

Bridge
Great
Britain
♠♥♣♦

Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer 2025



14th – 16th February 2025
Holiday Inn
The Coldra, Newport NP18 2YG



Welcome to Newport

Bridge Great Britain and the Welsh Bridge Union extend to all a warm welcome to the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer 2025.

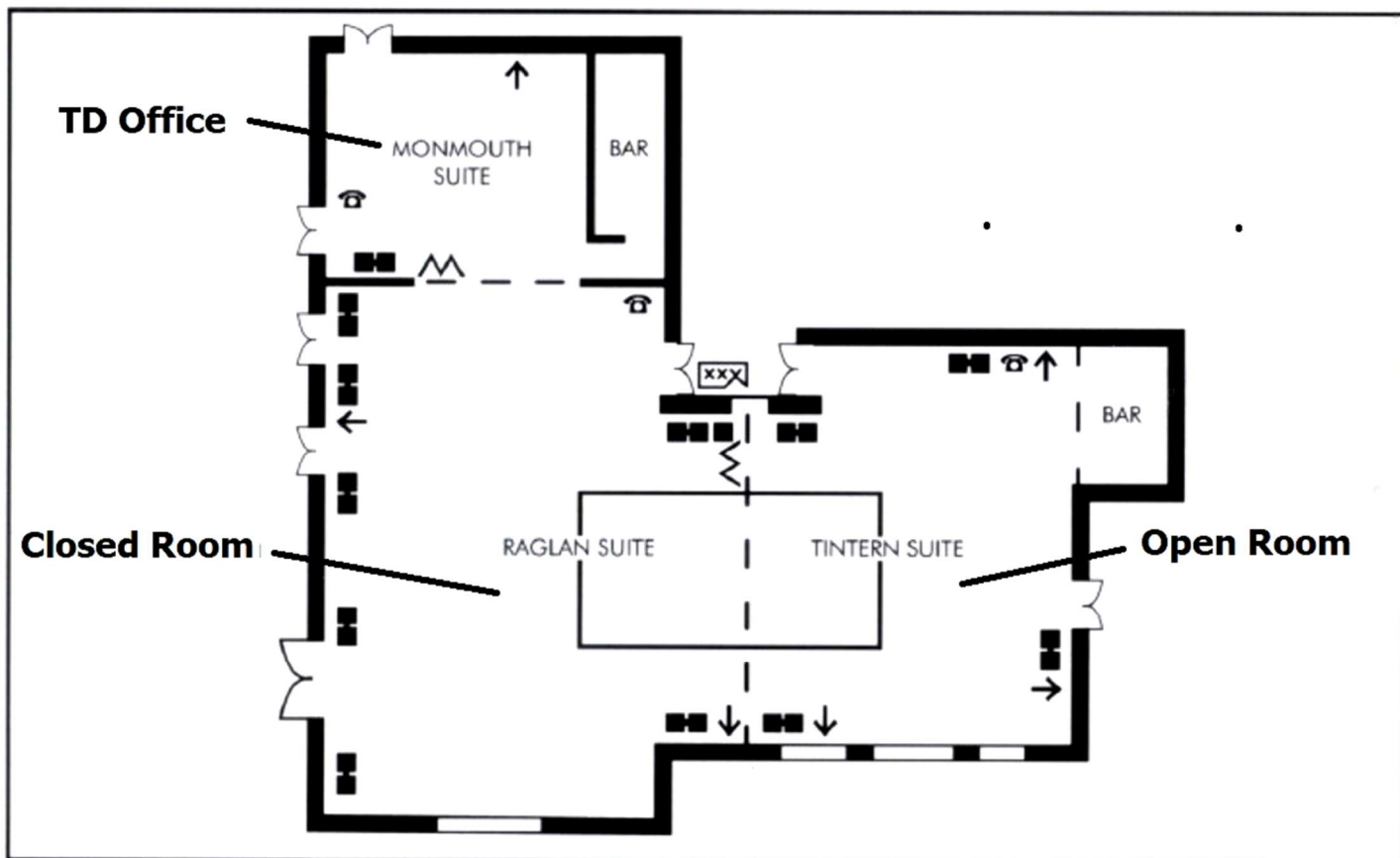
The Holiday Inn boasts excellent conference facilities, and also has a heated indoor pool and a fitness centre.

Open Room: Tintern Suite
Closed Room: Raglan Suite
Tournament Director's office: Monmouth Suite

Spectators are welcome to use the bar, where a table has been reserved to ensure that space is available.

Full details and results may be found at

www.welshbridgeunion.org



THE STAFF

Match Manager:	Ceri Pierce
BGB Secretary:	Sandra Claridge
Chief Tournament Director:	Sarah Amos
Assistant Tournament Director:	Megan Jones
Vugraph Manager:	Paul Cunningham
Equipment Manager	Simon Gottschalk
Signs & Badges	Maggie Pierce
Entertainment	Sophie Cunningham
Brochure	Laura Woodruff
Helpers:	Richard Stevenson, Gilly Clench, Susan Ingham, Anna O'Brian Debbie Richards, Maggie Pierce, Viking Yuen

Special thanks to Knox Commercial for four WBU Vugraph laptops.

REFRESHMENTS

For players and officials, meal timings are as follows:

Friday:	Dinner 5.30 pm (hotel restaurant)
Saturday:	Lunch 2.35 pm Dinner 8.00 pm (hotel restaurant)
Sunday:	Lunch 2.35 pm Closing dinner 9.15 pm (hotel restaurant)

FORMAT

The Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies each comprise six teams, the sixth team being fielded, by rotation, by the country hosting the event. In 2025 the 6th Junior Camrose team is from Wales, but England has kindly supplied the 6th Peggy Bayer team, to avoid a sit-out.

- Five head-to-head matches of 32 boards, in 16-board stanzas
- Teams consist of a maximum of 6 players
- The team printed first in the schedule sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room throughout the match
- Seating rights alternate between the two teams. In the first stanza the Captain of the second-named team nominates first; in the second stanza the first-named Captain nominates first.

SPECTATORS

In any one session, three matches are in progress. As many matches as possible will be broadcast via RealBridge. Spectators may also watch live in the Open Room, subject to the regulations set out below.

It is the duty of the match manager to make spectators aware of their responsibilities. During play in the Open Room they must refrain from mannerisms or remarks, and must not converse with a player or display any reaction to bidding or play. Spectators are permitted to observe the cards of one player only. They should be seated behind that player and may not get up to walk round the table, or seek to look at the cards of any other player. Spectators may not draw attention to any irregularity or mistake, nor speak on any question except by request of the Director.

Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their team-mates.

A player is responsible for the actions of any spectator associated with her (as distinct from a spectator casually at the table by her presence there).

The Director in Charge and/or the Match Manager is empowered to control the presence of spectators, individually or collectively.

Closed Room

Entry to the Closed Room is restricted to:

- the Tournament Director
- the Match Manager
- participants assigned to play in the Closed Room
- personnel needed to ensure the smooth running of the match
- hotel staff for the provision of refreshments etc.
- a maximum of two accredited journalists, who must remain in the Closed Room for the duration of the session.

Smoking & Mobile Phone Regulations

Smoking is not permitted in the hotel. Alcohol is not permitted in the playing areas. No player may leave the playing area before completion of play in a session in order to consume alcohol.

Mobile phones and electronic devices capable of communication must be switched off in the playing area and be visible at the table at all times. Any player leaving the playing table prior to completion of the session must leave their mobile phone and electronic devices at the table. Any player, captain, or coach breaching these regulations will cause the team to be fined 2VPs. This penalty is automatic. Persistent violation will result in the player's being prohibited from playing and/or the team official's being barred from the playing area. The Director in Charge may, at their discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

Draw

Team A: Northern Ireland
Team B: England
Team C: Wales
Team D: Republic of Ireland
Team E: WBU (JC) / EBU (PB)
Team F: Scotland



Schedule

Friday				Dinner
17.30				
19.00 – 21.10	A v D	E v B	C v F	
21.25 – 23.25	C v A	D v E	B v F	
Saturday				Lunch
10.00 – 12.10	E v C	B v D	A v F	
12.25 – 14.35	B v A	D v C	E v F	
15.20 – 17.30	A v E	C v B	D v F	
17.45 – 19.55	D v A	B v E	F v C	
20.30				Dinner
Sunday				Lunch
10.00 – 12.10	A v C	E v D	F v B	
12.25 – 14.35	C v E	D v B	F v A	
15.20 – 17.30	A v B	C v D	F v E	
17.45 – 19.55	E v A	B v C	F v D	
21:15				Closing dinner

VP SCALE (32 BOARDS)

IMPs	VPs		IMPs	VPs		IMPs	VPs
0	10.00 - 10.00		29	15.10 - 4.90		58	18.21 - 1.79
1	10.22 - 9.78		30	15.24 - 4.76		59	18.29 - 1.71
2	10.44 - 9.56		31	15.37 - 4.63		60	18.37 - 1.63
3	10.65 - 9.35		32	15.50 - 4.50		61	18.45 - 1.55
4	10.86 - 9.14		33	15.63 - 4.37		62	18.53 - 1.47
5	11.07 - 8.93		34	15.76 - 4.24		63	18.61 - 1.39
6	11.27 - 8.73		35	15.88 - 4.12		64	18.69 - 1.31
7	11.47 - 8.53		36	16.00 - 4.00		65	18.76 - 1.24
8	11.67 - 8.33		37	16.12 - 3.88		66	18.83 - 1.17
9	11.86 - 8.14		38	16.24 - 3.76		67	18.90 - 1.10
10	12.05 - 7.95		39	16.35 - 3.65		68	18.97 - 1.03
11	12.24 - 7.76		40	16.46 - 3.54		69	19.04 - 0.96
12	12.42 - 7.58		41	16.57 - 3.43		70	19.11 - 0.89
13	12.60 - 7.40		42	16.68 - 3.32		71	19.18 - 0.82
14	12.78 - 7.22		43	16.79 - 3.21		72	19.25 - 0.75
15	12.95 - 7.05		44	16.90 - 3.10		73	19.32 - 0.68
16	13.12 - 6.88		45	17.01 - 2.99		74	19.38 - 0.62
17	13.29 - 6.71		46	17.11 - 2.89		75	19.44 - 0.56
18	13.46 - 6.54		47	17.21 - 2.79		76	19.50 - 0.50
19	13.62 - 6.38		48	17.31 - 2.69		77	19.56 - 0.44
20	13.78 - 6.22		49	17.41 - 2.59		78	19.62 - 0.38
21	13.94 - 6.06		50	17.51 - 2.49		79	19.68 - 0.32
22	14.09 - 5.91		51	17.60 - 2.40		80	19.74 - 0.26
23	14.24 - 5.76		52	17.69 - 2.31		81	19.80 - 0.20
24	14.39 - 5.61		53	17.78 - 2.22		82	19.85 - 0.15
25	14.54 - 5.46		54	17.87 - 2.13		83	19.90 - 0.10
26	14.68 - 5.32		55	17.96 - 2.04		84	19.95 - 0.05
27	14.82 - 5.18		56	18.05 - 1.95			
28	14.96 - 5.04		57	18.13 - 1.87			

IMP SCALE

+/-	IMPs	+/-	IMPs	+/-	IMPs	+/-	IMPs
0 - 10	0						
20 - 40	1	270 - 310	7	750 - 890	13	2000 - 2240	19
50 - 80	2	320 - 360	8	900 - 1090	14	2250 - 2490	20
90 - 120	3	370 - 420	9	1100 - 1290	15	2500 - 2990	21
130 - 160	4	430 - 490	10	1300 - 1490	16	3000 - 3490	22
170 - 210	5	500 - 590	11	1500 - 1740	17	3500 - 3990	23
220 - 260	6	600 - 740	12	1750 - 1990	18	4000+	24

The TEAMS



JUNIOR CAMROSE

Lucy O’Kane & Xander Todd
 Kaj Taylor & Adam Hendry
NPC Wayne Somerville



Liam Sanderson & Daniel Winter
 Liam Fegarty & Sam Anoyrkatis
 Oscar Selby & Andy Cope
NPC Stephen Kennedy



Joseph Bentley & James Williams
 Sophie Akers & Sarah King
 James Brindle & Emilia Cadden
NPC Suzanna Nesom



Luca Crone & Matthew O’Farrell
 Denise Walsh, Leah Finnegan & Isabel Burke
NPC Martin Brady



Angelo Francis Davis & Jack Tatum
 Sophia Rehman & Elizabeth Renaut
 Jack Baxter & George Prothero
NPC Suzanna Nesom



Jamie Day and Prajjwal
 Tamsin Munro and Rufus Behr
 Antone Huang and Kevin Ren
NPC Laura Middleton

PEGGY BAYER

Eleanor Murphy & Wiktoria Januszewska
 Grace Nelson & Mitchell Brown
 Joshua Soeters & Corey Millar
NPC Sandie Millership

Thomas Bradkin & Andrew Bradkin
 David Sargent & Thibault Crosnier
 Wilfred Marshall & Aleksander Blicharz
NPC: Charlie Bucknell

Iolo Williams & Kester Woolley
 Charlotte Smith & Josh West
 Jack Baxter & George Prothero
NPC Melanie Thomas

Eve Connell & Marc Campbell
 Bence Orosz & David Hoyne
NPC Margaret Murphy

May Haddon & Noaz Heymann
 Antonia Espinosa Zeman & Harriet Cork
 Angus Marshall & Sophie Morris
NPC Charlie Bucknell

Iris Behr, Ailsa Greenhalgh
 Chris Hair, Isla Jamieson
 Niamh Reid, Rachel Yu
NPC Danny Hamilton

JUNIOR CAMROSE

Northern Ireland

Lucy O’Kane & Xander Todd

Lucy is in her second year studying Medicine, after reading Biochemistry at university.

Xander is currently 23 and has just graduated from Queen’s University, Belfast. He is currently looking for a job and working on a few different coding projects. His other hobbies include bouldering, volleyball and Brazilian ju-jitsu.



Kaj Taylor & Adam Hendry

Kaj is currently two years into a Mathematics degree at Queen’s University. This will be his first Junior Camrose and his ninth year trying to play bridge. Kaj is excited to see whether he can improve his card play. In his spare time he plays the guitar, watches too many films and works far too much for a full-time student.



Adam is a 19-year-old Law student who has been playing bridge for more years than he’d like to admit. He is a retired boxer who fills his time attempting to teach his friends the difference between bridge and Jack Change It [*aka. Switch or Uno*]. He’s an inconsistent gym-goer but when cornered will use his personal training qualification to hide that fact. This is his first year playing on the Junior Camrose team and he hopes to learn from the experience.



Wayne Somerville NPC

Wayne is a regular member of the Camrose team. As a junior he represented Northern Ireland and Ireland between 2006 and 2014. He has gone on to win the NIBU's top league, as well as the Northern Ireland Teams and Kelvin Cup, on several occasions. Away from the bridge table he is currently studying Software and Games Development at the South Eastern Regional College in Bangor. In his spare time, when not glued to his PS5, he enjoys pool and chess, solving sudoku variants and listening to symphonic metal.



England

Liam Sanderson & Daniel Winter

'Little' **Liam** Sanderson is representing England in his third Junior Camrose. Since his last appearance Liam has become engaged to Liz Gahan, a fellow exercise fanatic (Liz competes in Hyrox events and half-marathons while Liam exercises his mouth at the local pub). Liam's second life in the past year has been his brief stint in 'fun-employment' consisting mainly of several 'unlucky' appearances on RealBridge with glass of red in hand. Since then Liam has found his calling as a landlord, renting out his flat on AirBNB for a few £ hundred per night while travelling the globe. Liam's brand of bridge is from the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, often opting for the 'darkest' bid and frequently casting spells on opponents. It is this aptitude for spells which explains why his long-suffering partner continues to play with him.

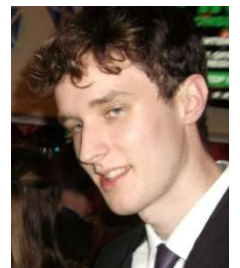


Dan is known for playing bridge at a very high level, that level being 7'6" exactly (which is three inches taller than when we used this joke in 2022). Since then, Dan's height has grown exponentially along with the number of contracts he has gone off in. Outside of bridge Dan used to be a fan of poetry, but now he is in to rap, making good use of his nickname 'Big Dan'. He is currently working on a completely original rap to commemorate his regular Captain who was unable to make the JC this year, *Without MGB* (full song available on request).



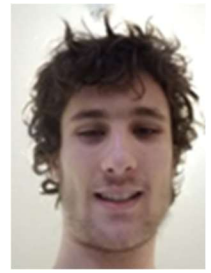
Liam Fegarty & Sam Anoyrkatis

Liam's first memories of bridge are of stealing French Fancies intended for the bridge-playing guests when his parents hosted bridge matches at his countryside home. Since then, he has been taught the game by his mother, from whom he has learnt much. Currently at Durham University, Liam is trying to squeeze ~~as much study in between all of his bridge commitments~~ as much time for bridge in between his study commitments as he works toward an integrated Master's in Electronic Engineering. Apart from bridge, Liam enjoys spending time with his dogs Wokkwokk (don't ask - it's a long story) and Rosie. A lover of logic, thief of cakes and namer of stupidly named dogs, Liam is always ready for another game of bridge; just don't leave a tray of French Fancies unattended during the Junior Camrose.



Sam is a big fan of squeeze play. His obsession first began when he read the groundbreaking book, *Crocs on Squeeze Play* (available at all good online

bookstores). Ever since, he has spent every waking moment trying to find the ever-elusive Croc Squeeze, and his results have gone down steadily ever since. When not looking for squeezes, his hobbies include deep-sea diving, Romanian poetry, line dancing, and not responding to his captain's emails asking him to write a pen portrait.



Oscar Selby & Andy Cope

Oscar returns for his fourth Junior Camrose, bringing a wealth of experience and a reputation for finishing in all kinds of places in the final rankings. Oscar graduated from Cambridge last summer, and after deciding to take a year out, got a job in London after only two months, working in private equity. His work has recently taken him to Amsterdam and Dublin, so a trip to Wales seems only fitting. He's also recently been to the Las Vegas NABC, so is pretty well in touch with card-counting, sorry, counting the hand. Whether you're watching for his impressive plays or just waiting for the inevitable ensuing chaos, Oscar will certainly be one to keep an eye on, if only for entertainment value.



Andy 'the maniac' Cope has a style of bridge terrifying to both opponents and partners alike. Be ready to enter the Twilight Zone, for the pack will appear to have 60 cards and 50 points. Away from the table, Andy is 'studying' at Nottingham University, though he seems to spend more time on BBO in invitation-only American tournaments (how did he get invited?). He's also an aspiring accountant, a strange choice for someone still learning how to count to 13. During the tournament he always has a great attitude: "You work hard, you play hard" and "You win some, you lose some"; he clearly likes things that come in pairs.



Stephen Kennedy NPC

This photo is of **Stephen** winning the EBU Easter Guardian Teams, playing with his ideal partner. Stephen is looking forward to finally winning a Junior Camrose in a more front-row position. During his career, which includes many first-place finishes in the KFC queue and a world championship medal, Stephen has yet to add a Junior Camrose trophy to his cabinet. He almost believed that "It counted when I was coach" but deep down, he knows it didn't. Since this is Stephen's first outing as NPC, he has asked his players to address him as 'Your Yellowness'; any failure to do so will result in being forced to wear a KFC bucket on their head as punishment. There is genuine concern in the English Selection Committee that Crocs (Stephen's pseudonym when he writes for English Bridge) will attempt to colour dye the infamous blue England shirts yellow.



Wales

Joseph Bentley & James Williams

Joseph, whose job is roughly summed up as 'Something to do with water', is playing his last Junior Camrose this year. One must hope therefore, that he is prepared for the 22-point 3NT we will inevitably find ourselves in. He forms part of the backbone of this team, by experience and wisdom but also by being one of the few Welsh players in the Welsh team. When not playing bridge, Jo can usually be found incrementing his 8000 hours in Europa Universalis 4 or tracking down Etruscan boar figures



A second-year computer science student at Cardiff University and proud secretary of the Cardiff Bridge Society; **James** - lovingly known during practices as 'Little James' - works hard and is studious to the point of four Redbulls. He will be playing in the Junior Camrose for the first time this year after his debut in the Peggy Bayer last year. James is excellent at Pokémon Showdown, but this does not translate directly into bridge ability, judging by his insistence on sending his partners to unfortunate 5-level contracts and his tenaciously-argued belief that bidding dodgy sacrifices is a right of the British people.



Sophie Akers & Sarah King

Sophie is a former Cardiff University student now working as a microbiologist. She claims to be from Birmingham; we have, however, never seen her wear a flat cap or a pocket watch. Sophie is a relentlessly forgiving and patient bridge partner, and always a joy to play with ... unless you stick her in a dodgy 1NT contract ... or forget to lead the suit she signalled ... or accidentally reverse with 8 points. Be nice to her or she will set her pet hedgehog on you.



Sarah studies psychology at Cardiff University, so if you think too hard she will know. In a recent conversation, Sarah revealed that her spirit animal is either a raccoon or a red panda. One of Sarah's top qualities is her blind faith in her partner's card play, demonstrated by passing her partner out in a 5♠ Roman Keycard response, to play in a 4-card fit. Other than bridge and mind-reading, some of Sarah's favourite pastimes are going to concerts by people nobody has ever heard of, wearing black, and sarcasm.



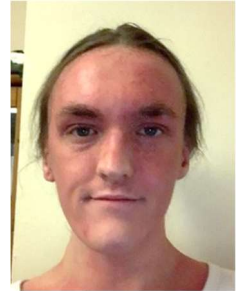
James Brindle & Emilia Cadden

If you want insanity, **James** is the person for you. From making someone learn a whole bunch of conventions super quick to bidding things and making partner panic in response, James knows how to keep you constantly on your feet. Luckily, they also have the skills



to backup any insanity. You'll usually be hoping they're declaring, because it often ends well when it shouldn't.

Germany has brought the world so many great things ... the electronic music movement, the Protestant reformation, the coffee filter (probably) ... and **Emilia**, who was born there. Emilia mostly plays bridge online. She's returning for her second Junior Camrose for the appearance.



Suzanna Nesom NPC

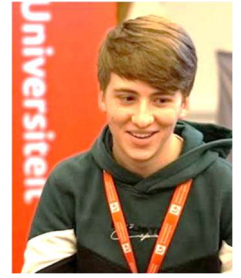
Soozy began on the bridge scene playing for Scotland (boo) as a junior before realising that Wales was her true home. Here she met best friend Mel (the other Peggy Bayer NPC). They met at a training weekend in Cheltenham, had a two-hour car journey home and have been pals and bridge partners ever since. Soozy represented the Scottish Juniors twice (in the 2015 European Youth Teams U20 and 2016 European Youth Pairs) times and Wales twice (in the 2020 and 2021 Junior Camrose) and has now set her sights on the Welsh Women's team, so far to no avail. Away from the bridge table, Soozy is an Economist researching the gender pay gap (don't try debating this with her; you won't win). Soozy enjoys hiking and is a regular park runner. She has made a significant contribution to Junior bridge in Wales, helping set up a Society at the University, teaching new juniors, and organising them to play in competitions such as this one.



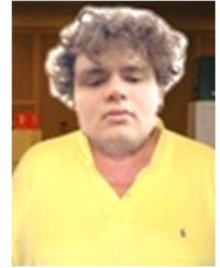
Republic of Ireland

Luca Crone & Matthew O'Farrell

Luca has just moved to the windy city of Chicago. Why you might ask, to do some hard sums? or I suppose we should say MAETH now. You would think that should mean less bridge but somehow that is not the case, for he has been enjoying the Nationals. Probably best to avoid him this weekend lest he try to convert you to Trump.



It is impossible for one to fully analyse and discuss **Matthew** 'AJ' O'Farrell. For this hierophant transcends human description. Upon entering a room, an aura of mischief, grandiose and mystery soon accompanies him. AJ lives a secretive life, not unveiling much about himself. Such confidential matters include: what AJ stands for (this shall remain forever an enigma); his Spotify Wrapped; what festivities transpired throughout his college Erasmus. Although very little is known about Mr O'Farrell, he will undoubtedly strike fear, awe and most likely tremors from his shaking leg into any screenmate. Matthew used to play rugby, but is believed to have given up the sport due to the immense risk his presence imposed upon the opposition.



Denise Walsh, Leah Finnegan & Isabel Burke

Denise has been a busy bee trying to establish various business ventures, the most promising being remote-control wheelbarrows. Having failed at securing any investors in her creative endeavours, it's our suspicion that she'll use the weekend to network and get her feet off the ground. So don't be surprised if our bootstrapping girly asks you to make a small loan of \$1 million. Stressed from her outlandish brainstorming, Denise decided to take a trip to Nice to blow off some steam. On her travels, she discovered her new favourite foods: frogs' legs and snails - #escar-woah! So if you spot a snail anytime over the weekend, please help her retrieve her dinner.



Leah says that she lives life according to two rules: Live. Laugh. Love (Leah was never good at maths). This year, she decided to seek refuge from the harrowing kip that is UCD and move to Oporto, home of "... the most beautiful McDonald's in the world". Although Leah's tastes are quite singular, she enjoys McDonald's for its variety. Speaking of beef ... there is some tension on the Irish Junior Camrose team. This is particularly unfortunate because Leah happens to be a vegetarian. We are hoping that Leah and her arch-nemesis



will acknowledge their mistakes and meet each other halfway. However, we fear the worst as it's still quite raw. #reconciliation=pending.

Bridge is **Isabel's** third-favourite card game after hearts and snap. For snap she has the reflexes of a hawk, using her acrylics to scare off rivals. Her declarer play needs to be very strong owing to a partner who shall remain nameless (name beginning with 'T' and ending with 'om'), who quite frequently places her in dire contracts. She first started bridge upon hearing of the famous lady-magnet Amir on the Israeli U26 team: she thought she would like to meet this gent. She would say that she's a timid bidder most of the time but has joined the 'sketchy Weak Two gang', upgrading her hand to a Weak 2 bid holding absolute rubbish. On her bridge journey, the effectiveness of her somewhat strange 2NT opening showing EXACTLY 20 points has been proved on many occasions, the most memorable time being during the European Youth Team Championships when she and Sheila [Walsh] reached a small diamond slam solely on account of their efficient bidding system. This is, however, frowned upon by many [all] of their teammates, forever a mystery to Isabel.



Martin Brady NPC

Martin learned his bridge at Durham and Bristol Universities in the 1990s, before the lure of an actual paying job drew him to Dublin in 2001. Though he's a native Englishman (with Geordie origins), he and England have grown in different directions in the last twenty years, and he now considers himself a fully assimilated Irishman. He represented the CBAI in the 2023 Camrose and is currently the Association's vice-president. In his working life, he is a university lecturer in Latin language, literature, and culture.



WBU

Angelo Francis Davis & Jack Tatum

Once upon a time the Engineering school was quiet, not a peep from Trevithick. That all changed when **Angelo** arrived. Studying some complicated engineering PhD thing, he makes Jack look like the inferior engineer. As for bridge, they haven't played a massive amount together so miscommunication during bidding is their best trick. Angelo has a lot of aces up his sleeve (seriously, someone should check), and Jack is relying on Angelo to carry him through this tournament.



Jack is an alleged Master's student who knows more than he lets on. Apparently he is studying Electronic Engineering, yet has never been seen in the Engineering building, possibly because he prefers to work from the comfort of his bed. He hopes that the Junior Camrose will move online.



Sophia Rehman & Elizabeth Renaut

Originally from London, **Sophia** applied to be a Psychology student in Cardiff for the singular reason that there is a bridge society at the University. Despite this, for some reason she has prioritised her degree over bridge, missing out on several sessions by claiming she needs to 'focus on her exams'. Although she played bridge throughout secondary school, Sophia confesses that the only bidding rules she learnt in that time were to bid 'based on vibes'. Elizabeth is hoping she doesn't have to declare in a slam contract based on vibes. Some of Sophia's favourite television shows include Criminal Minds, House MD and Hamilton. Another is Doctor Who; let's hope she's learnt something from it because she and Elizabeth may need to rewind time and try again. Several times.



Having moved from Bournemouth to study Computer Science at Cardiff University, **Elizabeth**, always a lover of card games, found that Cardiff had no card-game society so her only option was to join the bridge club. She had previously mastered whist, and blew everyone away with their natural aptitude for bridge tactics, but that was before they encountered bidding. Starting university ambitiously, Elizabeth attended 6 other Societies but bridge is now taking up 14 hours a week, not including travel time, and not including the hours Elizabeth spends playing online bridge all night. Aside from thinking three types of cheese is an actual meal, Elizabeth is a logical individual and keeps us in check with her cool head and optimistic attitude, even when partner has just conceded -5.



Jack Baxter & George Prothero [*floating pair*]

After losing his Premium Bond savings in a round of chemin-de-fer, **Jack** decided that bridge would be a less expensive pastime. A keen Computer Science student, and expert Scratch programmer, do feel free to ask him for help setting up email accounts or online banking etc. When Jack is not playing bridge, he can be found fly-fishing or in his pottery studio.



According to Jack, "I don't know this man. I've never seen him before in my life. As far as I'm aware, the first time I saw **George** was when we arrived at this competition. But when I try to bring it up with the others they laugh, and he smiles politely with that strange smile. They say he joined our club months ago, that we've been a pair for weeks. But I don't remember that at all. I thought I was a backup player. There are records of messages, messages I don't remember. Conversations I never had. I study him carefully - every action, every movement - and sometimes he catches my eye, and he just smiles. I don't know what he did to them, how he changed them. But I know, and he knows I know. And there's nothing I can do."



Suzanna Nesom NPC

Soozy is also captaining the Wales team, under the heading of which her pen-portrait may be found.



Scotland

Jamie Day & Prajjwal

Jamie was called in as a reserve at the last minute to replace Kajetan Granops, who unfortunately cannot be with us this weekend. Jamie is a final year Maths student at Edinburgh University and is obviously making time to travel to Wales (and probably frantically writing a system card as this revised brochure goes to press).

Prajjwal is a final-year Mathematics and Economics student, part-time startup founder, and a full-time chaos enthusiast who has perfected the art of doing everything at the last minute - though, clearly, not this pen portrait. The highlight of his bridge career remains taking Meckwell for 1400, a feat so impressive that he briefly considered retiring on the spot until he realised he'd lost an IMP on the board. For Prajjwal preparation is something that happens to other people. He prefers the thrill of figuring things out mid-disaster. This is his second Junior Camrose, and he's as prepared for it as he is for everything else - so not very.



Tamsin Munro & Rufus Behr

Tamsin was originally introduced to bridge by their grandad and cousin, in order to help their cousin learn. This backfired spectacularly, with Tamsin picking up the hobby and their cousin dropping it because "... it's too competitive". Of course with their background in Taekwon-do no one will say this is Tamsin's doing (at least not to their face). Other than bridge Tamsin enjoys cross-stitch and crochet, bestowing the hobbies of an old lady and the patience to methodically destroy anyone who calls them that. Here's hoping they turn that attitude towards the opponents this year.



After graduating from the University of Aberdeen in 2023, **Rufus**, the most ancient member of the Scotland U26 team, began work as a Research Software Engineer at Northeastern University in Boston. When not writing Natural Language Processing papers or admonishing (ab)users of the high-performance computing cluster he monitors, he tries to make time for practising bridge.



While being on a different continent has proven difficult to practise and compete with his partner, he doggedly wakes up at ungodly hours on the weekend to play, sometimes managing to keep count.

Antone Huang & Kevin Ren

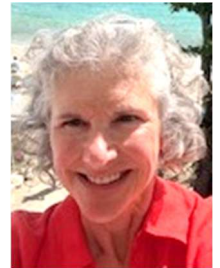
Antone is currently studying at Edinburgh university, Antone is an experienced player having represented Scotland at U26 and U31 in Junior Camrose and in Europe.

Here's the baby of the team, whose favourite compliment is that he's younger than he looks. Everyone has given up on telling **Kevin** to act his age, which to him would be a perfect reason to keep pre-empting with any random 5-card suit. But this year he risks getting put in timeout, i.e. sent to play in the Peggy Bayer. Kevin has put in a lot of practice for his JC debut, specifically preparing a list of excuses for when he puts down a less than ideal dummy. His favourite, however - "Oh, that was actually just a misclick" - might not work here.



Laura Middleton NPC

I am delighted to be NPC again this year for this talented group of hard working players.



PEGGY BAYER

Northern Ireland

Eleanor Murphy & Wiktorija Januszezwska

Eleanor is 16 years old and this will be her second Peggy Bayer. She's in her 5th year at school and enjoys reading and playing water polo.

Wiktorija has been playing bridge for nearly two years. Besides bridge, she loves sport, and has quite the shopping addiction. This is her second Peggy Bayer and she is excited to get the chance to meet you all.



Grace Nelson & Mitchell Brown

Grace is currently doing her first year of A-levels at Carrickfergus Grammar School. She is studying biology, chemistry and maths, hoping to continue to study at university. Outside of bridge and school she likes to play badminton, go out with friends and read.

Mitchell has been playing bridge for three or four years and been steadily improving. He is an avid football fan and an advanced-level fencer. Beyond that he is fascinated with Sim-Racing and you'll usually find him either on that or with his dog.



Joshua Soeters & Corey Millar

Joshua is in Year 13 at school and has been enjoying playing bridge since Year 8. Throughout school he has always gone to both bridge and rugby to stay both sharp and fit and is looking forward to playing for the second time, this time away from home.

Corey is 17 years old and has been taking A Levels, to his detriment. He has been a bridge-player for many years and frequently boasts about that. He enjoys reading, singing in a choir, judo, and overall spending time with friends: the full package.



Sandie Millership NPC

Sandie is a retired Pharmacist living in Bangor. She has been involved in Junior bridge for more years than she cares to remember. She loves watching the youngsters' enthusiasm for the game but also gives thanks for permanent hair colours which disguise the grey hair that watching them produces. She has captained the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer teams, and also the Lady Milne team, on numerous occasions; and the Teltscher team two years ago. She has played many times in the Lady Milne, and also played in the inaugural Senior Camrose with her late husband, Jeff (yes, she is that old 😊).



England

Thomas Bradkin & Andrew Bradkin

Thomas, 16, started learning bridge at age 7, on a family holiday, roped in by his brother Andrew. He took lessons with Heather Bakhshi and began playing for the U16 team in 2020, appearing at the World Youth Transnationals in 2022 (Individual Bronze) and the 2023 Peggy Bayer (winners); having had his first taste of success he is keen for more. Thomas plays cricket, rackets, football and the Eton Wall Game, and is passionate about history, Latin and classic films. His NPC notes his fondness for finding squeezes where none exist and for describing layouts not even astronauts dream of reaching. He also dreams of finding contracts that require opponents to pass out game hands at the 1-level.



Andrew, 18, started learning bridge with Heather Bakhshi at the age of 8. He made his U16 team debut in 2020. Andrew and Thomas were partners in the England U16 team at the World Youth Transnationals in 2022, reaching the finals. They took second place in the Scottish Junior National Pairs in 2020. Andrew plays squash, rackets, basketball, electric guitar, tennis and football (he is a devoted Swansea supporter), and played the Eton Wall Game on St. Andrew's Day. His usual NPC notes that Andrew's excellent bridge is mostly ruined by connection issues in training; fortunately, the Peggy Bayer is to be played in person, so unless Andrew runs away we hope to avoid that problem.



David Sargent & Thibault Crosnier

With family in Newport, **David** is essentially going home for his second Peggy Bayer. An Astrophysics student, David is looking for life on other planets, hoping they'll play with him at Manchester Bridge Club rather than hoping for a Nobel prize. He tries to make his partner follow the mantra 'If in doubt just put 4 major on the table' (*Thibault here: instructions unclear, I am now writing -1100 on the scorecard*). If you do end up facing David you'd better not take too long or he will immediately seek 'clock protection'. In his spare time he enjoys making his unpaid servants work on his farm (for legal reasons, we must clarify that this is in a video game). Jokes aside, David is a lively and humorous bloke, strong-skilled at bridge, and even stronger when it comes to eating contests.



Thibault is 'studying' Computer Science at the 'Université' of 'Brie-stoll', or at least so he'll tell you. Born in France, Thibault's sole purpose was to take down the English bridge team from the inside. This mysterious figure washed up on the shores of



England just in time to start Year 5, and began his training to infiltrate our team in Year 7. We are glad that Stockholm Syndrome has triumphed over his brainwashing, for Thibault has had a successful stint for England so far, bringing home a silver medal at the 2024 Channel Trophy and a win at the 2024 Peggy Bayer. He is also a master of poker: he doesn't play, he bluffs his hand at the bridge table. Thibault is a vital component to the team, both at and away from the table.

Wilfred Marshall & Aleksander Blicharz

Wilfred's love affair with bridge(s) began 18 months ago on a canal boat in Yorkshire. He had no real clue what he was doing until a few brisk duplicate sessions at the local Acol Club provided a proper introduction to the competitive game. Wilf plays with top international Matt Brown (New Zealand) and his local mentor Noorul Malik, as well as with his brother Angus,. Wilf's proudest 100% so far came from a lead-directing double of Zia's 2♦ transfer bid, bringing Wilf's obedient dad a first-round ruff and an improbable five tricks to defeat 3♥.



Aleks is 13 and lives in London. Introduced to bridge by his dad when he was nine, his passion really took off when he joined King's College School's club. He was invited to train with the U16 bridge squad, making his international debut in the European Online Teams in 2024. He remembers his first tournament with his dad at the Wimbledon club; he was the youngest there, got a lot of support. and found it enjoyable. His older brother plays too: it runs in the family. They like to play, point out mistakes and then analyse them: it motivates them since they both like winning. To Aleks bridge feels like constantly solving new puzzles which change as play progresses, and small details can make a big difference. He enjoys playing basketball, supporting the San Antonio Spurs because his favourite Polish-American plays for them.



Charlie Bucknell NPC

Charlie is a professional bridge player who lives in Oxford or London, fresh from the junior circuit himself. When he was younger he loved defending doubled part-scores and overbidding; now he spends much of his time trying to stop his juniors from doing the same. This is his first solo event since his appointment as squad captain, and he has learnt first-hand how difficult it is to get his players to send in convention cards and pen portraits, finding the whole ordeal so stressful that he's decided to move to France. Outside of bridge his hobbies include ten-hour-long board games and letting through goals when playing Rocket League. Both of these have raised the quality of his bridge since they have improved both his patience and his ability to blame his teammates.



Wales

Iolo Williams & Kester Woolley

Iolo is a six-times world record holder for the most waffles eaten on a rocket-powered pogo stick in one minute. Unfortunately, this record was lost last year owing to unsanctioned nuclear weapons-testing in the vicinity. Iolo opens 7NT irrespective of the cards dealt, a practice which has proved effective every time. Due to the imminent nature of the invasion of the lizard-people, Iolo is unable to attend the Junior Camrose, but has kindly sent one of his forced labour clones in his place. We pledge to never question the suspiciously robotic precision of his card play or the faint smell of engine oil that follows him around the table. When not busy organizing underground hamster races, Iolo enjoys teaching quantum physics to squirrels, a pastime which has made him the subject of several conspiracy theories and one mildly interesting Netflix documentary.

This is **Kester**...That's it this is Kester. Anyway if he's not playing cards he's collecting leaves: they're even laminated. If you need identification he's your man. From ivy to rooibos he's got them all. He's so invested that he created a religion around it (it's called photosynthesyzegis). The best thing about Kester is his ability to play poker in the middle of the bidding, so when you hear someone shout "FULL HOUSE!" in the middle of the tournament you know exactly who it is.



Charlotte Smith & Josh West

Charlotte is from Milton Keynes, the land of roundabouts and concrete cows. Since moving to Cardiff, she's kept herself busy with lots of bridge. According to a very unverified source, Milton Keynes has more bridges than Venice, so perhaps it helps her feel closer to home. Another source claims she's passionate about collecting in-flight sick bags and Hikaru Dorodango (mud ball polishing); so those are some potential talking points if you're ever left alone with her for any length of time. Charlotte is a good sport but her opponents should check for reflective surfaces and not even think about their cards as she can read minds.

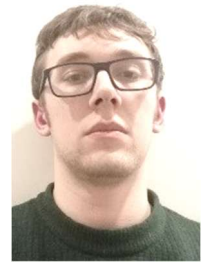
Josh is a student at Cardiff University studying Economics, so he can earn back his money on the stock market after losing it all on Dogecoin. This comes with the added benefit of being able to calculate the IMPs flying away in real time, while the rest of us have to wait until the end to see the 3-17. Descending from a bridge family, Josh must win this competition as a rite of passage into the House of West, so please be nice to him or he'll be cast out of the



family, doomed to roam the Welsh countryside haunting bridge clubs for eternity.

Jack Baxter & George Prothero [*floating pair*]

After losing his Premium Bond savings in a round of chemin-de-fer, **Jack** decided that bridge would be a less expensive pastime. A keen Computer Science student, and expert Scratch programmer, do feel free to ask him for help setting up email accounts or online banking etc. When Jack is not playing bridge, he can be found fly-fishing or in his pottery studio.



According to Jack, "I don't know this man. I've never seen him before in my life. As far as I'm aware, the first time I saw **George** was when we arrived at this competition. But when I try to bring it up with the others they laugh, and he smiles politely with that strange smile. They say he joined our club months ago, that we've been a pair for weeks. But I don't remember that at all. I thought I was a backup player. There are records of messages, messages I don't remember. Conversations I never had. I study him carefully - every action, every movement - and sometimes he catches my eye, and he just smiles. I don't know what he did to them, how he changed them. But I know, and he knows I know. And there's nothing I can do."



Melanie Thomas NPC

Known as the Queen of the King Offa's Dyke race - yes, she really ran the entire Welsh border in just three days, finishing as the first woman - **Mel** is impossible to miss. With her ever-changing wardrobe of dazzling outfits and a personality to match, she lights up any room (or bridge club). This year, she is leading the Peggy Bayer team with her signature energy and enthusiasm. As captain Mel brings not only her bridge expertise but also the battle-hardened experience of a veteran of the Junior Camrose, where she whipped the team into shape with her knack for motivation and snacks. Away from the bridge table Mel is the best friend, bridge partner, and running buddy of Soozy (the Wales Junior Camrose NPC). Together they've logged countless kilometres together, and when she's not dissecting what happened in a hand or learning new conventions, she's usually out chasing another personal best.



Republic of Ireland

Eve Connell & Marc Campbell

Eve, born in 2007, is from Navan in Co. Meath. She started playing bridge with her family during the Covid lockdown. When live bridge returned, she joined the Royal Tara Bridge club and plays there every Friday night with her Dad. She also joined Termonfeckin bridge club with Klara Flanagan, and plays there every Monday night. She loves bridge and would encourage other young people to take it up. It is a great distraction from the stress of exams and school work, although, sometimes, according to her mother, it can be too much of a distraction. When not playing bridge, she likes to play hockey, listen to music and go to the cinema. She also enjoys drumming, crochet and baking.



Marc is a sixth-year student at Carrickfergus Grammar School who has been playing bridge for over five years. He likes chess, mountain biking and playing his PlayStation. This will be his second Peggy Bayer., but his first for the Republic of Ireland.



Bence Orosz & David Hoyne

Ben, or Bence, is as Irish as it gets. He was born in Hungary, where he learnt bridge from his maths teacher, originally because he lost a bet. He has been playing for the better part of the last two years, so who really won the bet? He moved to Ireland during the summer of 2023, and helped by a bit of luck quickly got in contact with the Irish junior team. The way he plays bridge is interesting to say the least, since he sometimes bids based on how 'funny' a bid is, and only then counts his actual points. Outside of bridge he spends his free time playing and watching football, running, listening to music and thinking about that one Applied Maths task he wasn't able to do last Wednesday.



David, like a shopping trolley with a wonky wheel, never knows in which direction he's going during the bidding. Jokes aside, he has been playing bridge for about eight years now and this is his fourth Peggy Bayer appearance. He was taught by Margaret Murphy, his NPC and one of the incredible bridge teachers in Ireland. He is also currently in his second year of college so it's been a busy year for him. The aspect of bridge he loves the most is the whooshing sound that slam contacts make as they fly by him. It's also a frequent occurrence for him to sit there waiting for his turn to bid only to realise that it's actually been his turn to bid for the last minute, so this is a friendly reminder to tell you all that it's OK to tell him it's his turn if he looks as if he's in deep thought.



Margaret Murphy NPC

Margaret, the crown jewel of the CBAI, is the glue of the Irish junior gang. Only a lady as formidable as Margaret would be capable of keeping these juniors in line. Having settled in Kilkenny, she knows exactly when to get her claws out and stick her teeth in. Contrary to popular belief, Margaret is NOT a Kilkenny native: she is actually unfortunate enough to come from Cavan (Kyhavun) ... but we all have our problems. Margaret is not, however, one to succumb to stereotypes. No, no: you will never catch Margaret peeling oranges in any pockets nor will any tea bags be found on her washing line.



EBU

May Haddon & Noaz Heymann

May is a relatively new bridge player who lives in Brighton and Bath. This is her first face-to-face event with her partner Noaz. She loves bidding Jacoby and beating her father, who first taught her to play, in Funbridge challenges. Outside bridge she is an A-level student and enjoys running, bouldering and solving Rubik's cubes, especially the team blind event, in her free time.



Noaz was an avid chess player until he discovered bridge at secondary school at the age of 11 and made the gambit of ditching the chequered battlefield for the far superior realm of bridge. He now represents his school in the Haberdashers' A-team, and still enjoys playing weekly under the generous tutelage of Mr Haring. Living in London has given Noaz the opportunity to play in local clubs and events such as the Year End Congress, where he somehow managed to smuggle himself in without an EBU number. He now plans on doing the same for the Peggy Bayer (surely no one will find out). This is his first face-to-face event with May and he has spent the last few days desperately trying to create a system. Eager to compete in Wales this year, he is bracing for the inevitable exposure of his bridge weaknesses. Outside of bridge, Noaz enjoys researching and running clubs on both quantum physics and calculus. This should have taught him dedication, but he still managed to end up scrambling to prepare for this competition just weeks in advance.



Antonia Espinosa Zeman & Harriet Cork

Antonia comes from a bridge family(ish); her parents actually met while playing, but Antonia didn't pick it up until three years ago. There was a brief attempt by her parents to teach her and her siblings when she was younger, but they chose to teach them Precision, which Antonia's nine-year-old brain found too complicated to bear. From Santiago de Chile, she moved last year to the UK to study a highly employable and AI-proof degree at Durham University. As a consequence, she committed treason against her country and joined the U21 English squad. She now enjoys skipping lectures and seminars to play Funbridge challenges against old men. Her parents are very proud.



Harriet is 16, from South Lincolnshire ('The North'), and began playing bridge when she was nine. She is in Year 12, an A-Level student taking Spanish, English Language and Maths, far from the average bridge-player selection. In her free time she enjoys keeping up her Duolingo streak, encouraging people to download Duolingo, attempting with limited success to read books in foreign languages, looking at anything vaguely world-geography-map-related (despite not taking GCSE Geography because it was boring), unnecessarily re-reading Codes of Conduct; and plays in an occasional chess tournament or school concert. This is her second Peggy Bayer, and she at the time of writing holds the record for youngest female player to win the Peggy Bayer.



Angus Marshall & Sophie Morris

Angus's journey to Newport began amidst the locks and bridges of the Rochdale Canal, following a chance encounter with the app on his dad's smartphone. Angus's involvement – in common with his approach to almost all leisure pursuits – went swiftly from reckless to obsessive before settling at consistently mercurial. Angus (15) and his brother Wilf (13) regularly terrorise the leaderboard at the nearby Acol Club with their bridge 'Yoda', Greg Rack. This year the boys are playing a new monthly teams event under the name 'Promising Two Minors'.



Sophie is a ten-year-old bridge enthusiast who has been mastering the art of trick-taking for a whopping two years, despite being about the size of a deck of cards. Sophie's strategic mind is way ahead of her years, though her sentences tend to be more complex than a double-dummy puzzle. She'll take you on a verbal journey so convoluted, you'll forget what the question was by the time she has explained her 27-step plan. Sophie loves getting lost in books, building in Minecraft, and catching Pokémon, but she also somehow manages to play hockey and piano without confusing her stick for a keyboard (most of the time).



Charlie Bucknell NPC

Charlie is also captaining the England team, under the heading of which his pen-portrait may be found.



Scotland

Iris Behr & Ailsa Greenhalgh

Iris was first introduced to bridge during lockdown by her Mum - when free time was boundless and counting tricks seemed like the greatest hurdle - and has since picked it up again while at University. Despite wanting to be an artist her entire life, Iris is currently a struggling first-year Physics student. She spends her 'free' time attending life-drawing sessions, assessing the cost of individual bread slices (naturally, by brand, store, and thickness), or baking whatever she has seen on Instagram. She has become synonymous with her signature origami dragon which can be seen dotted around her university campus.



Ailsa is 17 years old and currently attending Hutchesons' Grammar, where she is studying Chemistry, German and Mechanics. She is a member of the Buchanan Bridge Club in Glasgow. Alongside bridge she enjoys playing rugby for Cambuslang and powerlifting. She is going to University next year; she hopes to study Aero-Mechanical engineering.



Chris Hair & Isla Jamieson

Chris is the calmest person in the world. He appreciates the simple pleasures in life, and nothing can upset him. Nothing can disturb Mr. Calm, which means he keeps a cool head whenever there's a crisis. But not everyone approaches life in the same way. Can Mr. Calm help his friends change their ways?



Isla is 16 years and is currently in S5 at the High School of Glasgow. Her awful maths skills from last year have sadly not improved, and have very likely got worse owing to the fact she dropped the subject; but team-mate Rachel's maths genius should hopefully cancel this out. Isla's hobbies include dance, sleeping, refusing to study and stalking celebrity Instagrams, which is how she found out Niamh and Conan Gray have the same Godfather socks. A large portion of her time goes to convincing her Head of Year - and herself - that she is capable of taking six Higher exams this year, but his reluctance is probably justified: if you were to ask her what osteoporosis is and why a burger is good for the elderly she wouldn't be able to tell you, proving her lack of knowledge in Health & Food Technology.



Niamh Reid & Rachel Yu

Niamh is a 16-year-old from Glasgow. If you interact with Niamh for more than ten minutes, you'll be surprised to learn that her screen time is often under three hours as she seems VERY chronically online. Don't ask about her fantasy football team unless you want your ear talked off (you have been warned). As was the case last year, Reneé Rapp and spam Instagram are still popular, but she has a new bridge partner and is hoping that her night-owlery will balance out Niamh's habit of an early night.



Rachel is in her 5th year of high school. She spends a lot of her time listening to Niamh talk about her fantasy football team, inserting 'hmms' and 'ahs' at what she deems are the right moments. Her hobbies include figure-skating, the violin and watching sitcoms, yet she hates starting new ones. She plans to spend this Peggy Bayer constantly reminding people, and forgetting herself, the artificial bids on the convention card, and attempting to transfer some of her ability to count to Isla, who claims to have none.









Danny Hamilton NPC







Danny is a Maths teacher at the High School of Glasgow and is delighted once again to be accompanying a fine group of Scottish youngsters on their quest for glory and immortality, or at least a top-five finish. Since last year his tastes have matured, and he now takes an almond croissant with his 10 a.m. cappuccino. He gets a bit restless with not enough to do, so between matches will be reporting on [BridgeDanny.blogspot](http://BridgeDanny.blogspot.com).



SCORECARD: PEGGY BAYER

			NI	England	Wales	RoI	EBU	Scotland	Total VP
Northern Ireland		IMPs							
		VPs							
England		IMPs							
		VPs							
Wales		IMPs							
		VPs							
Republic of Ireland		IMPs							
		VPs							
EBU		IMPs							
		VPs							
Scotland		IMPs							
		VPs							

SCORECARD: JUNIOR CAMROSE

			NI	England	Wales	RoI	WBU	Scotland	Total VP
Northern Ireland		IMPs							
		VPs							
England		IMPs							
		VPs							
Wales		IMPs							
		VPs							
Republic of Ireland		IMPs							
		VPs							
WBU		IMPs							
		VPs							
Scotland		IMPs							
		VPs							