

KCBA committee - 1938

The first KCBA committee was elected on 21 May 1938 during the congress held at The Spa Hotel in Tunbridge Wells. Further details of the members elected are set out below:-

John Pearson (1872 – 1959) - chairman

John Westall Pearson was born 13 November 1872 in Gainsborough. He was educated at Repton school. John married Agnes Alice Erskine (surname unknown) on 18 September 1900 in Glasgow. By 1921 John & his family had moved to Manor House, Bishops Down in Tunbridge Wells. In 1921 John was elected as a member of the Tunbridge Wells & Counties Club. He was honorary secretary of the club for over 35 years. His wife Agnes also played bridge. At the time of the election John had recently retired but he had been a seed crusher & then a managing director. John remained president of KCBA until his death on 17 April 1959 in Tunbridge Wells. In 1950 John was elected as chairman of the EBU which post he held for a year. Then in 1952 he elected chairman again & this time he served until 1955. Once his term as chairman was over he was the first vice president of the EBU, a position he held until 1958. Further details of John can be found in the KCBA people section of the archive.

Joyce Buck (1905 – 1991) – treasurer

Joyce was the wife of George Buck who was also on the committee. Joyce Isabel Clark was born 28 October 1905 in West Norwood. In the 1911 census she was living at 13 Hayes Road in Bromley with her parents & sister. She married George in 1928 in Thanet. They were both members of Birchington Bridge Club & she regularly played with George. In April 1937 Joyce played with Marjorie Steer Watkins (another committee member) for Kent in a team of 56 against Surrey at The Spa in Tunbridge Wells. She was part of the winning Arnold Cup team in the first year it was played in 1938 partnering George. In September 1939 when the National Register was compiled George & Joyce were recorded living at Tappington, Shakespeare Road in Margate. When George was killed while flying on 15 February 1942 Joyce was living at 55 Grove Wood Close in Chorley Wood although they still had a house in Birchington. Joyce remarried in 1948 in Thanet to James McKenzie & she died 4 December 1991 in Cirencester.

Maud Harvey (1901 – 1990) – secretary

Maud was the wife of Eric Harvey who was also on the committee & daughter of John Pearson the chairman. Matilda Agnes Alice Pearson was born 14 November 1901, it is thought in Scotland. Maud married Eric Blake Harvey on 18 April 1928 at St George, Hanover Square. Maud initially ran the KCBA as honorary secretary from a room in 12 Boyne Park in Tunbridge Wells. In September 1939 when the National Register was compiled Eric & Maud were living in Molyneux Park Road in Tunbridge Wells.

Maud subsequently in 1949 married Reginald Harvey Corbett, who was known as Rex. Rex & Maud then run the West Kent club together until the early 1960s when they moved to live just outside Crowborough.

Maud continued as honorary KCBA secretary and in 1958 she organised the first post war Kent Congress at the Grand Hotel in Folkestone. In 1968 she resigned as KCBA secretary but continued to run the congress.

Maud won various KCBA cups over the years including the Fleming Femina in 1959, Brook Cup in 1963, Dyer Smith in 1966 & the Pearson Cup in 1953 and 1963. She died 28 July 1990 while living at Boarshead just outside Crowborough. Further details of Maud can be found in the KCBA people section of the archive.

Marjorie Steer Watkins (1893 – 1974) – district secretary - Birchington

Marjorie Grace Russell was born 1 December 1893 in Upper Tooting & in the 1911 census was a boarder at a school in Darley Road in Eastbourne. She married Frank Clayton in 1914 in Wandsworth & then in 1925 married a widower Eustace Franklin Steer Watkins in Marylebone. In April 1937 Marjorie played with Joyce Buck for Kent in a team of 56 against Surrey at The Spa in Tunbridge Wells. She was part of the winning Arnold Cup team in the first year it was played in 1938 partnering Mrs Jupp with George & Joyce Buck as the rest of the team. Marjorie & Eustace owned two properties & when the 1939 register was compiled on 29 September Eustace was living in Chelsea & recorded as an automobile agent & Marjorie was residing at Shakespeare Road in Birchington. Eustace died 16 March 1970 at which time they were living in Martello House, Cliff Road in Folkestone. Marjorie died 21 May 1974 in a nursing home in Westgate on Sea.

Denys Cleaver (1896 – 1969) – district secretary - Folkestone

Denys Christopher Digby Cleaver was born 28 December 1896 in Forfarshire in Scotland. He grew up just outside Aylesbury where his father William was a clergyman. Denys married Thelma Julie Petersen in 1919 in Kensington. Thelma was a professional mezzo soprano & Denys sometimes accompanied her when she sang pieces which he had composed. In April 1937 Denys played with Dr Buttery for Kent in a team of 56 against Surrey at The Spa in Tunbridge Wells. Denys won the Buck Cup in 1939 playing with Mrs Scrutton. Thelma also played bridge as she qualified for the Buck Cup final in 1938. When the 1939 register was compiled on 29 September Denys & Thelma were living at 11 Earls Avenue in Folkestone & he was recorded as a captain of a light AA battery. Denys died 20 April 1969 at Torbay Hospital while living at Rock Road in Torquay. Thelma died 4 October 1981 in Kensington & Chelsea.

Helen Bower (1895 – 1948) – Rochester

Helen Muriel Comber was born 21 October 1895 in Toft in Cheshire. She married Cyril Wichelo Bower in 1918 in Bucklow district. Cyril was born 3 February 1893 in Hayes, Kent & joined the Navy at a very young age. He served as a Lieutenant Commander on SS Hardy in the Battle of Jutland in 1916 before retiring in 1932. In April 1937 Helen played with C Stignant for Kent in a team of 56 against Surrey at The Spa in Tunbridge Wells. When the 1939 register was compiled on 29 September Helen was living at 24B Star Hill in Rochester & was recorded as a bridge club secretary. Cyril was not recorded so he was almost certainly serving with the Navy. In 1940 Helen was ARP car driver. Helen died 8 August 1948 at her home Rowley Brow in Knutsford, Cyril was recorded as a retired captain Royal Navy. Cyril died 10 January 1973 while living at Fordwich near Canterbury.

Captain Charles Ennals (1880 – 1951) – Sutton Valence

Charles Cutland Ennals was born 4 June 1880 in Louth. He joined the Navy at a young age & was promoted to midshipman in 1897 & then to sub lieutenant in 1900. In the 1901 census he was recorded as a sub lieutenant although the location of his ship was not disclosed. He married Rosalind Mary Abbott in 1906 at Croydon. Rosalind was born 26 October 1881 in Stoke Newington. In the 1911 census he was stationed as a lieutenant on HMS Illustrious in Weymouth while Rosalind & son Charles were living in Portsmouth. He served as Commander on SS Collingwood in the Battle of Jutland in 1916. He retired from the Navy in 1926. In April 1937 Charles played with A B Derrick for Kent in a team of 56 against Surrey at The Spa in Tunbridge Wells. When the 1939 register was compiled on 29 September Rosalind was living at South Side, Headcorn Road in Sutton Valence. Charles was not recorded so he was almost certainly serving with the Navy again as anybody in the forces was not included in the register. Rosalind died 2 December 1941 in Sutton Valence. Charles died 21 May 1951 at Hopedene Nursing Home in Worthing while living at Offington Lane in Worthing.

Sybil Ada Crowdy (1886 – 1951) – Chislehurst

Sybil Ada Harvey was born 6 April 1886 in Kensington to Henry Nicholas & Ada Ellen. Her father died 14 December 1892 in Cornwall where he was an engineer. Ada subsequently married Cyril Eden Michael. Sybil married Charles Whitton Crowdy in 1914 in Croydon. Charles was born 23 December 1864 in Torquay. In April 1937 Sybil played with Mrs Clark for Kent in a team of 56 against Surrey at The Spa in Tunbridge Wells. When the 1939 register was compiled on 29 September Charles & Sybil were living at 3 Bromley Lane in Chislehurst & Charles was recorded as a solicitor. Charles died 12 October 1945 in Bexleyheath although his residence was recorded as 1 Southampton Place, Bloomsbury Square in London, which was probably his office. Sybil died 7 September 1951 in South Africa.

Lt Col Archibald Jameson (1877 – 1949) – Folkestone

Archibald Douglas Jameson was born 16 October 1877 in Southsea in Hampshire. He attended Dulwich College & then Edinburgh Academy from 1891 to 1894 after his family moved to Scotland. Archibald married Ella Muriel Thomas on 1 June 1908 in Eastbourne. Ella was born 1877 in Durban. Archibald served in the Royal Army Medical Corp from 1900 starting as a Lieutenant & after various promotions became a Lieutenant Colonel in 1917. He served in the Boer War & also in WW1 where he served in India from 1915. He retired from the RAMC on 21 June 1924. In April 1937 Archibald played with Major Phillimore for Kent in a team of 56 against Surrey at The Spa in Tunbridge Wells. In May 1938 he qualified for the Buck Cup final playing with A Walter of Deal. He also played golf at Folkestone Golf Club, in 1925 he won the Hong-Kong Challenge Cup. Archibald died 20 August 1949 at his home 95 Bouverie Road West in Folkestone. He left a widow Ella, who continued to live in the same house & died 25 December 1964 at Ashford Hospital.

George Buck (1906 – 1942) – Birchington

George was the husband of Joyce Buck who was the treasurer. George Rupert M Buck was born 24 October 1906 in Kensington. He married Joyce Isabel Clark in 1928 in Thanet. In 1929 he was living at The Den, Epple Bay Road in Westgate on Sea. He was a master at Grenham House School, a boarding school in Birchington.

George started playing in the Gold Cup in the very early years as there was a report in The Times of him winning a first round match in December 1933. In the 1934/5 & 1935/6 competitions his team won through six rounds before eventually losing in the quarter final. George was the captain of the winning Arnold Cup team in the first year it was played in 1938 partnering Joyce.

In September 1939 when the National Register was compiled George & Joyce were recorded living at Tappington, Shakespeare Road in Margate & George was described as a stock jobber on London Stock Exchange. However, soon after the outbreak of the second World War George joined the Royal Artillery but was then seconded to the Royal Air Force where he served as a gunner. He was killed while flying on 15 February 1942 & was buried in Clacton Cemetery in Essex. Further details of George can be found in the KCBA people section of the archive.

Eric Harvey (1893 – 1963) – Tunbridge Wells

Eric was the husband of Maud Harvey who was the secretary. He was born 19 September 1893 in Camberwell, the son of John Luck (a bank manager) & Laura Harvey. In the 1911 census he was living with his parents & siblings in Park Road in Dulwich & was a clerk in oil cake trade. He married Maud Pearson on 18 April 1928 at St George, Hanover Square. In September 1939 when the National Register was compiled Eric & Maud were living in Molyneux Park Road in Tunbridge Wells & he was recorded as a member of the Baltic Exchange.

Eric was in the winning Arnold Cup teams in 1949, 1951 & 1954 partnering Leslie Fleming & probably was also in the winning 1946, 1948 & 1952 teams. He also won the Buck Cup in 1939 playing with Dorothy Pearson. He died 1963 in Brighton district.

Mrs Turner – Hildenborough

Unfortunately no trace as insufficient details are known.

Edward Hussian (1895 – 1949) – Ramsgate

Edward played in the first Kent Congress held at The Spa in May 1939 & his team qualified for the final on Sunday evening. He was also a member of Ramsgate Chess Club & regularly played for the club in matches from 1925 onwards.

Edward Sabdul Hussian died aged 54 on 15 November 1949 in St Augustine Road in Ramsgate. At the time he was living at 15 Nelson Crescent in Ramsgate. There are no other records for Edward in the UK & it seems very likely he served in the Indian Army as a retired colonel in that army was one of the executors of his estate.

Marguerite Urry (1899 – 1961) – Deal

Marguerite Constance Halward was born 14 June 1899 in Canterbury. She married Alexander Claude Urry on 4 June 1924 at St Stephen in Hackington. Alexander was born 17 January 1883 in Margate. In April 1937 Marguerite played with Miss Vere for Kent in a team of 56 against Surrey at The Spa in Tunbridge Wells. When the 1939 register was compiled on 29 September Alexander & Marguerite were living at South Street in Deal & he was recorded as a bank manager & she was a temporary bank clerk. Alexander died 22 May 1952 at Victoria Hospital in Deal although they were by then living at 26b The Beach in Walmer. Marguerite died 1961 in Dover district.