

Bill Bright (1917-2008)
Gay Bright (1919-2006)

William Norman John Bright was born on 19 October 1917 in Penang, Malaysia the son of William Henry and Abigail Bright, who were both born in Ireland. A few years later in the 1921 census William and Abigail were recorded in East Molesey with three children including Bill and William was working in the medical profession. On 29 September 1939 when the national register was compiled Bill was recorded as Norman and was still living, with his parents William and Abigail in East Molesey and his occupation was described as being engaged in chemical research at London University.

Grace Roberta Bond, but known as Gay, was born on 23 December 1919 in Hereford, the daughter of Edward & Lucy Farr, nee Boyd, Bond. In September 1939 she was recorded with living with her parents and two sisters at 9 Wessington Court in Ledbury. Her occupation was a student in London.

William married Gay in 1941 in Ledbury district of Herefordshire. In the 1950s they were living in Harrow but then moved to Kent, they lived in Sandy Mount in Bearsted for many years.

Bill & Gay were both awarded the Dimmie Fleming award for services to bridge in 1991, one of very few couples to receive the award at the same time. On receiving the awards they were described as the archetypal husband & wife team that formed the backbone of club bridge in the country.

Gay served as secretary of Maidstone Bridge Club from 1972 to 1990. In that capacity she was responsible for the organisation & planning of the Maidstone Christmas swiss teams event, which at that time was a very popular & well known event in the South East. She was also responsible for all the normal club activities. Gay was also recruited in the early 1980s to serve as Congress Secretary for the Kent Congress where her experience proved invaluable.

Bill was a Silver level bridge teacher & served on the KCBA committee as area secretary from 1977 to 1986. He assisted Gay in her administrative duties & was club Tournament director for many years.

They played in many KCBA competitions, almost always partnering each other. They won the Birkle Bowl, which at the time was the main Kent teams competition, in 1979.

In later years Bill wrote some scoring programs for match pointed pairs, he was mentioned in an article on bridge software in International Popular Bridge monthly in November 1984.

Gay died on 11 September 2006 & Bill on 16 September 2008.