

# ENGLAND



## **John Atthey**

I grew up in Gloucestershire, and started playing bridge aged 10 having been taught by a friend of the family, before playing with my father in local events. I had a successful junior bridge career winning the Peggy Bayer several times, the Junior Camrose as well as playing in 4 Junior European championships. I have been fairly successful in the open game as well, with winning the Brighton Swiss Pairs, the Tollemache and Pachabo twice each amongst my successes. I am now looking forward to a first full Camrose cap in partnership with Neil Rosen.

Away from the bridge table, I work in Canary Wharf as an accountant, in my spare time I enjoy watching films and sport, as well as learning how to cook.



## **Neil Rosen**

Neil has won many of Britain's major events, including the Gold Cup and the Spring Foursomes, several times. He has also won the previous incarnation of the Premier League and has represented England on many occasions.

Neil has played in the Camrose with Phil King, Peter Crouch, Martin Jones and now with John Atthey.

Neil is married to Anne, herself an English Ladies International. They have two children – Nikki (23) and Andrew (18). They live in North London where Neil owns and manages a full-time bridge club – the Ace of Clubs.



### **Keith Bennett**

Keith, born in 1975, started playing bridge as a teenager with his family who learnt the basics together. He also played a little at school and arguably too much at university which led to a junior partnership with Richard Hillman. After an enjoyable decade partnering Jeremy Dhondy, the junior partnership was reformed and is still going strong. Never adventurous with system they still play the same 5 card major weak no trump structure, but intend on experimenting with the strong no trump next year after gentle encouragement from team mates. Keith has won a few national events including the Portland Bowl, NICKO and Tollemache.

Keith met his wife Suzanna at the bridge table and they play together once a year in the Hubert Philips. Keith works in technology for an investment bank and lives in North London with Suzanna and three children. Outside of bridge he enjoys playing squash and the piano.



### **Richard Hillman**

Richard played for England partnering Keith Bennett as a Junior but this is his first time playing for England as a 'grown up'. He has won the Tollemache, Hubert Phillips Bowl and NICKO. He lives in North West London and works for Transport for London.



### **Michael Byrne**

Michael Byrne was born in the 'late eighties' and lives in Manchester, where he teaches bridge full time as part of the MSB teaching school. He teaches between 50 and 100 people a week and makes every effort to remember their names, succeeding with a suspiciously high success rate.

His career as a junior international started when he was selected for the U20 team and managed to capture the Peggy Bayer on Scottish soil. He subsequently won the Junior Camrose 3 times, before representing the U25 team in two European Championships, a World Championships, three European Pairs Championships, and three Channel trophies.

The majority of his success however has come as a non-playing captain and in his capacity as Under 20 squad Leader he has captained his players to two World Championship Silver medals (in Beijing in 2008 and Philadelphia in 2010) as well as the Peggy Bayer (he has been successful NPC seven times - the most of any NPC in the event's history) and the Channel trophy (something he never achieved as a player!).

Away from the bridge table (although admittedly he doesn't spend much time there), Michael enjoys cooking, watching films and he is a keen quizzer, competing every week in Manchester. He was also part of the "5 diamonds" EBU team that went on eggheads in 2015, although as the 6th man he never made it onto the actual TV programme.



### **Kieran Dyke**

Kieran is an Australian who moved to England five years ago. He works as a part-time professional bridge player.

He has won a bunch of national events in Australia and a few in England, but his proudest bridge achievement is a bronze medal in the European Open Teams in Tromso.

Kieran divides his time between London and west Oxfordshire. He enjoys most types of games and lives most of his life to a soundtrack of 1970s progressive rock music.



### **Jeremy Willans NPC**

Born in Kent in 1959, I started playing bridge aged 16 during the school holidays encouraged by my grandfather, Lundie Rees, who ran a bridge club in Somerset and was one of the first to host P&O bridge cruises. I was a stockbroker for more than 30 years commuting from Tunbridge Wells and retired in 2019 to concentrate on more golf, bridge and travel. As a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, I chair the committee that organises the annual Inter-Livery Bridge Competition and I currently serve on the EBU Selection Committee.

Perhaps my first significant win was the Swiss Pairs at the Brighton Summer Congress in 1980 and a particularly memorable success was at the Welsh Nationals in 1993 winning the Main Pairs, as well as the Swiss Teams and the Men's Pairs, which promoted me to Grand Master, aged 34.