



Phyllis Sparks

The funeral of Phyllis Sparks took place in Corpus Christi Church on Griffith Avenue, and later Phyllis was laid to rest beside her husband Kevin, and daughter Stella, in Malahide Cemetery.

Phyllis and Kevin were members from, and during, the early years of our club, with Kevin becoming Maintenance Officer and then Phyllis took charge of placing paintings on what were unrendered dull white walls. Some were her own, others were by her Art group, which could be bought, and were a light release to look at if the Bridge was going badly!

Kevin carried out his tasks meticulously and with good humour and together with Phyllis, organised an interior club facelift that, at that time, was not the ordinary and those dull white walls became an orange colour, the curtains an unusual blue and orange, and the tablecloths alternated between the blue and the orange. We hardly knew about interior design in those days but Phyllis was a natural. I remember the excitement of walking in to the Bridge Room when their work was done. It was magical. Today, the neutrals win out on our rendered walls but then, her orange and blue combination was magical.

Phyllis was a tall slim attractive lady, and definitely a lady. She was very stylish and she was competitive at Bridge. Kevin was more a social player and was great fun, while Phyllis, with a lovely dry sense of humour, was more serious. Their two approaches to our game married well. I remember once when my partner was asked by Phyllis our discard system. "Natural", was the answer from partner when I played the 3 of Clubs, but then when I turned up with the Ace of Clubs there were questions asked in the nicest possible way, and answered by Kevin, saying something like "Dear....., Mary did not really want a club".

It is good times now, with both a great social and competitive element, but it was good times with a twist, back then. Can you imagine after the Bridge ended on a Thursday, packs of sandwiches appearing, watered down by whiskey? Joe Quinn, Kitty's brother, would bring the sandwiches and his wife Una, Kitty and Maurice, Doris and Leo Mooney became quite the 8-some, and they knew how to enjoy themselves. This all ended with the demise of Joe before his time, the sandwiches stopped, and when Kevin died in 1994, Phyllis continued to come out to Malahide with her friend Joan Timlin, until the journey became too much for them and Joan became ill.

I just thought I would share this with you all, and just from my memory. Doris and Leo, long-time friends, will have the full story. Phyllis and Kevin had many other friends in MRBC, Eileen Kelly, Mary McNamara, Margo and Paddy English, Anne Duffy, Madge Kinahan, Aileen James and Dolores Murphy, to name but a few, and some of us met her here, in our home, a year or so ago for afternoon tea and we reminisced.

May Phyllis Rest in Peace, along with Kevin, Maurice, Una and Joe.

Mary Kelly Rogers