

How did you start playing bridge?



My family always played cards. On Sundays we visited relatives and always played some card game or other; canasta, samba, whist, solo whist and 'gambling games' like Newmarket. So, I do feel like I was born with a pack of cards in my hand. However, we didn't play bridge. I learned how to play the game at University with my then boyfriend (later husband, later ex-husband). Life and work and political activity got in the way after University and I didn't start playing again until I was in my forties. Four of us (all socialists) would play on Monday night at my house. We would pass Ron Klinger's book around the table so we could fathom each other's bids, then in 2000 Karen Reissmann and I ventured to Manchester Bridge Club and there was no looking back.

As chair of the MCBA what would you say was the best part of the job and the worse part?

The best part is other players bowing down, doffing their caps and giving me undeserved tops. And the money of course. (In case anyone isn't sure...none of this is true.)

I suppose the best bits are seeing the County still growing despite all the problems that bridge faces. The worst bits are trying to sort out squabbles between bridge players before they become too serious. Bridge is a lovely social game but a tiny minority of players seem to get more pleasure out of aggravating other people than playing. I also hate giving out prizes to winners, not that I am jealous, I just don't know whether to shake their hand, give them a kiss or just stand there and smile. I try to get other people to do that bit.

Who would your perfect game of bridge be with?

Can I say me, me, me and me? Fewer arguments about whose fault it was. No?... What about Karl Marx, Eric Cantona and Greta Thunberg. The bridge wouldn't be too good but the discussion between hands would be great. I am sure we would hatch a plan to set the world to rights.

Eric Cantona? I would have thought someone like Margaret Thatcher would be more appropriate?

Don't get me started!!

Who is your favourite partner? Who do you play most of your bridge with?

I have played with Karen Reissmann for 20 years. We have been friends for about 35 years. Familiarity breeds contempt and we do have a tendency to bicker which we try to keep in check. I also play with Roger Hopton quite a bit. Roger is a systems man and gets disappointed when I get the system wrong. (As I often do). I also play with Bob Cooke, Nicholas Greer, Barbara Lewis and Rodney Lighton when he can put up with me.



What is your most interesting hand?

I don't have one. I always go through the hands after I have played them but I am amazed at people who can remember hands they have played years ago. So, I had to look up a hand. It's from the 2018 Manchester Green Point Pairs. We were the only pair in the room doubled in 4S which we made. Overconfidence from our opponents I think. Who was it? Michael Byrne and Michael Newman. Particularly memorable as we finished below average and they came 4th, it was their worst board of the day. (**Journalists note: I have no memory of this hand at all**)

Dir: West Vul: All	♠ 2 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ K J 9 7 4 ♣ K Q J 9																																						
♠ K Q J 7 6 3 ♥ 5 ♦ A Q 6 3 ♣ 10 8	<table border="1"><tr><td>W</td><td>NORTH</td><td>E</td><td>SOUTH</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>20</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	W	NORTH	E	SOUTH		20			♠ 10 8 4 ♥ A K 8 ♦ 10 5 2 ♣ A 7 3 2																													
W	NORTH	E	SOUTH																																				
	20																																						
<table border="1"><tr><td>10</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>11</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	10				12	11			7				♠ A 9 5 ♥ Q J 7 4 3 2 ♦ 8 ♣ 6 5 4	<table border="1"><tr><td>♠</td><td>♥</td><td>♦</td><td>♣</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4 3</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>4 3</td></tr></table>	♠	♥	♦	♣	N	N	-	1	-	-	S	-	1	-	-	E	1	1	-	4 3	W	1	1	-	4 3
10																																							
12	11																																						
7																																							
♠	♥	♦	♣	N																																			
N	-	1	-	-																																			
S	-	1	-	-																																			
E	1	1	-	4 3																																			
W	1	1	-	4 3																																			

Have you ever travelled anywhere interesting to play bridge?

Karen and I have played bridge in both Italy and France. We have played at Carcassonne bridge club a few times. The first time we went they were very friendly and told us we had to come the following Thursday for a 'petit dejeuner'. We dutifully turned up to find it was a special holiday tournament with the most fantastic 5 course meal at half time with plenty of Limoux (the local sparkling white wine.) In the second half an old drunken caricature of a Frenchman (beret and fag hanging out the side of his mouth) was sat opposite us, rubbing his legs and lasciviously muttering "les anglaise ...huh...". We were younger then. They didn't like our weak 2s though, "tres faible". We have also played at the main bridge club in Venice. That was fun too...Again a meal cooked by members and Prosecco this time.

Most memorable League match

United beating City 2-0 at Old Trafford just before the Coronavirus shut down. Is that not what you meant?

I believe you once played against Ronald Reagan?

It didn't go well. He was a bit of a cowboy.



What are you going to do when life goes back to normal?

You mean being at home on my own, with just the cat to talk to for hours on end isn't normal?

What will I do when we are let out.....Last minute Xmas shopping probably?!?

