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| **ENGLAND****PEGGY BAYER TEAM** | Flag of England |
|  | **Lucy Norman**Lucy is 13 years old and lives in Dorset. She first started to play bridge aged 10 and was immediately hooked. She has 2 sisters who refuse to play bridge but her parents are both keen players.Lucy plays at the Allendale Bridge Club in Wimborne, Dorset and enjoys playing in county events and congresses including the End of Year Congress in London, and the Torquay Congress. Her bridge achievements to date include winning a Swiss teams county competition in Hampshire, and winning the ‘3 Seas Trophy’ in 2019 with the U-16 team.Aside from bridge, Lucy also enjoys taekwondo, climbing, skiing and the piano. Although her efforts to combine all three at the same time have resulted in disaster and trips to Wimborne A&E department. |
|  | **Tom Furness**I am 15 years old and live in Kent. I first read about bridge 5 years ago at the age of 10, in the book ‘The Cardturner’ and was intrigued. I decided to find out more about bridge online, soon persuading my dad to learn how to play too, and a few weeks later we decided to go to a local club on the upcoming Saturday.It went very well, and we managed to come a very respectable seventh (out of seven) and after a variety of atrocities including dropping a singleton king offside in an 8 card fit instead of finessing, barely making 2nt when others had made slam, and opening 1s on just the AKQ because I thought it ‘looked nice’ we were graciously told not to come back until we actually learned more than just 1nt=12-14. But the cake at tea break had enticed me, and I was desperate to play there again. After a few emails between my dad and the club’s director in which she ascertained that, yes, we were actually in it for the game and not just the snacks, she offered us 8 weeks of lessons, which helped us to come an awesome second to last upon our return. We continued trying, however, and after reading many of Paul Mendelson’s books over the following year our results generally began to improve, getting our first win after nearly a year.Last April, my club’s director discovered the Young Chelsea club which was being run online at the time by Will Clennell. Other young people play bridge?! It took about 3 seconds to decide to play there and after playing a few times with Lucy Norman I was invited into the u16 squad and have greatly enjoyed playing here since June.On (very) rare occasions if I am not playing bridge or reading bridge books/articles, I enjoy watching films or doing Harry Potter quizzes. I also have two cats that are in the process of taking over my bed.I was thrilled to be selected for the Peggy Bayer this February along with five others and hope to play in more events in the future! |
|  | **Charlotte Bedford**I am Charlotte (aka Lottie) from Newbury, Berkshire. I first started playing Bridge aged 12 at the Wessex Junior Bridge Weekend. It was fun learning the game, playing Speedball at night, staying overnight at Cheltenham College and making new friends. Soon afterwards, I started playing weekly duplicates at Newbury Bridge Club. At a junior bridge weekend, Giorgio Provenza asked me to join the England U16 squad that has a Monday night practice on BBO. The whole squad meets up every now and again at weekends in Richmond and Oxford.  Although, when Covid-19 came along, everything changed. Face to face bridge stopped and I played a lot more on BBO and RealBridge. So far, the furthest I’ve travelled to play for England is my bedroom!Outside Bridge, I enjoy sport, especially netball where I play goal shooter for the local club in the Berkshire League. I also play cricket for the local Falkland CC, as well as playing both sports competitively for school. |
|  | **Venetia Anoyrkatis**Venetia is 13 years old and comes from a bridge playing family now living in Devon.Venetia enjoys many sporting activities such as badminton, netball and swimming, particularly wild swimming at beautiful Devon beaches or rivers, another family speciality. If not playing bridge at the weekend she also loves climbing, and is part of a local youth climbing group. She started playing bridge three years ago mainly to spend time with the rest of the family. Now the rest of the family are playing bridge to spend time with Venetia. |
|  | **Raphaela Sinclair**I am 15 years old and live in Putney. I first started playing at the Andrew Robson Bridge Club when I was 7 and fell in love with the game. My older brother also plays, although we were quite quickly banned from partnering each other due to too much bickering.I made my international debut for the Under 16 Squad in December 2018 playing in the North Sea Trophy. I was selected to represent England in the Under 16 team for 2020 World Youth Online Championships, but this was sadly cancelled due to Covid.  I have since played for the England Under 16 team in the 2020 Three Seas Trophy, the 2020 Leszek Nowak Memorial Trophy, and 2020 Junior Channel Trophy. Last summer I was selected for the England U17 team for the 2021 Invitational Europa Trophy which topped the table after the round robin stage and came third overall. Most recently, I have been selected for the England team for the 2022 Peggy Bayer TrophyApart from bridge I am also in a gymnastics squad and I play lacrosse for my school. |
|  | **Rufus Barnett**All |
|  | **NPC Giorgio Provenza**Despite coming from a family of card players, Giorgio did not learn to play bridge until his early twenties. Since then however, the game has taken over more and more of his life. After ten years spent lawyering and working in the financial sector, he decided to make a job out of his passion and became a full-time bridge teacher. Since then he has been a popular figure in the South West London area, teaching, coaching, mentoring, training other teachers and promoting the game at every opportunity.With teaching experience in three different countries, he considers his best achievement thus far having seen a former student of his win a silver medal in a Junior World Championship. He is thrilled by this new role with the U16s and hopes to add other medals to that tally as soon as possible.Married to Erica, who categorically refuses to learn the game – maybe the secret behind 19 years together – and father of Anthony, a bubbly 14 year old who plays a little but hasn’t decided yet if he wants to put in the effort to become good at it.When he doesn’t play, teach, read or think about bridge, he loves playing golf, although poorly, listening to music, reading novels and watching football, often yelling at the TV. |