

David Beal (1942-2020)

David William Beal was born on 6 March 1942 in Hitchin, the son of Alfred John and Alberta, nee Foster, Beal. He grew up in Bedfordshire.

In his younger years David worked for Norwich Union in their Maidstone branch in Earl Street. He became rather disgruntled with various things so left and started a new business installing kitchens. In the recession in the mid 1980's it became harder to find work so he eventually decided to go back to insurance. In 1987 he set up his own company Beal and Co Insurance Services, although subsequently he took on two partners. The business flourished and they were able to sell up in 2010 and David retired.

David started playing at Maidstone Bridge Club in the mid 1970's and soon formed a long standing and successful partnership with Jim Manning. He and Jim also enjoyed success in teams competitions playing with Geoff and Noel Horrocks. David at that time also played at Medway Bridge Club with Freda Wilding. After Jim moved away from the area he formed a number of successful partnerships, generally playing at Maidstone or Tunbridge Wells. One was with Angela Tompson whose book on teaching bridge he helped write. Another was with John Murrell who he played with at both Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. In later years he played regularly with Georgina Howe and Barry Quinnell and also played regularly at Farnborough.

Maidstone was David's main club and he played there for well over 40 years. He served on the committee in his earlier years as a member. He also played regularly for the club in competitions such as the Corbett Cup. He was part of the team which won the Corbett in 2005/6 playing with John Murrell. They subsequently qualified for the Garden Cities national final finishing 4th.

He started playing in KCBA competitions in the 1970's and partnering Jim Manning he won the Ingram Cup in 1975, which at the time was a competition for cadet pairs. They repeated the success in 1976. He won two more Kent cups with Jim before he moved away from Kent. David continued playing in county competitions for another 40 years and won 15 altogether, as listed below, with various partners.

David contracted Covid19 in December 2020 and was admitted to Maidstone Hospital where he sadly died on 25 December 2020.

KCBA cups won by David

1975	Ingram Cup	Jim Manning		
1976	Ingram Cup	Jim Manning		
1978	Fletcher Cup	Jim Manning	Geoff Horrocks	Noel Horrocks
1979	Owl Cup	Jim Manning	Geoff Horrocks	Noel Horrocks
1990	Lukey Cup	David Stretton	Liz Senior	P T Smith
1998	George Griffiths	Angela Tompson	John Murrell	George Bass
2001	Allnutt Cup	Angela Tompson		
2005	Arnold Plate	John Murrell	Geoff Smith	Daran Steele
2005/6	Corbett Cup	John Murrell	and 6 others	
2007	Brook Shield	John Murrell	Geoff Smith	Daran Steele
2007	Aveling Trophy	?		
2008	George Griffiths	John Murrell		
2015	Aveling Trophy	Georgina Howe	and 4 others	
2018	Aveling Trophy	Georgina Howe	Richard Sissons	Jenny Kendall
2019	Leonard Trophy	Georgina Howe	Richard Sissons	Jenny Kendall