

**ENGLAND
JUNIOR CAMROSE TEAM**



Jonathan Clark

Jono's trademark "model" smile, often used to disguise the grimace as partner forgets the system, yet again.

Known as "John-No" in an effort to make him more <something>, he often feels he missed his calling in life as the conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (look out for him taking cards out of his hand and waving them around for a few beats before placing them on the table). Jonathan left the Cambridge University Bridge Club last year after his partner and club treasurer, Kripa, decided they could no longer afford his travel expenses despite them being no more than anyone else's (Jono hasn't worked this one out yet). He defected to Imperial College where he is hoping to show Cambridge who's boss by winning the Portland Bowl (the fact he thinks he's got a chance is kinda cute) whilst he does a masters in computer science on the side. He first learnt how to play bridge in secondary school where he would play most lunchtimes with friends. His favourite bridge strategy is to look for obscure squeezes (that don't exist) until his opponents go to sleep before claiming one down.



Kripa Panchagnula

Kripa is no longer 23 and held the title of stingiest Cambridge University Bridge Club Treasurer as an undergrad over the last 4 years, only paying out for food, drink and his travel expenses (NB new playing cards have been bought for the first time in eons much to his dismay and during a pandemic nonetheless). He thought this wasn't enough, and decided to start a PhD to get the coveted title as a postgrad. Year on year he refused to take the discounted offer of CUBC beginner lessons, despite placing all the cards in the hand incorrectly when opponents played "not bridge" and managing to get one card endings wrong. He and Jono have played together all their bridge lives (apart from when they didn't) and will do so in the future (until they decide they've had enough). Kripa is very concerned about this Junior Camrose as he has figured out they are like finesses with his 50% win rate and is worried about which way this one is going.



Daniel Winter

Dan is very tall. That is all.

Dan is known for playing bridge at a very high level. That level being 7'3 exactly.

As an avid opposer of ceilings, Lockdown was especially hard on Dan. And he was very disappointed when he heard that the Camrose would be held online - it meant that he wouldn't be able to peek at his opponent's hand by looking over the top of the screen. When not playing bridge, he likes to quote Game of Thrones and commission poetry. In his honour we have attached such a poem.

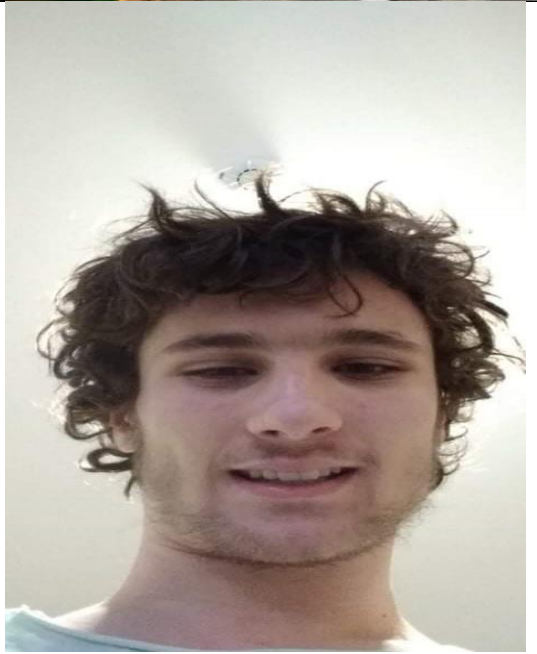
There once was a man named Dan Winter.

Who was known as a great bidding thinker.

His partner bid fast.

And Dan Winter passed.

Unfortunately, it was a splinter.



Sam Anoyrkatis

Here we can see the angelic Sam, with his shining halo, but opponents beware! He is not beneath stealing IMPs from you.

Sam is a man of the sea. Normally that term is used frivolously, but he really does swimming off the North Devon coast every day. Obviously he found this more difficult when he started attending Oxford University (since Oxford is one of the most inland places in the country) but he solved this by engineering the Corona Virus hoax in order to move back home and do remote learning.

Sam has played many of these events before, but this is his first in partnership with Daniel, who as a Cambridge student is his natural enemy. Having known each other for 6 years they felt it was finally time they spoke to each other, and thus a partnership was born.



Ewa Wiczorek

Ewa's glower is often reserved for partner when presenting their dummy which is usually disappointing and far less than they promised.

Ewa is currently a bridge player at Oxford University pretending to do her PhD in chemistry. She often finds herself working when she should be playing but surely a successful campaign at the Junior Camrose will help reverse that. When she isn't ~~playing~~ working, she frequently finds herself rock climbing. This is hypothesised to be as a result of her contracts placing herself between a rock and a hard place, so she is possibly confused and thinks she is still playing bridge. Unlike most humans, Ewa hasn't stuck to traditional social norms but prefers the company of squirrels and rather unfairly on them, takes them for walks in the freezing winter cold, something from her Polish heritage I'm sure.

She is the most disciplined member of the team, having learnt great pain by playing with Charlie Bucknell.



Charlie Bucknell

Astute readers will notice in this year's edition of "spot the difference" that it is a trick question.

Charlie Bucknell, 24, is a true bridge professional living in Oxford. During the day, he toils away as the EBU's popular tournament secretary, coping with absurd requests from left, right, and centre in his usual polite demeanour. At night, he takes out his frustration on the game we all know and love, jacking up the table with hefty doses of pzazz, ingenuity, chaos and sheer temerity. There are sure to be plenty of swings at Charlie's table.

Charlie is described as the most improved player on the team. But considering how he was at the start, this wasn't really a surprise. If there was a life ascenders prize, Charlie would win it twice.





NPC Nick Sandqvist

Squid (Game) Leader and celebrated parking space entrepreneur, and no, he doesn't go to the gym.

Nick, 52, has a very impressive career, having won the London Open, the Cambridge Open, and the Hither Green open tournament, the 2019 St Albans consolation cup and a close second in the Gottfried Open. All this time spent playing mini golf (staying true to his Swedish heritage) and backgammon probably explains why he never has time for bridge, and his love of lie-ins frequently leads to confusion in the team as to who should be playing in the morning matches.

Although this may count as a blessing as Nick himself claims he is "pure horror before breakfast".

Nick's top bridge tip is supposedly

"Bid more - bid earlier" but we all know this is really code for "bid 3nt in the first round of the auction".



Coach Stephen Kennedy

Even the blood in his veins runs yellow

Stephen Kennedy, known just as coach to his friends - or he would be if he had any - aged out last year but missed the team so much that a new role was invented for him. He's also doubling up as nutrition expert and stylist, with an aim to convert the team shirt to bright yellow.

There've been rumours of sightings before midday, but no one really believes in them. When he does join the team, though, he's a welcome contrast to the grave NPC, and under his cold exterior he's got a heart of stone.

Stephen, of whom the great Geir Helgemo once said; "Who?", is the author of several bridge books and also writes regularly in English Bridge under the name "Cros" - referring to his shoes.