

Dr.Roy (L.R.) Griffin M.B.E.

It is with great sorrow to all at Swansea Bridge Club and many outside the bridge fraternity that Roy Griffin, one of the major figures of Welsh Bridge, passed away on Wednesday 2nd October at the age of 95 years. Roy obtained his MBE recognising his significant contribution to Civil Defence over many years.

Many in Welsh Bridge today will know little of the contribution that he and his generation contributed to the growth of Welsh Bridge.

Roy first represented Wales in the Camrose Trophy in 1955 and played innumerable times over the next 25 years with Vince Bevan. Patrick Jourdain's 1st Camrose was with Roy when Vince took ill at the last minute, and his last two being with Ray Mahoney in 1979/80. He brought his teaching skills, as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Swansea, into the bridge arena and encouraged innumerable younger players to develop their bridge skills and represent Wales.

He first joined Swansea Bridge Club in 1948 and was a key figurehead and contributor to the club for over 70 years having been Chairman from 1968 to 1978, again from 1984 to 1999 and President from 1999 to 2007. He stood down to support his wife Leslie whose health had deteriorated, Leslie was a member of Wales' first ever Lady Milne winning team in 1967 which also retained it in 1968. Roy He maintained his interest in the club and brought his expertise into the organisation of bridge at National and Local level becoming President of the WBU in 1970-71, editing the WBU Journal for many years, WWBA Chairman, Area Tournament Organiser and Committee Member for many years.

Roy was a pioneer in Bridge introducing and organising the first Bridgeramma in 1961 at the Wales v England match at the Dragon Hotel, Swansea. Play in the closed room was communicated to an audience in a theatre room with his students running from room to room. This was only 1 year after it first being trialled in London in preparation for the European Championships. He was also a respected bridge journalist and wrote a regular bridge column for the South Wales Evening Post.

Roy's greatest attribute was that he was a true gentleman and as a consequence was respected and admired by everyone.