

## Ken Baxter (1939-2006)

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| Gold Cup           | 1980   |
| Camrose            | 1977-05, 17 matches, 8 wins, Winning series: 1978-79   |
| Junior Camrose npc | 1988-91, 2 series  |
| National Trophies  | Scottish Cup x3, National Pairs x3, Rayne Cup x5, BBL Cup, Edwin Berry x4Men's Teams x2, Junior Pairs, Senior Pairs, Benjamin, Bowman, Arthur x2 |
| President's Prize  | 2001 (Jim Wilcox)  |
|                    | 63rd President of the SBU: 2002-03.  |

In retirement Ken wrote "Pairs at the Club", which is still being serialised in the Scottish Bridge News. Ken came from a card-playing family (his mother was still winning at whist well into her eighties) but his first experience of bridge came when he sat down to watch a group of students in the Aberdeen University Zion. He soon picked it up, and began to excel.

After graduation Ken became a schoolteacher, which did not suit his temperament. He moved to Edinburgh, and joined Standard Life as a computer programmer. He and his wife Rosemary had two children, Keith and Susan. Keith was born with a club foot, and tragically stopped breathing for six minutes during the operation to correct the defect.

His handicap affected Ken's marriage: latterly he was separated from his wife and family.

One achievement unlikely to be repeated came in season 1968-69 when he won both the National Pairs, with Fred Short, and the Frischmann Junior Pairs, with Sandy Duncan (in those days Juniors were under 30, not under 25). Ken travelled widely to bridge events abroad. With John MacLaren he played in British Senior teams at the European Championship in

Montecatini (1997) and Malta (1999) where he also acted as playing captain. When Scotland gained separate representation he became a regular in our Senior team. He was rather proud of his Butler average with

John MacLaren at the World Olympiad in Maastricht (2000): they headed the ranking list, but had not played enough boards together to earn official recognition. He made it into the Scottish Open team in Malmo (2004), but did not do himself justice, probably because he was already beginning to suffer from lung cancer. He participated in the World Open Championship in 1994 (Albuquerque), 1998 (Lille), and 2002 (Montreal). He played in every European Mixed Teams event, from 1990 till 2002 (except 1998 in Aachen where he came as a spectator) and in the European Open Pairs in Rome (1995), The Hague (1997) and Sorrento (2001). When these events were combined into the Open European Championship he played in the mixed events and Senior Pairs in Menton (2003) and Tenerife (2005). Ken made friends easily. It was his friendship with Goran Mattson, President of the German Bridge Federation, which led to Scotland's invitation to participate in the Bonn Nation's Cup in 2004/2005.