

IRVING MANNING 1928-2002

Sometimes we forget the excellent players who are lost to the game due to family commitments, other interests or career choices or some combination of these factors. One such was Irving Manning who died in August after a short illness and aged 74. By profession he was a dentist and his other interests included his children and playing basketball for the University of Leeds. No-one who lived on either side of the Pennines in the late fifties until the early seventies could be unaware of his prowess.

His regular team-mates were Rita Oldroyd, Eric Newman, Alf Finlay and Joe Bloomberg, who from time to time added up and coming

players to their team and gave them a good grounding in team bridge. Irving's strength as a player was in the play of the cards. Once, playing a hand against Bernard Goldenfield, he tranced and Bernard asked him what on earth he was thinking about. He replied to the effect that he'd worked out how to make the contract if a suit was 4-1 and now he was looking at how to make it when they were 5-0! At one time or another he shared his expertise with Raymond Brock, Tony Sowter, Roman Smolski and Tony Forrester, all four of whom subsequently represented Great Britain at international level.

My first outing with Irving was in the early sixties in the first Junior Pairs event — it started life as under 35s! — which we won. As a prize we played a weekend match against the British open team (with Reese/Schapiro) and the British women's team (with

Markus/Gordon). We lost to the open team by single figures and beat the women.

Irving won many Yorkshire competitions several times. His major successes were mainly in the sixties: he reached the final of the Gold Cup twice but never won it; won Crockfords once and the Hubert Phillips twice. We played together in the Sunday Times International pairs and in his Camrose outings though I have to admit that this was against Wales and we lost 10-8! despite the presence of Harrison-Gray on the team and the wise captaincy of R A Priday.

It was a considerable loss to the game when Irving 'retired' in 1974/5.

Raymond Brock.