

I was born in 1953 in Wiltshire. I started playing bridge with my parents when I was 14. It was only social rubber bridge but they were quite keen, and I guess I played a couple of times a week with them when I was in the sixth form. Then I went to Nottingham University, joined the bridge club there and subsequently married Tony Sowter. The bridge flourished and I played in my first Lady Milne, with Sally Eggett, in 1976, heavily pregnant with my son Ben.

I played in my first European Championship in 1979 with **Sandra Landy**, which we won. And we won again in 1981 and also the Venice Cup that year.

Round about then my marriage broke up and in December 1981 I married Mark Horton. The British women won the world championship again in 1985. The Landy/Horton bridge partnership broke up in 1987 and I started playing with Steve Lodge. We got very close to making the open team but not quite close enough. In 1991 my marriage again finished and in 1993 I married **Raymond Brock**. At that time I gave up any interest in international bridge to have two children, but started playing again in 2000 - in the mixed teams in Maastricht with **Jason Hackett**. I formed a partnership with Margaret Courtney and we won the European Championship in 2001 in Tenerife. In 2003 and 2004 I played with **Kitty Teltscher**. Our best performance resulted in a bronze medal in the 2004 Olympiad in Istanbul.

Sadly **Raymond** died in early 2008 after a short illness.

Then at the end of 2008 I was brought in to form a scratch partnership with Nicola Smith in order to join the England Women's team for the **World Mind Sports Games in 2008**, where we won the gold medal. Have a look at the link for more information. Since then we have become a regular partnership and will contend the Venice Cup in October 2011.

Nowadays I make living partly by typesetting travel guides, and partly by professional bridge of one sort or another: writing (I am the columnist for the Sunday Times), playing and teaching online. That, and trying my best to exercise a bit of control over two teenagers, takes up most of the rest of my time. However, in the last year I have formed a partnership, both at and away from the bridge table, with Barry Myers, a long-time friend who has recently returned to bridge after a long absence.

I am never very good at thinking of hands, but one of my most famous was in the Venice Cup in 1981.

NS Game; Dealer North



Q 8 4



K 10 5



A K Q 9 7 2

	♣	4	
♠ 2		♠ A J 5	
♥ 8 7 6		♥ A J 9 3	
♦ J 8		♦ 10 6 4 3	
♣ A Q 9 7 6 5 2		♣ 10 3	
	♠	K 10 9 7 6 3	
	♥	Q 4 2	
	♦	5	
	♣	K J 8	

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
4 ♣	4 ♠	All Pass	

West led the seven of hearts which ran to the queen. At trick two I started cashing diamond and discarded hearts. West ruffed the third round with the two of spades and continued with a second heart. I ruffed and exited with the king of clubs (because I couldn't afford East to get in and play trumps). West won and played another heart which I ruffed. I now ruffed a club and ruffed a diamond with the ten of spades (important play) to leave this position:

	♠	Q 8	
	♥	-	
	♦	9 7	
	♣	-	
♠ -			♠ A J 5
♥ -			♥ 3
♦ -			♦ -
♣ Q 7 6 5			♣ -
	♠	K 9 7	
	♥	-	
	♦	-	
	♣	J	

I ruffed my last club with the queen of spades and East could make no more than one trick. In practice she overruffed and returned a trump but I

could win in dummy with the eight and play a diamond through her at trick twelve. If she had discarded instead. I would simply have played the eight of trumps myself.

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