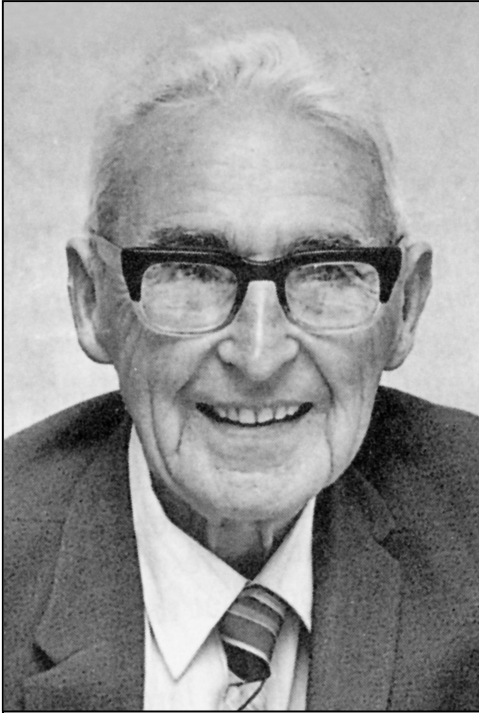


## Norman Allan 1906-1989, Lawyer

\* Pre-Club bridge; joined 1936 & member for 53 years; president 1938, 46; Honorary Member 78; Winner of 19 Club titles between 1939 & 1988; tutor 1946-50; Club solicitor.



**Norman Allan**, 19 Club titles  
© Otago Daily Times, Allied Press Ltd.

Norman was born the son of a teacher in the tiny settlement of Kelso in the Pomahaka valley in S. Otago and educated at Tokomairiro HS (Milton) and Otago Boys High School. As a teenager in 1924 he started work as a clerk at the law firm founded by George Cook in 1862, then under the name of Cook, Lemon & Cook, undertaking university studies at the same time. He later joined the staff of the University of Otago's Law Faculty as a lecturer in company law and bankruptcy, a position he held alongside his work for a number of years. He enlisted in December 1942 with the RNZAF and spent two years stationed in the Pacific, returning to civilian life in Oct. 1945. He found the law firm 'run down', two of the original partners having died. He became a partner & under the new name of Cook Allan Cook built it back to its former strength. In pre-war years he appeared in court regularly but later spent his time giving legal advice as a solicitor. At the start of his career the administration of estates, many in England & Scotland, was important business but later he dealt mostly with family trusts & commercial law. He has acted for many Dunedin companies over the years retiring reluctantly in 1987, but still attending his office once a week till his death in 1989.

In 1952 he was appointed president of the Otago Law Society. He served as a committee member of the Otago Early Settlers Association for a number of years.

Norman and Len Pickering comfortably won the Club Pairs Championships in its first four years (1939-42) despite strong competition from Harold Finlay & Ron Mathieson and Baden Wilson & Dora Black - the latter were to win it for the following 21 years. Norman left to serve with the RNZAF in 1942, and, on return, his career and other commitments prevented a continuous association with the Club. His best competitive years were in the 1960s and early 1970s when he partnered Baden Wilson (*see p.26-31*). Norman has given his time as president of the Club, and, on return to the Club in 1946 when membership had declined, he organized and lectured at tutorial classes which resulted in a



**Norman Allan & Baden Wilson** receiving their 2<sup>nd</sup> place prizes  
in the 1970 New Zealand pairs held in Dunedin

when membership had declined, he organized and lectured at tutorial classes which resulted in a

considerable number of new members being elected to the Club. His wife, Gladys, also a good bridge player with a long association with the Club, won the Club Teams Championships in 1964 partnering Edna McDonald with Bob Hudson & Edna Caley as team-mates.

As a bridge player Norman was a deep, incisive thinker & a strong competitor. He reminded me a lot of John Martin (Northern Club, Auckland), both possessing an ability to read the cards accurately and bring about any form of end-play or squeeze. JM writes in his anecdotes: *"As a bridge player he ranks with New Zealand's best and no one could wish for a more congenial partner or tougher opponent. His contribution to the game in general and the club in particular has been outstanding"*.

In 1987-88 I was in a team partnering John Wolken with team-mates, Bob Hudson & Norman Allan, then in his eighties. Returning to their table (nearly always the top table) to score up reminded me of the time in 1985 I played with Ken Yule in the S. Island Teams with John Wignall & Kris Wooles as team-mates. They rarely conceded any imps and even if we thought we had a bad board or opponents had played well against us, so had they and the bad board was often leveled. Playing with team-mates of this quality raises one's whole game and winning becomes a breeze. I can only endorse all of what JM has said. Norman was a quiet but powerful force at the table. His restrained but nevertheless outgoing manner and delightful chuckle belied a brilliant mind and a fierce fighting spirit. I would go as far as to rank him among the best two or three players I've encountered at the Club.



**Norman Allan**, then aged 80, with John Wolken, David Green & Bob Hudson - winners of the Club Teams 1987

Source: Otago Daily Times, 3/4/87 'An incisive company director'; Otago Daily Times, 29/3/89, obituary ; Personal reflections