

MALCOLM SIMPSON

24th April 1937 - 6th November 2014

A Tribute

I had known Malcolm all of my bridge playing career – initially as a team mate (with partner Alan Parker) and then as my ‘favourite’ partner for many years, playing virtually every week for about 20 years from about 1980 until Malcolm and Rose left the area and moved to Wokingham when ill-health set in. We spent many a happy lunch hour at Harwell Laboratory bidding hands and discussing complicated bidding systems... I’ve still got a copy of our latest system notes to this day.

Malcolm was one of the early members of Abingdon Duplicate Bridge Club, serving on the committee in various roles and representing the club at every level in the Oxfordshire Wessex League. He was made a life member of the club. We played in many national competitions together, including the Gold and Crockfords Cups, Swiss Teams events, the National Pairs and representing Oxfordshire in the Corwen Trophy. We also represented Oxfordshire in some County events. Malcolm also enjoyed teaching and taught several members of the club. He was a member at several local clubs, including Abingdon, Wallingford and Wantage – where he played regularly with Rose. He was always extremely courteous at the table, often complimenting the opposition on their defence or declarer play.

Malcolm was also the very first editor of Oxfordshire’s Newsletter and he really enjoyed participating in the annual bridge match between Abingdon and Wallingford – the ‘Len Salmon’ Trophy. He was very proactive in wanting to perform in the initial ‘Challenge’ that was such an integral part of those early events.

He was a very good player, teacher, partner and most of all a good friend. My sympathies go out to his wife Rosie, children Jeremy, Melvin and Caroline and the grandchildren.

Clive Keep
November 7th 2014