

## Lesley Johnson

Lesley started playing bridge as a small child and went to play duplicate at Poynton with her father where he directed: she then took over for a while when he left the club.

She then played at Marple where she formed a league team with John Browning, Sylvia Massey and Herbert Potts...rising to Division 2.

In the 1990s, Lesley played in congresses and won a major pairs event at the Palace Hotel Buxton, did well in a two-day northwest congress to include teams and pairs, and she also won a Bolton Congress competition. Lesley's bridge playing also had an international dimension. She played in an event at the Casino in Luxembourg and met Zia Mahmoud and in a charity event in Paris - playing against Omar Sharif.

By the 1980s, Lesley was playing at Manchester Bridge Club, and later during its short life at Bridgeworld - both duplicates and rubber bridge, sometimes two sessions in one day. After Bridgeworld shut down Lesley played mainly at Manchester, both duplicate and rubber, some weeks she would be there every day. She would dash into the club and dash home when the bridge finished, and she loved Mary's food.

Wednesday was a big day: afternoon rubber bridge with her regulars, in particular Tom Middleton – he was her favourite game - followed by a meal in a local curry house with John Athey and back to the club for the evening duplicate with John.

David Sarabowski first played against Lesley in the 1980s, seeing in her an opponent to respect. In the early 1990s they both played for MCBA in county matches and paired up on a trip to Barrow against Cumbria when they scored top in the cross-imping, and afterwards had occasional games at Manchester. They played in the same rubber bridge school from 2009 and shortly afterwards in duplicates together. For the last 4 years they have played together almost every Monday and Wednesday at Manchester and as her health deteriorated Lesley found ways to keep playing. During this time, they won all the regular competitions at the club, some more than once. Lesley also played every Friday with her dear friend Sylvia Massey at Cheadle Hulme, where various players held her cards and were invited to play some of the boards; this led to some interesting discussions between Lesley and her partners, in particular rather loud debates with Alec as to who knew best.

Lesley was a very kind and generous person. Everyone enjoyed her company and she will be greatly missed for her presence, liveliness and enthusiasm, and her great courage.