



## Mary Cowhie

It was with great sadness that we learned that Mary Cowhie had passed away and thus the realisation that the duo of Mary and Dan, or even Dan and Mary, would not be that valued presence at our Bridge tables anymore. Recently we had hopes that there could be a celebration of Dan's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and for that time we could once again delight in their presence in Malahide Regional Bridge Club, but sadly this was not to be.

Mary's contribution to MRBC was significant. For many years she was Social Secretary and of course no stone was left unturned so that quality social evenings would be enjoyed and the club would be enhanced with floral displays that could win awards. In her capacity as Social Secretary she had the support of a committee who were loyal to her in all her endeavours for the Club. Mary's forte for interior design did not go amiss either and was to be admired in curtains and table cloths handmade by her good self; clearly a labour of love for her beloved MRBC.

It was from this sense of sociability that the Cowhie Cup was born. Not one cup but two, put in place to encourage members, their partners and friends to play on Friday nights, a time when our motto of friendship through competition would truly be realised. The competitive side was to the fore as well as the social side. An invitation would be issued by Dublin North Region (DNR) for the 'Duo' to take up their qualified place in the National Pairs taking place in Athlone or wherever and the bags were packed and off they would go. This 'Duo's Bridge was not confined to the club dimension.

Dan has told a story of it being Mary's Rules rather than normal Bridge rules and often Mary 'the Gambler' could not resist her 'free spirit' much to his embarrassment and especially when the 'Duo' was answerable to teammates. There was no hiding of this when her hand would go down as Dummy and he remembers well when Charlie Higgins respectfully told Mary she had opened on only 10 points! Perhaps Mary was ahead of her time in her bidding or perhaps it was her 'free spirit' at work. One way or other I am sure she responded with a glint in her eye and Dan with an admiring frown!

Mary's mark for the Remembrance service which, still to this time brings consolation to grieving families and friends of past members, will always be remembered for its compassion and warm hospitality in a room again enhanced with flowers.

Most of MRBC members who have served on Council or as Captains over the years will have received a gentle tap on the shoulder to come serve their club as Mary along with, the late Janet Quinn and the late Willie Heath, would go about their work as the Nominating Committee. Her powers of persuasion to take up the mantle of serving the club are well known and few could refuse.

One abiding memory is when once being part of the group of MRBCs that would go to the Tralee New Year Congress. This was a Congress with a difference and at the Banquet on the eve night it was King Dan and Queen Mary in attendance surrounded by several MRBC 'Knights and Dames' to include Janet Quinn, Daphne McKee, Phil Brohoon, Charlie Higgins, Danny Doona and of course Willie Heath who was the Travel and Hospitality Manager for the MRBCs.

Happy days indeed and so it was for anything Mary was involved in. Mary no doubt is still in happy days and our sympathy goes to Dan, Kathryn, Yvonne, Paul, Michael and the extended family as they come to terms with their great loss.

May Mary Rest in Peace.

Mary Kelly Rogers