



## Leo Mooney

Leo worked for many years until his retirement, as Chief Accountant in Aer Rianta. I met him for the first time when he and his family moved to Malahide in 1970. A small group of us, including Leo and his wife Doris, took our first tottering steps into the world of bridge by organizing a weekly game in a room over what is now Fowler's Pub. This gave us the courage, or the audacity, to apply for membership of the North County Bridge Club. We were accepted, and in due course we applied for, and were granted, admission to the older Malahide Bridge Club.

When the idea of a premises for the bridge playing community in Malahide was first mooted, Leo was one of the first to seize on the idea with enthusiasm. He was nominated by the Malahide Bridge Club onto a project committee, charged with examining the feasibility of a purpose-built premises for bridge. The committee was sufficiently encouraged by the response it received from bridge players to recommend that the project go ahead.

Leo was a tower of strength on the committee. Despite the many obstacles and difficulties encountered, Leo never wavered in his commitment to a bridge premises, open to all and operated by volunteers. He was a member of the delegation which attended a meeting of Fingal County Council to present the case for a bridge premises. He was always ready to meet with resident's associations, politicians and other interest groups to explain the case for a premises.

When the premises finally got the go-ahead, the Council of the new Club decided that it would be appropriate for the Club to hold a weekly competition, pending the opening of the new premises. Leo took on the job with enthusiasm and organized a weekly competition under the auspices of Malahide Regional Bridge Club in Malahide Cricket Club, with himself as Captain, teacher, and Tournament Officer.

He was a man of great integrity. He was never afraid to hold an unpopular view even if that placed him at odds with others. He was utterly devoted to the club. The Club motto, '*Caradas tri Iomaiocht*', (Friendship through Competition), was not for him a mere shibboleth to adorn the Club stationery. He believed that it was an expression of an earnest aspiration to foster a spirit of friendly rivalry in the Club. In fact, he did much to foster that spirit during his time in the Cricket Club and as Tournament's Officer during the first four years of Malahide Regional Club's existence. There was no job that he was not prepared to do for the Club. I shall always remember when, on one of our social nights in the early years of the Club, the Guinness ran out. Nothing daunted, Leo got into his car, drove down to the village and returned with a keg of Guinness in his boot which he had borrowed from one of the pubs.

He is survived by his wife Doris, children Ciaran, Grainne, Lorcan and Orla, his grandchildren Sarah, Ciara, Andrew, Luke, Mark, Gary, Lee, Ben, Ava Rose, his great grandson Leo, his daughter-in-law Lynda, his sons-in-law Greg and Des, and his sister-in-law Celine.

*Go dtugfaidh Dia suaimhneas siorrai da anam dhilis.*

Willie Kehoe