

Hi everybody and thank you for coming to the celebration of Simon's life. Jo has asked me to say a few words about his bridge achievements.

On arrival in Leicestershire, Simon attended grammar school in Melton, where he played regularly at the school's bridge club, forming a partnership with Sarah Lomax. At that time, they used the precision club system. He and Sarah played in the Leicestershire Winter league, also competing in Green-pointed events in various parts of the country.

On a less formal note, Simon played with Tim Glover, whom he also met at school, and who was much later in Simon's Joseph's team, in a 48 hour non-stop charity bridge event, organised by the 4th Melton Scouts.

In 1982, Simon became one of the founder members of Clarendon, together with Paul and Jim. During the 1982/83 season, their team played in division 7, the bottom one (as per the rules for new teams). Simon was, of course, a regular in the team, which, to this day, has only failed to win the league on 4 or 5 occasions, once they were promoted to division 1.

Simon won some, if not all the County Bridge Club competitions, together with all the prestigious Leicestershire events, some on more than one occasion, including the Joseph's Bowl, partnering Yasser Haider, Gimson and Leicestershire Cup, sometime captained by Jean. He represented the county in the Dawes league for many years, usually in the first team. In 2019, the Leicestershire team won the Midlands league, followed by the National Inter-Counties league, the competition for the winners of the regional leagues. What an accolade. His principal partners in the Midland League were initially Lawrence Lock, followed by Yasser and in recent years, Ian Bruce, a highly rated partnership.

And last but not least, Simon, partnered by Alison, achieved the rank of EBU Grand Master, an award which meant so much to him.

We'll all remember Simon with great affection and he will be a huge loss to the bridge community in Leicestershire.