

**SIMON COPE** is a 29-year-old full-time bridge professional from London. Having represented England several times at Junior level, he has since combined playing with several roles as NPC and coach of various teams, and at different times has captained U20s, U25s, Women's and Open teams. His successes as a player include coming second at the prestigious Icelandair Teams and winning several major domestic events.



**When did you start playing bridge?**

I started playing bridge at about the age of 13, when I stumbled across my school bridge club by mistake. I started becoming engrossed in it and the more I played, the more it fed my addiction!

**How often / where do you play?**

I play pretty much daily, at a variety of bridge clubs over North London and additionally I play frequently with friends on the website [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com) late at night.

**Do you always play with the same partners / team-mates? What do you expect of them?**

I frequently play with the same people, both as partners and team-mates, but I think it is good to experiment with new people now and again – I think it broadens your horizons, which is especially important for someone who is young. All I expect is for them to behave reasonably, i.e. to give their best on every deal, and to accept that we all make mistakes sometimes, and it is not intentional. There is nothing worse than partner screaming at you over the table in front of the opponents; I don't like it, so why should anyone else?

**What do you do for a living?**

I teach and play bridge for a living – I feel that I am lucky to be able to do something I love for a living. It also gives me an enormous sense of pleasure seeing someone I have taught going on to achieve some of their goals in the game.

**What are your favourite bridge books?**

*Card Play Technique* by Victor Mollo. David Bird's imaginative books are also a really fun read, and bridge should be fun!

**What are your hobbies?**

I love travelling first and foremost, with a particular affection for southern Africa. I also love playing tennis and golf, and (surprisingly, I know!) enjoy going to the gym. As regards watching sport, cricket, tennis, football and rugby are high on the list. Dining out with friends is also enjoyable.

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

The game is unique: it is almost impossible to encounter an identical situation twice, so the need to think on your feet and use your powers of logic is fascinating. One thing I would like to see is some BAM (Board-A-Match) events in England – seems like a fun format to me!

**What's the bridge success (so far) closest to your heart?**

The two best moments for me have been as respectively coach and captain of the Open team: winning the silver medal in Beijing in 2008 as coach and qualifying for next year's Bermuda Bowl as non-playing captain of the Open team in Dublin last year. In terms of playing, my most satisfying results were winning the Swiss Pairs in Brighton in 2008 and getting a silver medal in the 2009 Icelandair Teams. The best thing, though, is that I have gained an enormous number of friends all over the world.