

History of Palmerstown Bridge Club

DRAFT

This is a very rough stab at our history to get the ball rolling. If any of our illustrious senior members can add any further information or clarify the earliest history of the club or remind us of any interesting early developments we would be delighted. DBR

Lola Dixon recalls attending, on Carmel Keenan's advice, what she believes was the start of the PBC in 1968, in the Chief Medical Officer's residence of Palmerstown Hospital, where Phoebe (Fifie?) Phelan and Pat Fitzgerald were giving lessons. Moira Finlay and Mrs Brown were playing watched by the beginners. Pat announced that they were ready to start Club Bridge and the following week they moved to Mill Lane, formerly used by the nurses of Palmerstown Hospital. Over the next few years the Club moved to Palmerstown Parish Hall, Cherry Orchard, Chapelizod School, and finally Stewart's (Palmerstown) Hospital School.

In the early days, the names of Pat & Mary Fitzgerald, Mollie Sexton, Linda Derby, Enid Christie, Jim Bourke, Lola Dixon, Gerry Jordan, Carmel Keenan feature in the Minute Book as active members of the committee. It appears that in order to get the Club up and running, some of the founders lent money to the Club, and in the Minutes of June 1974, it was noted that the club could not yet repay these loans as it needed to invest in chairs.

The first set of minutes in the Minute Book suggested that the Club's standing with the CBAI was a little hazy and resolved to regularise the situation, pay the overdue membership and update the membership list for the CBAI.

At the AGM in October 1974, Pat & Mary Fitzgerald were made Honorary Life Members of the Club

At the AGM in October 1978 an attempt (by Michael Lehane) to ban smoking in the Club was derailed. The matter was raised again in Sept 1992. There is a note in the minutes of 28/11/200 of a letter from the school reminding us that Smoking on the premises was forbidden.

The Club moved from weekly prizes to the current points system at the AGM in May 1994.

Liam Gaynor ran his bridge Classes in 96/97 and brought the beginners to their first club night on 18th February 1997.

Liam Gaynor introduced Bidding Boxes during his presidency of 99/00, and in that Millennium year also all members received a Millennium souvenir pack of playing cards.

In 1973 Enid Christie presented the wonderful Minute Book, which is still in use, and members will be interested to know that the Annual membership was set at £1 in that year,

and in January 1974 the Table money was raised to 20p per person. Our minutes do not go back before 1973, and it is possible that the Club operated with a looser structure in its formative years. Our roll of known past presidents is as follows:

President	Year
Pat Fitzgerald	73/74
Jim Bourke	74/75
Linda Derby	75/76
Gerry Jordan	76/77
Mollie Sexton	77/78
Lola Dixon	78/79
Niall O’Rahilly	79/80
Michael Lehane	80/81
Mary Fitzgerald	81/82
Joan O’Shea	82/83
Una Jordan	83/84
Carmel Keenan	84/85
Enid Christe	85/86
Kathleen Gantley	86/87
Betty Fitzpatrick	87/88
Ursula McCrea	88/89
Margaret Malone	89/90
Anne Coffey	90/91
Marguerite Bach	91/92
David Redmond	92/93
Sue Lehane	93/94
John Riordan	94/95
Brendan O’Driscoll	95/96
May Donnelly	96/97
Kathleen Dunne	97/98
Colette Donnelly	98/99
Liam Gaynor	99/00
David Downes	00/01
Catherine Yeates	01/02
Denis Keane	02/03
Myles Fitzgerald	03/04
Celia Downes	04/05
Martha Kearns	05/06
Aileen Keane	06/07
Mary Bannon	07/08
Audrey Kelly	08/09
Brid Bannon	09/10
Peg Smyth	10/11
Anne Bolger	11/12
Ann O’Donnell	12/13
Noreen Sullivan	13/14
Mary Reid	14/15
Nancy McSweeney	15/16

The first page of the Minute Book.

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Palmerstown Bridge Club.

President:- Pat Fitzgerald

Tuesday 11th Dec, 1973

Treasurer:- Mollie Sexton

Secretary:- Lola Dixon

Committee:- Jim Bourke

Linda Derby

Erid Christie

At this first meeting of the new committee at our new premises - Chapelized National School - this magnificent minutes book was presented to the Hon. Secretary by Erid Christie on condition that he should do it justice and treat it with great reverence.

As a result of inquiries made to the West County Hotel by Linda Derby it was agreed that Friday, 4th January, 1974, appeared to be a suitable date on which to hold the club's annual dinner. The available menus were:- Turkey dinner @ £2.10
Steak " @ £2.50

The committee agreed that the booking fee of £5-£10 should be paid as soon as possible.

Arrangements for the annual pre-Christmas party on Tuesday, 18th December, were discussed. It was agreed that kitchen facilities appeared to be adequate for the provision of tea and inquiries should be made to see if wine could be provided at a reasonable cost. Erid Christie and Lola Dixon were appointed to shop for the prizes and the sum of £25 was advanced by

The Minutes Book contains the following photograph from a local Newspaper, of the Annual Dinner (17th January 1975) with some of the founders of the Club:



Mollie Sexton, Carmel Keenan, Jim Bourke, Lola Dixon, Gerry Jordan, Pat Fitzgerald, Linda Derby

In the Millenium Year the then President, Liam Gaynor, organised a photograph of all available members. Photos were taken on two successive weeks and they appear in the Minute Book.



Front: Marjorie Bach, David Redmond, Maureen Downes, David Downes, Aileen Keane

Second: Carmel Hickey, Vera Shannon, Mary Fitzgerald, Maureen Hughes, Liam Gaynor, Marie Maher, Chris McHugh, Nuala Rynne, Maureen Whelan.

Third: Mary McCarthy, Marie Ward, Maura Cullen, Mona Hanlon, Moira Finlay, Celia Downes, Peg Smyth, Ann O'Donnell, Libby Griffen, Collette Donnelly, Peg Curley, Carmel Keenan, Margaret Pembroke, Olive Young, Mena Rogers.

Fourth: Sheila Hunt, Anne Leydon, Ursula McCrea, Mary Fitzpatrick, Nellie Collender, Kathleen Dunne, Caroline O'Mahoney, Margaret Malone, May Slattery, Frances Dempsey, Aileen Cunningham, Pat Logan.

Back: Des Ward, Denis keane, Brendan O'Driscoll, Brid Bannon, John Riordan, Myles Fitzgerald, Gerry Pembroke, Betty Fitzpatrick, Mary Bannon, David Melody, Martha Kearns



Front: David Redmond, Lola Dixon, Carmel Hickey, Sue Lehane, Anne Coffey, Liam Gaynor, May Donnelly, Vera Shannon, David Downes, Maureen Whelan, Carmel Keenen.

Second: Maura Cullen, Maureen Hughes, Mary Fitzpatrick, Nellie Collender, Margaret Adams, Pauline Lanigan, Mona Hanlon, May Slattery, Colette Donnelly, Kathleen Dunne, Ann O'Donnell, Libby Griffen, Aileen Keane, Catherine Yeates.

Third: Peg Smyth, Maureen Downes, David Melody, Peter Redmond, Marjorie Bach, Margaret Malone, Anne Leydon, Ursula McCrea, Caroline O'Mahoney, Celia Downes, Mena Rogers, Marie Maher, Betty Fitzpatrick.

Back: Myles Fitzgerald, Brid Bannon, Brendan O'Driscoll, Gerry Pembroke, Denis Keane, Michael Lehane, Martha Kearns, Aileen Cunningham, Frances Dempsey, Mary Bannon, Margaret Harrington, Kay O'Toole.

