



JANE MOORE has represented England many times in the Lady Milne (first with Chris Duckworth, then with Gillian Fawcett) and won four times. She has also played representative bridge in various friendly internationals against other countries. Jane has won the National Women's Pairs three times and the National Women's Teams twice.

When did you start playing bridge?

In my twenties, when a work colleague (who had only played a couple of times herself) dragged me along to Young Chelsea assuring me bridge was the same as whist! Of course we came bottom about three weeks running and she gave up. As I was wondering how I could improve, John Pettit (who had played junior Camrose for Wales with Peter Sutcliffe – subsequently my first husband) offered to give me lessons. I was very lucky in that many of the best players of the day played at Young Chelsea and lots of them were kind enough to have a game with me; it's such a privilege and great way to play with much better players.

How often / where do you play?

I play at Clare Bridge Club (a very small town in Suffolk) which has a fantastic ethos and atmosphere. There is a huge range of abilities from world champion to modest beginner. The club holds social events including a twinning with Huy Bridge Club in Belgium with annual exchange visits. Richard Evans (an Andrew Robson disciple) runs a club nearby in Stansfield (with wine and nibbles made by members in the break, which are much appreciated); the two clubs share many members and are both doing very well.

Do you always play with the same partners / teammates?

Pretty much. I play at Clare with Elizabeth Tora whom I first met at Young Chelsea nearly forty years ago; I play with my husband Andrew in Suffolk events, and I play with David Price (as often as he will put up with me), whom I also first met at Young Chelsea forty years ago – he has been a good friend ever since. I have played with Gillian Fawcett for the last five or six years in national women's events; before that I played with Chris Duckworth for many years.

What do you do for a living?

I am now retired. Latterly I ran Wivenhoe Bridge Weekends with David Price, which were great fun and had something of a house-party atmosphere with over

80% repeat bookers (we didn't advertise, relying on word of mouth). David and I also had a bridge school, aiming to get beginners out playing bridge within a few weeks. I retired when my parents were both ill and needed help. Prior to that I had worked in admin and book-keeping.

What are your favourite bridge books?

When I first started I was lent the Victor Mollo books and while the bridge was often over my head, they were such fun and encouraged me to learn more. I have a real soft spot for books I was lent early on: *Right Through the Pack*, *Why You Lose at Bridge*, Harrison Gray's *Country Life* book etc. *Adventures in Card Play* is extraordinary and I like anything by Mike Lawrence.

What are your hobbies?

I love travelling and have been lucky enough to go to many countries and have many fantastic experiences. Both Andrew and I love walking/hiking/trekking and getting as far off the beaten track as possible. We had an amazing six-day Cradle Mountain trek in Tasmania last year just under a year after Andrew had a triple bypass. I love playing tennis and I'm never averse to a good meal in a restaurant.

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

I love bridge, it is endlessly fascinating, and it has shaped my life in so many ways. I particularly enjoy match-pointed pairs (fewer people to let down). I am saddened by the decline in numbers at Brighton in the last twenty-five years or so. The event seems to have changed, with only pretty competent players entering and a much more level standard. This is reflected in clubs as people find the atmosphere unfriendly and drop by the wayside when they find they struggle to finish above average. At least 80% of my friends play bridge but only about 20% of those play in clubs.

I wish I could enjoy more playing online bridge but so much of the enjoyment for me is talking face to face to the other people at the table! □