



Dear All,  
I hope you continue to be well and are somewhat excited about automatically being a member of our Regent Virtual Club.

It is important to keep our Regent Club alive in this time of social distancing and our Virtual Club is one such step but there are others which we are exploring.

Already we have Zoom on Wednesdays and Thursdays, hosted by Aoife Mac Hale and Peter Goodman on a Wednesday and Club Manager (CM) on a Thursday. Both Zoom Rooms have had and will have guest analysts after the game on those nights. So far it has been Peter and Aoife with Terry Walsh and BJ O'Brien as commentators but we are moving on to 'In the Zoom' guests. On Thursdays we have had a structured analysis by Karel de Raeymaeker, Conor Boland and Gerry Kelly hosted by Club Manager. We hope to have a schedule of 'In the Zoom' guests. Do join us.

Wednesday is Fullerton and Thursday Start of Summer Pairs. Both with a difference; virtual and for the honour and glory! James Henaghan will be the Zoom Guest on Wednesday and Grandmaster Thomas MacCormac on Thursday

It has come to the end of Bridge Development season but we are exploring a Regent Zoom Teaching School. It's in the making and this week Beginners from our Teaching school will have the opportunity to play in a game on BBO hosted by Club Manager Declan and coached by their teacher Anne Keating on Zoom afterwards.

Currently we have Regent Friendlies set up for this year's Premier League and Area Master League teams and this week the Intermediate League will be set up. Those taking part could consider a group sharing chat. More on this in Information page.

It is **important** for us to keep in touch **with all our members**. I think we are doing this effectively with those who have been playing Bridge online and now in the Virtual Club but there are many members who feel the Online is not for them. I hope some of you will consider joining our community in the Virtual Club and help is on hand. Just let us know. For those of you who simply don't want to play online please just write to us and tell us how you are and tell us of ways we can reach out to you. We are open to suggestions.

Why not send a '**letter to the Editor**' and these can be published or just write to us? I hope you will stay in touch.

To All, please stay in touch and Stay Well,  
Mary☺ Editor



# Thomas Mac Cormac IRELAND's and REGENT's NEWEST GRAND MASTER



**Thomas and his mother Champion Mamie**

The road to grandmaster in Bridge is a long and storied one. Unlike chess even a prodigy can't get the title at 15, it takes years no matter your level. Coming from a bridge family, Thomas started as a young teen with his twin sister Sarah both under the tutelage of John & Aileen O'Keefe. While Thomas would admit Sarah took better to the game, he had in fact been the one to catch the bridge bug. By 17 he had played his first IBU trials, represented Ireland at Youth level, and by 21 was teaching classes around Dublin, quickly gaining parts of the great reputation he boasts today. He experimented with both further education and alternative careers but his success at the Bridge table and amicability in the classroom became too strong to ignore so with a sigh and a grin he decided to become a bridge professional at 29.

## Thomas Mac Cormac



Thomas meeting President McAleese in 2011 in Aras an Uachtarain



### BLACKROCK HOSPICE FUNDRAISER

In true Thomas Mac Cormac giving style his celebration of his Grand Master title is to fund raise for Blackrock Hospice using Bridge as the tool.

**TMCBridge presents on BBO & Zoom**  
**Irish Juniors V Irish Open Team**  
**Sunday 31st May 10:00-12:30**

**Junior Team:**

John Connolly, Conor Boland  
 Michael Donnelly (PC) & Stephen Barr.  
**Open Team:** Grainne Barton (NPC)  
 John Carroll, Mark Moran, Tom Hanlon,  
 Hugh McGann, Adam Mesbur, Nick Fitzgibbon.

Thomas says 'Please give most generously & Thanks to all involved'.

**Zoom commentators:**

Brendan Boru, John Murchan N.I.B.U &  
 Peter Goodman

**Q&A for 20 minutes at end of match.**

**All welcome**

## Grandmaster

With most Grandmasters their achievements ring something like, Holmes Wilson's, Caps, National Titles, of which Thomas has many.



Kelburne  
 Winners in  
 2010 Ronan  
 McMaugh,  
 Peter Pigot,  
 Padraig  
 O'Briain  
 and  
 Thomas  
 Mac  
 Cormac In  
 Pic MKR

Not many players combine administration with being a Champion and Grandmaster but Thomas has diligently being President of the CBAI just a few years ago. It shows a huge commitment to the game of Bridge as a Player, an Administrator and Professional teacher.

I remember Thomas playing in the Junior Camrose in 1999, the year the Republic of Ireland to the Camrose and Lady Milne series. It was held in Howth Lodge Hotel, now an apartment block, I was Match Assistant to Paul Porteous, John Murray the TD and 40 volunteers recorded each card played over the weekend. Toss McGee did the commentary from the Closed room down a wire across the roof and down to the Vugraph below. Thomas had a significant presence and he then was seen as a bridge star in the making.

Thomas's influence on Irish Bridge is wide spanning in both ability and age. His legacy is without doubt junior bridge, both with his participation and fundraising as a player himself in the 90's to his dedication in bringing on the current juniors. Beginning in 2017 by fundraising to bring the most talented Youth players to the North American Bridge Championships, in which he himself has also competed professionally with success. He says that he is a man known to every director without doubt but also to every player who can rest easy knowing a fair, high level, and pleasant game awaits them when they arrive at his table. He jokingly says



'I wish I could say the same for my partners'!

