



# Swanmore Bridge Club

25 years of history

1992 - 2017





# Introduction

In November 1992, before the Paterson Centre was officially opened by the Bishop of Portsmouth in January 1993, the Swanmore Bridge Club met for the first time. The founders of the club were:



**Malcolm Gates, Richard Green-Wilkinson, Ted Quincey, Dave Ross**

**Bob Wilson**



**Derek Lord**



At the end of the first year there were twenty members believed to be these:

<b>Joan Barrett</b>	<b>Pat McCaig</b>
<b>Graham Crane</b>	<b>Rose Leach</b>
<b>Betty Dalrymple-Smith</b>	<b>John Moore</b>
<b>Malcolm Gates</b>	<b>Ron Paterson</b>
<b>Dave Goodlake</b>	<b>Jack Pugh</b>
<b>Richard Green- Wilkinson</b>	<b>Dora Quincey</b>
<b>Jane Lawrence</b>	<b>Ted Quincey</b>
<b>Sue Leatham</b>	<b>Betty Parry-Morris</b>
<b>Chris Letcher</b>	<b>Dave Ross</b>
<b>Derek Lord</b>	<b>Bob Wilson</b>

The following pages reflect memories of the foundation of the club and recollections of how some of the members came to play bridge. We cannot vouch for the accuracy of the stories but nevertheless hope you enjoy the nostalgic trips back.

# 2017 is our twenty fifth anniversary year. Ted Quincey recalls how it all began.

## Conception

In 1973, as a new resident of Swanmore we were invited to a "meet the neighbours" for Christmas drinks and nibbles.. As is inevitably the case in such arenas, the humanoid equivalent of canine sniffing was a major preoccupation, and it emerged that four of us played "a bit of bridge". Which bit, and how much, remained to be seen but we duly agreed to give it a go in the New Year.

Thus Malcolm Gates, Tim Wells, Paul Sallabank and myself gathered one evening for bridge and beer. We all arrived with multi-pack cans and left empty handed. Our bidding systems were rudimentary as we had all come to bridge from different card playing backgrounds with family or friends. The idea of attending a course would have seemed laughable and totally unnecessary and I'm not even sure that such teaching existed at that time. However we all had card sense and some sort of native wit or low cunning which saw us through, and ensured a lively and entertaining evening. The pattern continued with partnerships of Malcolm and Tim, Paul and I all playing the new "modern style" weak no trump rather than the old fashioned Culbertson strong no trump that our parents had grown up on. The main barrier to our opposition's success was communication, in that Tim's very strong Irish accent seemed to be at the bottom of most of their many misunderstandings. We were over confident! I knew deep trouble was in store when either during play or as my dummy hand was tabled, Paul would remark, accompanied by a sharp intake of breath, "Oh dear! Nasty business!". The longer he thought, the greater the disaster!

We all felt we could improve our game, and, as less beer was not even considered as an option, we would all read the occasional article or glance at a shared bridge book.

I can recall that Paul and I opted at one stage to play Precision Club, but as all of our systems could at that time be written on the back of an envelope, the precise bidding was limited to "One club, for 16+ points" with "One diamond as the less than 7" response. All other bids were natural with the exception of Stayman and Blackwood. It did have the merit of simplicity and the fact that I can remember it to this day, but continually forget our current system makes some sort of statement.

Things and people move on and it is not surprising that our bridge "four" was in a continual state of flux. For a time Dudley Mortelman brought his bonhomie to proceedings and Dave Howe partnered Malcolm briefly before departing for Australia. However, a seed change took place when Dave "the Doc" Ross joined the group. Dave brought with him an extensive knowledge of

bidding which I am sure he had from birth. Under his tutelage our systems increased exponentially but so did the quality of our bidding. Our main guide continued to be Standard Acol although from time to time Dave mentioned the more esoteric Precision Acol, the Blue Club and the Nottingham Club. For many years I wrongly assumed the latter was a system developed at Nottingham University by Dave whilst he was undertaking his Post Graduate Research.

The last member to join our "gang of four" was Richard Green-Wilkinson. He and I maintain a regular partnership to this day.

## Gestation

Our sessions of rubber bridge kept us amused but inevitably there were evenings with uninteresting cards or occasions when the hands dealt averaged three points. So unsurprisingly we drifted into the occasional visit to some of the bridge clubs in the locality to play duplicate bridge.

Up until that point our bridge had invariably been played with good humour and whilst this was largely the case with club bridge we did come across ill manners, and aggression. At one club the boom of "Director" terrified us with many pairs of eyes swivelling in our direction. We had committed the cardinal sin of a slow pass followed by partner bidding. We had no idea at that stage what a "slow pass" implied and thankfully the Director dismissed the complaint. The experience did provide a salutary but useful lesson when, later, we were defining the type of Club we wished Swanmore Bridge Club to become.

It gradually became apparent that we were not alone in enjoying a game of bridge. With a strong naval contingent in the area we soon learnt that free time at sea was a perfect opportunity for a bridge school. During runs ashore Lt. Commander Derek Lord became a welcome addition to the fold bringing with him bon viveur Bob Wilson. For many years they provided excellent opposition as Bob, as a general rule, NEVER had good cards. On those rare occasions that his luck turned, Derek would have a Yarborough or something very similar. Bob also brought an excellent wine to the session.

I look back on these evenings quite fondly. Good company, good food and wine and in nine cases out of ten, winning bridge. What could be better. However, I talked to Derek about these evenings and his recollection was that they always won! I'm sure we are both right!

Another active bridge breeding area was lunchtime at IBM, Hursley. It is extraordinary to realise that 30 or 40 years ago people had time for lunch let alone leisure for a few hands of bridge. Barry Mitchell, Jon Stredwick and Mike McMorran were amongst those at IBM. I am unsure as to whether Graham Lawrence's enjoyment of bridge was developed at these lunchtime sessions. He had his own four with dentist Laurie Beardshaw, science teacher Duncan Petty and Portsmouth academic Neil Botten (aka Botty). From time to time we had

very pleasant "teams of four" contests. I always associate these games with post England rugby matches, very liquid.

Graham's system was based upon the conviction that an opening hand, whatever the combination of cards being held, was best played in no trumps. If partner responded, a game bid of 3 no trumps was the automatic consequence, a bid which he made with alacrity. Laurie was always an excellent competitor. Duncan not surprisingly had a more scientific approach. It was never totally clear that Botty was even playing the same game as the rest of us!

Last, but very much not least, were "Ladies Who Do Bridge". These tended to be Ladies of 'a certain age'. My mother was in several of these formidable groups. They included Betty Dalrymple-Smith, Tita Omni, Una Blarney, Chris Letcher, and Pat McCaig. Some were from Wickham, some from Bishop's Waltham and some from Droxford. In the main they were all good players of the cards and played Rubber bridge for small stakes. The significance attached to winning 24p however was out of all proportion to its monetary value. I was occasionally inveigled into one of these sessions because some emergency had arisen at short notice. Inevitably it cost me money! The Ladies tended to lay traps for the unwary which were subtly disguised until you fell into one. They then went for the jugular with war cries of "double" or "redouble", but sympathy seemingly abounded as they wrote down the score in their column. "Was it 300? Oh no you were vulnerable, 800, such bad luck the 6-0 break. I felt I really ought to double!"

Occasionally the Ladies also played Club Bridge at Bishop's Waltham. My recollection was that they played Rubber Bridge with Chicago scoring and cut for partners on the evening. The club included some notables who later joined and helped Swanmore Bridge Club become a success - Betty Parry-Morris, Joan Barrett, David Hunt, Margaret Gale, Lottie Symonds, call me Jim, navy man, and, last, but very much not least the Reverend Ronald Paterson.

**Bridge Evening.—At the Paterson Centre a bridge evening was organised by Richard Green-Wilkinson and Derek Lord. Thirty-two people participated in the tournament, the winners being Ted Quincey and Malcolm Gates, with Graham Lawrence and John Utting taking the runners-up spot. The event raised £150 for Paterson Centre funds.**

A Bridge Evening at Swanmore 1991

## **Birth**

These disparate groups, Swanmorians, IBMers, The Navy, Ladies Who Do Bridge and so on, were drawn together in 1992 by a single event; the building of the Paterson Centre in Swanmore. The Main Hall provided a perfect venue. It was airy and well lit, was cool in the summer, warm in the winter, and had very good kitchen facilities. Coffee or tea and biscuits were considered an essential ingredient even at this early formative stage of the Club. There was also easy parking. The building of the Paterson Centre had required a substantial loan, and funds were needed to pay this off as quickly as possible. The hire fees made a useful contribution and additionally, it was the intention to make an annual donation from any profit. As a new venture, wheeler dealer Sidney Dean afforded the Club a discount on the hire fees. Our long term success illustrates clearly that his confidence was not misplaced.

The engine room for the new Club was driven by Richard Green-Wilkinson, Derek Lord, Bob Wilson, Dave Ross, Malcolm Gates and myself. Richard, an accountant, unsurprisingly looked after finance, set a session fee of £1.00 and Annual Membership of £10.00. Members will recall that these fees remained in place until well into 2000 when Membership was increased to the current £12.00. Table fees remained at £1.00 until the decision was made in

2010 to join the EBU Pay to Play scheme at which time they were increased to £1.50 and now to £2.00.

Cards, wallets and paperwork were provided from a collection we already held as a result of Home Teams Evenings. Ron Patterson generously donated half a dozen tables and we were off. We agreed to limit the sessions to twice monthly, one to be rubber with Chicago scoring and the second, duplicate. These evenings would be held on Thursdays. Within weeks, by popular demand, the format had changed to every Thursday and Duplicate only. We were a Bridge Club - well perhaps a fledgling Bridge Club might be better terminology.

# **SWANMORE BRIDGE CLUB**

## **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 1994**

	<b>1994</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	210.00	250.00
Fees	322.00	245.50
	-----	-----
	532.00	495.50
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Rent	253.87	192.00
Cards, wallets, travellers etc	33.06	106.82
Refreshments	69.75	37.61
Shield	28.30	-
Bank charges	15.46	-
	-----	-----
	400.44	336.43
	-----	-----
<b>Surplus for the Period</b>	<b>£131.56</b>	<b>£159.07</b>
	=====	=====

## **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1994**

<b>Assets</b>		
Balance at bank	267.00	141.17
Cash in hand	23.63	17.90
	-----	-----
	£290.63	£159.07
	=====	=====
<b>Capital</b>		
Balance brought forward	159.07	-
Surplus for the period	131.56	159.07
	-----	-----
	£290.63	£159.07
	=====	=====
<b>Members</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>

## First Steps

At first we had twenty four members, typically five tables, and, to add to the excitement, a number of the group were unfamiliar with duplicate bridge. So each week one of the more "experienced players" acted as Director. This was not to adjudicate over the minutiae of detail currently associated with the modern game, but to sort out card nonsense's such as "I've got fifteen cards, or I've pulled out the West hand and I'm South".

The Director also acted as a spare player in the event that someone arrived without a partner which was frequently the case in the early days. Regular partnerships also developed quickly. The Director also collected the travellers at the end of the evening, scored up by hand, and converted to imps. The results were written up and displayed on the club notice board at the next session and eagerly awaited they were too. It is an apocryphal story that the senior members of bridge clubs of that era were "kept going" by a desire to confirm their placing the previous week. Our Club was no exception.



## Paraphernalia

The first innovation was Bidding Boxes. Funny to think that initially we didn't have them. They were purchased in 1997. Clearly it is difficult on occasions not to hear bidding from an adjacent table. It was also difficult for some members to avoid that inflection that comes into the voice when partners' bid is particularly to their liking or, worse, precisely what they didn't want to hear. "TWO SPADES or two spades or twooo spades..." sounds familiar? So Bidding Boxes it was. Again, all very exciting.

Less exciting was the curtain card. In fact over the years it has remained an anathema to some members. "Why are we spending valuable playing time filling in bits of card that are never used?" Well, never used wasn't exactly true. Rarely was true and as a director, if there had been a card nonsense, how valuable was the curtain card when it came to a swift resolution?

With boards, score sheets, and bidding boxes we also needed to invest in bigger tables, which brings us to finances. For a number of years money matters were overseen by our excellent treasurer, Richard Green-Wilkinson. Other than the fact that he was somewhat over qualified for the role, he was perfect and he presided over our well managed balances and was able to offer from, each year's surplus, a very helpful donation to The Paterson Centre for maintenance or for improvement projects.

We also moved seamlessly into the computer age starting with a spread sheet and then adopting more grandiose programmes. The driving force here was, and still is, Graham Lawrence. Unsurprisingly his computer technology skills have kept pace with developments. Another catalyst for change was Noreen Pyrah who joined the club in 1994 and took over as Secretary in 1996. My recollection is that Noreen had a career as a PA at board level with international blue chip companies and as a consequence she brought a high level of attention to detail in what had previously been a fairly broad brush approach. She was a friend, a good player, a good director and a good sounding board when it came to any issues that members had in the perceived running of the club. Fortunately they were few and far between. I do recall what I believe to be the first.

We had introduced EBU Master Points. Why, I sometimes asked myself? A few collected the certificates assiduously and presumably drew some satisfaction from their gradual rise up the master player rankings. A few collected them to be kept in a drawer, just in case. A few threw them away. We elected to give points throughout the year with the exception of the holiday months of July and August. Why? Because table numbers dropped, income dropped and we had to pay for the Master Points. During the August funny season one of the members achieved a rare win and on learning that no points were to be awarded, in high dudgeon, wrote to the EBU for a ruling. Noreen, having read the small

print of the rules surrounding Master Points, was confident that we had acted entirely properly, as proved to be the case. I should have been forewarned by this event that matters relating to the English Bridge Union could arouse passion. But it was only many years later that I came to the realisation that unlike myself, some thought bridge was a serious game.

*\*Masterpoints or master points are points awarded by bridge organisations to individuals for success in competitive bridge tournaments run under their auspices. Generally, recipients must be members in good standing of the issuing organisation.*

1803739	
<b>THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION</b> <b>Master Points</b>	
This is to certify that	
..... <u>Liz Burrow</u> ..... has this day scored	
words ..... <u>Twenty</u> .....	figures ..... <u>20</u> ..... Local Points
Issued by ..... <u>AL</u> .....	Date ..... <u>31.3.10</u> .....
This certificate is valid for THREE YEARS from the date of issue. It should be submitted for registration within that period to the Master Points Office, English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury HP19 8AZ. Provided that you are an individual member of the EBU, these points will be entered against your membership record and you will be eligible to attain ranks of Master Player.	

ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION Certifies <u>MRS. E. BORROW</u> to be <b>A Club Master</b> with at least Two Master Points Issued <u>10.5.71</u> Master Points Secretary
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ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION Certifies <u>M. C. D. A. Lord</u> to be <b>A Club Master</b> with at least Two Master Points Issued <u>25/1/94</u> Master Points Secretary
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ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION Certifies <u>M. C. D. A. Lord</u> to be <b>A District Master</b> with at least Ten Master Points Issued <u>16/6/97</u> Master Points Secretary
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ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION Certifies <u>M. C. D. A. Lord</u> to be <b>A County Master</b> with at least 25 Master Points Issued <u>4 APR 2009</u> Master Points Secretary
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ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION Certifies <u>M. C. D. A. Lord</u> to be <b>A Master Player</b> with at least 50 Master Points Issued <u>24-12-02</u> Master Points Secretary
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ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION Certifies <u>M. C. D. A. Lord</u> To be a <b>Advanced Master Player</b> Issued <u>23-12-06</u> Master Points Administrator
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## People

As earlier mentioned, weekly bridge fostered partnerships. We were joined by husband and wife teams "the Borrow's", "the Newman's", "the Hill's" who in the context of bridge lost all individuality. But so did the non spouse partnerships such as Rita Johnson and Maureen Liming. Eventually they all mixed in and played with others.

Guests to the club arrived in a steady stream. Some stayed, others moved on. In the early days Barry Tobutt and Tony Olech flew in and out. They were more serious players with a system detailed on proper cards. They asked such questions as "what do you understand by that?" our members replying with humour "no ideal". But they both joined the club.

I had the pleasure of playing with Tony Olech for two or three years. He was a very excellent player, interesting company, but at the obsessive end of the bridge spectrum. He proved a good friend and taught me a lot about winning bridge. He explained that the time of their first visit to our club we were simply not good enough players for them. We obviously got better.

Mike McMorran was another excellent player of declarer's hand and someone who held on to the idea that bridge could be a game of cunning and deception. His system in outline was "you bid your cards to tell me what you've got, and I'll bid and play the contract". And in this he was very successful and one of our most talented members.

From the very outset The Reverend Ron Paterson was a firm supporter of the Club. He was an adept card player and unsurprisingly always good humoured and courteous in his manner. He regularly partnered the charming Olga Oxtoby whose play of the cards was routine, but not so her bidding. As she placed her dummy hand down Ron's only reaction would ever be a brief exhalation or a slight glance skywards as he had misread her pass as nothing, or her bid as something.

I played a lot of teams bridge, partnering Richard Green-Wilkinson, with Liz and Ian Borrow and enjoyed some success. Liz and Ian could be formidable. They knew how to win. When to boldly go forth - when to hold what you have. For my part, from Life's Little Instruction Book, I threw in "Every so often, push your luck". But I recall that the best match we ever won owed nothing to these qualities. It was won by Richard's attention to detail and perseverance.

We were the away team in the Final of the HICKO match, played at a home in Emsworth. The opposition were good, previous winners and assisted by a small handicap in their favour which arose from the fact that their Club did not offer Master points. As a consequence their lower ranking belied their skill.

After a slightly late start and some slow bridge, twenty four hands and countless partial scores later, we ground to a halt at around 11.00 pm. Richard and Ian scored for our side and I switched off. Mental plugs were pulled, the

brain disengaged. That was it! But oh no it wasn't! We had ended ahead, but after handicap it was a dead heat. So at 11.30 pm we started a further four boards. I really, really didn't want to do this "Keep it solid" I said to myself, "Don't take chances" and what a relief when Richard had to play the last hand. The contract, one Spade.

The story had a happy outcome. The first three boards were again flat. Richard made one spade plus one. The opposition were held to one no trump. We crept home victorious. Richard as always knew the importance of the extra trick and kept his concentration to win the match for us. I still feel good about it.

"Every so often push your luck" is not a maxim generally associated with good duplicate bridge. Most players employ a more cautious approach, particularly where slams are concerned. I always think I would have a soul mate in Margo Glover. She lead her team to a win against us with a bold seven no trumps. Our side were in six. The contract required the finesse of a queen. You could take it only one way. She did and it held. Lucky you could say, but you've got to be in it to win it! Margo would be on any team sheet of mine.

# Technology and the Bridge Club

## by Graham Lawrence

I cannot remember when I first started scoring the results. It may even have been before I joined the club. As I had a computer at home I could load a DOS programme called Bridge.exe and enter the scores into it. This would produce a results sheet not too dissimilar to:

SWANMORE BRIDGE CLUB 26/11/98					
14 Pairs - 26 Boards					
Pos	Pr. No.	Names	Max Sco	Act Sco	% MPt
1.	(12)	DAVE ROSS & TED QUINCEY	216	135.4	62.69 30
2.	( 4)	EDWARD WILLMOTT & TRICIA HILL	216	127.6	59.07 24
3.	( 8)	JOHN MOORE & RUTH MOORE	216	123.3	57.08 18
4.	( 2)	JO GUERRERI & MIKE MCMORRAN	216	121.8	56.39 12
5.	( 6)	DEREK LORD & PAUL FOWLER	216	119.7	55.42 6
6.	(11)	BILL THOMAS & CHRIS LETCHER	216	104.8	48.52
7.	( 1)	INGA CHAPMAN & DORA QUINCEY	216	104.3	48.29
8.	( 7)	JANE LAWRENCE & GRAHAM LAWRENCE	216	103.7	48.01
9.	( 3)	NOREEN PYRAH & BRENDA AUSTIN	216	102.2	47.31
10.	(14)	DAVID GOODLAKE & BETTY DALRYMPLE-SMITH	216	100.2	46.39
11.	(10)	RON PATERSON & OLGA OXTOBY	216	99.4	46.02
12.	( 5)	MARIE TRIVETT & DAVID HUNT	216	92.3	42.73
13.	( 9)	LESLEY FOULGER & COLIN FOWLER	216	90.2	41.76
14.	(13)	JOAN BARRETT & BETTY PARRY-MORRIS	216	87.1	40.32
Totals			3024	1512.0	
All Boards Have Been Factored To A Common Top - (12)					

I think these results were printed out and hung on the door in the Paterson Centre where the chairs are now kept. I see that in these results Master Points were awarded so I suspect someone had a book of paper ones which could be written out, distributed to the lucky members who posted them to the EBU. The paper certificates were kept in an index box in the Paterson Centre.

The results of each session were stored on our computer and by writing some computer code two competitions could be run, a pairs competition and a singles competition. To qualify a member had to have played in at least six sessions. These competitions ran from the beginning of September to the end of August the following year.

In September, 2003, the club purchased a computer programme called ScoreBridge which we continue to use. The advantages of ScoreBridge over what we were using were that Master Points could be printed, although the EBU

would charge us for them, and Score Bridge produced a web page containing the results.

At the same time as we purchased ScoreBridge, we looked around for somewhere to build a web site. Hampshire County Council provided free space to various clubs in the community. I applied for one which had to be approved by Hampshire County Council. The site had to display an acknowledgement that it was hosted by Hantsweb.


In 2005 Barry Mitchell and Dave Ross put together a bridge tuition set together with an interactive quiz. The tuition and quiz were added to the web site and are still there.

By the end of June 2005, using ScoreBridge, we could send the Master Points to the EBU by email. To use this facility I needed to find out everyone's EBU number. ScoreBridge would produce the file which I would email to the EBU. I would then get an invoice back which the secretary, Elaine Asser, would pay.

At some time the club started to use curtain cards, probably because hands got muddled.

NORTH Hand Number ..... 18	EAST Hand Number ..... 18
♠ K 7 2	♠ J 9 5 4
♥ 10 7 4 3	♥ A K 5 2
♦ 9 2	♦ A Q 4
♣ 10 6 5 2	♣ J 3
WEST Hand Number ..... 18	SOUTH Hand Number ..... 18
♠ A Q 8 3	♠ T 6
♥ J 8	♥ Q 9 6
♦ K 7 5 3	♦ J T 9 6
♣ A 9 7	♣ K Q 8 4

EBU 0003 Orders to: EBU, Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8AZ



One of our members, Tony Olech, would take them home and enter them into a computer program he had written. He would then put them on his web site. Tony performed this service from January 2009 to January 2012 when he relocated to work in Swindon. I had been interested in taking the Portable Bridge Notation (PBN) file which Tony produced and feeding it into a Double Dummy Analyzer to obtain the optimum bid and the list of makeable contracts. I found a Windows-based program written by Jeff Miller in New Zealand. He allowed me to download it and I started to run the generation of makeable

contracts using the PBN file produced by Tony and Jeff Miller's code on our computer. I also thought it would be good to merge the results in with the web page produced by ScoreBridge.

In April 2010 the EBU introduced the concept of Universal Membership and Pay To Play. The club decided to opt into the scheme. Those members who were not EBU members were made members of the EBU. ScoreBridge produces a file which can be uploaded on an EBU web page so that all our bridge sessions results are sent to the EBU. Master Point certificates were no longer produced. We were, and still are, charged by the EBU by direct debit each month. The initial charges in 2010 were 29p per person per session with an annual EBU affiliation fee of £30.

When I became chairman in 2011 I decided we should share out directing sessions and scoring sessions so a web based rota for directors and scorers was devised. In addition, a method for uploading the ScoreBridge web page and merging the PBN file with makeable contracts was devised together with the ability to email the results to members and keep track of the competitions – a singles shield and a pairs cup. Some way was found to link the website with a computer in our loft where the makeable contracts could be determined using Jeff Miller's code. It could take up to five minutes to analyse 27 boards.

In March 2012 whilst staying in Paul Corderey's cottage in Perranuthnoe I started to code the Board Composer which enabled multiple people to simultaneously enter curtain cards into a web page. It creates a PBN file with makeable contracts in it and merges the data with the ScoreBridge web page. A similar web page was used by the Meon Bridge Club to enter their curtain cards before they bought a dealing machine.

In 2013 I found that Bo Haglund (<http://privat.bahnhof.se/wb758135/>) had written a Double Dummy Analyser in code which could run on the operating system used by our personal web site's server. All I had to do was connect the bridge club's web site with our own web site. It now takes less than a minute to process 27 boards.

In 2016 Hantsweb withdrew their support for local community web sites so we purchased our own domain name - SwanmoreBridgeClub.org.uk -and moved the website to be hosted by our son, Stephen, at Heart Internet. We now have unlimited web space.

Maybe in the future we will have a dealing machine and automatic scoring devices. However for now, the results are still being emailed with a format similar to the original one I first started scoring with.!

# How We Operate

We meet at 6.45pm to play at 7.15pm each Thursday. Some committee members have a key to get in - sometimes no committee member is there and we have to rush round Swanmore to find it in a secret hiding place known only to a few. We first played in the old school room next to Swanmore Church. This doubled up as a church library with the walls holding shelves full of books including children's favourites. As the room was also used as a toddlers playgroup tiny chairs were stacked up in the corner.

After Ron Paterson's small tables were abandoned we purchased new larger tables and when the tops became worn a member purchased cloth to make new table cloths. The comfort of sitting has been upgraded several times with the purchase of new chairs. We have a huge cupboard in the corner to store all our paraphernalia which includes wallets of playing cards, the cloths, the bidding boxes, the directors' notes, our scoring cards, the travellers to write in the score and the loved (or hated) curtain cards. Some kind members regularly arrive early to get all the chairs and tables ready and the all important tea, coffee and biscuits and the kettles boiling.

When we moved into the larger hall we would often have as many as fourteen plus tables and on one occasion opened the far door to the internal vestibule of the church where more tables were set out.

Partnerships have come and gone due to illness, departure and sometimes disagreements, but many members prefer to mix around and play with others which adds to a friendly atmosphere, and often a request for a partner appears in our computer inboxes.

Sometimes we share the kitchen with a church group and cups and saucers abound and are intermingled with biscuits and washing up. Occasionally we cannot meet as the room needs to be used for Church purposes, such as on Maundy Thursday. We have on occasions decorated a 'bridge' Christmas tree in the church.

Once we tried to play with scoring on a hand held device called a Bridgmate but there were problems with internet signals, and power cuts have on occasions forced us to go home and abandon play.

We have an annual Christmas Party. This is a very happy affair with fun bridge and flags for good scores which are exchanged with other pairs who do better. The members of the team with the most flags receive prizes. Everyone brings a contribution to the buffet which includes mince pies, sandwiches, crisps, dips, sausage rolls and lots more. Wine and drinks are served too.

The winners of the four annual club competitions are presented with their trophies at the party. One trophy is for the top pair; one for the top singles player where the winner receives extra points for playing with different partners; one for the best improver; and trophies for the team knockout winners and plate

winners. The knockout competition is played in members' houses with a break for supper. It is a handicapped event and much rejoicing is heard when a team with a higher handicap defeats a team of low handicapped players. However, many friendships have resulted from these contests leading to friendly bridge parties being organised privately in members' houses.

We have recently joined in with our other local Meon Bridge Club to play a team event on several specified evenings on a Friday in the winter. The team can consist of players from either or both clubs and is played off handicap. The winners receive the Soberton Shield and the competition is played in the Soberton Village Hall.

Over the years the club has entered into some of the county competitions notably the HICKO (Hampshire Inter Club Knockout) for a team of four, and the Basingstoke Cup for a team of eight. We won the Basingstoke Cup in 2001 and 2007 and the HICKO in 2008 and 2013. A few of our members venture forth to play in the county events organised by Hampshire and we always hold a qualifying heat for the Hampshire Pottage Cup which has been won by some of our members. Several times a year we participate in the English Bridge Union simultaneous pairs which is played nationwide. The cards in these are often tricky to play but we can see where we went wrong by reading the notes of how to play the hands issued after the events. Despite the difficult hands some of our players have had great success in coming in the top ten in the country these competitions. We also take part in charity 'sims' for good causes such as Children in Need or Kidney Research.

# **Memories**

## **Club members, past and present, reveal how they fell in love with the game**

### **Liz Borrow**

I started bridge looking over my parents' shoulders way back in my childhood. They were always having friends round to play and my mother would make delicious teas of scotch pancakes, little meringues filled with cream, tiny sandwiches with crusts cut off and copious cups of tea, the drips of which have left numerous stains on piles of pretty hand-embroidered table cloths. They became very good duplicate players.

Ian played bridge at university. After we got married and had our first child in 1968, our neighbour babysat for us while we went to evening classes in Ickenham, Middlesex to get a system and learn to play properly.

Shortly after moving to Basingstoke, another baby was born and we joined Basingstoke Bridge Club. We were only in our 20s. Looking back, it was a miracle how we organised two small children, the house, garden, work, bridge and other hobbies.

At the bridge club we met Mollie and Roy Symonds who taught us five card majors, and we have played them ever since.

Two years later in 1973, after moving to Meonstoke and having a third baby, we joined Winchester Bridge Club which was above the old post office near King Alfred's Statue. There we made some firm friends and got very keen. The club grew and moved to new premises at the Winchester Conservative Club. We would often have the best players of Hampshire arriving to play including a very young Jeremy Baker and many IBM and county players.

We entered the Hampshire Leagues with Jim Barlow and David Parry (later to become a national player) driving all over the place to play, from Newbury to Southampton. After David Parry went on to greater things, Jim partnered Derek Gibbins and we rose to division one - not the most pleasant experience, and we decided we had got far too keen and would have a break from the game. Besides which, our young family were pulling us in other directions.

I think we went to Bishops Waltham Rubber Bridge Club several times and I joined the original West Meon Bridge Club (now Meon Bridge Club) which met in the afternoon at the West Meon village hall. I partnered one of my neighbours there.

It wasn't until 1993 that I heard Swanmore Bridge Club had been formed and met every other Thursday, and one didn't need a partner to play. So along I went. Eventually Ian came along to Swanmore too when it changed to a regular Thursday night and we formed a team with Ted Quincey and Richard Green-Wilkinson and Dave Goodlake and Bob Wilson to enter the Hampshire leagues.

We won county division three with them in 1998/9, and were presented with an enormous trophy which took the form of a dismembered hand holding five aces. We were happy to return it the following year!

Another trophy at Swanmore club was for speed bridge. The matching trophies were beautifully made by Anne Wernick who is a potter, and consisted of two beautifully made blue spheres with swirls of copper issuing from the top. We still have the blue pottery bottoms.

The best thing about Swanmore Bridge Club is the friends we have made. We can fondly remember so many of our past members and have seen them through old age, illnesses, broken limbs, hip ops, etc.

It has been a real joy for us to be members of the club, and long may it continue to exist with the encouragement of new recruits.



**(l-r) A victorious Ted Quincey, Ian Borrow, Liz Borrow, Richard Green-Wilkinson with the Hampshire Hicko Cup and the Swanmore Intra Club Cup**

## Sue Carpenter



Rita Johnson, Sue Carpenter

It seems amazing that I can say I first learnt to play bridge 66 years ago and many would think I should be playing a lot better than I do!

I was brought up in the age when there was little television and Sunday nights were boring, so my parents took me in hand with a view to learning bridge. I can't remember any system but imagine it was in the days of Culbertson.

My mother thought my father only knew how to play in three no trumps and was somewhat cutting in her feelings but that is certainly where my love of a three no trump contract started. I certainly remember 'an asking club' which is probably the precursor of precision.

We jogged along with Sunday evenings spent playing this wonderful game and canasta too.

I really didn't play for many years after getting married (twice) and having many sons, none of whom play bridge now I'm sad to say.

We lived in Hungerford around the 1970s and I met a lady who wanted to improve her very shaky bridge, as I did, so we joined Marlborough Bridge Club and improved over the years and this is where I gained most of the points I have collected towards being a 2\* Master.

During this time, one of our outside charity visits was to Leyhill Prison. This was an open gaol and prison life seemed to be an excellent tonic for these men – a super library, gym and gardens which were proudly shown at Chelsea, winning on several occasions.

Purchasing some notelets there which had 'stolen from Leyhill Prison' printed on them, you can imagine my face when I paid the money over to an inmate - a client of mine for whom I had done conveyancing over many years. I had caught him forging his wife's signature once but he had no idea he'd been rumbled. I think this must go down as my most embarrassing meeting and I mumbled something inarticulate like 'not bad in here is it'.

Another treat was to visit the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park Hotel where, once a year, anybody who was anybody on the bridge scene met to play in a congress. Those were the days when no-one was frightened of an attack from strangers and we all sat round card tables watching play avidly. We were so close that I could see what Tony Forrester had spilt down his dinner jacket. Also there were Andrew Robson, Zia Mahmood, Jeff Meckstroth, Omar Sharif and others whose names I have forgotten.

I was very sorry to leave Hungerford as I had taught so many local people to play, many of whom remain friends. We had opened two clubs which I'm pleased to see still operate with a good number of tables each week.

After we moved to this area I heard about Swanmore, and how happy the bridge club was, but really can't remember who proposed me although I think it could have been Ted Quincey.

I served on the Committee for a long period as secretary with Margaret Gale as chairman and have had over 10 very happy years just enjoying playing the best game in the world.

I became an EBU teacher in 1995 and have recently taught beginners minibridge.

Once I retired from work, I joined Fred Olsen Cruises as a bridge teacher and organiser, but this year is my swansong. I feel that at my age I deserve some peace and quiet and lots of rest. This aspect of my bridge life has been a joy though and I urge others to join the English Bridge Union Teachers Association as life at sea is great fun.

## **Georgina Erskine**

My bridge career started in the most serendipitous manner. My daughter was about to start her A level Spanish course and since I had been a very fluent Spanish speaker years before, I decided to go to Fareham College to brush up and help her. A week before the course was due to start they said it was cancelled due to lack of interest. Did I fancy embroidery, kite making, flower arranging or bridge for beginners instead, or would I like my money back? Since that afternoon was already on my calendar I said I'd give the bridge a go. Sixteen years later I could still do with those classes, and my Spanish has truly gone to pot! Without my help, my daughter went on to do a degree in Spanish and here I am, still enjoying my bridge.

I remember having to play with Ian Borrow on my first visit to Swanmore Bridge Club in 2005 and I was terrified - of him!! Happy days.

## Maggie and Tony Flood

Tony started to play bridge on a school trip in 1959 while travelling by train from Venice to Rome. In 1966 his company relocated to Kingswood in Surrey where he and I met over the table at the office bridge club. Tony can still remember the first hand he ever played against me where he recorded a score of -1,100 due to a misunderstanding with his partner (some things never change!).

Two years later we were married at Sidlow *Bridge* Church in Surrey and our reception was held at the *Bridge* House Hotel on Reigate Hill.

We played for our company in the second division of the Surrey business houses league, but never as a partnership and in fact it wasn't until we joined Swanmore that we played together.

Very little bridge was played between 1978 and 2007, when we moved to Bishops Waltham to be near our daughter and family. It was then that we decided to join a bridge club and, having played at several clubs within the area, decided to join Swanmore in 2009.

We consider ourselves very lucky to have found a club with such lovely people, some of whom have become good friends.

## Pauline Forrest



Norman Weston, Bob Wilson, Pauline Forrest, Richard Green-Wilkinson

Derek Lord was a founder member of Swanmore Bridge Club and his passion for the game was evident many years earlier when he and Malcolm Gates, also a founder member, taught my husband John to play bridge. At the time I wasn't at all interested in a game where it was necessary to keep quiet at the table!

All that changed however when in a moment of madness in the early 2000s I asked Derek to teach me to play and he set up a small class on Monday evenings. He would often bring curtain cards from Thursday evenings at SBC to give us practice and help us understand duplicate bridge and scoring.

After a while Derek sent his wife Denise, and Sue Lowe and myself, off to an improvers' course on Monday mornings in Gosport. He also started to invite members of SBC to join us on Monday evenings so that we could play as two teams and become familiar with the competitive element whilst playing with experienced players who helped us a lot. From that moment I was hooked and in 2006 finally felt brave enough to join Swanmore and Meon bridge clubs.

Meanwhile Derek encouraged SBC to sponsor classes for more newcomers, led by our Gosport teacher Pat Loader, and some of those soon joined in the Monday evening sessions.

Although some years ago, ill health meant that Derek had to give up the game he loved, the Monday evening group still exists and we can now draw from over 20 people to play two teams each week, and occasionally three. Almost all play regularly at Swanmore and Meon Bridge Clubs.

Playing at least once a year on a Monday evening gains entry to the annual Monday Bridge Christmas Party where we still think about and honour Derek who will always be known to many of us, with gratitude and great affection, as 'Our Bridge Master'.

***Thank you Derek for inspiring so many people to have a love for bridge, for teaching and encouraging us, and for so long maintaining an interest in how we were progressing.***

## Margaret Gale

I have played cards for as long as I can remember. Looking back they were an essential part of my upbringing. We played most card games in the family, but not bridge. So, when an opportunity arose to learn, I decided to give it a try.

I had started a new job in Winchester in the mid seventies where there was a thriving Sports and Social club and a newly-formed bridge club which operated on a Friday evening after work. As a new starter I was invited to join - which I did. I went along and watched the play and, after about a month, with my copious notes, I was allowed to participate and have never looked back. I played at this club until the early 90's when I decided to investigate the local

bridge clubs. Co-incidentally, I saw an advert in the Southampton Echo where Bishops Waltham Bridge Club was canvassing for new members. It was a rubber bridge club and the members played on a Wednesday evening. I went along and this was where I met Marie Trivett whom many of our players will remember.



**Marie Trivett, Betty Parry-Morris, Chris Letcher**

Marie was very welcoming and we struck up a good friendship which lasted for many years until she passed away in 2008. I do still have contact with her family. Marie introduced me to duplicate bridge at Wyvern Bridge Club where we played until it was forced to close down because the school needed the accommodation. I had been invited to make up a team for the Southampton League with three members from Wyvern and I went on to play at Worthy Down with one of these members for many years. I did my Club Director training courses from Worthy Down and was Secretary of the club for many years until it closed down a couple of years ago. To keep up the contact with some of the players from Worthy Down I occasionally play at Badger Farm Acol bridge club.

Marie had lived in Swanmore and Bishops Waltham all her married life and I met many people (some of whom I still see) at social bridge evenings and at Bishops Waltham bridge club. It was at one of these social evenings that I met Ron Paterson. I participated in his fund raising walks for the Paterson Centre with my then young nephew, Paul (he is now 35!). Paul and I kept up the friendship with Ron for a number of years and he met the rest of my local family members, and officiated at my mother's funeral insisting that we donate his fee to charity.

I played with Marie at Swanmore when she needed a partner and as she did not have a partner for the Millennium celebration she asked the Committee if

I could come along anyway which was agreed. After this I asked if I could join and was told I would need to play with a member of the Committee to assess whether I was a suitable prospective member for the Club! This was the procedure at that time. I played the following week with Ted Quincey and we came top – so I was allowed to join! I had also joined Nursling and Rownhams Bridge Club by this time where I still play.

Marie also introduced me to cruising – which is a separate, long story – but we went to South America on the QE2 in 2003. I played bridge every afternoon we were at sea and I also met Jimmy on this cruise – another separate long story!

I have had a number of partners at Swanmore and when Noreen (the main Director at that time) became ill I started directing. Noreen's passing was very sad and she is still missed.

I succeeded Richard Green-Wilkinson as Chairman, a post I held from 2004-2010 and continue to direct to this day. I suggested we should have bridge tablecloths, bought the fabric and made them up. It was also through being a member at Swanmore that Sue Carpenter asked me if I would like to go 'bridge' cruising with her where she organised the playing of bridge on the ship. We had a great time and on her recommendation I was taken on by the shipping company to run and teach bridge too. I am still enjoying doing this, visiting places far and wide.

I have for many years been Secretary of HIWCBA - the Hampshire and Isle of Wight County Bridge Association.

Swanmore is a well-run friendly bridge club and I am pleased to be associated with it – long may it continue.

## **Marcia Gillespie**

I joined Swanmore Bridge Club in January 2000, four years after retiring. It was no doubt a New Millennium resolution and I was encouraged by Ted Quincey.

I had played bridge many years before in the USA when I started working for IBM and then gave it up for almost 30 years. I restarted again, after my retirement, with 'kitchen or village bridge'. It was unserious rubber bridge, usually started after a few glasses of wine, and for a stake. Probably 5p a 100 points. Bidding was not important. So starting to play duplicate was very frightening, made no easier by having to learn Acol from scratch. I had a very large library of bridge books to teach me the basics.

Remembering to bid the weak no trump was a major hurdle. I learned that while playing with Ted - after my suit bid, I realized that 1NT was correct,

but by then it was too late. And there's no way to recover. I forget how far we went down!

But that was just the bridge. Seeing all the people at the club was great. I encountered people from IBM who I hadn't seen since leaving, and also acquaintances from Soberton and Newtown who had disappeared from my life after I stopped regular calls at the White Lion, and old friends from Meonstoke. It was a reprise of many of the elements of my life in England, all in one place.

I made new friends there, and remember really enjoying playing with Biddie Lanyon. I never knew what her bids meant, so was often unable to answer opponents' queries. But she seemed able to intuit what my cards were and ignore whatever I did. We usually did better than we deserved.

Duplicate took lots of concentration, and I was unable to go every week, and finally gave up as I realized I wasn't improving, and had too many other things on. I missed the club, but still had some bridge.

Since I moved to the USA in 2016, I haven't found any bridge at all. I think I'll soon have to go looking. Graham Lawrence's email asking me to write this piece reminded me how much I enjoy the game.

## **Richard Green-Wilkinson**

I was taught bridge at school by a fellow pupil when I was about nine.

This was almost certainly inspired by the headmaster who played a hand of bridge in each dormitory before turning out the lights. I didn't play much bridge at school, but in my late teens got to know a number of friends who played social bridge. We used to meet up at the local pub on a Friday night and start playing when the pub closed – usually until 3am.

We moved to Swanmore in 1980, and it was probably around 1984/85 when I came across Ted Quincey, Dave Ross and Malcolm Gates, along with one or two others. We just played social bridge.

We decided to start Swanmore Bridge Club, by then my partner was Malcom. He must have been pretty easy going because I still had a lot to learn.

## Joe Guerreri



**Joe Guerreri, Margaret Gale, Rose Crane, Tony Hall**

Bridge is commonly perceived as an old person's game which is a shame as it should appeal to anyone who likes solving puzzles. I came to it at the ripe old age of 26, having managed to avoid it well beyond university, believing it just to be another boring card game. As a child, I often played various forms of whist and rummy with my father. I presumed that bridge was just another such game. How wrong I was.

Once I discovered bridge, all those card games of my youth had no appeal whatsoever. Unless I'm dummy. I hate being dummy; enjoy defending but love to be declarer and engage in the challenge of trying to find a guaranteed path to the contract - sometimes successfully!

My introduction to bridge came in 1980, during lunch breaks, when I joined WD & HO Wills. In those days lunch, for a privileged few, was a very civilised affair. Pork Copenhagen (my wife, to this day, claims there is no such dish) and frangipane tart with soft ice cream were among my favourite dishes.

After completing the functional part of lunch we would retire to the annex for coffee, smoking, reading, chatting, etc. My lunch companions played rubber bridge and I would sit at one of the corners and watch. A running tally of the score ran into tens of thousands. Of course, the day soon came when they were a three and I was expected to step into the breach. With some trepidation and concern about the running tally, my education 'on the go' climbed a steep hill. Before long, a regular partnership with Patrick, my colleague in operational research, was formed and we developed our system which we subsequently discovered had roots in the precision bidding system.

We honed our partnership at social dinners before venturing into the world of duplicate at Bristol Bridge Club. A few years later, someone took over Imperial Tobacco. His reputation as an asset stripper was confirmed when he removed valuable paintings from the director's offices. To the shock of all, one morning the walls of the main corridor were suddenly stripped bare, having previously been lined with a unique, historic collection of smoking pipes.

Unsurprisingly, genteel lunch was replaced with more paltry fare, but bridge continued until the core four disbanded to ventures new.

I joined Swanmore Bridge Club in 1994 after returning from five years working in the Middle East where I regularly partnered Egyptian Emad, usually doing well enough to more than cover the table money.

Derek Lord was the contact name listed in Swanmore parish magazine. My initial phone call was answered with the very appropriate 'House of Lords here'.

I often partnered Derek who was always keen to apply rules and procedures to each hand whereas I'm less rigid and perhaps prone to a touch of the 'maverick'. It's so sad that Derek's Parkinson's has deprived the club of his company for some years now but it's good that, his wife, Denise, has become an ardent player.

Some partners cannot resist telling you how you should have bid or played the hand. It's a shame as they're often wrong and should realise you are only too aware of your own errors and don't need them broadcast.

Because of this, at around the turn of the millennium, I asked my 12-year-old son Michael if he would like to play as he had shown promise in our family forays. Michael, now a pharmacist, has a sponge-like memory and soon became proficient, regularly harvesting match points.

After a long hiatus, my son and I made a return this year but his many other interests and my desire to escape UK winters have not facilitated many visits.

Of all the clubs I have played at, Swanmore is certainly as friendly as any, if not the most. At some clubs, you wonder why people choose to play - they forget that it's supposed to be for fun and enjoyment. Not so at Swanmore and I hope to continue playing there, perhaps with a new partner.

## Tricia Hill



**Tricia Hill, Jane Lawrence, Dora Quincey**

My father enjoyed a game of bridge and as a family of four we were taught by him to play Culbertson. On Richard's retirement forty odd years later we decided to start playing again despite having scarcely played in between. I took a few lessons in London at the London School of Bridge run by Nicola Smith and had to master the points system. Since then some ideas from Mr Bridge and bits and pieces picked up elsewhere made up a somewhat disjointed system. I was introduced to Swanmore Bridge Club by Joan Hammond and the earliest record I have of being secretary there is in 1998. After being secretary, I was in charge of teas for quite some time – a duty which gets shared around - oddly enough only amongst the lady members. However, the tea break is much appreciated by all and contributes to the friendly atmosphere which our club is noted for.

# Tim Howard



Gill Howard, Margaret Major, Tim Howard

I started playing bridge on my first day at the University of St. Andrew's in 1966. There were six of us in my 'digs'. One student had just started his second year but had suffered the misfortune of losing his bridge partner who had failed all his exams because of time spent at the bridge table. He needed a new partner quickly as the university bridge trials were the following day. That was how I spent my first night and first afternoon at my seat of learning. So it continued for the next four years. After university, enough became enough as I started my career with a firm decision not to play again until I retired. This decision was pretty much kept with the only limited exceptions being when Gill started to learn the game in our ex-pat years in the late 90s.

Once retirement arrived in 2003, and with a little bit of persuasion from Gill, we decided to give bridge a go together. We went along to Diana Harvey's group, then in Winchester in about 2005, and found the game was no longer the one Gill and I thought we had learned. Gill was adept at five card majors as played in Athens and Paris, and my current version of Acol seemed to bear little resemblance to what I had played at university.

We both reverted to the drawing board with *The Complete Book of Bridge* by Ron Klinger. This became such a companion that, when a copy was left by mistake in Washington DC, we promptly purchased another. Gradually we got better and braved a Mr Bridge cruise to the Baltic in about 2008. Here we found that we could cope well as a pair in the company of those a step or two above us.

A lady on the cruise suggested we try Meon Bridge Club. The contact we were given was somewhat formidable and our first afternoon was rather harrowing including my being informed by an even more formidable lady that I was not allowed to bid after Gill had paused for some thought. I was not *that* green. Things there got better.

During our first year at Meon we began to hear a bit about the very high standard of bridge being played at Swanmore. Scary! A couple of Christmas Eve drinks parties at our then neighbours brought us together with the delightful and persuasive Mike Oxenham. We succumbed and accepted a kind invitation to be introduced to Swanmore Bridge Club. I would love to say it was a doddle but I can't!

We remember being transfixed by conversations between our first opponents about their systems. New words, such as benji, jacoby and multi, were learnt. However the company was good and our final result squeezed in front of those of our initial opponents. A relationship was formed.

## **Rita Johnson**

Maureen Liming brought me along to the club when Noreen was chairman. Maureen cannot recall how she heard of the club but I wonder if it was through her neighbours, the Newmans. I recall that Noreen was rather 'strict'.

We were known as the 'no trumps queens' for we always seemed to end up in that contract.

I also recall that Derek Lord, who at the time partnered Paul Fowler, always confused our names. Sometimes I am sure it was deliberate! It was said with a twinkle in his eye.

The fact that Swanmore publishes the evening's results within hours is such a plus. Previously I believe the results were displayed on the inside of the storage cupboard door in the hall so we could only check them a week later.

Over the years I have made many friends at Swanmore even though I live out of the area. Sadly many have passed away over the years but remain in the memory.

For the future I wish Swanmore continued success as a happy and friendly club. I always look forward to my Thursday bridge, travelling from first Stubbington and now Fareham.

While I have never served on the committee (having been on enough committees in my lifetime) I hope I have contributed with my continued support and helping out at each session.

## Graham Lawrence



**Ted Quincey, Graham Lawrence, Richard Hill**

I first started playing bridge in my teens, cycling round to a family every Sunday afternoon to make up a four with a father and his two sons, Peter and Paul. We played a variety of card games like cribbage, solo whist, kitty nap and bridge. We all tried to devise a good bidding system but failed miserably.

Jane and I moved to Shedfield in the early 70s and starting playing social bridge. We played once a month with one couple at a penny a hundred and we kept the winnings in one of their trophies. At the end of the year we had a meal and paid the bill according to how much we'd won or lost.

At some point we played in the Meon Valley Golf Club bridge section but I think we just played rubber bridge. It's too distant to remember who played but I think Elaine Asser, the Cranes, David Hunt and Mr Batt and his son all played.

We met Tom Houghton in Sam's Hotel and he told me he had an annual bridge competition called the Green Eyeshade whereby the winner won the right to wear the eyeshade. Jane and I formed a team of eight and had an annual match again the Green Eyeshade which we called the Themus Trophy. It lasted for several years.



I tended to play with a group of four or five men and we played on Sunday evenings, accompanied by wine. This was instigated by Laurie Beardshaw who wanted to improve his bridge so I partnered him against Neil Botten and Duncan Petty. We played basic Acol based on the books written by Ben Cohen and Rhoda Lederer.

I worked at IBM Hursley and started to play lunchtime bridge with Barry Mitchell, Jon Stredwick, Mike McMorran, John Carter, and several others, all a lot better than me.

Jane joined Swanmore Bridge Club long before me as I preferred playing with my mates. I started playing bridge at the club in the late 90s when the playing with friends became less frequent.



Tony Olech, Graham Lawrence, Ted Quincey

## Jane Lawrence

I was introduced to bridge at my friend's house. We were 10 years old and her brother and sister, who we played with, were older. My next try was aged 15 years when I was an au pair in Royan in France. When I married my bridge-playing husband in 1970, he tried to improve my game.

We lived in Paris for three years and used to play with some French friends who played the *cinque majeur* system. We also played with a group of expats at the Royal Air Forces Association club.

One week on holiday, when my parents babysat, we played at Bude Bridge Club. The following years saw us playing kitchen bridge in other people's houses.

I worked at IBM at North Harbour and knew Dave Ross, who suggested I join the Swanmore club. I joined just after it started when you could turn up with no partner. I remember playing with a variety of people including John Moore and Joe Guerreri. When Simon Wernick joined, Rosemary Crane asked me if I would play with him as he was looking for a regular partner.

After about three years, my husband Graham decided to join SBC so from then on I played with him.

One year we were asked to play in the Southampton League with Barry Mitchell and Jon Stredwick or Al Darlington. I was terrified in our first match. New things called bidding boxes came out and we were playing against Heather Maidmont and Steve Preston. Both very good players. Heather kindly observed that I didn't like to have a biddable hand! We continued in the league for quite a while. I have enjoyed many years of playing bridge with my husband.

On holiday in New Zealand, we played at Blenheim Bridge Club, where they had block of paper which you filled in saying what you were bidding and what happened. Quite strange to us after using bidding boxes.

I still like to play bridge. My brain is not quite as good as it was but Graham is becoming more patient with me. I no longer play much at Swanmore as I get too tired in the evening. I enjoy daytime bridge at Soberton these days and hope I can continue for many more years.

## Sue Leatham



Betty Parry-Morris, Chris Letcher, Sue Leatham, Dora Quincey

My parents lived in Shropshire and my father, a GP, taught me various skills. These included how to drive, on a disused airfield, and how to play bridge.

When I moved to Stratford-on-Avon I joined the bridge club there. It was a good standard. I played with Jim Lord who was an excellent player. and taught me a lot about the game. We even went on bridge weekends with the permission of Mrs Lord. I played standard Acol.

On retiring at 60 I moved to Boarhunt to be closer to my daughter and first started playing at Swanmore in the early 90s. Before that I played with Eloise Pack and another couple of ladies. I left the club in 2013 when my concentration began to wane but I did enjoy playing there.

## Mike McMorran



Mike McMorran, Brenda Austen, Rita Johnston

I started playing at home when I was about 14. My mother played a bit and taught me. I played for my uni' team and then enjoyed social bridge while teaching.

When I applied to work at IBM in Hursley I was interviewed by Messrs Catchpole, Burbidge and Reid, and couldn't understand why the whole of Hursley was apparently fixated on bridge. Of course, I subsequently discovered my interviewers were atypical.

While working there, I played in the IBM Club. We met in the clubhouse, scoring by hand on a large sheet of flipchart paper placed on the grand piano. I seem to recall Robin Cork was a leading light, at least as organizer.

I met several very good and fun partners while at Hursley - Harry Tuffell, Dave Reid and Barry Mitchell were especially fun. I also played with Pete Peterson and others.

I played in the Hants league and at various Southampton and Winchester clubs over several years. I met Ann when playing at the Southampton Sutherland club.

In the 90s a group of us would meet at lunchtimes and play bridge - Alan Darlington, Karen Dewar, Graham Lawrence, Barry Mitchell and Jon Stredwick. When we moved to Bishop's Waltham I was encouraged, by Graham Lawrence to join the Swanmore Bridge club which I did in the late 90s. In 2002 we moved to Christchurch and left Swanmore Bridge Club.

## Barry Mitchell



**Barry Mitchell, Joan Clarke, Dave Ross, Rosemary Taylor**

I think I started playing bridge in 1973 with Jon Stredwick at IBM . We used to play in the IBM national event every year until it stopped some time ago. Jon and I played together in the Southampton and Hampshire leagues for many years. Again I am not sure when we stopped, but it was after IBM colleagues Bob Farr and Pete Peterson passed away.

I started playing with Mike McMorran at Rownhams Bridge Club for a while, before joining Swanmore Bridge Club in May 2000. This was at Mike's request, after he moved to Bishops Waltham and began playing at Swanmore. I played with Mike, and sometimes with his wife Ann, until they moved to Southbourne, at which point Dave Ross asked if I would play with him.

## John Moore



Ruth Moore, John Moore, Jane Lawrence

I can remember my father teaching me seven card knockout whist which was quickly adopted by the local kids for rainy days. On high days and holidays when the extended family met, I learnt to play nap and solo whist, a game best with four players with lovely bids like 'abundance declared' and 'misere ouvert'.

In sixth form, a history teacher taught us bridge during a downpour in the games period. Twelve points to open and eight to reply. That was it.

We had an old country house for additional sixth forms rooms which was quite remote. Unfortunately the bridge degenerated into three card brag and a version of shoot pontoon, a great gambling game, where a kitty builds for three rounds unless the banker is shot. I took no part in this, of course, but the few that did ran up debts running into hundreds of thousands of pounds with each other - never to be paid of course. None of them went to Cambridge. However, a group of us did play brag, shoot pontoon and chase the queen (correct name 'black lady') on Sunday evenings.

At University there was little bridge played in my group of friends but we did occasionally play chase the queen.

Some 15 years later in 1986 I moved to Swanmore with my family. Just like my father, I taught my kids cards. When we went off in the caravan the five of us would play chase the queen for who did the washing up. The challenge was to give the queen (a penalty of 50 points) to the older boys rather my younger daughter, a little tricky because you don't want to end up with it yourself. Family myth has it that I never washed up.

I don't remember exactly how I began playing bridge again. I think, as is often the case, a few people in the village needed a fourth to make up a table and

virtually knocked on the doors. I joined this group and mostly played rubber bridge, a much under-rated game. If the cards are not too one sided it can be very exciting, the double being such an important bid. You can also play for money.

Then with Dave Goodlake as a partner and with Derek Lord and Bob Wilson we started playing duplicate in the Southampton League. During this period we adopted various conventions but Derek in particular was always ready to change and experiment - it seemed every week.

I can remember bouncing along in the back of his little Volvo with Dave and Bob off to the next round of a knockout match in Southampton. Derek was driving, and just came out with a new bid which changed quite a bit of our convention card with no real consideration of the following bids. It was good fun.

In fact, because we all played the same conventions, we did quite well in the pivot where you have to change partners. We all bought the same bridge book by A.M. Wilkinson, a Hampshire lady I think, entitled "Bridge Step by Step, the Acol System". The foreword reads 'Flair and instinct are marvellous assets but one cannot learn from those alone'.

Around this time the Club was formed in Swanmore. The rest is history.

## Dave Ross

I started playing bridge at Edinburgh University in my late teens – about 55 years ago! A few years later, on moving to Sheffield, I remember playing for a penny a hundred – it used to get a bit expensive losing a shilling (a bob) or two a session, and the occasional half crown. But playing for money definitely improved my game.

On to Nottingham, where I played at the university and also at a club in town. In those days I sometimes played the 'Nottingham Club', a system with a strong club, a 'loose' diamond and a weak no trump. *The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge* says that it is still a 'system popular in the English Midlands'.

Then a move down to Poole, where I joined a club in my late 20s in Bournemouth, and was the youngest player by at least 10 years. I was adopted by the second youngest member of the club, a 39-year-old lady national player, and within a couple of years, we were playing for the county in inter-county events.

After a move to Northampton, I met up with a former bridge partner from Nottingham and we played a few times for Northamptonshire. Then I moved to Swanmore, where I played rubber bridge at different homes for some years.

In 1994, a group of us, including Ted Quincey, Richard Green-Wilkinson, Bob Wilson, Malcolm Gates and Derek Lord, decided to form a Swanmore bridge club.

Initially, it was every second Thursday and we alternately played rubber bridge and duplicate. The numbers increased rapidly and a few years later, we began playing every Thursday.

We also set up several competitions:

- SBC teams of four knock-out competition, which is still thriving
- A team of eight to play against other Hampshire bridge clubs in the Basingstoke Cup. The club entered a team every year until recently.
- A few teams of four to play in the Hampshire Inter-County Knockout (HICKO). Our membership of this faded out a few years ago.

In the early 2000s, I also held a number of tuition classes on basic and advanced Acol bidding and card play for the club, and set up tuition modules and quizzes on the SBC website, using Graham Lawrence's web-design skills, which are still there.

Around 2000, I started playing with Barry Mitchell, who had recently joined the club, and we played in the Basingstoke Cup, teams of four in the HICKO, and teams of four in County Leagues for the next 10 years or more with a number of other club members including Mike McMorran, Jon Stredwick, David Goodlake, Margaret Gale, and Simon and Ann Wernick.

Barry and I played a number of times in the County Pairs Championship, the Pottage, which we were lucky enough to win in 2008. Unfortunately, we were unable to play in the subsequent national event, as we had both booked holidays in France on that date!

## **Bob Wilson**

I began playing bridge at school where a small group of us, and one member of staff developed a bridge club that contacted other schools and eventually set up school matches. I recall that we won most of them, but that may be the rosy tint of history.

As it happened my school bridge partner was a prodigious mathematician and much better bridge player than me. We both went to Oxford where we played at the university bridge club, narrowly missing a blue socially. I also found other social bridge players in college.

Afterwards, as a function of job moves, house moves, marriage and family, my bridge activity dwindled to nothing until I got involved with a small group of players around Swanmore. I think it was Derek Lord who introduced me to a group that included John Moore, David Goodlake, Malcolm Gates, Ted Quincey, Richard Green-Wilkinson, Jane Lawrence and others.

We began by getting fours for social bridge, usually combined with a meal, but it became clear that we were looking for something more serious. Derek (who was in those days my normal partner) and I were persuaded to try a club, Hedge End I think initially. Although in some cases the culture was not entirely what I would have wanted, the competition, and the ability to measure performance against other pairs, was very stimulating.

I am struggling to remember now the exact sequence of events. I know that Derek, John Moore, David Goodlake and I played as a team in a league but cannot be sure if that was Hampshire or Southampton, and also went to other bridge clubs. I am fairly sure that this was before Swanmore Bridge Club was founded.

At the time it was set up, I was living in Winchester, so Swanmore was by no means the most convenient club, but because it was being established by friends I committed to playing there in preference to other clubs.

In the early days the standard was very variable, but Swanmore had, from the beginning, a culture and approach of serious bridge in a friendly atmosphere (mostly!) which I have not found in other clubs. There has always been an atmosphere of camaraderie, and it was this which turned an early feeling of obligation into one of genuine enjoyment, and kept me coming for the 20 plus years we lived in Winchester before moving away in 2013.

Over the years, standards improved, and the club entered teams into league and cup competitions. Having played in the early years with Derek, most of my competitive bridge in the last 15 years at Swanmore was with David Goodlake who in terms of style, approach and talent, proved an ideal partner for me.

I was fortunate, with David, to play in league teams that won promotion and in teams that won the Basingstoke Cup and the Hicko, but also enjoyed success in those competitions with other partners. We played in a team with Liz and Ian Borrow for a number of seasons.

My swansong was playing in the Hicko with Graham Lawrence, together with Ted Quincey and Richard Green-Wilkinson, when we won the competition. Swanmore Bridge Club was a very important aspect of my social life in Hampshire in providing decent competition in a friendly environment, and allowed me to forge friendships that will last forever.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Year	Month	Chair	Secretary	Treasurer	Members
1992 - 1995	November	Ted Quincey	Derek Lord	Richard Green-Wilkinson	Malcolm Gates Dave Ross Bob Wilson
1996 - 2000	March	Ted Quincey	Tricia Hill	Richard Green-Wilkinson	Noreen Pyrah Dave Ross Bob Wilson
2001	March	Richard Green-Wilkinson	Tricia Hill	Ian Borrow	Dave Goodlake Graham Lawrence Noreen Pyrah
2002	February	Richard Green-Wilkinson	Tricia Hill	Ian Borrow	Elaine Asser Graham Lawrence Noreen Pyrah
2003	March	Richard Green-Wilkinson	Tricia Hill	Ian Borrow	Elaine Asser Margaret Gale Graham Lawrence Derek Lord Noreen Pyrah
2004	March	Margaret Gale	Elaine Asser	Ian Borrow	Graham Lawrence Derek Lord Mike Oxenham Noreen Pyrah Dave Ross
2005 - 2006	February	Margaret Gale	Elaine Asser	Ian Borrow	Graham Lawrence Derek Lord Mike Oxenham Dave Ross
2007	March	Margaret Gale	Sue Carpenter	Ian Borrow	Graham Lawrence Derek Lord Mike Oxenham Ted Quincey
2008 - 2010	March	Margaret Gale	Sue Carpenter	Ian Borrow	Georgina Erskine Pauline Forrest Graham Lawrence Derek Lord, Ted Quincey

<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Members</b>
2011	June	Graham Lawrence	Ted Quincey	Paul Fowler	Georgina Erskine Barry Mitchell Bev Rutter Jon Stredwick
2012	April	Graham Lawrence	Ted Quincey	Paul Fowler	Biddy Constant Georgina Erskine Barry Mitchell Bev Rutter Jon Stredwick
2013	March	Graham Lawrence	Ted Quincey	Paul Fowler	Liz Borrow Biddy Constant Georgina Erskine Barry Mitchell Bev Rutter Jon Stredwick
2014	March	Graham Lawrence	Bev Rutter	Paul Fowler	Liz Borrow Georgina Erskine Barry Mitchell Jon Stredwick
2015	March	Graham Lawrence	Bev Rutter	Paul Fowler	Liz Borrow, Pauline Forrest Barry Mitchell Jon Stredwick
2016	March	Graham Lawrence	Bev Rutter	Paul Fowler	Pauline Forrest Sue Lowe Barry Mitchell Jon Stredwick
2017	March	Graham Lawrence	Sue Jones	Paul Fowler	Sue Lowe Barry Mitchell, Bev Rutter Jon Stredwick





St Barnabas Church Swanmore

# The History of the Paterson Centre

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As early as 1970, Marjorie Easterby-Smith, returning with her husband Victor from a naval posting in the Far East, had been dismayed at the poor ancillary premises of the church, compared with those that she had found in Anglican churches abroad. She drew for the Vicar a scale drawing of a possible building linking the old Infant School with the west end of the church. It was an idea whose time had not yet come. At least, however, a scheme to demolish the old Infant School and use the ground to extend the churchyard, was abandoned.

### **Old Infant School**



The second link in the chain was an increasing awareness of the unsuitability and deteriorating condition of the church's existing ancillary premises - the Parish Room, Reading Room and Parish House. They were heavily used by a variety of church and village organisations. The golden jubilee of the Parish Room was marked in 1971 with a sponsored walk to pay for a face-lift. However, no amount of renovation would prolong its life indefinitely; it was too small, some way away, on the other side of an increasingly busy road, and lacked parking space. The church needed choir accommodation, rooms for meetings and social gatherings and the community a meeting place in the centre of the village. Furthermore, the Young People's Church were meeting in the Parish Room and so had very little contact with their adult counterparts along the road.

The Special Project Committee had made some suggestions on the refurbishment and extension of the Old Infant School Room, with a possible covered way to the church. A Forward Planning Committee was established in June 1981 to develop these ideas and make a proposal. The cost of a link between the old Infant School and the church would be considerable. Phase 1 of

the Village Hall had been opened in 1980, phase 2 was in progress and it was not certain that a parish centre would be used sufficiently to be financially viable. Plans for a building linking the church and the old Infant School were, however, unveiled at the Annual Church meeting in April 1985.

In June 1985, the month of Ron Paterson's retirement, the proposed parish centre was pegged out on the ground to give some idea of its size and exact location, and the position of the foundations in relation to existing graves. The village was canvassed to assess reactions and obtain pledges of financial support. Offers of finance amounted to about £10,000. At a PCC meeting held on 10th October 1985, during the interregnum, it was decided unanimously to proceed with the centre.

The fact that Ron Paterson and his family enjoyed living in the Victorian Vicarage, postponed the inevitable decision to provide for the next Vicar a modern house, and one nearer to the church. In the early 1980s, again prompted by the Special Project Committee, the search was on for a suitable site. Edwin Green, the owner of Leacock House and much of the land behind it, made available a plot to the south of the church and building began in late 1984. When Ron Paterson retired in June 1985 the new Vicarage was ready for his successor.

The closing years of Ron Paterson's ministry at Swanmore were marked by personal bereavement. In 1975, Joan Paterson, his wife, died of a brain tumour after a long and harrowing illness, at the age of 53. As the Vicar wrote a year later "the whole parish wept" with him. Less than five years later, his younger son, Andrew, now aged 22, had a heart attack. The only hope was a heart transplant, then a new operation, fraught with danger, which he underwent at Papworth hospital in June 1980, then the youngest patient to do so. He lived for three years, exhibiting an amazing zest for life and devoting himself to a variety of good causes. Finally a second transplant became necessary; it was unsuccessful and Andrew died in June 1983. Meanwhile Ron Paterson had remarried, Robin Masson, whose unobtrusive support to his ministry and quiet contribution to village life were greatly appreciated. When, in the summer of 1984, and just as they had chosen a retirement home in Bishop's Waltham, she died of a brain tumour, the village could scarcely believe the Job-like blows that Ron Paterson had been called on to bear. Once more "the whole village wept" with him.

The PCC decided to call the planned new parish centre the Paterson Centre "to commemorate with affection and thankfulness" the ministry of Ron Paterson, whose retirement after 23 years in Swanmore had just been announced, coupled with the names of the three members of his immediate family who had died between 1975 and 1984.

Ron Paterson retired in June 1985 after a memorable series of farewells from village and church organisations and a PCC dinner. The school's goodbye was particularly heartfelt, since it was Ron Paterson's efforts that had sustained the long rebuilding programme - thus ensuring the school's voluntary aided

status. His final confirmation service, when 24 candidates were confirmed, was taken by the new Bishop of Portsmouth, Timothy Bavin. On his last Sunday evening, in a church packed with over 400 people, the Vicar was interviewed about the landmarks of his life and chose hymns and readings that had provided inspiration.

Plans for building the new Paterson Centre were continuing. At first the proposal was a relatively modest one - for a new building that would supplement rather than replace the existing Parish Room and House. It would provide about 1000 square feet of new accommodation. The genesis of the centre as it was eventually built can be dated to a special PCC meeting held on 23rd January 1986 with the new Vicar in the chair. Michael Welch had met the committee and they decided to recommend to the PCC a more ambitious but logically more coherent scheme. The Parish Room and Parish House would both be sold. An enlarged parish centre would be built linking church and Infant School. It would be wider than the original and would, in particular, contain a substantial size hall in place of the committee room originally planned. The cost was estimated at £90,250 instead of the £50,000 of the earlier plan, but this would be offset by the sale of existing premises, leaving a net sum of around £32,200 to be raised. The new scheme gripped the imagination of the PCC, who approved it by a large majority.

From acceptance of the scheme in January 1986 to the formal opening of the centre in January 1993 took seven years. The first task was to enlist the support of the village, already jeopardised by the news that the Parish Room, regarded as part of Swanmore's historic past, was likely to be demolished and that graves in the churchyard were to be built over or moved. At the request of objectors, 550 of whom had signed a petition, the Parish Council sponsored a village meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1986, at which the scheme was explained by the Vicar, and the legal procedures set out by a visiting speaker.

Approval from the county planning authority was easily obtained. The issue of the graves was more complex. The land over which it was intended to build was eventually found to contain more graves than had at first been estimated; about 80 former inhabitants of the village, a small number of whose descendants still lived in the village, were eventually exhumed. The deep feelings aroused, and profound hostility of a small number of people were not easily overcome, even though the majority of plots were unmarked and the names of those buried there were unknown. Because of sustained objection, permission could not be given by a Consistory Court. Not until 2nd August 1989 was an Order in Council made, granting permission to build, provided that appropriate arrangements were made for "the human remains and any tombstones, monuments or other memorials" that would be disturbed. Exhumation began in June 1990. A plot at the west end of the church was set aside for the reburial of 27 new coffins containing the remains that had been disinterred. A collective grave was dug and a public service of reinterment was held on 10th July, attended

by the churchwardens and other members of the congregation. The final permission needed in order to proceed was a faculty from the diocese for alteration necessary to link the centre with the west end of the church.

At last building began. The Parish House and Parish Room were sold and the contract for building the centre was placed with Cameron Construction Limited for £149,000. Laying the foundations began in November 1991. The Paterson Centre was first used for the Harvest Supper in October 1992 and was formally opened by the Bishop on 25th January 1993.

The Centre contains a hall with seating for 120 people. The former Infant School room of 1884 was refurbished so as to retain its character and is equipped as a meeting room for 30 people. There is a smaller committee room, a store, a room for the parish magazine equipment and supplies, and the usual offices including a well-equipped kitchen. At the rear of the Infant School room there is a separate entrance to premises of which the Red Cross has exclusive use.

The total cost of the scheme, including refurbishment of the Infant School and the not-inconsiderable expense of reinterment, was in the region of £240,000. When the Paterson Centre opened there was a debt of about £65,000, including an interest-free loan from the diocese, low interest loans from parishioners and a substantial figure borrowed from Lloyds Bank at market rates. The servicing of the loan was itself a major commitment. By September 1995, the bank loan had been paid off and the debt had been reduced to £23,000, as a result of a great variety of fundraising efforts. In the summer of 1994, and again in the summer of 1995, Ron Paterson, now approaching 80 years old, organised and took part in a series of sponsored walks. In 1994 there were three three-day walks and two one-day walks to local cathedrals - Winchester, Guildford, Chichester and Arundel, Portsmouth and Salisbury. In 1995 they were to churches in the deanery and beyond. They made a major contribution to reducing the debt on the centre, raising altogether about £27,000.



**The completed Paterson Centre - The Home of Swanmore Bridge Club**

