



Adrienne Mary Durand KING passed away at teatime on Friday 18 June 2021. At the start of the year she had been diagnosed with inoperable, terminal pancreatic cancer.

Before she joined the club in 1988 she had had a fascinating and varied career. Her acting started when appearing as a 17-year-old, dancing at the Windmill Theatre soon progressing to acting parts with the comedians who were a regular feature of the shows. From this she graduated to repertory touring shows and made her West End debut in 1965. This success story came to a temporary halt when she married and quickly had two sons. Very fortunately she later added a daughter to her family. But she was not finished: in Saudi Arabia she ran a nursery group, gave ballet lessons to young boys and girls, had an English language weekly magazine programme interviewing visitors to the Kingdom, including Humphrey Littleton and Robert Lacey, she also choreographed dances for amateur operatic performances in the Embassy grounds; in

Switzerland she continued her choreographic work at the International School, Berne, took bridge lessons and honed her skiing skills; on return to the UK she joined McAlpine selling houses and later CALA doing the same; then she branched out into the travel business, particularly with Crystal, encouraging people to go on winter or summer holidays with equal aplomb. In all these endeavours she showed remarkable tenacity to get the job done while having the utmost empathy with the people she dealt with.

In 1988 she threw herself wholeheartedly into the activities available to her at the Club. A typical week could involve two or three games of golf, at least one game of bridge, a tennis game initially with seven like-minded ladies, later four, a book club meeting and a swim or sunbathe at the outside pool. And she enjoyed making plans and arrangements for and going on idyllic holidays – generally somewhere warm and usually at a swish hotel with a golf course nearby. She was in a constant state of activity with friends who had different interests and priorities. With the current Olympic cycle in mind, it is apt to think of her contacts at the Club as being like the Olympic circles: a tennis rival could be a bridge partner, or a fellow book club member could be a golfing companion. Amongst all this activity she found time and energy to teach Japanese ladies, staying with us, conversational English. Throughout the pandemic she kept fit by walking in Bushy Park or along the Thames towpath with friends or doing strenuous walking routines from the Internet. During her last illness she hardly slowed down – she kept going full tilt for as long as she possibly could.

So, Adrienne's life, one so full of warmth, good humour, sporting and mental activity, is overwhelmingly worthy of celebration. The family are holding a party at the Club on Saturday, 11 September commencing at 12 noon to do just that: to celebrate her wonderful, heart-warming, endearing and committed life as wife, mother, grandmother (to ten!) and sportswoman. Members who knew this multi-talented and multi-faceted lady will be most welcome to join the family as they celebrate Adrienne's life.