

## Nancy Atkinson



Nancy Atkinson's mother Esme Johnstone was a well-known London bridge player.

The third placed pair in the trials for the 1949 Camrose team was Nancy Atkinson and Matthew McLernon whom the bridge correspondent of the Belfast Newsletter described as 'a recent combination which promises well.' Matthew McLernon had represented Northern Ireland in the Camrose in 1947.

Nancy Atkinson played on the Northern Ireland team in 19 Camrose matches starting in 1949 and ending in 1966. Nancy's first Camrose partner was Matt McLernon with whom she played in 1949 and 1950 in 2 matches including the win against Scotland. She played with Maurice Gabbey in 9 matches between 1950 and 1959 when Northern Ireland scored three victories against Wales and one against Scotland. For the 3 matches in 1951 her partner was Wallace McCallum with a win against Scotland.

After Maurice Gabbey stopped playing Camrose, Nancy partnered Eric Goldblatt in 2 matches, and then Davy Cohen in a further 3 matches including a win against Wales and the draw against England in 1965.

The 19 Camrose teams on which Nancy was a player won 7 matches and drew 1 match. Four of her winning matches were against Scotland and the other three wins were against Wales. The win rate of teams on which she played was 39.5%.

Nancy won the Northern Ireland Mixed Pairs in 1958 and the Belfast Pairs in 1959 partnered by Maurice Gabbey.

Nancy was a member of winning Mackinnon Cup teams in 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1952 and 1962, and of the winning Northern Ireland Teams Championships in 1965.