

Jimmy Allan (b 1915)

Camrose 1958-63, 5 matches, 3 wins

Jimmy wrote a column in 'The Practitioner', and contributed to various bridge magazines, including articles in the *Scottish Bridge News*. A medical doctor in general practice, Jimmy always found time to visit ailing bridge players in hospital. His bridge career began before the War, in the Edinburgh University Union. When, in 1945, reappeared in the Union in his Captain's uniform, he claimed that the assembled company addressed respectfully as 'Sir' — till he played his first hand.

Jimmy was an excellent golfer, playing off scratch in prime, and a fine all-round sportsman. He acted as roving ambassador for bridge in the Highlands, his spiritual home: he took teams to play friendly matches in the far North, and rarely missed the Congresses at Aviemore and Strathpeffer. His greatest partnership was with Galloway Shearer, but he was always in demand as an adaptable and easy-going partner.

"A shrewd psychologist rather than a theoretician, Jimmy is at his best when playing with the other 'good Doctor' (Galloway Shearer) and they have a remarkable record of successes, especially at match pointed pairs. Jimmy is a master of deportment at the table and an exceptionally fine performer in an individual event where partnership adaptability is the keynote." (John MacLaren)" A gentleman of the old school, renowned for his courtesy to partners, team-mates and directors. As fierce a competitor as any, he never let adverse results affect his manner towards others, or his demeanour at the table. A tough opponent, but a pleasure to welcome to your table." (Iain Sime) His taught his wife Margaret to play (which is much the same as teaching your spouse to drive) and she accompanied him to the Gleneagles Congresses before joining the Melville Bridge Club in 1959. She became a fair player in her own right, winning the Scottish Women's Cup in 1985.