

Susan Bowyer 1956 – 2018

Susan (“Sue” to all who knew her) was a lively and lovely person, well known on the local bridge scene.

She learned to play the game at night school in Marjorie Hathaway’s classes and then played regularly at the County Club, starting in the late 1970s.

Following a disastrous and short-lived marriage Sue got divorced and married Paul Bowyer, with whom she formed a strong and very loving relationship. Away from the bridge table they were inseparable, going off on many holidays and working on cruise liners where they were popular bridge teachers.

In this regard Sue was the perfect foil for Paul – he taught the lessons and organised the duplicate sessions, Sue would calm down the more fractious passengers, organise appropriate partnerships and stroke some egos. In other teaching roles (in lessons at the County Club, for example) Sue was also an exemplary helper to Paul.

As well as this work Sue put in much valuable time for the LCBA. She spent a year as the Minutes Secretary, three years as the Tournament Secretary and five years as an LCBA committee member.

Sue was an accomplished player in her own right, rising to the rank of Life Master. She played in the Dawes (the County first team) on a few occasions and often played in the Porter or Markham teams.

The list of her achievements in local events is also impressive. As well as being a founder member of Clarendon (who have won the first division on numerous occasions) Sue also has her name on:

The Gimson Pairs Championship in 2007 and 2014
The Otto and Edith Mixed Pairs in 1991 and 1995
The Hyman Crammer pairs five times
The old Stanley Trophy (when it was a teams format) four times
The Butterworth-Langley trophy once
The Joyce Cup Mixed Pivot Teams four times as winning captain
The Leicestershire Cup twelve-time winner, eleven times as captain.
The Leicestershire Cup Plate once as captain.

Sue enjoyed playing a lot locally, with varied partners and at different locations. She focussed her time at the County Bridge Club and at Bradgate where everybody praised her approach, her attitude and her bravery. She always was very fair and stood up for the underdog, not allowing aggressive players to intimidate or bully weaker players. She will be sorely missed, not least by her husband of 34 years, Paul.