

Tom Culbertson d 1985

Camrose 1967-84, 17 matches, 11 wins, 1 tie,
Winning series:1969-70; 1973-74; 1975-76

Gold Cup 1969

Tom's first sport was badminton, for which he gained blues both at St Andrews University while taking classics degree, and at Edinburgh University where he later read law. He taught Classics, first in Greenock, later in Morgan Academy, Dundee. He came to bridge in the 60s, when he formed a very successful partnership with Hugh Kelsey.

They were members of the first Scottish team to win the Gold Cup in 1969, and they were invited to play in British Trials on several occasions.

His other major partnership was with John MacLaren who, in his opinion, was a magnificent player with less than magnificent methods.

Tom travelled widely in search of national master points. In 1975 he won both the Congress Pairs and the Four Stars Teams at the EBU Summer Congress with Iain Thomson.

He was so anxious to become Scotland's first Grand Master, ahead of Ian Morrison, that he drove back from an English event like a bat out of hell to hand Morag Davidson the few remaining points he required some time after midnight. He was the leading player on the master point ranking lists from 1975 till his sudden death in 1985. He died in his sleep, appropriately enough after a winning session of teams at the EBU Summer Congress in Brighton.