

LADY MILNE TROPHY 2019

SCOTLAND

Anne Symons & Helen Kane

Anne has been a regular member of the Scottish Ladies team for a number of years, playing in Lady Milnes, Europeans and Olympiads. She has also been part of the only women's pair to play in the Camrose for Scotland. This is her fifth year playing with Helen and they were part of the team who won the Lady Milne in 2016. She still works part time as a pharmacist and enjoys classes at the gym when she has the time.

Helen - "I started playing bridge in my early twenties. Aside from Lady Milne wins and Scottish National Pairs titles, I consider my major bridge achievement to be reaching the semi-final of the 2016 World Games in Poland. My partnership with Anne began 5 years ago and this is now our 5th Lady Milne playing together. I took early retirement from my work as a Cytopathologist 5 years ago, and I now happily combine bridge with my other hobbies of piano playing, violin playing and walking. I live in Glasgow with my husband, Danny, and my dog, Jade."

Liz McGowan & Fiona McQuaker

Liz – "I played my first Lady Milne in 1977, and this will be my 35th appearance, with my 9th partner. I have won 10 times, and would like to reach a dozen, but I'm running out of time ... Prior to 2000, I was a member of the British Women's team, picked up silver medals at the 1988 and '92 Olympiads and gold at the Europeans in '97 and '99. I also won the 1996 World Mixed Teams with Heather Dhondy. I like to think of myself as a Bridge journalist; currently editing the Scottish Bridge News for the SBU. I live in Edinburgh with husband Ian, two daughters, and much loved grand-daughter."

Fiona – "I played my first Lady Milne in Cheltenham, with Liz and we have played in a number of Scottish Ladies teams since then, including Olympiads and Europeans. I have one European bronze medal, won with Liz, Paula and Suzanne. I am a chartered accountant, living and working in Edinburgh. I enjoy travelling, both within Scotland and abroad."

Sam Punch & Paula Leslie

Sam – "I have played in the Scottish women's team since 2008, winning the Lady Milne six times. I'm Professor of Sociology at the University of Stirling, where I'm currently working to establish the Sociology of Bridge as a new research field. This includes 52 in-depth interviews with top players and a project (with EBED) on well-being, healthy ageing and bridge. I am currently driving the global Keep Bridge Alive (KBA) campaign which aims to communicate messages about the benefits of bridge beyond the bridge world. The key goals of KBA are to transform the image of bridge, to increase participation and enhance the sustainability of the mind sport. Please do consider making a donation by searching for 'Keep Bridge Alive' on the UK Crowdfunder website (<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/u5c0e5e7810869>) or giving Sam some cash this weekend! Every donation will make a difference to the future of the bridge community.

Paula – "I started playing bridge at school in Dundee together with Suzanne Cohen (now Sheasby) with whom I have won a number of events over the years. I also have five bronze medals from various European events. In 2018 I won a silver in the women's event at the World Bridge Series. My ambition is one day to win a gold. This will be my seventh Lady Milne (fourth with Sam). I moved to London after university, qualified as a chartered accountant and now work as a tax adviser for a commercial property group. Outside of bridge, I enjoy pub quizzes, cinema, theatre and travel."

Alex Adamson NPC

Alex joined the team as captain for last year's European Championships. He has also captained, and played in, Scotland's Open and Junior teams. To complete the set, he aims to play in and captain the Seniors, but he isn't quite ready for either role yet. He works in the built heritage sector, so is usually up for a chat about old places. He is an author of history and bridge books.

This team was narrowly beaten by France in the semi-final of the World Bridge Games in Poland in 2016 and has qualified for the Venice Cup in Wuhan later this year.