

Mike Bell



Mike Bell, 31, was introduced to the game at Reading School. He loved experimenting with system from the start .

He soon entered the U20 trials, where he was introduced to one of the top U25s at the time, Michael Byrne. Mike benefited greatly from the squad system, and four years later, he and Michael formed a partnership. They went on to have much success together, including wins in the 2009 Camrose, two Lederers, the Chairman's Cup teams event in Sweden and the pairs at the prestigious Yeh Bros in Shanghai..

In 2013, Mike cashed out his chips, moved to London and became a full-time bridge player and teacher. Two years later he joined the Allfrey team, partnering David Gold; In the year to date, the squad has won the Camrose and the Spring Foursomes.

When not playing bridge, he may be found watching it instead - he has captained the England U25s, and will be coaching the U16s in the World Championships in Italy this summer, where he will be able deputy to the captain, Sarah O'Connor (his wife,

His love of bidding theory has endured - with David, Michael, Sarah and others, Mike plays his home-grown system, "TriBal", based on five-card majors and a 14-16 NT. 1D is opened with 11-13 balanced, 1C with 17-19 balanced, meaning both minors may be just two cards.

Major International Selections

Junior European Championships: 2009, European Champions Cup: 2015, Camrose Trophy Selections: 2009 (EBU team) 2011 2016 and 2017, Junior Camrose Selections: 2008 and 2009, Premier League Winner: 2010 and 2016 Spring Foursomes winner: 2016 and 2017 Two Stars Pairs winners: 2014 Tollemache Cup winner: 2016 and 2017 Sunday Telegraph Salver winner: 2016 Player of the Year Championship: 2015/16 - 11th=