

MAUREEN MEADE – AN APPRECIATION

Maureen & Lady Milne.

We were friends first, had an occasional game, not partners. However, we talked a great game of bridge over a glass of wine. One night while partaking we decided to give the trials for the Lady Milne trophy a go.



Eamon Galligan very kindly helped us put our system on paper as required. We studied this and two weeks later there we were playing.

First weekend we finished average. This gave us a little confidence going into 2nd round the following week. Second session the gods must have been smiling on us as we could do no wrong. We found ourselves in 2nd place with one round to go, next morning.

We were very excited driving home. Most people would be tired and try to recover for next day, but not Maureen who then said "will you be able to sleep"? To which I replied "not a wink". So a couple of bottles of wine later and putting the world to rights we retired about 4am.

A little bit the worse for wear we arrived to play 10am. There seemed to be crowds of people and to our dismay realised they were there to watch final round. As we were in contention, we were surrounded. Don't know if was fright or the wine, but we had the shakes. However, we held on thankfully.

Accompanied by the "bould" Eamon and my sister Iris as our support group, we set off to Manchester. This was both great fun and terrifying. We finished in 2nd place to England, beating Scotland / Wales and Northern Ireland. This to my knowledge has not been repeated since.

Maureen loved the game of bridge, playing / teaching / talking / and gave generously of her time. Many times I heard Maureen describe herself as an eternal student. She approached all new projects with great enthusiasm and as a learning curve

Maureen will be greatly missed by her friends.

Nuala Lynch. ♥♣♦♠

My friend Maureen by Aileen James

Remember Maureen and you remember a faithful, caring, thoughtful, brave and encouraging friend - someone you could rely on and always call on in times of trouble and share your joys with.

Maureen and I befriended each other 30 odd years ago, when she arrived in Portmarnock Bridge Club from Dungarvan. Maureen became part of the Club very quickly and was Captain in 1995/96. Then on to Malahide Regional where, again, she integrated into the Club spirit in jig time and served on the Council as Tournaments Officer. Bridge was a big part of Maureen's life and she just loved sitting around at the end of the night analysing hands and solving problems – "It's all about the atmosphere and the friendship" she would say!!

Everything Maureen did she gave it her best, so when she joined Balcarrick Golf Club, she very quickly lost shots and was so proud when she won "The Medal" and The Lady Captain's. She managed the Seniors' Teams for the two years prior to her death and succeeded in bringing in the winners on both occasions. She was so chuffed and delighted for the ladies and for the Club.

In between bridge and golf, Maureen managed to talk me into completing two separate stages of the Camino (200K) in return for her accompanying me on a month-long Charity Trip to Uganda - boring was not a word in Maureen's vocabulary - as far as she was concerned - life was for living.

Funny thing though - in between all her activities, she succeeded in looking after her husband and three fabulous children with ease, caring, motherly love and friendship.

Every time I visited Maureen during her illness, I was greeted with "I have a job for you". She was always thinking of how she could help others. Her last request was a couple of days before her death. "Sit down there and organise a few people to come into the Hospice for a Take Away and glass of wine. I have arranged a room and I just need to say a few thanks". Unfortunately, this get-together never happened.

I, personally, have lost a very dear friend. I miss her encouragement and positivity and, especially, her late-night phone calls when problems were solved and new ones created!!

What a lady. May she rest in peace.

Aileen James