex to its first Championship Show and in doing so set the Gold Standard for show management. The tone set by them in the early 1970s continued by successive show management teams.

Tony took on a variety of other roles: delegate, Treasurer, and was President of a number of clubs. He retained an interest long after he bowed out.

He pursued a passion for antiques, old books and other ephemera and became an expert in antiquarian maps of Kent, building up an impressive collection. The last I heard his extensive research had been donated to the British Library.

I realise that many of the friends that I have today are a result of introductions made by or as a consequence of knowing the Burgesses and for that I am grateful.

My condolences to Pat, his good friend, house-mate and sounding board and to his family and friends.

Sue Joyce
15th January 2022

It was with great sadness that I heard of the death of Tony. I first met Tony and Kay Burgess in the late 70's when they ran a small hotel in Eltham (south London) Tony and Kay trained me as a show manager in the days when everything was done manually. Many was the night we all sat up till the early hours filling in the dreaded judges books by hand(!) and it was with great sadness I took over as Surrey and Sussex show manager when Kay died. They took over Barnowl Quarantine cattery and kennels about 1987 (I think) with old friend Pat Randall as Manager. Tony had endless patience for his 'residents', especially the ones who didn't get many visitors (as a quarantine kennels there were many long stay residents of course) and would spend hours with the more difficult characters. Plus the pair of barnowls he homed in a huge aviary in the garden. And I seem to remember a somewhat randy tortoise – but that's another story. I will so miss the long chatty letter which came with the Christmas card every year. He had so many interests but still had time for the Cat Fancy and of course was very involved in the Surrey and Sussex. He was a marvellous host and 'in the old days' he held an annual cup party at Barnowl - food and games all part for the entertainment. In fact the Club highlights for me were the committee meetings! They were held at Barnowl with tea and cake supplied –so it was a very popular committee to be on. My heartfelt sympathy goes to his close friend Pat Randall and all his family and friends.

Ronnie Brooks

