



## Tom Freeman

On Wednesday 13th February 2019, I was due to meet Tom Freeman for our usual afternoon chat over a cup of tea in Northside shopping centre. I got a phone call to say that Tom was in hospital. Tom died later that day.

We met in 2008 when I joined Balcarrick Golf Club. I was part of a 4 ball which included John Murray, the late Pat Kelly, Tom and myself. We played every Tuesday and Thursday in club competitions. We would talk about the previous night's bridge game in MRBC. It was then that I was told that Tom was a member of Portmarnock Bridge Club in the 70s.

With all this talk of bridge, Tom joined MRBC and played every Wednesday with Peter Tierney. In 2017 Tom stopped playing golf, so we agreed to meet in Northside every Wednesday afternoon for a chat. Over the next two years we became very close friends. I got to know the real Tom Freeman.

He was a gentle giant. He enjoyed a good laugh. He had a heart of gold. He was very kind.

Thank you Tom, for your friendship. May you rest in peace.

Joe English

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It was with deep sadness that I learned of the death of Tom Freeman.

Back in the mid-1970s, Bridge came to Portmarnock and I joined the club with my next door neighbour. After each game, my late husband Liam, patiently listened as I replayed every card. One night he declared he was going to take bridge lessons. "I need to know what you are talking about!" John Murray was starting a new class.

At this stage our club was closed to membership, so following on from the lessons, John Murray and his class founded the Monday night club. This is where I met Tom Freeman.

To know Tom, you had to get to know the man. This I did, when I was elected on to the Committee with him. Tom was a Civil Servant by day, but we spent much time on the phone sorting out the club's problems, (and creating more!). Tom was absolutely dedicated and loved the club.

When Tom called, you jumped, but there was another side to him, as I found out. He was a gentle, kind and understanding soul with a soft heart. It is a pity that more people didn't get the opportunity to see that side of him, and get to know 'The Man'.

I truly appreciated Tom's friendship. May his gentle soul rest in peace.

Aileen James