

ENGLAND

Andrew Robson

Andrew Robson was given an OBE for "Services to the game of Bridge and to Charity" in this year's New Years Honours. A former World Junior and European Champion, he has won two US Majors and five Gold Cups. He runs the Andrew Robson Bridge Club in London with over 2000 members, writes daily for The Times and weekly for Country Life and Money Week. He has written over 20 books, mostly for the learning player. He travels Great Britain giving many Master Classes and leading Charity Bridge days. When not Bridging, Andrew likes to ride his mountain bike. He lives in London with his wife Lorna and two daughters.

Alexander Allfrey

Alexander Allfrey has been Andrew Robson's regular partner for 7 years and has played in the Camrose twice before - on the winning EBU team in 2009 and on the winning England team in 2012. In 2012 he was also on the winning team for the Gold Cup and Crockfords Cup, and runner-up in the Spring 4s. He also played for England in the World Mind Sports Games in Lille 2012 and is due to play for England in the World Team Championships in Bali 2013.

Tony Forrester

Tony Forrester won the European Youth Team Championship in 1978 and the European Team Championship in 1991. The latter win was in partnership with Andrew Robson, with whom he played for seven years. The pair also won the Cap Gemini and the Sunday Times-Macallan.

Playing for Rita Shugart's team, in 1998 he was the first Briton, with team-mate Robson, to win a prestigious US Major, the Reisinger, and the same squad won the event a second time the following year. With 39 caps for England in the Camrose Trophy, Forrester is second only to the late John Armstrong, with 40. Forrester has won the Gold Cup, the premier British teams competition, 11 times, putting him equal first in the all-time list to Boris Schapiro, who also had 11 wins. He won the Spring Foursomes in 1983, 1996, 1999 and 2009 and Crockfords Cup on nine occasions. He writes a daily column for the Telegraph newspaper.

David Gold

David Gold is perhaps best known for his partnership with Tom Townsend. They represented England in 3 European championships (qualifying for the Bermuda Bowl in 2004), 1 Bermuda Bowl, 2 World Team Olympiads and countless Camrose matches. The biggest success of his bridge career was narrowly losing to Italy in the final of the 2008 World Team Olympiad to capture the silver medal. For the last couple of years he has been playing with Tony Forrester, and they have already won the Premier League, Crockfords and most recently the Gold Cup. With the other two partnerships playing this weekend, they will represent England in the Bermuda Bowl in Bali later this year. When he is not playing bridge, David enjoys cooking, wining and dining and spending time with friends. Rumour has it that he has been going to the gym for the last few years but looking at him he perhaps needs to up the number of visits from once a month to at least once a week.

David Bakhshi

David is one of the leading bridge professionals in the UK, with numerous successes in domestic and international tournaments. He has represented England at the World Team Olympiad (2004) and the European Team Championships (2012), and has been chosen to represent England in the Bermuda Bowl (2013). David is also an accomplished teacher. He has released several tutorial bridge 'apps' in his 'BetterBridge' series, and has taught thousands of students over the last ten years.

Tom Townsend

Tom Townsend is 42 and has recently been dividing his time between his natural habitat of London, and Warsaw where his partner Ewa and 3-year-old son Max remain. Tom played on the British junior team captained by Raymond Brock which won the European and World junior championships in the mid-90s. The highlight of his open bridge career to date has to be reaching the final of the 2008 Olympiad in Beijing, not going down without a fight to the Italians. Tom is also very proud of his bronze medal (partnering David Gold) in the 2005 European pairs. David Bakhshi will be Tom's fourth Camrose partner after Jeffrey Allerton, David Price and David Gold. This partnership, arriving as last-minute reserves, played on the England team finishing fourth in last year's European Championships in Dublin, and will play for England in the Bermuda Bowl later this year in Indonesia

Simon Cope NPC

Simon is a 30 year old Bridge Professional from London, where he plays and teaches on a full time basis. Whilst he harbours his own ambitions in Bridge, his most memorable achievements involve roles as NPC or Coach of the open team - with a silver medal in Beijing in 2008 and qualification for this year's Bermuda Bowl in Bali among them. Away from bridge he enjoys tennis, golf, eating out with friends and his biggest passion is travel - wherever and whenever he gets the chance!