



**DAVID PRICE is a double Seniors World Champion and European Seniors Champion, and has represented England at European and World level in the Open category too. In the UK, he has repeatedly been selected to play for England both in the Camrose and the Seniors Camrose. He has also frequently won major domestic competitions.**

### When did you start playing bridge?

At school aged 16. School lunches were so revolting that a group of us took sandwiches and played cards during the lunch break.

### How often / where do you play?

I play twice a week at local clubs – Clare and Colchester. Although the games are of moderate standard I find them useful for keeping my game in reasonable shape given how few tournaments I play. Apart from those, I generally only play in the top home competitions, for my county of allegiance, Suffolk, and internationally.

### Do you always play with the same partners / team-mates?

At top level I play with Colin Simpson with whom I have enjoyed much success since we got together about ten years ago. Team-mates vary according to the competition but would include Gunnar Hallberg, John Holland, the Hacketts, David Mossop, Tim Rees and David Burn. Locally I play with my wife, some good Suffolk players and some friends.

In all cases, I hope that I can be a catalyst in helping them to play to the best of their ability and the only time I get really grumpy is when I don't get my fair share of hands as declarer – which is greater than one in four I have to add!

### What do you do for a living?

I retired from my normal occupation some years ago but derive some income from my limited professional bridge work and from helping Jenny, my wife, run her architectural practice.

I'm sorry to have to admit that the state pension and other pensions have also kicked in.

### What are your favourite bridge books?

I have always loved the Rueful Rabbit and Hideous Hog series written by Victor Mollo. He brought his characters to life and mixed them up with some great bridge hands. David Bird is from the same mould and is always an entertaining read.

From a technical perspective my all time favourite

has to be *Adventures in Card Play* by Geza Ottlik and Hugh Kelsey because it opened new avenues in my thinking, with *The Blue Team Bridge Book* a close second. When I was a youngster I hero-worshipped Giorgio Belladonna because his play of the hands was so often headline material, but of course all the members of the Blue Team were great players.

Finally, I must mention *Right Through the Pack*, which I have re-read many times – a beautifully crafted compilation of stories from the viewpoint of each card in the pack.

### What are your hobbies?

Who needs hobbies when they have bridge! Seriously, though, I love playing golf because it represents a challenge for me. Not being naturally gifted at the game, I have to work very hard for every bit of improvement. It also gives me much needed exercise.

In bridge I believe that every player has the ability to improve their game, and enjoy it that much more, by applying themselves a little harder.

I also love cooking and good food generally, as well as the man thing of watching all televised sport!

### What do you like and what would you change in bridge?

I love the social nature of the game – a large percentage of my friends and two wives have resulted from it.

I think that the authorities with whom players, particularly the top players, do not always see eye to eye, are getting some things right. I fully agree with the introduction of more stringent regulations regarding behaviour at the table and hope that they are rigidly enforced.

The move away from appeals committees is also good because it requires an increase in the competence of tournament directors. If rulings can be seen to be 95%+ accurate (probably better than football referees!) then players will come to accept them and conflicts will be resolved that much more quickly.

The cut and thrust of bridge at the table is for me what it is all about so I don't play any internet bridge. Get out there, people, and mix with other people! □