

### **How did you get started playing bridge?**

When I met Rodney (*Journalist note: Rodney Lighthill is Eve's husband of many years, not to be confused with Rodney Lighton, our hardworking webmaster*) I was an innocent 18 year old.

He had just come down from university having spent most of the previous year playing bridge. If I wanted to see him I had to go with him when he played with his friends.

I was allowed to play the dummy when someone went to the loo, gradually I was playing the odd hand.

### **Were there any memorable hands?**

The first hand he opened 1 Spade and I raised to 2 Spades.

I had 6 points with the singleton Ace of Spades which I thought was a lovely card.

When he told me off I hit him over the head with my handbag!

### **How did you continue?**

I graduated to play at the Central Bridge Club playing rubber at a shilling a hundred.

My mentors were Frank Wood and Stan Zychlinski.

Frank played 12 to 13 and a half no trump with 14/16 rebid.

On my first league team was Irving Blakey but when Joy came along he only had eyes for her.

### **You served as Chairman of MCBA for many years - what were the best and worst parts?**

The best part of being Chairman was, with Kevin's help, bringing back the Manchester Congress. It was great to see everyone together, friends from different parts of the area that I don't see very often.

The worst was the (Names deleted). (*Journalists note: Eve names a now deceased married couple who caused trouble for her during her tenure as chair of MCBA*)

### **Did you ever play against anyone famous?**

Twice I played against Omar Sharif. He had the most gorgeous very dark, almost black eyes. I could have stared at him forever.

He had a plaster over one eyebrow and when I asked him what he'd done he said he'd walked into the bathroom cabinet !!

### **Who do you play with regularly?**

I have several regular partners including Barbara Lewis, Ann Super, Sid Travers, Howard Kay and of course Raymond and I enjoy playing with them all.

### **Did you and Rodney ever travel anywhere nice and play bridge?**

We travelled quite extensively in America but it was on a trip to Madeira where we agreed to play bridge after dinner with an elderly couple from Yorkshire called Albert and Betty.

Albert opened the bidding. I bid. Betty thought for ages and passed. Rodney supported me and Albert bid game.

Betty put down a very healthy 11 count. As play proceeded Albert had about 12 points.

When I mentioned that he'd bid on his partner's hesitation, he said of course he had, how else would he have known she had something ?!!

We didn't play with them again. (*Journalist note: probably for the best*)

**What will you do when all this is over and life returns to normal?**

The first thing I'll do when this is over is to invite my family for dinner and give them all individually a massive cuddle or three.

The next day I'll go back to Manchester Bridge Club which is my second home.