



VENICE CUP 2011

PLAYER BIOGRAPHIES

The England Venice Cup Team has a wealth of experience in international championships:

Heather Dhondy (age 45), based in London, is a retired accountant and now full time bridge teacher. Aged only 24, Heather began playing for the England women's team. The highlight of Heather's international career occurred in 2008 at the Mind Sports Games in Beijing where the England women won the Gold medal. Heather also won the Bronze medal in the Olympiad in Istanbul in 2004 and won the World Mixed Teams in Rhodes in 1996 as well as three European Championships, the first two (1997 & 1999) for Great Britain in partnership with Liz McGowan and the last (2001) for England with Nicola Smith. In addition, she has won a record 13 Lady Milne trophies (the home nations' competition) over the past 18 years.

Nevena Senior is originally from Bulgaria and now lives in Nottingham where she is married to a bridge writer and player. Internationally, Nevena has won 10 medals from European and World Championships for three different countries (Bulgaria, Great Britain and England). Her best achievement was winning the European Ladies Pairs in 1987 in Brighton and winning the Gold in the Mind Sports Games in Beijing 2008.

Nicola Smith lives in London. At world level she has won the Venice Cup twice (1981 and 1985) and the World Women's Individual once (1994) as well as winning silver medals in the Venice Cup (1976) and the World Women's Olympiad (1976, 1984, 1988, 1992). At European level, she has won the European Women's Teams 6 times (1975, 1979, 1981, 1997, 1999, and 2001) as well as a host of other European competitions and has a clutch of silver and bronze medals at European Women's level as well. In 1995, Nicola's contribution to the game of bridge was honoured at national level when she was awarded the M.B.E. by the Queen.

Sally Brock (age 58) lives in Buckinghamshire, England, where she works as a typesetter for travel guides and as a professional bridge player. Sally played in her first European Championship in 1979, which England won. She played and won the European Championships again in 1981, later winning the Venice Cup in the same year. In 1985, Sally was in the winning team again with Nicola Smith. After a break to bring up her family, Sally returned to the international scene at the end of 2008 to play in the women's team for the World Mind Sports Games in 2008, where her team won the gold medal.

Susan Stockdale (age 28) first learned to play bridge under the tutelage of her parents and her bridge quickly progressed. After her junior international debut at the age of 14, Susan went on to represent Great Britain and England at junior level in many home internationals, Junior Channel Trophy teams and European Championships. Susan went on to partner Fiona Brown with whom she has had many successes and international appearances for the England Ladies. Susan now lives in Loughborough, working as a director of a company that market and distribute products to the veterinary and animal healthcare sectors.



Fiona Brown (age 26) is from Australia, but has lived in England for a number of years. Fiona's bridge partnership with Susan Stockdale began in 2008, when they debuted in the Junior Channel Trophy. As a pair they have represented England twice in the Lady Milne, played in the English under 28 team which finished 5th in the World Mind Sports Games, and played in the European Championships on the England Women's team that qualified for this Venice Cup. Fiona currently works part-time in an independent pharmacy which allows her the flexibility to play bridge.