

Lady Milne 2023

## Wales



### **Mia Deschepper**

Mia started playing bridge 7 years ago and was quickly totally hooked. She was lucky (she thinks) to find some much better players who trained her (special forces style by some) to become a better player. She has now represented Wales in the last three LMs with Ceri and in the European Mixed Teams with Adrian Thomas. With the help of Richard Plackett, she won the Eastbourne (Brighton) Pairs last year. Away from the bridge table, Mia is interested in just about anything bar watching sports, beach holidays or fine dining.



### **Ceri Pierce**

Ceri was horrified to realise at the weekend that she had been playing bridge for over 30 years (although that did include a 15 year break). She had not realised how old she was.

She has played in numerous Lady Milne events since the 90s, this being her 4th with her partner Mia. Ceri is an IT consultant for a well know company in Belfast, lives in Somerset (but is actually Welsh) and has 3 grown up children, Nick, Pete and Abbie who have all now flown her nest but come back from time

to time with huge bags of washing. When not playing bridge she can usually be found in an Indian restaurant.

### **Gilly Clench**

Gilly has been a regular member of the LM team for more years than she cares to remember (like most of us) and with more partners than she can count (a bit like her bridge). She was very chuffed to be in the winning team in 2015 with Maggie and this is her second appearance with Aida. She is pleased to have organised an online women's event, which began as the Celtic pairs but is now open to all of you, so please join in (WBU website for details). She has more



interests than it is possible to cite, however hurdles and kite-surfing are not on the list. One year in Scotland she managed to cajole everyone to join in with a unique rendition of Jelly on the Plate and the tartan kilts swirled beautifully, however her singing and showing off days are now officially over! (believe that....) Thanks to everyone making sure that women's bridge and friendships continue to thrive.



 **Aida Aris**

I have played in a number of Lady Milne events over the years, including the year in which Wales last won, which was a great experience.

I enjoy spending time with my family, two grown up boys, and a little granddaughter who has just arrived. I enjoy walking and especially love Roath Park in Cardiff.

The last few years, I had not been playing regularly as before, but am happy to be back playing again, and hope to do my best in this year's competition.

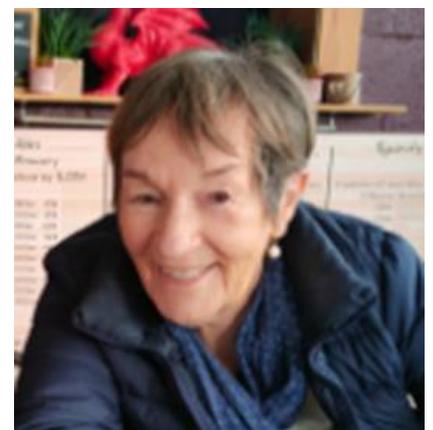
 **Joan Marray**



**Jo Copping** 

 **NPC Maggie Pierce**

Maggie has played with several partners over very many years – with two previous successes (1988 with Jill Casey - now Reitz - and 2015 with Gilly). She has now managed to retire gracefully and is enjoying her new role. Having played once in the Teltscher she has almost fulfilled her ambition to play at every level. Sadly she does not meet the Junior or Peggy Bayer criteria. She took early retirement many years ago (from IT support in Education) in order to concentrate on the important things in life. Playing golf, badly; cooking for and entertaining old bridge players, her kitchen is regarded as a watering hole - they don't drink water; and travelling. She is the founder member of the Beulah Road Crossword Team. And as a teenage Wrexham supporter she is loving their new world-wide fame.



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# Ireland



## **Joan Kenny**

Joan is a retired Maths teacher from Ballinrobe, County Mayo, who would still be very happy to “pull a pint” for any visitors to Galway in the family licensed premises – thus doing her bit for the returning diaspora! Joan is a veteran of many previous Lady Milne teams, the majority in partnership with Teresa Rigney, and once previously with this year’s partner, and has also played on numerous European and

World Championship teams.

## **Jeannie Fitzgerald**

Jeannie, living in Ennis, County Clare, is involved in technology research and development, having completed a PhD in computer science as a mature student in the University of Limerick. She has won many representative caps in the Lady Milne, and at European and World level. She and Joan have featured in the Lady Milne previously, and they represented Ireland in the European National Teams Championship in Madeira in 2022, and are anxiously awaiting an invitation to this year’s Venice Cup as first reserves.



Both Joan and Jeannie are multiple national champions, and just last weekend they won the Irish Bridge Union All-Ireland National Pairs Championship (the Moylan Cup), so should be in top form for this weekend’s bridge.

## **Rebecca O’Keefe-Brown**

Rebecca is an actuary who relocated to London for work and marriage early in her career. With two boys almost off the payroll, she now has time to return to bridge, and resume her place in the O’Keefe bridge teaching dynasty. Rebecca played on many representative teams with her mother, Aileen, including playing on the CBAI’s Lady Milne team on the occasion of Ireland’s return to the event in 1998, and has also played once previously with this year’s partner.





### **Gilda Pender**

Gilda is an IT Project Manager, and has the distinction of having been admiral of her own fleet – of ATMs!! This is Gilda's sixth Lady Milne outing, having previously played with her sister, Noreen, with Hilary Dowling-Long, and once with this year's partner. Gilda and Rebecca were also part of the European National Teams Championship team in Madeira.

### **Siobhan Part**

Siobhan is from Kildare, just outside Dublin, and works as a nurse in a large Dublin teaching hospital. She learned to play bridge in school and played for three years before taking a long break. She returned to bridge in serious fashion just over ten years ago and has played with Teresa Rigney & BJ O'Brien since then, learning good habits (mostly – certainly from Teresa!), and progressing rapidly through the ranks. This is Siobhan's second Lady Milne outing, having played with Teresa in 2021.



### **Teresa Rigney**

Teresa is retired after a long career as a teacher of Mathematics at a Dublin secondary school for young ladies. With retirement has come a greater facility to relax, so detention for those who don't know their system is no longer on the cards! Teresa has won multiple national championships, and has represented Ireland on numerous occasions in the Lady Milne and in European and World Championship teams. She too was part of the European National Teams Championship team in Madeira (in partnership with Diane Greenwood).

### **Paul Porteous NPC**

Paul is the recently retired CEO of the CBAI, a position he held for the best part of thirty years. Since retirement, he has enjoyed travelling and working on his garden, but continues to be very involved in the Irish bridge scene. Paul has represented Ireland on Junior (long, long ago!) and Mixed Teams at European events, and will shortly make his first Senior international appearance in this year's Teltscher Trophy (with both Joan Kenny and Teresa Rigney as his teammates). He is an experienced NPC, having performed that role on Lady Milne and Irish Women's Teams at European level and with both Open & Senior teams at home internationals.



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## Scotland



 **Liz McGowan**

Liz McGowan is Scotland's only World and European Grand Master, thanks to a purple patch when she was fortunate to play for Great Britain before the home nations were granted separate status. She won two European Women's Championships playing with Heather Dhondy; and the inaugural World Transnational Teams playing with some great Icelanders they picked up in the bar. And 2 silver medals at World Team Olympiads playing with Sandra Penfold. She has played in a record 37 Lady Milnes, winning 11 of them, also 7 Camrose series and 6 Teltcher Trophies. She is a bridge teacher and journalist, heavily involved with bridge administration in Scotland; she is currently the SBU representative on BGB.



**Fiona McQuaker**

I have played for Scotland in the women's team on many occasions, and this will be my 21st Lady Milne. I have played in the Scottish women's team in seven European Championships and one online qualifying event, and four Olympiads/World Games. With several others in this team I reached the semi final of the World Games in Wroclaw in 2016 and the Venice Cup in Wuhan in 2019. I returned to face to face bridge after 2 years by playing at the SBU Peebles congress teams in March 2022, shortly followed by an invitation to Scotland to join the Venice Cup competition in Salsomaggiore which we accepted with alacrity, and at 3 weeks notice arrived and produced a top half finish.

I am a chartered accountant working in Edinburgh. I enjoy travelling, theatre-going, walking and fantasy football.



 **Sam Punch**

Sam has played in the Scottish women's team since 2008, winning the Lady Milne seven times. Sam is Professor of Sociology researching the Sociology of MindSport. The project Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA) has eight published papers which can be found

in the research section of the BAMSA website: [www.bridgemindsport.org](http://www.bridgemindsport.org). Her book, 'Bridge at the Top: Behind the Screens', based on interviews with top UK and US players, recently won the IBPA Book of the Year award. You can follow BAMSA on Facebook or Twitter @bridgemindsport. If you would like to support BAMSA's new bridge, youth and schools project you can donate via the University of Stirling: [www.stir.ac.uk/carddonate](http://www.stir.ac.uk/carddonate) or via the Keep Bridge Alive Crowdfunder page:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/u5c0e5e7810869>



 **Anne Symons**

Anne has been a regular member of the Scosh Women's Team for many years and has played in Lady Milnes, Europeans, Olympiads, and even the Venice Cup, which was a highlight. Retirement has meant an increase in Grandma duties, which she enjoys very much, and has even moved house so that she and Andrew can be closer to their Grandson. That has also brought some new interests in the community, including tap dancing, choir and of course, teaching Bridge.

 **Sheila Adamson**

Sheila has been a frequent member of the Scottish Women's Team since 2004, originally playing with Anne Symons and more recently Abi Milne. In that time she has won six Lady Milnes. She has also played in 8 European Championships and World Bridge Games. Sheila's job involves quality assurance in transnational education, which means working with very nice people and attending a lot of committees. She used to spend a lot of time in airports; now she spends a lot of time on Microsoft Teams.



 **Abi Milne**

Abi is a recent addition to the Ladies' scene, having left the ranks of the Juniors in 2018 in an attempt to 'usurp' the more-esteemed members of the Scotland Ladies ranks. As it so happened, she managed to do so at the first attempt with her current partner Sheila, and had the fortune to be part of the winning Lady Milne team on her debut. At that time she was still playing under her maiden name, so she's well prepared for all the 'Not-so-lady' Milne jokes which will arise on this second outing in the

team. Abi is a systems analyst by day, keen writer by night and attempted bridge player in the space between. How well 'attempted' can be judged by how the team fares over the course of the weekend.

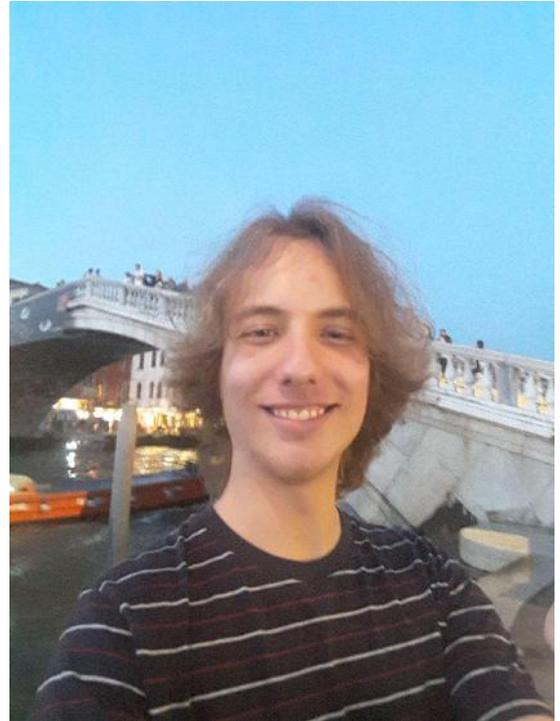
### **Gints Freimanis NPC**

Gints has been playing bridge internationally at a youngster / junior level since 2011, first for the home country of Latvia up until 2014 before debuting for Scotland in the 2016 Junior Camrose. He made his first international appearance at a non-junior level in the 2022 European Mixed Teams Championship and in 2023 played in the Camrose for the first time.

So far Gints has also had an opportunity to captain Scottish teams on four occasions with most successful one being the 2022 Lady Milne team where the team won in a very tight contest.

Gints is known for his ability to find spectacular state-of-the-art lines in declarer play that leave him to be the only one to go down in a cold contract across the field.

Gints studied statistics at the University of Glasgow between 2013 and 2018, and a month ago changed jobs to pursue a career in consultancy. In his free time Gints enjoys cycling which is relatively rare due to very limited amount of appropriate weather.



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## Northern Ireland



### Sandie Millership

Sandie is a retired Pharmacist living in Bangor with husband, Jeff, and Miniature Schnauzer, Pepper. Anne is Sandie's 4th partner in the Lady Milne (not sure if that is good or bad ). Sandie has been involved in Junior bridge for more years than she cares to remember. She loves watching the youngster's enthusiasm for the game but also gives thanks for permanent hair colours which disguise the grey hair watching them produces. She has captained the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer teams many times and has also captained the Lady Milne team and she played in the inaugural Senior Camrose.



### Anne Hassan

Anne is a retired teacher and mother to four children and ten grandchildren and has enjoyed bridge at club and local competition level for many years. This is her first time to enter the field of international bridge. Most of her bridge years were dedicated to the administrative and organisational side of game – holding posts of Secretary, Chair and Congress Organiser of the NIBU, and recently teaching bridge in primary schools.

Anne is passionate about bridge and its ability to change the lives of the people who have discovered and enjoy it especially at club level. Other hobbies include watercolour painting,

gardening and a wee glass of wine!

### **Diane Greenwood**

Diane has played in many Lady Milnes and has previously played in the Camrose with both her husband David and the late Martin Devlin. She has represented Ireland in six Europeans and also in World Championships.

As a bridge instructor she has travelled on cruises to Antarctica and The Falklands, sailed down the Amazon, among many other places. As well as bridge and animals, the other main love in her life is gardening, having undertaken a horticultural diploma at an Agricultural College and now grows her own plants and vegetables and does voluntary work at Antrim Castle Gardens. Her group there were recently awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.



### **Zrinka Kokot**

Zrinka moved to Northern Ireland in September 2018 from Zagreb Croatia. She is a Psychologist and is currently working as a recruiter (human resources). She Started playing bridge about 18 years ago back in Croatia but quit after 3 years because she was an avid and active puzzle solver and could not dedicate time to both. She has represented Croatia in world Puzzle and Sudoku championships. After moving to Derry she returned to the bridge table and after playing in her first Camrose she now has her first Lady Milne 'cap'.

### **Anne Fitzpatrick**

Anne is recently retired partner of an accountancy firm in Belfast. She is Hon. Treasurer of the NIBU and the IBU. She is very much looking forward to playing with Mary in their third Lady Milne together. When not at the bridge table Anne enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and line dancing.



## **Mary Kelly-Rogers**

Mary's working life was as a Computer Analyst/Programmer in the exciting software development years of the 70s and 80s ..... and then she took up Bridge! Her work since then has been as a volunteer for the game, quickly finding herself helping a Bridge enthusiast write one of Ireland's first scoring programs. In the late 1980s-90s she enjoyed promoting her Club and Region Congresses as well as working with the now retired Chief Executive Paul Porteous as assistant match manager when the CBAI rejoined the Camrose and Lady Milne Series. This century Mary was a member of the working team for the inaugural Warren Buffett, inaugural Seniors Congress, Millennium Congress and was IBU President at the time of Europeans 2012 where many friendships were made.



Mary worked for eight years as a member of the EBL Women's Committee scheduling Practice matches, organizing the EBL Women's Series and was Editor of the EBL Women's Newsletter. Lady Milne players Liz McGowan and Samantha Punch were regular contributors to the Newsletter. Mary now works as a member the WBF Women's Committee and among other things is currently looking at a rejuvenation of the WBF Women's Festival BBO online and with RealBridge for other projects.

Mary is playing with one of her very best friends, Anne Fitzpatrick, believing that friendship through competition really does work!



## **Alan Hill NPC**

Alan, a retired University Lecturer, has been NPC of the Lady Milne team several times in the last few years. However, his association with Home Internationals goes back many years to the days of 'Referees' and he has much experience over the years as a TD (gaining a grade B at the EBL TD course in Antalya). He was Jt. Hon. Sec. of the IBU for several years and has been President of both the NIBU and the IBU. He enjoys reading – mostly thrillers – gardening and watching cricket and rugby. A recent convert to Wordle he also enjoys Killer Sudoku.

## Lady Milne 2023

# England



### + Debbie Sandford

I've always loved games but fell in love with bridge when I was first taught it at age 21. Unfortunately though, career, friends, family and life in general all meant that I wasn't able to start playing and learning regularly for another 15 years or so. I was lucky enough to be taught by both Raymond and Sally Brock, and at the European Championships in Istanbul in 2019 I

won a bronze medal in the Women's Teams partnering Sally, in a team that also included Diana Nettleton, Marusa Gold and Susanna Gross. I formed a partnership with my friend Kath Stynes several years ago, and the 2023 Lady Milne, where I shall be playing with Kath, will be the first time I have officially represented England.

I live in London with my life and bridge partner, Gad Chadha, plus our cocker spaniel and various young adult children who come and go. Beyond bridge I sit as a magistrate in the criminal and family courts, where I am a Deputy Bench Chair of the Central London bench. And when not doing that, I love skiing, reading, travel, tennis and singing. And occasionally Netflix.



### + Kath Stynes

Kath Stynes is originally from Ireland but has lived in London for more years than she hasn't.

Kath learned to play bridge nearly 15 years ago. She started with a 'Learn Bridge in a Weekend' course taught by Ned Paul and followed this up with too many late nights at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. She still plays at the YC, and in various leagues

and tournaments most seriously with Debbie Sandford. She is also on the London county (LMBA) committee and helps to organise bridge events, notably the Lederer Memorial Trophy.

Professionally, Kath designs interfaces for online applications - for the last 10 years in financial services. Bridge is a pretty time-consuming pursuit but Kath also reads a lot and over lockdown she got very interested in perfume.

### **Nevena Senior**

I started playing bridge during my final year at University, and my first husband introduced me to the game.

I teach and play bridge both on line and face-to-face-the latter in London at Andrew Robson's BC, Wimbledon BC and the Acol club.

I've won multiple medals from European and World Championships, representing Bulgaria, Great Britain and England. My best achievements are winning the European Ladies Pairs for Bulgaria in 1987, winning the European Ladies Teams for England in 2012 and 2016 and winning the World Bridge Games in 2008 and 2012 again for England.

In my free time I like reading, doing crosswords, going to the gym and cooking.



### **Anne Rosen**

Anne learnt to play bridge in her teens in Edinburgh in the 1980s, where she played for the Scottish Junior team and won the Ladies teams, before moving south aged 22. After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant Anne moved to London to be with her now husband, Neil Rosen. Away from the table Anne works for the Bank of England but is now looking forward to retiring as soon as she can.

Over the years Anne has had considerable success in Ladies events and other national competitions including the Pachabo, Tollemache, Hubert Phillips and NICKO. Internationally Anne has played Ladies representative bridge with Val Curran, Gillian Fawcett, Catherine Draper, Catherine Seale, Sarah Bell, and Nevena Senior. Anne was also part of the team that won the Mind Sport Games in Beijing in 2008. Anne is looking forward to playing her 9th Lady Milne with Nevena, having played together on the winning Lady Milne team in 2020.

## **+ Sally Anoyrkatis**

The Lady Milne has been a big part of my bridge playing past. I first played in it back in 1990 when I was 18, and everyone was very welcoming. I have strong memories, across all the years I played, of good times, lovely people and friendships. Competitive bridge has not been top of my personal priorities for many years now, but it feels amazing to be going back playing with my daughter, Venetia, when she is just 16. I'm really looking forward to being part of her first experience playing in it, amongst so many of the lovely people and friends who made it special for me across the years. And I'm still plenty competitive enough to want to win!



## **+ Venetia Anoyrkatis**

I'm 16 years old and come from a bridge playing family now living in Devon. Life is pretty busy with school (exam year), part time job and friends/fun, but I also really enjoy my involvement with the Junior Bridge Squads and playing with my family. It meant a lot to qualify for the Lady Milne Team with my Mum, and the next target is to win it!

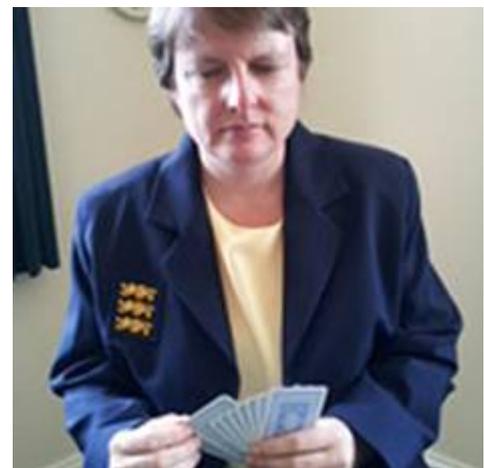
Major International Selections: Peggy Bayer 2020 (EBU Team), Three Seas Trophy: 2020, Leszek Nowak Memorial Trophy: 2020, Peggy Bayer 2022, Channel Trophy 2023, Lady Milne: 2023

## **+ Heather Dhondy NPC**

Heather was born in London in 1966. She lives in Dorset with her husband, Jeremy. Heather is a professional bridge player, teacher and writer.

The highlights of Heather's international career occurred in 2008 and 2012 at the Mind Sports Games in Beijing and Lille where the England women won the Gold medal. She was also part of the winning England Women's team in the 2012 and 2016 European Championships, and Great Britain's winning team in the 1997, 1999 and 2001 European Championships.

Heather won the Silver medal in the Venice Cup in Bali in 2013 and European Championships in 2014, won the Bronze medal in the Venice Cup in 2015 and the Olympiad in Istanbul in 2004, and won the World Mixed Teams in Rhodes in 1996.



In addition, she has won a record 13 Lady Milne trophies; eight of them partnering Sally Anoyrkatis, and five in partnership with Nicola Smith.

Undoubtedly, Heather's most significant and enduring partnership has been with Jeremy Dhondy. They married in 1992 and were the winners of the European Open mixed teams in Antalya 2007 and the Hubert Phillips Bowl (1997), Jeremy and Heather regularly play on several teams together. Heather has been a member of the EBU board, has previously served as Chair of the Laws & Ethics Committee, the Tournament Director Development Group and the EBU Selection Committee.

Lady Milne 2023

SBU



 **Katharine Bailey**

Katharine Bailey lives in Edinburgh and this is her first time representing Scotland in the Lady Milne. She is delighted to be playing with her long standing friend and bridge partner Amanda Douglas.

Katharine is a Chartered Surveyor and Property Developer and has recently started a new holiday property business in the Scottish Highlands.

She has lived in Edinburgh for all of her adult life, with husband Jonathan and daughter Olivia, who has medalled as a junior bridge international for both Scotland and

England.

Katharine enjoys a variety of activities, particularly walking her dogs, wildlife photography, wild swimming, as well as cooking and reading a LOT of books (over 120 in 2022!).

In her spare time, Katharine bakes and decorates birthday cakes for a children's charity, and she is also a volunteer Puppy Raiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Katharine is pictured here with Pilot, her current Guide Dog puppy.

 **Amanda Douglas**

I am a mother of three, granny to two boisterous boys and wife to a hardworking farmer.

I started playing social bridge 25 years ago. I was encouraged by friends to be brave and join a Bridge Club so I joined the Melville Bridge Club. I did three years of bridge lessons there taught by the wonderful late Iain Crorie and then did lessons taught by the equally wonderful Iain Sime.

I have had, and do have, several bridge partners and they have all contributed to making me the bridge player I am today.



I am honoured and excited to be representing my country doing something I love with my great friend Katharine.



**Lucia Barrett**

**Veronica Guy**



**Joan Forsyth**

Joan played bridge as a child with her mother, aunt and maternal grandfather.

Whilst at Glasgow University, studying medicine, she played bridge in the Royal Infirmary's refectory, "the Mungo", along with Gerald Haase, a classmate.

Her other claim to bridge fame is that Harry Smith was briefly in her school year at Dundee High School.

She is a Medical Fellow with an MBA in Public Policy and Master of Public Health Medicine.

Her short Bridge biography includes: - winning the National Stirling Pairs in 2011/12, being part of the winning Scottish Women's team in the National event in 2017/18, and winning the Harrison ranked Individual for Regional Masters and above in 2022. She was the last President of the SBU from May 20 to March 22, and is currently a Trustee.

As a new partnership she and Eilidh are excited to be given this opportunity to represent the SBU.



**Eilidh Rennie**

Eilidh has played bridge since her early 20s with the exception of the 12 years that she lived in France. Covid restrictions and new opportunities to play online led her to rediscover her passion for the game and to take it up seriously again. Family ties (and Brexit!) have brought her back to Scotland but she still spends a lot of time in France. She worked as an investment dealer in Scotland and a teacher/lecturer in France.



## **Jim Hay NPC**

Jim is from Aberdeen. He is married 2 grown up children and 4 grandchildren ranging from 5 years old to a few weeks.

He has been called many things in his life but now only answers to Papa. When he retired from being a criminal defence lawyer he was able to rejoin the human race.

Most likely to be found nowadays in a coffee shop with a Times crossword or on a 3 hour bus trip to Edinburgh listening to a Grateful Dead concert. Life is good.