

Very sadly, I must report the death of Henry Cooklin. He had retired as the Treasurer of the LCBA just last June.

Henry has been a member of the EBU/LCBA for around 50 years. He has played in the LCBA League for most of those years.

His main club was the Spencefield club. In 1969/70, then described as Spencefield Bridge Circle, the team won Division 4 of the League. In the 1974/75 season, Henry shared in celebrating his team winning Division 3 and then Division 2 in the 1974/75 and 1988/89 seasons. The team then oscillated between Divisions 1 and 2 of the League winning Division 2 on three other occasions. The team's most recent win was in the 2005/06 season. It was sadly disbanded after the 2008/09 season.

Henry and his wife Beryl, were also both members of the Leicester Bridge Centre – founded for the start of the 1983/84 season - until its closure after the 2005/06 season. They both then joined the Blaby club and played regularly in the Blaby A team in the League.

Henry also enjoyed success in some of the events organised by the LCBA. He, partnering Ramnik Samani, won the Hyman Crammer event in 1990 and 1991. He was the captain of the winning Wilde Cup team in the 1988/89 season and he was a member of the winning team in the Leicestershire Cup Plate team in 2018.

Some while back, Henry also represented Leicestershire in the Midlands Counties League.

Henry's most notable contribution to the work of the Leicestershire Contract Bridge Association was most definitely his 30 year stint as Treasurer. He joined the committee for the 1988/89 season and then took on the role of treasurer between 1989 and 2019. He was instrumental in ensuring that the association operated within its means and kept a healthy balance of funds.

In 2009, very deservedly, Henry was awarded Life Membership of the LCBA in recognition of this service.

I first worked alongside Henry as the LCBA Membership Secretary at the start of 1996. At that time, the association was responsible for collecting all the EBU/LCBA membership fees. Each season up to £8000/£9000 passed through Henry's hands. Since the development of the Pay to Play system of collecting all membership fees, this burden has changed considerably. Nevertheless, many tasks still fell to Henry. I am sure Beryl will have memories of him counting out the cash prize monies for the numerous winners and runners up in all the LCBA events!

In 2018, Henry very kindly agreed to act as the Guest of Honour at the LCBA AGM. It was a great pleasure for us all to give him a pen to mark the occasion and to welcome Beryl to the event and give her a thank you bouquet.

It remains to say – thank you Henry for all your hard work in support of the contract bridge players of Leicestershire.