

**SCOTLAND  
JUNIOR CAMROSE TEAM**



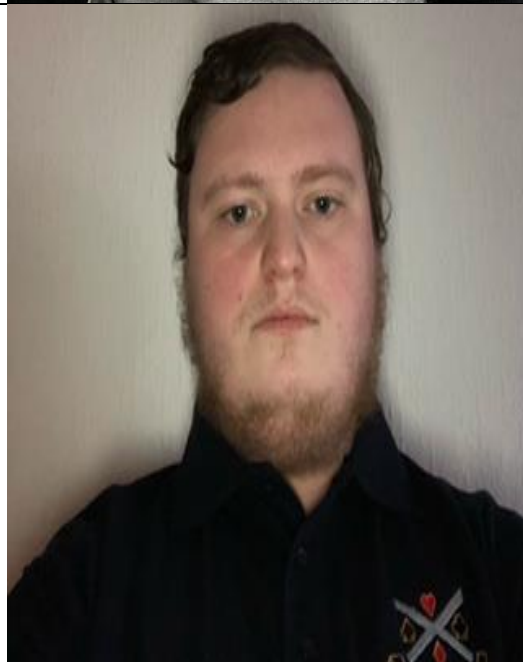
**Ronan Valentine**

Ronan is, unbelievably, still eligible for the Junior Camrose. He relocated to Helsinki in October 2021, where he lives with his wife and continues his “life-changing” work as a “teacher”. Since relocating, Ronan has won the Finnish Junior Pairs and Teams Championships. Ronan is hoping for an enjoyable final Junior Camrose to cap off what one analyst has described as a “junior bridge career”. This is Ronan’s 8<sup>th</sup> and final appearance in the Junior Home Internationals, and first with his new partner, Ewan Andersson.



**Ewan Andersson**

Ewan is the best player on the team... at replying to Alisdair’s emails. He is also a new addition to the team, having taken a couple of years out of the game (not through choice, it has to be said). Ewan lives in Ayr, from where (according to Google), on a *very* clear day, you can see the tip of Northern Ireland. As soon as Ayr *has* a very clear day, they’ll be able to check that. He’d love to tell you more about himself, but that was before his NPC found out that five sentences was apparently the maximum for what was “ideal”, so this will have to do.



**Donald Mackillop**

Donald is 24 and CLAIMS to be a recent graduate in Statistics from the University of St Andrews, but in fact he achieved this over a year ago. To be fair, I don’t think anyone counts the last two years as an accurate representation of time – Donald could show you some numbers and graphs to illustrate this (don’t tempt him). He hails from Fort William which means his NPC has to be careful not to tell anyone what he thought of the place on a recent visit. Donald’s International bridge adventures have taken him to Latvia in 2016 and Sweden in 2019, where he first paired up with his partner for this year’s event. Sadly, their age difference means that John’s first Junior Camrose will also be Donald’s last, but Donald hopes that he will have plenty more future exploits and play bridge all over the world – or at least in the rest of Scandinavia.



### **John Russell**

John confirmed in advance that he would be available for all three days of this event – he wouldn't have to work at all – so we can only assume he had to sell a piece of his soul for the privilege. It is quite possible he will play more boards this weekend than he's had days off since the age of 15. John was introduced to Bridge through the SBU North District's initiative to bring bridge into schools, and he's been hooked ever since. When he started playing in the club, he had the misfortune of normally playing with Alisdair. If Alisdair has ever regretted making contracts where he should've been 2 or 3 tricks light, it was then – because magically making doomed contracts just encouraged John to bid them all the more. John is our joker in the pack and takes over as our unofficial "Player-in-charge of team spirit". Just like his predecessor, John is unaware he has been appointed to this role.



### **Adam Tobias**

Adam and Wan-Hew are the only partnership on the Scotland team that have played together in the Junior Camrose before. That was last year, on the SBU team. Adam is hoping that this year he can tick more things off his "to-do" list, including win a match, and execute a double squeeze. (Of the two, the second one is way cooler). He studies medicine at the University of Edinburgh – at the mention of a course in medical statistics, the NPC swiftly introduced a safety measure that Adam should not be allowed to talk to Donald while anyone else is in the room. Adam is grateful for the tournament being held online again, as the only thing he has to worry about forgetting is his system. He once forgot his suitcase and almost got his NPC arrested. (Don't worry Adam; we don't still talk about that – honest). The other advantage of the tournament being online is that if we were actually all in Dublin, there'd be a real danger of Adam, Rufus and Alisdair grabbing a quiet table somewhere and playing chess instead.



### Wan-Hew Tran

Some say that he once made 7NT on an endplay... and that every time he overcalls with more than 10HCPs, a fairy applauds. Some say that he gave the Liverpool FC players a half-time team talk in Istanbul in 2006 – exactly one year after they'd won the Champions League there. Some say that he invented the perfect bidding system, but then forgot it all before he could write it down. Some say that he doesn't eat fish without written permission from the President of Finland... and that the reason he doesn't play Lebensohl is out of respect. Some say that he taught Sherlock Holmes the art of deduction – and that if *he'd* been put in charge of Brexit, the EU would now be part of the UK. Some say that he is the only Junior in history to not write his own pen pic two years running, and that he's not submitting a picture of himself until Scotland wins the Junior Camrose. All we know is: he's called Wan-Hew.



### Rufus Behr

Although currently living in Aberdeen whilst at University, Rufus grew up in a suburb outside New York City and lived in Qingdao, China, for half a year where he worked as a Data Science Intern. In addition to Bridge, he spends the majority of his time problem-solving, which is manifest in his other interests: chess, programming, computing languages etc – and his coursework as a Computing Science and Mathematics student.



### Lydia Foale

Originally from Edinburgh, when Lydia got rejected from art school, she ran away to Amsterdam to study maths. She has great ambitions for bridge; she hopes to be reserve in many more competitions, while her NPC hopes that Bridge will overtake poker as her "favourite" card game. She has hinted that a steady supply of Scotland shirts may facilitate this, which betrays her status as a newcomer – the veterans know how hard it is to get replacements! Current hobby: Road biking – she loves racing the trams and is convinced she will beat them one day. Favourite drink: Guinness. Height: Taller than you. Age: 22-Taylor Swift. Allergies: Cats, but will still house-sit your cat for you. Favourite place: Never leaves her balcony; even in the snow she never gets cold (because she's Scottish). Can: Highland dance. Can't: Play the bagpipes (sadly). Life ambition: to own a goldfish.



### **NPC Alisdair McLeod**

If you have read Alisdair's pen pic from last year, he'll tell you he has no news to report, other than his Duolingo streak at time of writing is now 751. He can't tell you about his life, because apparently he doesn't have one. He spends multiple hours a day writing analyses or doing anything else for the benefit of the Juniors, to the consternation of his fiancé Kathleen – who would prefer he channelled the same energy into organising their wedding – and their dog Scout (who would prefer he channelled the same energy into throwing one of her balls). Alisdair was NPC of the SBU team last year, where he masterminded a victory over the otherwise-unbeaten England team on the opening night - although he freely admits that his players and a large slice of luck have to take most of the credit. Nevertheless, he wonders if he can pass this off as the sort of tactical prowess that could land him the vacant Aberdeen FC manager's job.