

PAUL KUNKELS – AN APPRECIATION

Paul was born in 1934 in Nijmegen, Holland and often related stories of foraging for food and fuel during the Nazi occupation of WW2. His family was one of the rare owners of an illegal wireless in those dark days. They used the clothes line as an aerial and were lucky to escape detection on many occasions. Paul was later to work for Philips as an Engineer making parts for wirelesses.

Paul came to Ireland in 1958 and worked for a number of Dutch companies, before setting up his own successful business, leveraging on his native country's expertise in irrigation and horticulture.

He met his beloved wife Mary and settled down in Portmarnock with children Robbie , Judy and Paul Jr. He was a great family man and involved himself in coaching swimming and soccer for many years. He was later to be sadly predeceased by both Mary and Robbie.

Paul was a founder member of the Rotary Club of Dublin Fingal and served as President. No task was too big for him and he worked unstintingly to support many worthy causes at home and abroad. He played golf at Sutton GC where he knew everyone.

Paul met Rose Burke, also a member of MRBC, when he joined the Fingal Walkers Club. They both had the travel bug, visited many places around the world over 16 years and had wonderful times together.

On the bridge front, Paul was also a member of St Andrew's Bridge Club, where he often acted as tournament director. He introduced me to bridge and we did well. He used to joke that he couldn't bid and I couldn't play – a perfect combination!!

Paul was a proud Dutchman and a proud Irishman. While he never lost his native accent, he adopted the Irish ways. He loved to tell stories, never missed an opportunity to sing and enjoy a bit of conviviality. He claimed to be the only Dutchman to win a cap for Ireland, when he represented Ireland at the annual Rotary International Golf Competition at St Andrew's, Scotland.

With Paul's passing a light has gone out and it's fair to say we won't see his likes again. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Brian Fitzsimons