

England Pen Portraits

ENGLAND

Janet de Botton

Janet has been (sort of) playing for almost 20 years. She has won all the major tournaments at least once and usually gets asked by her 'friends' if she played (m)any of the boards, even when she won two European bronze medals in the Mixed Teams playing a team of four.

She is joint columnist of the Spectator bridge column where she can wreak a bitter revenge on the trolls. She can also thank all the players who have been incredibly kind and supportive of which this Camrose team is most certainly an example.

Artur Malinowski

Artur was born in Poland, moved to Norway and then England where he is now a full-time bridge professional. He won the Silver medal at the 2007 European Pairs in Antalya, and was in the England Open team that took the Silver medal in the World Mind Sport Games in Beijing in 2008. He also has two Bronze medals in the European Mixed Teams, and has won Crockfords as well as the Gold Cup.

Artur's involvement with the game started by chance: he read a bridge book together with a friend from football at the age of 17, and has not stopped learning and playing since. When in Norway, he worked for the Norwegian Bridge Federation and for a while was the editor of the national bridge magazine. This was a welcome change from the odd jobs he had to do for the first few years after leaving Poland with very little money— and proof that an ear for languages helps in all walks of life. Artur is fairly fluent in seven languages, and sports a proud Polish accent in all of them. Artur was part of the European Open Team in 2018 and Bermuda Bowl team in 2019.

Glyn Liggins

Glyn is a self-taught bridge professional, who lives in London with his wife Sarah. He has represented Great Britain and England in numerous major international tournaments, his most significant result being reaching the semifinal of the 2000 Olympiad in Maastricht. He has played for England in the Camrose and Junior Camrose with 5 different partners. He has won many competitions in England and abroad, including the Gold Cup twice, the Spring Foursomes (he successfully defended the title on two separate occasions), the Premier League, the Brighton Four Star Teams, Schiphol tournament, Bonn nations cup, and many more.

Away from the bridge table he is a keen golfer, playing off a single figure handicap.

Alexander Hydes

Alex is fulfilling a life ambition in replacing Espen Erichsen who sadly had a clash with real life. Alex was a nobody until this last year when against all expectations, not least his own, he won the American Vanderbilt championship and the European Open teams. Now he makes a crust selling himself at the bridge table.

Away from bridge Alex spends most of his time in Croatia, where he sits around all day playing games with friends and trying to avoid doing anything productive. He has been mulling over opening a restaurant there due to a sad lack of curry in the country.

David Bakhshi

David is one of the leading bridge professionals in the UK, with numerous successes in domestic and international tournaments. Over the last 20 years, he has represented England and Britain at both Junior and Open levels of competition. His recent achievements include a 2nd place finish at the Europeans Teams Championships (2014), and 4th and 5th place finishes at the Bermuda Bowl (2015 and 2019). David is part of one of the best known bridge playing families in the UK - Heather (his wife), and Liam and Jasmine have all represented England in different teams - women's, U21 and U16. As part of his professional life, David has taught bridge for 20 years and has helped thousands of students over that time. He is bringing much of that experience to his latest role as the England U26 squad leader.

Tom Townsend

Tom Townsend is 48, a professional bridge player, and lives in Shepherd's Bush with Ewa and their son Max, 10. Tom was part of Raymond Brock's Junior team in the mid-90s, that won the European and World Championships. The highlights of Tom's Open career to date have been an appearance in the 2008 Olympiad final, and bronze in the 2005 European Pairs. Last year on the de Botton team, he won his fifth EBU or BBL Premier League. 2020 will be Tom's 16th Camrose series. Alex and Glyn, if the pairings are used, will be his fifth and six different Camrose partners. Tom is Daily and Sunday Telegraph bridge columnist.

Peter Hasenson (NPC)

Peter is 53 and lives in North London where he works as an independent property consultant advising clients on the high-end residential markets of North and Central London. He is the Chairman of Middlesex County Bridge Association, an EBU Shareholder and has previously served two terms as a member of the EBU's Selection Committee. A member of the International Bridge Press Association, Peter was the editor of the 2004 British Bridge Almanack and has had photographs published widely by World, Zonal, National, County and miscellaneous other bridge organisations. Peter has won various County and National events including the EBU National Pairs in 2016.

An enthusiastic Arsenal FC fan, Peter wishes for England to forever retain the Ashes. He is the father of Sophie, 19 and Jacob, 18.