

## CHRIS KINLOCH – AN APPRECIATION

I first met Chris at Basingstoke Bridge Club in late 1979 after I'd moved to Hampshire and a chance remark soon led to bridge partnership and friendship; we both also played with Ian Wallis at Basingstoke and Reading. He'd already been successful at club, county and tournament level, but more followed – he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1982 National Masters pairs and first reserve for the Camrose pre-trial the same year. Although I moved away and played much less, I kept in touch and was delighted by his ongoing results including winning the National Pairs with Miles Cowling in 2008 while he played with me in last year's Corn Cairdis, the annual friendly match between the English and Irish Bridge Unions.

He was fiercely competitive but scrupulously ethical at the bridge table and left a lasting impression. When I played a few times at Preston bridge club a few years ago, some there still remembered him and were keen for news. In later years he was a respected and successful teacher at Basingstoke whose healthy membership was in contrast to falling numbers in many clubs.

Despite his cruel and sudden illness, he could still recall hands from many years back and, only a few days before his death, we still laughed about the following absurdly distributional hand from a Southern Counties (as was) against Sussex match for teams of 12 in the early 1980s. Par (even at the vulnerability) is 7♠ doubled minus 2 at adverse against a cold grand slam but what should South bid after East opens 1♥? 5N perhaps, or a sandbagging approach with 2♦ on the basis that the hand won't get passed out? The play didn't require any great skill but the bidding was more chaotic and the results memorable.

Dealer E, EW Vulnerable

	♠ 6	
	♥ 10 8 7 5 3 2	
	♦ 9 3	
	♣ Q J 7 4	
♠ A Q J 9 8 4 2		♠ K 10 7 5 3
♥ Q		♥ A K J 9 6 4
♦ 8 6 5		♦ J
♣ 9 5		♣ 2
	♠ None	
	♥ None	
	♦ A K Q 10 7 4 2	
	♣ A K 10 8 6 3-	

Chris and Ian Wallis persuaded West into thinking 7♠ was a phantom sacrifice and cheerfully made 7♦ redoubled for the best North South score while Dave Parry and I brought in 7♣ doubled by North. Not to be outdone, an opposing player bid 6♦ over 1♥ but, when doubled, ran to 7♦ which a stunned West passed. Two more tables featured massive but practical punts to 7♦ after 1♥, one doubled and one not, so the swing wouldn't be huge – or so it seemed. At the last table, South bid 2N over 1♥ and West bid 3♠ raised to 4♠. South bid a rather tame 6♦, East took the save in 6♠ and South wimped out again by doubling when 7♦ must surely have fair chances. Still, it is a plus score – or would have been until North, realizing that South hadn't any hearts, led one. So 6♠ doubled the other way rolled in for a large swing.

Chris is survived by Helen, his wife of 50 years, their son Martin, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. He will be sadly missed at the clubs where he played, at county events and on the tournament scene.