



The 2014 Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies



**La Mon Hotel and Country
Club,
Castlereagh, Belfast
21st-23rd February 2014**



***2014 Bridge Great Britain
Junior Camrose and Peggy
Bayer Trophies
presented by
The Northern Ireland Bridge Union***

Welcome to Northern Ireland

Bridge Great Britain and the Northern Ireland Bridge Union extend to all a warm welcome to the 2014 Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies.

The venue is the La Mon Hotel and Country Club, a superb family owned 4 Star Hotel located 15 minutes from Belfast city centre yet nestled away in the countryside. There is a magnificent Vugraph theatre for spectators to watch the action live whilst listening to expert and instructive commentary.

Officials

<i>Match Manager</i>	Brian McDowell
<i>Asst. Match Manager</i>	Anne Hassan
<i>Director in Charge</i>	Fearghal O'Boyle
<i>Scorer</i>	Mairead Basquille
<i>Chairman of Appeals</i>	Ian Lindsay

Vugraph Team

<i>Vugraph Commentary</i>	<i>Michael O'Kane, Ian Hamilton, Greer Mackenzie</i>
<i>BBO Operators</i>	<i>Liz Scott (Organiser), Pat Johnston, June Spiers, Ken Hammond, David Leeman, Colin Jeffries, Martin Burns</i>
<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Helen Cole</i>

Refreshments

For the players and officials, meal timings are as follows:-

Friday	19:30 Reception and Buffet	Riverview Suite
Saturday	13:45 Soup and sandwiches	Ballygowan Suite
	18:30 Buffet	Ballygowan Suite
Sunday	13:45 Soup and sandwiches	Ballygowan Suite
	19:30 Dinner	Ballygowan Suite

Timings

Friday		
19.30	Buffet meal	
Saturday		
9.15	Captains' Meeting	
	Table 1	Table 2
10.00 - 11.45	England v Ireland	N Ireland v Scotland
12.05 - 13.50	England v N Ireland	Scotland v Ireland
	Lunch	
14.20 - 16.05	Scotland v England	Ireland v N Ireland
16.25 - 18.10	Ireland v England	Scotland v N Ireland
18.30	Dinner	
20.00 - 21.45	N Ireland v England	Ireland v Scotland
Sunday		
10.00 - 11.45	England v Scotland	N Ireland v Ireland
12.05 - 13.50	England v Ireland	Scotland v N Ireland
	Lunch	
14.20 - 16.05	England v N Ireland	Scotland v Ireland
16.25 - 18.10	England v Scotland	N Ireland v Ireland
19.30	Dinner & Closing Ceremony	

The Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies Format

The Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies comprise four teams in each event, since Wales has been unable to send a team this year.

The Junior Camrose will be played with screens. Three complete round robins of 12 board matches will be played over the weekend, with IMP scoring converted to VPs according to the WBF published scale for 12 board matches.

Teams consist of a maximum of 6 players.

The draw for 2013 is as follows:

Team A: England

Team B: Scotland

Team C: Northern Ireland

Team D: Ireland

The team printed first in the schedule sits North-South in the Open Room and East-West in the Closed Room throughout the match.

For the first two round robins, seating rights alternate between the two teams: the Captain of the second-named team nominates his pairs first. Seating for the third round robin will be determined by a blind line-up.

Line-ups must be submitted at least five minutes before a stanza is due to begin.

Systems and Conventions

The Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer Trophies are considered to be "Category 3" events as defined within the WBF Systems Policy.

Therefore Brown Sticker and Highly Unusual Methods are not permitted. Anything permitted under EBU Level 4 or Level 5 is permitted

Public presentation

In any one session, four matches are in progress - two in the Junior Camrose, two in the Peggy Bayer. One Junior Camrose match each round will be shown on Bridge Base Online from both the Open and Closed Rooms, which will be displayed in the Vugraph room, with

expert commentary. The other option for spectators is to watch live in the Open Room. Spectators are subject to the regulations set out below. Entry to the Closed Room is prohibited.

Regulations for Open Room Spectators

You may watch the players live in the Open Room provided you observe the following rules:

1. No spectator may enter the Open Room while play is in progress. (Please note that this applies even if a match has started before the advertised time).
2. If a spectator leaves the Open Room while play is in progress he may not return until the play session (i.e. the match) has been completed.
3. During play in the Open Room spectators must refrain from mannerisms or remarks, and must not converse with a player or display any reaction to bidding or play.
4. Spectators are permitted to observe the cards of one player only.
5. They should be seated behind that player and may not get up to walk round the table, or seek to look at the cards of any other player.
6. Spectators are not permitted to sit where they can see the screen of the computer operator covering the internet match.
7. Spectators may not draw attention to any irregularity or mistake, nor speak on any question except by request of the Director.
8. The Director in Charge and/or the Match Manager is empowered to control the presence of spectators, individually or collectively.
9. Under no circumstances may a member of the audience enter either of the Closed Rooms.

Spectator facilities in the Open Room are limited.

Smoking and Alcohol

Please note that smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes) is not permitted anywhere in the hotel. In addition the consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing areas.

Mobile Phones

Please note that mobile phones, pagers or other electronic equipment may not be brought into the playing areas. Spectators in the Vugraph theatre are requested to ensure that mobile phones are switched off.

The Teams England



Junior Camrose

Shivam Shah & Tom Paske

Toby Nonnenmacher & Michael Alishaw

Simon Spencer & Kyle Lam

NPC Tom Townsend

Peggy Bayer

Freddie Illingworth & Ben Norton

Nick Dean & Sam Behrens

Stephen Kennedy & Rhys Munden

NPC Michael Byrne

Northern Ireland



Junior Camrose

Wayne Somerville & Jordan Atchison

Gavin Irvine & Phil Martin

Luke Taylor & Phil Adams

NPC John Murchan

Peggy Bayer

Ryan Lightowler & Melissa Antonio

Aaron Wilson & Craig Smylie

Pooja Sridhar & Victoria Frame

NPC Ruth Connolly

Ireland



Junior Camrose

David Synnott & Hugh Gormally
Kelan O'Connor & Niamh Gormally
John Connolly & Nathan Doyle
NPC Marcin Rudzinski

Peggy Bayer

Arran Bolger & Stephen Barr
Niamh Taaffe & Sheila Walsh
Joy Akpe-Moses & Michael Donnelly
NPC Thomas MacCormac

Scotland



Junior Camrose

Frazer Morgan & Jun Nakamaru-Pinder
Yvonne Wiseman & Ralph Wiseman
NPC Sandy Duncan

Peggy Bayer

Stewart Pinkerton & Scott Lorimer
Katherine Dempsie & Jacob Moody
Tom Browning & Calum Stout
NPC Anne Symons

Team profiles



England

Junior Camrose

Simon Spencer, 22, is a professional Chef for Nottingham Forest FC, where he has not yet been arrested for poisoning anyone. Simon has played a number of international tournaments, including winning the U25 Channel trophy, and has also enjoyed partnering Kyle Lam to many a victory for Nottingham at county level. Simon is a greatly reliable individual both at and away from the bridge table, teammates can always rely on Simon to bring back a score of minus 1700 every set. Simon enjoys Submission Wrestling, watching Starsky and Hutch, and campaigning for the Conservative Party

Kyle Lam, 20, is a Medical Student and serious athlete at Cambridge University. An aficionado of various sports, Kyle is known as "the terror of the rugby field" and "pretty ok" at triathlon. Kyle has enjoyed bridge at both international and county level, his biggest successes including winning the Channel Trophy and brutally destroying Bedfordshire in the Tollemache Cup. Away from the table, Kyle's interests include reading, bailing out Simon Spencer and amateur archaeology. In fact, at the age of just 11, Kyle helped a world renowned professional archaeologist retrieve one of the five Sankara Stones from a temple in Northern India.

Michael Alishaw is 20 years old and studies Mathematics at Cambridge University. However, unusually for a Maths student he is considered a massive socialite and is well known throughout the university to be the "life of the party". When Michael isn't playing

bridge, he can be frequently be spotted at Cindies, a common meeting place for students in Cambridge. The fact that Michael partakes in so much at University means he frequently has little time to sleep but this hasn't put him off! Michael has played in both the European and World Championships and has achieved a reputation amongst his peers for being particularly chatty, something he hopes to keep up! Do come and have a chat if you have a free moment and haven't met him before!

Toby Nonnenmacher is 20 years old and studies at Cambridge University. When Toby isn't studying Physics he enjoys spending time with his girlfriends. Toby holds the Guinness World Record for most number of 'n's in a name which combined with his ability at the bridge table makes him a multitalented individual. Toby's bridge hero is fellow teammate, Simon Spencer, someone who he has always looked up to and he considers him to be fundamental to his bridge successes. Many people don't know that Toby holds 12 passports including Vietnamese, Bolivian and Polish.

Shivam Shah, 21, first started learning bridge at the age of 6 under the schooling of his old man. Since then he has gone on to represent the English Junior teams many times opposite several partners. Last summer, he graduated at the University of Nottingham and is now working in Durham. His hobbies very much revolve around sport in particular football and rugby. As an Arsenal man, he is currently enjoying their 9th trophy less season in a row. He hopes to eventually move to South Africa allowing him to go and watch his beloved Springboks and Proteas regularly.

Tom Paske learnt to play bridge at school in Herefordshire, where unfortunately they did not teach him how to write a paragraph for a pen portrait. He has represented England many times in the Peggy Bayer, Junior Camrose, White House and European Championship

events. He is rumoured to like Karaoke and be interested in most things sporting.

Tom Townsend (NPC) is 43 and lives in Shepherds Bush. He writes a bridge column for the Daily Telegraph and has recently signed for the de Botton team. Tom has represented England many times with distinction at both Open and Junior level, including several Junior Camrose events without defeat, but this weekend is his debut as NPC in the event.

Peggy Bayer

Freddie Illingworth is 17 and bridge is his main hobby. If that sounds dull it's nothing compared to his next most frequent pastime which is maths, which he also represents his country at. All of this time spent on academic pursuits has taken its toll on Freddie's knowledge of culture and the arts however, and at the recent Channel trophy held in Belgium he was forced to admit he had never heard of Lulu, Barbara Streisand and Jason Donovan. He did think he recognised the name "Kylie Minogue", but he wasn't sure what she was famous for.

His partner is **Ben Norton**, who at 16 years old is one of the most average members of the team. He lives in the middle of the country (Loughborough), is middle ranked in the team in terms of age, ability and haircut, as well as height and weight. His efforts to emulate the England open team by becoming the heaviest member of the team are currently not going so well, but he is hoping an extra pudding or too at the victory banquet will see him on his way.

Nick Dean makes his debut at the Peggy Bayer, having never been able to sit still long enough to complete a set of bridge before. His limited concentration span often costs him dearly at the table, during the recent Channel trophy his desperation to make a trick with the ace of trumps cost him two more, having doubled the contract, this

proved to be quite costly! After helping to achieve England's bottom place in that event the only way is up.

His partner is **Sam Behrens**, who attends Latymer school, an elitist London establishment that has produced former winners of this event such as Toby Nonnenmacher, Michael Alishaw and Sarah O'Connor. He is hoping to follow in their footsteps by taking the home the trophy although he didn't realise this would involve actually playing bridge, hoping to sleep his way through most of the competition. He cleverly avoided making his debut in the Channel trophy by being in another continent at the time, a trick that is worth remembering.

Stephen Kenne also starts his international career at this event, having honed his craft at St Leonards Bridge Club in Sussex. His hobbies include Computer games, reading and listening to bad music (eg Queen). Although he isn't used to throwing hundreds ofimps away single handedly, he intends to full get into the England mindset with a few gratuitous penalties and questionable slams.

Rhys Munden is the old man of the team at 19 years and 11 months, and he is playing his second consecutive Peggy Bayer having won the title last year in Manchester. Being one of the few junior bridge players on the team to come from an area of the country known as "the North" he is both mature and relaxed, without the stress that comes from living too close to London. He did choose to go to University south from his native Leeds, however, travelling all the way to Sheffield.

Their Captain is **Michael Byrne**, who returns to Belfast for his second Peggy Bayer here (and his 13th in total) secure in the knowledge that he is helping to broaden the horizons of England junior bridge players. Of the 12 players who came in 2009 to Belfast only one returns, with many of the rest of them having given up bridge completely!



Scotland

Junior Camrose

Yvonne Wiseman From a young age Yvonne has shown an interest in bridge, making her first international appearance at a very young age. At the age of 21, she is now in her third year of studying the periodic table at university and is hoping to become a master of chemicals over the next decade. Outside of bridge Yvonne enjoys food, shopping and learning Arabic (her favourite phrase is 'Anna acol kaaaak' which translates as 'I eat cake'). She also competes at an international level in women's bridge and is competing in Europe this summer. Family connections to the team sponsor Ralph have led her to being a regular member of the Scottish Junior team.

Ralph Wiseman the token sponsor of the Scottish squad, emerges from the depths of his lair in Glasgow to play bridge once a year. This event means a lot to him! The eager beaver did sneak in a practice game before the event, although he was too hungover to remember. Despite this, his top banter and ability to charm have won over the selectors once again. He's managed to make it into the second year at Strathclyde University where he is occasionally to be seen studying maths and his interests outside bridge include hockey, drinking and being a LAD.

Jun Nakamaru-Pinder Jun was born in 1995 and started his bridge career in 2002. He has already played in the Peggy Bayer 5 times and has also represented Scotland in the Open team playing with Jim Hay. He is at Edinburgh University studying maths. He has become an icon of bridge cinema and a key figure of modern popular culture for his starring roles in Aberdonian language films such as "Ani Wan-Wan Ti Double?" and "Fizzenless Twaa".

Frazer Morgan (also spelt Fraser, Frazier or Frasier by former partners) is making his final appearance in the Junior Camrose this year, age ruling him out for future events. He successfully manages to juggle a very successful bridge career with a job as an actuary at Towers Watson and currently lives in Reigate. Apart from numerous appearances in the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer, he has also played for the Scottish Open team and is representing Scotland in Croatia this summer. According to his partner, his bridge career has taken a turn for the worse since his recent engagement to girlfriend Lottie. Frazer's speed of play is legendary - on one occasion he played a 3NT contract in just under nine minutes in the final board of a Peggy Bayer. However, after a decade of bridge playing, and to reflect his more mature years, he has decided that he really needs to slow down and take more time to consider his actions.

Sandy Duncan (Junior Camrose NPC) Sandy played in the first two Junior Camrose events (Scotland winning the first and tying with England in the second). He played Camrose in the 70s & 80s (with Brian Short) and in the 90s and 00s (with Douglas Piper). He also represented Great Britain 3 times (also with Brian) in the 70s & 80s. In 2010, he was a member of the Gold Medal team in the Commonwealth Nations event in New Delhi (with Irving Gordon). He worked for 9 years in USA (between 2002 and 2012), but still finds himself 3rd on the Scottish master point list! He is now retired and living in Stonehaven with his wife who is the minister of the historic Dunnottar church.

Peggy Bayer

Stewart Pinkerton At 18 years of age Stewart, every now and then, studies maths at St Andrews University, one day hoping to master basic addition. In terms of his bridge career, he had a baptism of fire playing for two years with his grandfather and made his first appearance in the Peggy Bayer in 2011. His hobbies involve bridge, sleep, food and learning to speak Glaswegian. His partner this year is Scott Lorimer, who he has not actually met yet.

Scott Lorimer Scott has been playing Bridge for two and a half years. He is 18 and studying Naval Architecture at Strathclyde University in Glasgow. His other hobbies include squash, tennis and going out with his mates. This year he is making his debut on the international bridge season. His partner wishes him luck in the upcoming competition, and hopes someone will introduce them when they arrive.

Calum Stout Bridge, tennis, music, squash - these are the things Calum is known for. When he is not running around playing sport or having a "jam" session, Calum can be found playing on his Gameboy. His Pokemon prowess is quite unmatched and his battling skills make him quite a hit with the ladies. However his commitment to bridge is unfaltering, as he has worked tirelessly to improve and to reach his life long ambition of winning with the beer card. After bidding and making slam on his very first international appearance in the Peggy Bayer last year who knows what he can go on to achieve this time around.

Tom Browning Tom is a multi-talented person, enjoying table tennis (his D is unbelievable!), bridge, rugby, hockey, and running. Tom was the true heart of the 2nd's (be it rugby or hockey!), however he has always shown a true passion for bridge. This has helped him develop his game to a national level, receiving his first cap (t-shirt really) in last year's Peggy Bayer. Just last week Tom achieved the outstanding achievement of winning the 13th trick with the beer card. It was outstanding play from an outstanding guy.

Jacob Moody Jacob is a 6th year student at Stewarts Melville College in Edinburgh and hopes to study maths at University next year. He has played bridge for about 6 years, mainly at the Carlton bridge club, where he partners Kath Dempsie. Other hobbies include cycling and hillwalking. He has previously played in the Paris Youth Open, where he shot to fame by missing his flight home. His two

favourite bids are "double" and " 5 of a minor" irrespective of what his partner has bid. Although generally considered to be a boy, the SBU seem to have issued him with women's shirts which will be on display for all to see in Belfast.

Kath Dempsie Kath is currently at Drummond High School, where she is in her second year. She plays bridge with the Nomads team in the East Division, and also plays regularly on a Thursday night. Other hobbies include parkour and football. This will be her first time playing in the Peggy Bayer, although she has already represented Scotland in the Paris Youth Open.

Anne Symons (Peggy Bayer NPC) Anne is a regular member of the Scottish Women team, and has also represented the Open Team in the Camrose. Her only previous experience of captaincy was with the Seniors, so having gone from one end of the age spectrum to the other, she is looking forward to some good Bridge, mixed with some youthful fun!



Northern Ireland

Junior Camrose

Luke Taylor is currently in his first year at NUI Galway, doing a degree in French and German, though he is also studying Spanish and Italian this year. He has been playing bridge for 7 years, and this is his first appearance in the Junior Camrose having made his debut in the Peggy Bayer squad last year. Aside from playing bridge he also enjoys juggling and watching the football every weekend.

Gavin Irvine this is Gavin's first Junior Camrose, having graduated from the Peggy Bayer team. When he isn't chasing skirt, Gavin studies Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry at St Andrews University. In his spare time he enjoys running (which helps when chasing skirt), bolstering his CV by refusing to seek employment and playing too much bridge. He idolises Roger Federer and enjoys nothing more than relaxing in his cottage in St Andrews when he should be studying. One interesting fact about Gavin, is that he has yet to pass his driving test but has already managed to knock over two people... on his bicycle... Future looks bright!!

Wayne Somerville is the Grandad of our Junior Camrose team, aged 24. He is currently working as a web developer in Belfast. He is the typical modern day lazy guy and when not working or playing bridge, he is surgically attached to his computers. His other interests include chess and role-playing games and Wayne has recently been getting in to anime.

Wayne's international bridge career began in 2006. He has starred in 2 Peggy Bayer's and this will be his 7th and final Junior Camrose. (We

couldn't be happier to be having his finale on home ground and look forward to helping him celebrate his birthday on Sunday!!)

Phil Martin is currently a student at the University of Edinburgh where he is studying Theoretical Physics. While he has played some schools competitions at Ulster and All-Ireland Level, this will be his first time representing Northern Ireland. He enjoys reading and is a keen collector of comic books. Phil loves watching weird films and his favourite one was about the Bridge Playing-Comic Collecting-Theoretical Physicist.

Jordan Atchison has recently started a PhD at the University of Ulster. His research includes finding a cure for his compulsive overbidding! When Jordan isn't butchering contracts he enjoys watching football and cricket. This will be his 2nd Junior Camrose appearance.

Phil Adams is to be known as The International Man of Mystery. We believe he is another Physicist, currently studying at the University of Bath. His hobbies include lion taming and fire swallowing. Thank goodness we have Gavin on the team with his medicinal expertise in case of any accident and Wayne to lend a hand with any role-playing that may be needed to fulfil Phil's dream of taming lions while swallowing fire.. Phil M is currently writing a comic about the fire swallowing lion tamer and Luke will be translating it in due course for distribution throughout Europe... Jordan fully intends to submit a thesis on the subject of why not to try and tame lions while swallowing fire. All 6 boys will be funding their NPC's retreat to the Bahamas for some much needed R&R after this weekend.

Peggy Bayer

Craig Smylie is currently in year 13 at Carrickfergus Grammar School. He is studying maths, further maths, accounting and physics. This will be his debut for the Northern Ireland Peggy Bayer team.

Craig's hobbies include playing video-games, logical puzzles and of course playing bridge! His family think he is somewhat of a maths addict...

Victoria Frame is in her last year of school at Belfast Royal Academy and she is also taking part in her 1st Peggy Bayer. She studies biology, sociology and maths but hopes to read Psychology at university next year. We hope her interest in psychology will be of great help when she tries to read your mind at the table this weekend!!

Melissa Antonio is currently in Upper Sixth at Belfast Royal Academy and is taking A-Levels in maths, physics and chemistry. She's hoping to read Aerospace Engineering at university next year and the team are very excited about having their very own rocket scientist on board this weekend. Mel loves the performing arts and is part of the school's Rock Challenge Dance Team. (We can't wait to see her bust some moves on Sunday night!) She has completed both her Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards and is currently finishing her Gold Award. This will be her 2nd Peggy Bayer competition.

Pooja Sridhar is in her last year of school this year, studying sociology, I.C.T. and English language. She'd love to go on to university and become a social worker. (We think we can get her off to a good start in her career by allowing her to counsel the Junior Camrose team after a traumatic weekend of butchery and -1XX's) Pooja hopes to take a gap year after finishing school this year and go on a world tour. This will be her 1st appearance in the Peggy Bayer.

Aaron Wilson is currently studying at Carrickfergus Grammar School. He takes maths, further maths, physics and I.C.T. This will be his 1st Peggy Bayer Competition although he and Craig have recently been chosen to represent Ireland at the White House Junior Invitational later this year, in Amsterdam. Aaron is very interested in current technology and enjoys video gaming. (Craig, Aaron and Wayne, from the Junior Camrose team, will no doubt be bonding over their love of

all things tech-y this weekend.) Aaron has informed us that he had his first ride in an ambulance on Christmas Day. We are hoping he did not lose any fingers, toes or other body parts which may come in useful when counting to 13 this weekend!

Ryan Lightowler is part of the Belfast Royal Academy troop and the baby of our Peggy Bayer team at just 15 years old! This will be his 2nd appearance in the Peggy Bayer. He is a fanatical wake-boarder and is proud to announce he landed his 1st 360 in September of last year. (Video evidence can be found on Facebook if you'd like to share the moment with him!) Ryan is currently studying for his GCSE's and hopes to go on to study maths, further maths, physics, chemistry AND geography for A-Level. If he can find time between 5 A-Levels, Ryan hopes to replace Harry from OneDirection, although he has yet to prove he can hold any sort of tune.



Ireland

Junior Camrose

David Synnott One half of the most established and successful partnership on the Irish Junior Camrose team, David Synnott is a 2nd year student of Computer Science in Trinity College Dublin. He is a Regional Master Bridge player. His obsessions include computers, coffee and claiming badly.

Recent successes include winning the Pigot Cup in February 2014 against stiff competition, comfortably trouncing the winning team of the previous three years - life or grand masters each of them! David and Hugh also participated in the First Youth Paris Open Bridge competition last October, where they put in an impressive performance and finished up top of the butler.

Hugh Gormally Hugh is a final year student of Electronic Engineering in Dublin Institute of Technology. Together with his regular Bridge partner David, he recently ranked 4th place in the prestigious National Men's Teams in January, as well as ranking a very respectable 10th place in the National Master Pairs in December 2013. Hugh's hobbies include electronics, playing (watching) sport, spelling, and under-ruffing.

Kelan O'Connor is a Biochemistry graduate from Kerry. He holds the distinction of being the most established player on the team. He ranked 2nd in the National Master Pairs this season, playing with his regular partner, his father. He is partnering Niamh Gormally in this event however, since his dad is too old.

He enjoys obscure facts, etymology, and never complaining to his table partners. He is also a very good singer.

Niamh Gormally is a 2nd year student of Home Economics in St Angela's College, Sligo. She learned the game when she attended bridge lessons with her brother Hugh a few years ago, a joyful time when she was the one who knew every answer and he sat in the back of the room quietly. She enjoys driving, quilt-making and socialising.

Nathan Doyle is a 2nd year student of Maths in Trinity College Dublin. He has been playing with John Connolly since October and they have participated in a number of competitions since then, including the BJ O'Brien Cup and the Holmes Wilson Teams.

He enjoys numbers, telling everyone he is in a band (he really is), and math-rapping (he doesn't actually rap, he just enjoys it). He is also very good at tossing his head with a flourish in order to displace his "annoying" fringe.

John Connolly is a 5th year student in Gonzaga College, Dublin. He has been playing bridge since September 2012 and has since become thoroughly addicted. He enjoys staying up late on BBO and making (extravagant) claims before testing how the trumps break. His hobbies used to include chess.

Marcin Rudzinski NPC

This is Marcin's second outing as an NPC for the U25s. He was NPC of the U25 teams competing in the European Youth Teams in Poland last summer. Since then he has become a member of the Irish Bridge Union's Junior Committee. He is well-liked by his team, as he is very good for the post-mortem discussion, usually over a pint.

Peggy Bayer

Stephen Barr is a 5th year in Gonzaga College. He started learning Bridge in September 2012. He was part of a group of four Transition Year students (ask him about it) who learned together. Playing with his regular partner Aaron, he has won the National Schools Pairs Competition this year. He also recently won the Kay Downes Pairs Competition where he partnered with Michael Donnelly. He is

currently being mentored by Grand Master player B.J. O'Brien, who has called him "a very promising young bridge player." He knows it too.

Aaron Bolger is a Gonzaga student as well. He a bit of a talker at the bridge table - he's either exchanging views with Partner regarding Partner's questionable bidding, or apologising for his own! He is currently organising a Bridge Weekend to be hosted by his school in March, in order to raise funds for a volunteer trip to Zambia on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. He loves a robust debate. Just don't insult bicycles in his presence.

Niamh Taafe is a student of St. Vincent's Dundalk, where she learned Bridge. She has represented Ireland with her current partner Sheila Walsh a number of times. Together they came 3rd in the National Schools Pairs this season. They were also on the U20 team representing Ireland in the European Youth Teams Championship in Poland last summer together.

Sheila Walsh is a student in St. Vincent's Dundalk, but learned Bridge with her dad as well as in the school. She can often be found online playing with her mentor, John Phelan, most Mondays. She played in the National Women's Pairs this year and placed very respectably. She has distinguished herself as an extremely capable card player, coming up with lines of play that are rare for an U20. Though she'd never admit to it!

Joy Akpe-Moses is a Leaving Cert student in St. Vincent's Dundalk. She is a softly-spoken young lady, whose refined demeanour belies her competitive ability at the Bridge table. She is one of the most dedicated players on the team, as can be seen by her considerable ability, even when playing with people with whom she has never player before. She can often be found competing in National competitions with her mentor Martin Brady.

Michael Donnelly is a Gonzaga student, who partnered Joy for the Peggy Bayer Selection Trials. Though not a regular partnership before then, they have since been practising online and in competitions together. Michael is an avid chess player as well as

Bridge player, though Bridge is slowly edging out chess, as evidenced by the amount time he spends on BBO!

Thomas Mac Cormac NPC

Thomas is the President of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland this year, as well as being a former member of the Junior Committee. He works in Bridge, teaching professionally. His previous NPC roles include acting as NPC for the Irish Open Team for the European Teams Championships held in Dublin, in 2012.

International Match Point Scale

Points difference	IMPs
0 - 10	= 0
20 - 40	= 1
50 - 80	= 2
90 - 120	= 3
130 - 160	= 4
170 - 210	= 5
220 - 260	= 6
270 - 310	= 7
320 - 360	= 8
370 - 420	= 9
430 - 490	= 10
500 - 590	= 11
600 - 740	= 12

Points difference	IMPs
750 - 890	= 13
900 - 1090	= 14
1100 - 1290	= 15
1300 - 1490	= 16
1500 - 1740	= 17
1750 - 1990	= 18
2000 - 2240	= 19
2250 - 2490	= 20
2500 - 2990	= 21
3000 - 3490	= 22
3500 - 3990	= 23
4000 and above	= 24

Victory Point Scale

IMPs	VPs	
0	10.00	10.00
1	10.36	9.64
2	10.71	9.29
3	11.05	8.95
4	11.38	8.62
5	11.70	8.30
6	12.01	7.99
7	12.31	7.69
8	12.61	7.39
9	12.90	7.10
10	13.18	6.82
11	13.45	6.55
12	13.71	6.29
13	13.97	6.03
14	14.22	5.78
15	14.46	5.54
16	14.70	5.30
17	14.93	5.07
18	15.15	4.85
19	15.37	4.63
20	15.58	4.42
21	15.79	4.21
22	15.99	4.01
23	16.18	3.82
24	16.37	3.63
25	16.55	3.45
26	16.73	3.27
27	16.91	3.09
28	17.08	2.92
29	17.24	2.76
30	17.40	2.60
31	17.56	2.44
32	17.71	2.29
33	17.86	2.14
34	18.00	2.00
35	18.14	1.86
36	18.28	1.72
37	18.41	1.59
38	18.54	1.46
39	18.66	1.34
40	18.78	1.22
41	18.90	1.10
42	19.02	0.98
43	19.13	0.87
44	19.24	0.76
45	19.34	0.66
46	19.44	0.56
47	19.54	0.46
48	19.64	0.36
49	19.74	0.26
50	19.83	0.17
51	19.92	0.08
52	20.00	0.00

