

Eddie McGeogh died suddenly and unexpectedly on Saturday 15 November.

Autumn is a busy time in the bridge calendar and in the last few weeks of his life Eddie had played bridge in a series of national competitions including the Aviemore Congress from the 7th to 9th November, the National League Division 2 on 1st and 2nd November and the Newtonmore congress in October; he also played locally on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th November. Eddie was a well-known and respected bridge player throughout Ayrshire and Scotland. News of his sudden death was a shock to the community of bridge players in Ayrshire and throughout Scotland

Eddie semi-retired to Ayrshire in 2008 and quickly became part of the bridge community within Ayrshire. Eddie played bridge to a very high standard and became a Grand Master in 2019 when he won, for the second time, the Bowman Trophy with Angela Knox. Eddie was a considerate partner and opponent being gracious at the table and very tolerant of those who did not possess his skill. Recently Eddie was part of the team which won the Viking Teams for 2025; he reflected then that he had won all Ayrshire competitions with the exception of the Bronze pairs. Living close to the bridge centre, Eddie was renowned for walking round with just enough time to pay his table money and sit down to play bridge; TDs learnt that once Eddie had arrived that it was time to start. Eddie never left a match without offering his thanks to the TD.

Eddie was President of the Ayrshire District of the SBU from 2013 to 2015. Despite no longer being on the Council of the Ayrshire District, Eddie continued to be very supportive in various ways. Indeed, Eddie was our go to man for all computer related issues of which there were many from rogue player databases to missing and lost club results, all of which he dealt with good naturedly and with humour. He was also involved in mentoring improving bridge players at the Doon Improvers and at Play

and Learn events where his input was greatly appreciated. Eddie assisted as TD of local heats of national competitions. Having experienced café bridge on the continent, Eddie also worked hard to introduce café bridge to Ayrshire, resulting in the annual event in Prestwick.

On his move to Ayrshire, Eddie volunteered to take over the computer support role, where he set about setting up the District website to record results. This soon developed into a full website of all things Ayrshire, which he almost singlehandedly looked after and continued to upgrade and improve for almost 15 years. In recognition of this he was made a Life Patron of the ABU in 2023.

Eddie was also President of the SBU from 2018 to 2020. One memory from that time was at an Aviemore Congress, when he ensured that a group of French bridge players felt included by giving part of his speech in French. There is a tribute to Eddie on the SBU website covering his time as President.

Eddie won several Scottish championships: the Bowman twice, the Men's Pairs and the Lord Thomson Trophy. Eddie played in the first Scottish team to win the Gold Cup Silver Plate in 2018; one of his team members recalls that event as the highlight of his bridge career. He was also a National Director at Peebles Congresses, Lady Milne and Senior Camrose International events.

Eddie was a well-known and respected bridge player as well as a willing organiser and director in the game both here in Ayrshire and throughout Scotland. News of his death was a shock to us all and he will be sadly missed. Ayrshire Bridge will be forever grateful for the contribution that he made.