

Maida Grant

1946-2023

Another sad loss for the Scottish bridge community, Maida took up bridge when she was pregnant and could not play the other sports that she enjoyed, notably golf.

Her parents were keen players but would not allow their children to play at home. Still, like John Murdoch, she absorbed awareness of the game.

Her first partner was Alex Onions. They were selected to travel to Bulgaria for a friendly match in 1990. Alex, a nervous flyer, took some knockout pills. On arrival they were met by the reigning European Pairs Champions, Matilda Lorier and Nevena Deleva (now Senior) and rushed off to play in a pairs event. Alex passed the evening in a blur – Maida wished she had done the same.

Undaunted, she continued on an international career. After taking early retirement in 2003 she formed a hugely successful partnership with Sheila MacDonald. Together they played in 9 Lady Milnes, winning 4 times; and represented Scotland abroad in the European Championships in 2006 and 2012, and the World Bridge Games in 2008 and 2012.

She had many domestic triumphs also, and became a Grand Master in 2004. Among many other successes she won the Women's Teams 6 times and was runner-up 7 times

Maida was an outstanding partner and team-mate, never critical, always first to admit to her own wrong views. She was great company, with a wonderful sense of humour.

She enjoyed this deal from the 2006 Grand Masters Pairs.

	♠QJ52 ♥K75 ♦AKJ543 ♣—	None Vul Dir W
♠AKT4 ♥AT86 ♦96 ♣AK9	N W E S	♠973 ♥3 ♦72 ♣Q865432
	♠86 ♥QJ942 ♦QT8 ♣JT7	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Dbl	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Dbl	End		

Maida sat West. She could not resist doubling 3NT, even though opponents would likely pull to 4♦ and the defence to that contract might be less obvious.

4♦X made at several tables, an unusual way to score 710. East led the singleton heart, and a couple of ruffs take the contract two down, but West could not resist trying to cash one top club...

Maida did much better. Her opponents were too macho to run. She led the ♠A. Sheila Macdonald gave a discouraging signal, so Maida tried the ♣A. This got a positive reaction: the defence cashed the first 10 tricks to score 1700.

Maida allowed herself a quiet smile. She was far too nice a person to gloat.