

Pat Davies

Many of you will know that Pat Davies, together with Bob Rowlands, has been honoured with the EBU's Diamond Award. Our website has yet to inform you of the extent of Pat's achievements. Now seems an appropriate time to do so.

Pat's initial international success was in partnership with Sally Carpenter in the winning England Lady Milne Cup teams for 1976, 1977 and 1979. However, much more was to be achieved in her partnership with Nicola Smith, as a mainstay of the very successful British Women's Team from 1981-1999. During this period the team won two golds in the World Championship (Venice Cup), three silvers in the Olympiads, and three golds in the European Championships. England won the Lady Milne on all five occasions when Pat and Nicola were selected.

The success of this partnership was not confined to women's events. With male team-mates they won the 1991 Gold Cup and followed up with the following year's Spring Foursomes. One of their lesser-known achievements was as runners-up to Helgemo & Helness in the invitational 1998 Macallan/Sunday Times Pairs Championship, coming just ahead of the other women's pair, Sabine Auken & Daniella von Arnim, and leaving in their wake names like Wolff, Hamman, Robson, Forrester, Sharif, Chemla, Meckstroth, Zia, Mari, Lauria and Versace.

In her partnership with Jan Mendela and team-mates Valerie and Peter Austwick, Pat won the 1977 Hubert Phillips Bowl. Although she disclaims any great skill in pairs, her partnership with Chris Dixon has won the National Pairs twice and also come second twice.

As a bridge CV this must be rated as Not Bad. And it's worth bearing in mind that Pat has always earned her livelihood outside bridge.

James Dunlop

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