



**Willie Coyle**  
**1937 – 2023**

Willie Coyle was widely considered to be Scotland's greatest ever bridge player. In partnership with Victor Silverstone he played in the Camrose Trophy from the mid-1960s to the late 70s, winning six times and drawing twice. In the days before devolution, Willie played six times in the Great Britain Open team. In 1976 in Monte Carlo, he won a World Bridge Federation bronze medal in the fifth Bridge Olympiad. Willie won the Bridge Great Britain Gold Cup four times, three with a Scottish team and finally with an English team in 1993, beating a Scottish team captained by Les Steel in the final. Initially a maths teacher, he became involved in school administration and performance measurement, earning an MBE for services to education in 2003.