

CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION of IRELAND

Newsletter



September, 2020 (Digital)
19th Edition



Denise Conlon being presented with the President's Award for 2020 by Neil Burke, President, C.B.A.I. (See P.4)



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Dear Members

What a strange and challenging year we are going through. The CBAI committees have been busy with meetings on Zoom - just think this time last year very few of us knew what Zoom was, now we are all experts. Same with BBO. As we go forward, I cannot see all clubs getting back to physical bridge before March 2021 (if we are lucky).

CBAI's Governing Council has agreed that during these unusual times, committees should continue until the AGMs in 2021. This applies to CBAI, IBU, NIBU, Regions and a lot of our Clubs. As CBAI President for the second year we will be hosting the "Duais an Uachtarain"/President Prize on BBO this year. On the weekend of September 26th & 27th we will hold a 3 Session event for Masters & Intermediate As and on Saturday a two session event for Intermediate Bs & Novices.

Entry fee will be BB\$15 for Masters & As and BB\$10 for Bs & Novices on the Saturday. Proceeds from this event will be donated to "Mental Health Ireland" which I am sure you will agree can help many people in these times of "stress & strain".

Other national competitions planned so far are the Mixed weekend, Spiro (Pairs) and Coen (Teams) on 19th and 20th October, the IBU Simultaneous Pairs on November 2nd to 6th, and the Master Pairs on December 5th & 6th

I cannot stress enough that we are doing everything in our power, at National & Regional Level to keep bridge going throughout this bridge year. Our number one priority is to make sure all our members are safe and well. We hope you understand the limitations we have to live by. Please watch out for regular updates on the CBAI and your Regional or club website.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy - look after you and yours, don't lose hope, this virus is attacking us all, but we will beat it. Remember we are very competitive and in the end, we will say goodbye to Covid-19 and 2020!

Neil Burke, CBAI President.



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Many congratulations to Denise Conlon from Athlone winner of the 2019-20 President's Award. She is pictured on the front cover with President Neil, receiving her award a few weeks ago. Denise has been the face of Athlone bridge for the last number of years, bringing many aspiring bridge students through to the playing ranks, helping to run the Athlone clubs and acting as Regional President. Many of you might remember Marie Gleeson (R.I.P.) past National Secretary and Hon Secretary of the IBU for many years, who established Athlone as the power base of Irish Bridge – she will be giving Denise a big “thumbs-up”! If any of you would like to nominate your local “unsung hero” for a President's Award – contact us for a nomination form or download it from our website.

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 - Part Score Bidding
 - Michael's Cue bid Unusual 2NT
 - Imp Tactics
 - Card Play
 - Declarer & Defender Play
 - Leads & Discards



Let's take time now to say a major “Thank you” to Valerie Mathers, who many of you will have spoken to over the almost 20 years while she worked in CBAI. Valerie retired at the end of May this year and here she is – toasting you all with PIMS No 2 during the recent sunny spell!

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**"In every winter's heart
there is a quivering spring, and
behind the veil of each night
there is a smiling dawn."**

~ Kahlil Gibran



I hope you all are safe and well and keeping the bright side out - here we are in the early evening of 2020, a year that has brought significant worry to us all. But what benefits us in looking backwards – nothing – because we cannot change it. We can only look forward to PC - Post-Covid – when we can restart our lives properly, in the new “normal”. “This too will pass!”

What can we do now? We can make sure that if we have any fences to mend – get them mended – either literally or personally. Time to think and time to do all the things we have been putting on the long finger – what a gift! It has been a real treat to lie in wait for the weeds in the garden and pounce on them before they can gain any traction! And then the letters you get from your North American, Canadian or Australian cousins every year for Christmas – detailing all the family happenings since the previous one. Do you get those and wish you had the time to put your own together to let them know how your family is progressing – now you can! Get to it!

And in between, you have the chance to play on-line if you are so inclined. It is quite stimulating and not difficult to cope with – so don't think of it as “I can't cope with computers, I would be hopeless” – well you might be, but you won't be the only one and in truth, you won't know until you try – so give it a go. And if it doesn't suit you – nothing lost, only time, and we have plenty of that!! We have a list of On-line clubs on the website, so if your own club has not yet got involved, many of the other clubs will be happy to welcome you.

Stay in contact with your fellow members and friends. For some, Bridge is usually the only social encounter during a normal week and they may not be suited to online bridge. So, give them a call, have a chat and assure them that you will see them soon again at the table.

Let's focus on HOPE for the future – the opportunity to get back to the table and see all our friends in person and discard FEAR – there is no place for fear. Let's call ourselves cautious or wary of getting in the way of the virus because let's face it – it can do us damage, so let's do everything possible to ensure we avoid any encounter with it. Wash your hands and wear your mask – stay safe and well.

I spotted the following post on the Facebook page of fellow member and prolific best-selling author, Mary Stanley and decided it was too good not to share with you - “When I wear a mask in public, or decline an invitation to a party or to come inside:

- Wearing a mask doesn't make me weak, scared, stupid, or even “controlled.” It makes me considerate.
- I don't “live in fear” of the virus; I just want to be part of the solution, not the problem.
- I don't feel like the “government is controlling me” any more than when I wear a seat belt, don't drive drunk, obey the speed limit, or stop at a red light.
- When you think about how you look, how uncomfortable it is, or what others think of you, just imagine someone close to you - a child, a father, a mother, aunt, uncle, or grandparent - choking on a respirator, alone without you or any family member allowed at bedside.”

Wearing a mask is not political. It's public health. It's courtesy.

And if we can safely return to the table, taking all the approved precautions with all the recommended equipment in place, let's do just that. We have approval from HSE, but with the maximum of 50 people at 2m distance – which will hopefully increase (and decrease) over time. BUT, if you are not comfortable, no pressure - take your time and wait for the vaccine to be available for us all, which we can expect to appear in Quarter 2 or 3 of 2021.

In August last year the CBAI held a national Bridge Promotion Week from 16th -25th August. Our region held major promotional events in Ashbourne, Navan, Cavan, Monaghan, Dundalk, Drogheda, Ardee, Balbriggan and Skerries.

The venues selected for the promotion were mainly shopping centres, other venues were club premises and in Cavan it was at the annual Taste of Cavan Fair. The CBAI provided a fantastic range of materials such as banners, posters, leaflets for handing out and pens and playing cards.

The feedback from our members who helped in the promotion showed a high level of engagement with the public. The immediate effect of this showed in a good increase in the number of people taking up bridge. Many people said they would consider bridge as a pastime in the future.

New Skerries Bridge Centre

The three bridge clubs in Skerries, John Lane Club, Holmpatrick Club and Skerries Club, had in March 2019 purchased premises in Church Street, Skerries. This was the fruition of 6 years work by the joint committees of the clubs. Work was started on renovating the premises during the following month and completed in early August. The new Bridge Centre was opened for bridge in August with an official opening in which both the Regional President Eileen McEntegart and Regional Secretary Seamus Costello attended. The three clubs amalgamated to form SABC Club. Congratulations to all bridge members in Skerries and in particular to Simon Healy who guided the project from beginning to end.

Competitions

Many of our members competed in Regional, National and Congress events during the past year. The numbers playing



The exterior of Skerries Bridge Centre

in regional events continue to grow from year to year and the same is also for all the open events in our fixture list. Some notable results were; Drogheda Congress – Mixed Pairs 1st James Newman and Phil Geoghegan, Inter B Pairs 1st Phyllis Carew and Joe Bissett, Inter A Teams 1st Jacinta Kangley, Kathleen Healy, Kay Coghlan and Peg O’Hagan. Jackson Cup - 3rd Helen Sheridan and Deirdre Tuckey. Kervick Trophy – 1st Lucia Farrell and Bridget Hession. Malahide Congress – 1st Deirdre Tuckey and Regional Secretary.

As we were unable to hold an AGM this year, our regional officers and committee remain in place until May 2021. We wish Eileen McEntegart continued success as Regional President with Peter Byrne sitting in the wings ready to succeed her.

Junior Bridge

Our region is proud to have a number of junior players competing at International level. Sheila Walsh (Dundalk) played in the Junior Camrose team. Denise Walsh and Leah Finnegan (Dundalk) and Adam Murphy (Ashbourne) played in the Peggy Bayer Trophy (u21).



Adam Murphy



Cathrina Bellew, Gate Club Secretary, Kat Hynes, Deirdre Tuckey, President Balbriggan Bridge Club and President Drogheda Congress, Ruth Kelly, Louth County Development Officer

The AGM of the DNR took place in Glasnevin Bridge Club on the 6th June 2019. The DNR greatly appreciated the commitment of the outgoing President Aidan Synnott and the outgoing Secretary Bernadette Ui Obhain. The new President Rodney O’Hara took over as did the new secretary, Mary Breen.

Aidan continues his work on the DNR committee as web-master and his services have been invaluable during the ongoing pandemic.

For the countrywide Bridge Promotion organised by the CBAI, the DNR with the assistance of Jim Mullally were allocated space in the Pavilions Shopping Centre, Swords over the weekend of the 23rd /24th August. This was a most successful event and the committee were hugely supported by the clubs in the Region.

The Secretaries meeting took place in Beaumont Bridge Club on the 13th September. As always we would like to see more clubs send a representative to this meeting, however those that did attend enjoyed some refreshments, collected their club packs and diaries and went back to their clubs with lots of information concerning competitions and events within the DNR.

The Kirwan League was well supported with teams from all grades. As always, we are very appreciative of the sponsorship of Kirwans Undertakers. Unfortunately, we were not able to complete the league, but we hope to conclude it in the coming season and have our Gala Night in June 2021.

The winners of our Regional events did not get to represent their clubs at the Nationals, but they will be offered a chance to do so next year. So, all is not lost!

I would like to congratulate the winners of the following competitions which we did manage to run before our year ended abruptly:

Novice Pairs:

Patricia Dooley & Paula Brady (Malahide).

Regional Pairs:

Masters: Sean Whelan & Fran Ronan (Malahide). Intermediate A: Alan Roughneen & Larry Breheny (Malahide). Intermediate B: Maria Callinan & Kat Hynes (Lusk).

Regional Teams:

Masters: Billy Ronan, Conor O’Hara, Tom Gilligan & Pat Cassidy (Malahide)

Intermediate A: Liz Chambers, Ann Hooper, Mary Breen & Frances Scally (Malahide & Foxhall)

Intermediate B: Catherine Carabine, Deirdre Lonergan, Gwen Daly & Evelyn Conran (Malahide)

Maureen Meade (Area Masters & A1’s):

Nora Potter & Maria Cronin (Malahide).

Norma Madden Trophy (Inter A2’s):

Maria Rossi & Bernie Dowling (Raheny)

McLoughlin Cup (Inter B): Michael & Kitty Kelly (Malahide).

A big thank you to the Council of Malahide Bridge Club for their continued support to the DNR both in facilitating the use of their premises for our competitions and our committee meetings.

On behalf of the DNR I would like to congratulate the committee, headed by Rachel McHale, for a most successful Bridge Congress which they conducted over the weekend of 6th to the 8th March in the Grand Hotel Malahide. It was

a credit to all those involved and a great memory for those that played in it as this was the last time we were all together before our year ended.

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It may not seem right to start with bad news, but the passing of Martin Hayes r.i.p., President of the CBAI 2009-10 in early March was a sad day for all those who knew him. Martin, originally a Chess player, emerged in the 1980's not just as a player but as a bridge administrator serving for years on the National Executive along with his good friend Johnny Kiely. He had a wonderful year as National President already having had a taste of high office accompanying Maisie Cooper to many events during her year as National President. In recent years, Martin was unable to play Bridge but one of his last acts was to renew his subscription to the Irish Bridge Journal. In his heyday, Martin was a member of up to eight Bridge Clubs and had early success with Timmy Ryan. Dr John Fitzgerald was his bridge partner in later years. Two other major figures in Tipperary Bridge also passed away this year. Catherine Kiely, the charming wife of Johnny Kiely and Paddy McMahon from Tipperary Town who passed away at the age of 101 very recently.

The death has been announced of Paddy McMahon at the age of 101. Paddy was one of a number of fine players from Tipperary who were prominent in Munster Bridge from the 80s up to the early 2000's. Paddy's regular partner was Michael Fitzpatrick who was the steady half while Paddy was more flamboyant. Paddy and Michael, Bill Cashen, Bill Dowling, Joe Barry and Dick Stokes along with John Coman were always formidable opponents. Paddy had an impishness accompanied with a smile when his trickery was successful. Paddy won the North Munster Regional Pairs, Limerick Congress Pairs and Clonmel Congress Pairs on many occasions. Our sincere condolences to all of his family and the wider community in Tipperary.

There were notable successes for players from this region. Diarmuid Reddan and Louise Mitchell were on the winning Team of Four in the Coen Trophy (Mixed Team of Four). Jeannie Fitzgerald was selected on the Women's team for the European Team Championships which had to be postponed. The Competition is rescheduled for June 2021 in Madeira. Munster won the Area Master Interprovincial Trophy. The North Munster portion of the winning team were Mary McMahon, Angela Galligan, Mary Vallely and Marian O'Connor from Ennis.

In Intermediate events, Declan Harte and Margaret McCarthy, who became members of the 99 Club Limerick

this year, had unparalleled success in Congresses throughout the country including winning the JJ Kiely Trophy in the National Intermediate and Novice Congress. Both players learnt their bridge in Galway but we can still feel proud of their achievements.

The Munster Pairs was held in North Munster this year and won by John and Lucy Phelan. Pat Quinn and David Coyne were runners-up.

This year we decided to change the method of qualification for the Regional Pairs. In the past players had to qualify through the County Pairs events. This year entry was open to all. It was disappointing to have only 14 pairs rather than the 14 tables that used to be the norm. The winners were David Coyne and Pat Quinn followed by John and Kelan O'Connor. The entry for the Regional Teams was even more disappointing. The Michael Lynch Trophy was won by Kay Cussen, Denis Sheehan, Mark Burke and Gordon Lessells.



The Regional Intermediate Pairs for the Jim Whynns Trophy was won by David and Neil Fitzgerald.



Best Inter B in the Regional Intermediate Pairs were Peggy Hayes and James McNamara



The Rose Pratt North Munster Shield was competed for in November and retained by Munster Bridge Academy. The individual winners on the day were Paul Taylor and Gerry McCague.



This year has been an unprecedented year for everyone, not just bridge players. South Munster was looking forward to hosting the CBAI AGM on July 4th 2020. Clubs had been very supportive towards this event and the region was expecting a good attendance to support Pat O'Mahony being honoured with the position of CBAI President 2020/2021. Alas, this has been put on hold for another year.

It is hard to imagine, that when we attended a Management meeting on March 7th 2020, and the decision was taken to postpone National events, until after Easter, that this is still the case. Many believed this virus would just blow over in a matter of weeks. The last Regional events for South Munster were the Olive Rose Memorial Plate on March 3rd and the Raymond O'Leary Memorial Trophy on March 6th. It was up to individual clubs to make the decision if they wished to continue with their club games, but I believe most clubs ceased playing that week. These decisions were to protect our members.

The committee of South Munster held a zoom meeting on June 9th, the same night we were to hold our AGM. It was agreed that committee members would continue for the coming year 2020/2021. Anne Maria Bourke will continue as President for this year, with Bart Van Oyen, Kenmare, as President Elect. All clubs were informed of this decision. Also, anyone who qualified for National events that are still to be held will be able to attend once they take place.

CBAI President, Neil Burke's theme for 2019/2020, was "IT in Bridge", little did we know how technology has helped members stay in touch and clubs to hold "zoom" or "whatsapp" meetings. It is great to see how many members have embraced playing bridge online. I would like to thank everyone who got involved in bringing bridge as a "virtual club" to all players. The CBAI has worked very hard with BBO in getting clubs set up quickly. A zoom meeting was held for all new TD's for these virtual clubs and more than 100 TD's attended this zoom meeting. A special thanks to Fergal O'Boyle, Diarmuid Reddan and Martin Brady for organising this event. BBO has given players the options of playing team events. Cork Bridge Club played St Albans's from England, with 12 teams from each club and all grades were accommodated, from Novice to Masters and it was most enjoyable. A huge congratulations to everyone who was involved in setting this up as there was a lot of background work before it started. As this article is being written, the CBAI has sent out guidelines on clubs reopening. I wish all clubs well should they



Congress winners: Huey Daly, Kathleen Vaughan and Neil Burke, President, CBAI.

make this decision. Playing bridge online is not quite the same as meeting physically, but "virtual bridge" has kept many members in touch since March and I would ask clubs that do not intend to reopen in the near future to encourage members to join other virtual clubs. Even clubs that intend to reopen, may have members that will not be comfortable in returning and with the long dark nights approaching they may be more inclined to play online.

I wish everyone well for the coming bridge season and hopefully we will meet across a bridge table in the not too distant future. We will especially look forward to bridge 21/22 when Pat O'Mahony will represent South Munster as CBAI President.



Larry Mordaunt (SE president), Rose White (Congress President), Margaret Barron (winner), Neil Burke (CBAI President), Eileen Brennan (winner), Michael Brennan (PRO).

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This was a very different year for Mid-Leinster, we started out by hosting the National AGM, where our own President, Neil Burke became the new CBAI President, a first for our Region. We later welcomed members to Duais an Uachtarian and included Novices and Intermediate B's in a new competition. This came to a halt in March, and like other Regions we began to play online. We appreciate the support to the Clubs by head office and individual TD's. We have 42 clubs in Mid Leinster with 1,710 members ranging from beginners to Life Master, with the majority being Intermediates.

We congratulate Billy Breen on his qualification as a Bridge Teacher.

Regional Player of the Year Awards were presented to- Kevin O'Dea (Master), Marian McKay (A), Annette Head (B) and Michael Meehan (Novice). These awards are based on master points achieved in the Region, Regional participation, National participation and general bridge contribution.

Regional Competitions

Our Regional competitions were held in Westmanstown and Maudlins Hotel, Naas, thanks to the Tournament Directors, Room and Bridgmate Organisers who made the events enjoyable to all.

Congratulations to the Winners of our Major Competitions:

Naas Pairs 2020

1st: Tony Smyth and David Melody. 2nd: Mary Brady and Breda Corbett.

3rd: Sonya Hillis and Joseph Coyne. 1st Session: Mary Sullivan and Marjorie Herbert. 2nd Session: John Walsh and Moira Hogan.

1st A: Pat Dempsey and Melanie Hill. 1st B: Edel and John Fitzmaurice.

Fun Teams 2020

1st: Bert & Marian McKay, Luca Crowe & Mary Donohoe. 2nd: Owen Cummins & Rosemary Kennedy, Ann Cummins & Breda Moran. 3rd: Mary Lyons & Catherine Yeats, Siobhan Canty & Dennis Feeley.

Regional Pairs 2020

1st: Anne Butler and Mary Guinan. 2nd: David Melody and Tony Smyth.

3rd: Willie and Roisin O'Gorman.

1st A1: Noreen Sullivan and Carmel Hickey. 1st A2: Graham Smithers and Pat Karney. 1st Session: Tony Hughes and Rita Lacey. 2nd Session: Jim Rowley and Vera Smyth.

B and Novice 2020

1st: Frances Daly and Maura Colgan. 2nd: Eamonn Kelly and Seamus Ryle.

=3rd: Marie O'Brien and Eithne MacDaeid. - Paddy Cooney and Mags Kelly.

Regional Teams 2020

Master: 1st: Ann Clerkin & Arthur McGrail, John Macnamara & Patrick Kelly.

2nd: Joseph Coyne & Tony Smyth, Mary Timoney & Donek Szenekjo.

Intermediate: 1st: Anne Dunleavy & Olive Kenny, Nora Prior & Patricia Kenny.

2nd: Marian McKay & Alo Sweeney, Noreen Sullivan & Carmel Hickey. 1st B: Siobhan Canty & Marie O'Brien, Marian O'Hanlon & Rosaleen O'Loughlin.

Cunningham League

42 teams representing 17 clubs took part in the Cunningham League, and played 4 rounds before play was suspended.

National Competitions:

Duais an Uachtarian

Session 3: Liam Gaynor and David Redmond. Best Area



Rory Cunningham Shield winners: Frances Daly, Joan McAndrews, Neil Burke, President, CBAI, Celine O'Dea, Gary Windebank.

Masters: Rita Lacey & Tony Hughes. Eithne MacDaeid and Marie O'Brien achieved 4th place in the Inaugural Novice and Intermediate B competition.

Simultaneous Pairs

14 clubs took part in the IBU Pairs in November and 26 clubs in the CBAI Pairs in February. Congratulations to the following members who finished in the top 15.

IBU: Christine Mahony and Kathie McGrath. Bernard O'Byrne and Garry Windebank. Michael Faherty and Liz Dowling. David Redmond and Peter Redmond. Anne McCartney and Theresa McGivern.

Bernadette UiDuill and Deirdre McCourt. Rosaleen O'Loughlin and Marian O'Hanlon.

CBAI: Anne Jackson and Christina Hickey. Carol Doyle and Nora Lahart. Joan Mulroy and Teresa Naughton. Patrick Daly and Jim Murray. Margaret Browne and Mary Roche

Development Bert McKay

As CDO for Kildare North/South I have been very busy here in Leixlip since April. I have been in contact with the local clubs encouraging them to get involved setting up as Virtual Clubs. Louisa Bridge Club was our first project for setting up, and I learned a lot from that. Louisa commenced play as a Virtual Bridge Club on the 17th of June, and are enjoying the idea of playing bridge online. Leixlip was the next project and is now in its fifth week as Virtual. I have been in Contact with Confey who are going Virtual on the 25th August and Confey Castle who have just received the go ahead from BBO. So, a lot going on in this part of the Region. We took part recently in John Crimmins's very informative Organiser Training. Thanks to John for his help and expertise. John has also made himself available when he was needed. So well done John. Since then we have been able to help other clubs by passing on the knowledge that we have gained. As things are progressing, we find that because we are all living in a very uncertain period of our lives, that Virtual Bridge has provided an escape for many people in this country. As someone recently said to me. "Thank God for Virtual Bridge."

Finally, thank you from the Regional Committee to Paul Porteous and the staff at the CBAI office for all their help, and thank you to all the Club Secretaries and committees.



The Western Region consists of 33 Bridge Clubs with ~ 1,400 members and this year we welcome a new club, Galway Golf Club.

A very successful President's event was held in Portumna Town Hall hosted by the Western Region President Florence McNamara. Portumna79 Bridge Club, on the 1st of March, 2020. Over a 100 players attended with a great attendance from the clubs in County Galway. Congratulations to Florence McNamara and her team on running a most enjoyable event.

Junior Camrose

We are delighted with our up and coming junior player Isabel Burke, age 15, Salthill, Galway. Isabel has made great strides following in her grandmother, Clare Burke's footsteps. Isabel represented Ireland in the Junior Camrose which took place in Wales, Feb 14th-16th 2020. Isabel and her partner Sheila Walsh won all three of the matches they played. Well done Isabel!



Bridge On Line- Bridge Base Online (BBO).

Thanks to the great efforts to our BBO ambassadors, Peggy Cheevers, Robert Delargy, James Ward, Anne Treacy and Mairead O Shaughnessy, we have got a lot of Western region members playing Bridge Online. This has required a lot of phone calls and patience and a big, "Thank You" to all of you that have made these efforts.

A special thanks Emily Deavy who has put tremendous work in getting new members and has targeted and encouraged the Novice and intermediate players to play on line and again has put a lot of time and expertise in doing so.



Congratulations to Marie Connolly and Mary Howley on winning the Western Region President's prize, the Stack Trophy on the day. Also in pic is Florence McNamara, Congress President and Eamon Stack.



Florence McNamara and her excellent team: Mary Muldoon, Lorna Stoddart and Brid O'Reilly.

On a more expert front, our in house expert Paul Scannell who not only runs a tournament on Thursday evenings but provides an excellent weekly analysis on the hands played doing his utmost to bring us to the next level. And finally not forgetting the amazing Fearghal O'Boyle for showing us the way and showing us how run the tournaments on line. The Western Region have now got tournaments running on Bridge Base Online (BBO) three days a week and will soon be running special tournaments for newbies to BBO.

Rosamund Jennings RIP

Sadly a former Western Region secretary, Rosamund Jennings passed away early January 2020. Rosamund was the Western Region secretary for a number of years 2010-2015. She was a most dignified friendly lady in addition to being a very competent bridge player. May she rest in peace.

See more here:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/cbaiwesternregion/>



Congratulations to Enda Glynn, Gay Keaveney, David Walsh and Ciaran Coyne on winning the Holmes Wilson championship held in Mount Wolsely Feb. 2020, presented by Neil Burke.

In November 2019 the Northern Donegal Region lost one of its most renowned and respected bridge enthusiasts the late Paddy Carr of Stranorlar. Paddy was a past President of both the CBAI and the IBU, and was Vice-President of the Region and for many years was the driving force behind the hugely successful annual Donegal Bridge Congress.



Paddy Carr, RIP.

The congress was Paddy's pride and joy and he went to great lengths to ensure everything was well organised and that everyone, from far and near, received the heartiest of Donegal welcomes. The fact that the congress is still one of the most popular in the country is a tribute to the efforts of Paddy and his team. Paddy was also a well-respected and skilled National Tournament Director, always helpful and encouraging, and dispensed his wise counsel with such charisma that everyone who came across him remembered him with fondness. Irish bridge has lost a great servant, and he will be badly missed by all of us. This 2019/2020 bridge season has been cut short for all of us, however time stops for no one and things will progress as an when it is safe for our members and our committees to come together again. As is the case for most Regions, we have not had our Annual General meeting to date and as a result all committee members remain in place until that happens. Only a portion of our popular Open Cup Competitions have been reached like everything else some have had to be postponed for the foreseeable future.

The Region has some success in the

IBU SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

held in November 2019.

Tuesday 5th November – 1342 competing pairs.

9th - Rita Harvey and John Grant - Carndonagh Bridge Club

13th - Shaun Coll and Grace Gallagher, Cloughaneely Bridge Club

Wednesday 6th November – 936 competing pairs

2nd - Anna Carr and Jim O'Sullivan, Letterkenny Bridge Club.



IBU President Jim O'Sullivan with Mrs Patricia O'Sullivan.



Mrs Anne Gallagher, Regional President, Northern Region - Donegal

Thursday/Friday – 7th November – 843 competing pairs.

1st - Jimmy Gallagher and John McGinley, Dungloe Bridge Club

7th - Seamus McGinley & Michael McLaughlin, Buncrana Bridge Club.

Congratulation to all of our winners, in local, Regional and National events.

The Region has a total of 14 affiliated Clubs and we play Monday to Friday nights in one or more of the clubs throughout the county, visitors are always welcome, remember if you are in the area feel free to look us up on www.bridgewebs.com/northernregioncbai/ where we have all information and contact details thereon.

DONEGAL CONGRESS - We have very welcome and exciting news for all bridge players, regionally and nationally, in that our 45th Donegal International Bridge Congress will go ahead this year over the weekend Friday 6th – Sunday 8th November. Our Congress is generally known as one of the most noted in the country for its friendly welcoming atmosphere, and a full and fun packed weekend of events for everyone.

This year it will be a 'virtual congress', however we remain committed to making it an enjoyable experience for all taking part. Details of all scheduled events will appear on our website at <http://www.donegalbridgecongress.com/>. Mr Jim O'Sullivan, IBU President will this year be the driving force behind the Congress and had plans well underway for a weekend to remember.

So what will next week bring to us, as we anticipate, Another week in lockdown Whatever is our fate? It doesn't really matter, 'cos no one seems to care The rules just keep being broken, D'ya think that's really fair?

We must all knuckle down, and do as we are 'bid', If we don't, we surely will remain at home and hid, From all our loyal Bridge friends scattered North, South, East and West Please don't let that happen, stay safe, take care and put this bug to rest. Keep well everyone!

It's been a strange year for all our members. It's also a year when bridge has shown its worth. Online bridge with Bridge Base Online is thriving in the region. Many thanks to CBAI for facilitating this. Well done to all the clubs and TDs running BBO and a special shoutout to the smaller clubs who had a harder path but who have got up and running. It's a terrific asset for our members and we encourage any clubs not yet started to get going. Help is all around.

Thank you to Greystones and Dún Laoghaire Bridge Centres for providing facilities for our regional meetings and competitions. Thank you to St Brigid's, Cabinteely for hosting the Novice and Inter B Pairs which are growing in popularity every year.

We have postponed drawing up a program for the new season, but we will get going as soon as possible.

Eastern Region Competition Results 2019-20:

4FUN Teams: Frank & Kate O'Gallachoir, Carol Pye & Chris Byrne.

Eastern Region Master Pairs (Cleary Cup)

Michelle Moloney & Sandra Newell

Eastern Region Inter A Pairs

Collette Maher & Pawel Turczynowicz

Eastern Region Inter B Pairs

Frances Donnelly & Kathryn Ryan

Eastern Region Master Teams (Milo Broderick)

Catherine McCann & Brendan Martin

Peter Stewart & Michelle Moloney

Eastern Region Inter A Teams

Ronan Nolan & Paul Victory

Collette Maher & Pawel Turczynowicz

Eastern Region Inter B Teams

Kathryn Ryan & Frances Donnelly

Niamh Friel & Jacinta Maxwell

Herman Rossiter Trophy for Novice Pairs
Geraldine Carty & Anita Prunty
Eileen O'Doherty Trophy for Inter B Pairs
Phillip & Claire O'Dwyer.

Club Organised Open Events were mostly cancelled but Dún Laoghaire managed two, one live, one online.

The Massey Bros Inter-Club League was suspended in March. We hope to be able to take up where we left off whenever it is safe to return to club bridge. Thanks to Massey Bros Funeral Directors for their generous sponsorship.



Bridge B&B



We are B&B hosts who miss our Bridge. As a result we'd like to offer Bridge pairs two nights b&b with afternoon and evening Bridge at our home in Ballydehob, West Cork.

Double or single rooms available.

€150 per person with all meals included.

We are both socially responsible, intermediate players with a passion for the game. Contact Caroline for more details: 087 3156691 or email thecazualow@icloud.com



A long felt need in the bridge-book market has at last been met with the publication of Máire O'Keefe's Bridge Made Simple. There are many beginners books whose value is experienced only following a series of classes. This is different. Designed for use step by step, week by week as the teacher introduces the various topics to the learners, it contains beginners' homework, revision and reference source all in one. Máire O'Keefe is one of the country's leading bridge teachers. No-one is better placed to understand what learners need. Few coming into the game nowadays have the tradition of card-playing behind them. The game that once was an easy progression from Twenty-five, forty-five, solo or whist, has become a foreign country with a strange language through which the traveller needs slow and patient guidance. What Máire has put in print here is based on her experience of the difficulties encountered by her learners. Bridge Made Simple is what bridge teachers but more importantly their beginners students have been waiting for'
Seamus Dowling Irish Bridge Journal

'Máire O'Keefe the exceptionally successful bridge teacher has published Bridge Made Simple This well-written book is a must for all students taking up the game of Bridge'
George Ryan. Irish Times

Bridge Made Simple 'It is an absolute must for those starting this great game. I know there are so many people taking up the game these days that something of this nature is a great help to those taking Bridge Lesson'
John Comyn. Sunday Independent

Copies of Bridge Made Simple at €10 each
Available from One Stop Shop C.B.A.I. Head Quarters,
Templeogue, Dublin 6
E-mail: bridgeataglance@gmail.com



BRIDGE
made simple

Máire O'Keefe



An interview with Michael Donnelly, Junior International

Michael Donnelly is a current junior international, part of the “Gonzaga” team that has begun to make an impression on Irish bridge over the past few years, including in 2016 becoming the first Irish team ever to win the Peggy Bayer Trophy (the under-21 home international championship). The team, under the guidance of Thomas MacCormac, has secured sponsorship that has enabled them to play extensively overseas, particularly in the US, where they have played in the Vanderbilt and Spingold trophies, against some of the strongest players in the world, including multiple world champions Rodwell/Meckstroth and recent European champions Brogeland/Lindqvist. At just 23, Michael and several of his teammates have a few years left at junior level, and we have high hopes for them. We met Michael recently to talk about how he got into bridge, some of his experiences so far, and why he would recommend the game to other young people.

How did you get involved in bridge in the first place?

Four of my friends, two of whom are now on the national team with me, had started as part of a transition year program back in 2013 and they would go to Thomas MacCormac every Thursday for lessons in Dublin. They never shut up about the game, so I decided to see what all the fuss was about, a classic case of “fomo”. At this point I still thought bridge was a game for community centres and nursing homes, but it didn’t take me long to change my mind.

What was it about bridge that appealed once you got to know it better?

I initially it was how such a seemingly simple game (52 cards split among four players) could be so infinitely complex, which is why it hasn’t been solved by a computer yet. There are no two deals the same just as there are no two matches the same in any sport. However, in bridge you’re always faced with the same puzzles as your counterpart at the other table. So, if you’re North, the North at the other table has the same cards as you for that deal and it’s about who can do the most with the cards the 13 cards they’re dealt. In normal times, there’s obviously a strong social element to the game which keeps it alive, but it’s also one of the most intense mind games imaginable.

Then as we went out in the world, one of my earliest tournament experiences confirmed to me that bridge had the X-factor I was looking for. About twelve juniors went on a trip to Kerry to play. We enjoyed the socialising, obviously, but the highlight of the weekend came in the open teams. Myself and my inexperienced partner sat down against our teacher Thomas and an older bald guy with a moustache and a very infectious laugh. We got smashed 20-0 by them in our 6-board match, but they had one bad board due to believing my partner despite him not having his bid and me raising said flawed bid. They argued furiously after the board because they missed a game and I sat and smiled to myself “this is great”. I enjoyed it even more when I learned that the man



behind the moustache was BJ O’Brien, one of Ireland’s most successful bridge players, thus proving the maxim of bridge, that anyone can beat anyone on the right board. By now I had revised my opinion of bridge – it was clearly a game for sharp older people and a few nerdy kids.

Your still-young bridge career has taken you overseas a good deal, hasn’t it?

While there are great competitions in Ireland almost every weekend the real draw for young people around the world is the travel. My first experience of this was to Burghausen, for the European Youth Pairs in 2014. A quaint Bavarian town on the German border with Austria, the stuff of postcards. 36 Irish players went over along with almost 500 others from across the continent. What was surprising was how normal everyone was; these weren’t the nerds that many people associate with mind sports. The partnership dynamic of the game demands you to be sociable with at least your teammates and this naturally flows through to the opponents. And this event had these good-looking, interesting, and sociable, young people from across Europe all there to put cards on a table for five days. At the prizegiving you could feel the electricity in the air, the winners were boisterous, proud, and well-dressed. It’s awe-inspiring watching a partnership or more specifically two friends really belt out their national anthem with medals around their necks. It’s something I hope I can do someday. By the time the party comes around you’ve already met everyone at least once. Oh, and everyone loves the Irish!

These trips have continued ever since. We’ve been lucky enough to go to Poland, Latvia, Croatia, Norway, Slovakia, England, Turkey, and Italy, and of course to the USA a few times. Closest to my heart, every year Ireland plays against the home nations of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. I was lucky enough to be on the first Irish team to win the under-21 championship in 2016. It’s an event steeped in history and always finishes with a black-tie dinner, but don’t be fooled, the classiness concludes with the captain’s speeches. As a result of all this travel, you make friends from all over the globe, and the amount of bridge couples is ridiculous. So by now, bridge seemed like the perfect game for young people too.

We had a major exercise to promote bridge within the CBAI last year. Have you been involved in anything like that yourself?

Yes, last year’s CBAI President Peter O’Meara very kindly asked me to sit in as the junior bridge representative on the committee he set up, and I was happy to give my views. We’ve also discussed some ways for our team to get out and about to promote bridge, and we’re more than willing to do whatever we can to help. I have also begun running, and recruiting for, a college bridge society in UCD, where I studied until recently. I was amazed by the number of people who turned up who have played bridge at least once – with parents or grandparents, in transition year, or just on an app – but didn’t have the structure to push forward. Hopefully the UCD bridge society will help, although university bridge has also been a frustrating experience for me; when our team was in college we would have loved to enter international university events, but couldn’t because bridge is not recognised as a sport by Sport Ireland, and hence by Student Sport Ireland. Even though we weren’t looking for anything other than a stamp on an official form, we couldn’t take part. I understand that the CBAI has succeeded in changing that, which is great news for the next generation of university players.

As you say, you’ve played quite a bit in the USA in recent years. What’s the bridge scene like there?

As our team started to become more promising and winning things regularly, as with any team doors started to open. This is due to several things, our dedication, our coaching (thanks especially to Thomas and to Jade Barrett in this regard), but most importantly the supportive and welcoming Irish bridge community. Through fundraising, and the efforts of too many people to thank, we were able to go to the USA to play in the North American Bridge Championships in 2017 and have been to four more instalments of the prestigious tri-annual event. At these events the entry is so big that the movements of the players are more akin to the wildebeests crossing the Serengeti. If there was ever a question of how incredible the game is, it was scrubbed from my brain the second Bill Gates sat down at the table beside me in our first event. Everyone’s equal at the bridge table as you only get to use the thirteen cards you’re dealt.

The main event of that tournament, the Vanderbilt knockout teams, stretches back to the 1920’s. There are usually three or four billionaires in the draw for this event, along with global CEO’s, hedge fund managers, thirty-somethings from Silicon Valley, world champions and of course the Irish Junior Bridge team. With all this money and prestige people pay to compile the best team they can afford; thus, the usual composition is one team owner and five full-time professionals playing under the owner’s name. There are contracts, bonuses, retainers, everything you can imagine from that time you played FIFA Club Manager. Think of it this way, if you loved football and could pay to be Ronaldo’s striking partner, wouldn’t you? Teams even serve as marketing for businesses; Lavazza Coffee pays for six (usually Italian, usually younger, usually good-looking) world-class players to represent them at all the world’s major bridge tournaments on the basis that this captures the excellence of the brand (and because one of the Lavazza family is a bridge fanatic). Do you hear me, Insomnia?

These US events have been a fantastic experience for us, and we’re really grateful to have had the opportunity to play there. It also demonstrates another great aspect of the game

– that young Irish kids can compete against the best and most famous players in the world.

What would you tell a young person thinking about taking up bridge, and how can all of us make bridge more accessible for juniors?

I’d tell the potential bridge player that you’ll have a lot of fun (and sometimes frustration), that you’ll meet some great people and make friends for life, and that if you’re good enough, you’ll get to win prizes and the honour and glory that goes with them, and maybe get to travel the world.

I think the bridge community needs to dispel some common misconceptions about the game to make it more appealing to juniors. For instance:

It’s just for old people: Sure, they make up most of the players but not at high level competition where the average age is far lower. More and more of the best players in the world are between 20 and 30 the same as most sports and esports. The current world pairs champions are 23-year-old twins from Sweden.

You must have a head for maths: The only essential requirement for bridge is a head.

As in life there is more than one way to arrive in the correct place. Some of the world’s best aren’t mathematicians but psychologists, philosophers or just regular Joes. The correlation between bridge and maths is high because it attracts those types, not because those types necessarily do better than any other type of smart person. It’s expensive: The CBAI offers half price on entries to every event for students and Under 21s. In a weekend you can take home upwards of €500 euro in prize money if you play your cards right.

It’s boring: It’s actually a conveyor belt of Eureka moments where your individual choice in bidding or play can give you the best score. When you get a ‘top’ on a board as a result of something you did it’s more akin to smashing in a 30-yard screamer against Brazil or doing a Sampras overhead smash in the Wimbledon final than it is to finishing a crossword in the Sunday Times.

Every player’s personality is totally visible in how they play the game and so it makes for great people watching and subsequently teaches you a lot about yourself. And unlike games consoles, you get to take real trophies home!

And we probably need to spend more effort on modern teaching and marketing methods – videos and apps and so on.

And finally, what does the future hold for you?

Obviously this summer has been tough, with all the major international events scheduled being cancelled – I had hoped to be playing in Italy with the Irish team. We also missed out on a planned trip to NABC in Montreal, and another possible trip to the US. In the longer run, I don’t see myself becoming a professional bridge player, although you never know. I finished a business degree in UCD last year and I’m working in marketing for an electric car company as well as lending a hand in a family business (importing American foods), and I am about to start a Masters in Marketing. And once we’re back at the bridge table, I’d love to win a national championship; I just missed out when the team I was part of came second in the Holmes Wilson in February. And my main ambition is to keep improving and hopefully to become part of the national Open team at some stage.

Thanks very much Michael, and best of luck with your future bridge endeavours and your business career.

Junior Bridge Report

Dermot O'Brien, Secretary, Junior Bridge Committee

Like all bridge activities, junior bridge has been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, with all the various international championship events scheduled for the summer being postponed until next year. This is a bigger deal for junior players, who run the risk of becoming too old to play in these events, than it is for bridge players generally. In the event, the good news is that the authorities have decided to treat this season as a "lost year" in relation to age-eligibility for any events that did not actually take place, so that anyone who would have been eligible to play in an event had it taken place this year will remain eligible for next year. The home international championships did take place, in a very wet and windy Wales in February, but both the European and World junior championships, scheduled for Italy in the summer, were postponed.

In the home internationals, the CBAI sent a very inexperienced team for the (Under-21) Peggy Bayer Trophy, with four of the six players making their first international appearance (and in one case, their first flight!), and they did very well, coming a solid third, and inflicting their only defeat of the tournament on the victorious England team. In the (Under-26) Junior Camrose Trophy, the team suffered a late blow through the withdrawal of the experienced John Connolly due to illness. The team started well, and were competitive throughout, but faded a bit to finish fourth. Scotland were popular

(Peggy Bayer team (left-to-right) Conor Totterdell, Luca Crone, Matthew O'Farrell, Dermot O'Brien (NPC), Denise Walsh, Leah Finnegan, and Adam Murphy



winners, just pipping England, as their team has been stable for a number of years, and several of them were in their final year of eligibility. Special commendations to Matthew O'Farrell and

Adam Murphy for bidding two successful grand slams not bid by the older team, and to Isabel Burke for playing very well at Under-26 level at the tender age of just 15.

CBAI Peggy Bayer Team 2020

Prior to lockdown, we held our Schools Pairs and



Teams championships in Galway at the end of February, with twenty-nine pairs and fourteen teams competing. Isabel Burke & Tom Gorey scooped both the main prizes, winning the Pairs, and combining with Luca Crone & Conor Totterdell to win the Teams. Belfast Royal Academy had two teams in the top four, with newcomers the Institute of Education also featuring in the prizes, while Carrickfergus Grammar School won the plate. Gaining access to, and providing teaching resources for, new schools remains a significant challenge for the Junior Committee, although we should highlight the excellent work being done at primary school level by Jacques Lumbroso in Munster and by Norman Lacey in Ulster. On which note, it's also great to report promising juniors beginning to emerge through clubs and families as well as the more traditional route of the schools. Of this season's new internationals, Matthew O'Farrell (RDS BC), Adam Murphy (Ashbourne BC), Luca Crone (Roadstone BC), and Isabel Burke (Tribes BC, Galway), all arrived on the scene in 2019, and have many more years of junior eligibility. It is great that emerging players have found a welcoming home in these clubs, as well as being part of the junior programme.





(Junior Camrose l-to-r) Stephen Barr, Michael Donnelly, Thomas MacCormac (NPC), Isabel Burke, Conor Boland, Arran Bolger, and Sheila Walsh (missing from picture).

We always encourage promising junior players to participate in open national and regional competitions and congresses wherever possible, for development and experience purposes, and a number of excellent results were achieved by junior players prior to lockdown. Particular credit should be given to Conor Boland, who has featured at the top of so many events at this stage that it is almost no longer noteworthy, while Michael Donnelly was part of the team that finished second in the Holmes Wilson Trophy.

We are also continuing to work on coaching our junior group. Prior to lockdown, a special training day for promising junior players was held in Templeogue in December, with Paul Delaney providing an excellent session. Unfortunately, coronavirus put paid to our plans for another summer camp this year, at which we had planned to offer an introductory course for complete beginners. Special thanks are due to Karel De Raeymaeker who continues to devote enormous time and effort to juniors in his role as unpaid coach.

In the absence of in-person bridge, we have tried our best to keep the juniors practicing hard and playing online wherever possible, and have had some notable results. The Junior Team of Conor Boland, Michael Donnelly, Stephen Barr, and John Connolly

won a narrow victory over their Senior counterparts in an online challenge for charity to mark Thomas MacCormac's ascension to the rank of grandmaster. The Scottish Bridge Union recently ran an online Open Junior Pairs Championships, and the Irish representation did very well, with Stephen Barr & John Connolly (Under-26s) victorious, and Matthew O'Farrell & Luca Crone (Under-21s) in fourth place, in a good-quality field of 42 pairs.

As ever, we could do with more hands on deck in relation to junior bridge. If you'd like to volunteer to help out in any way, to assist in coaching (if qualified to do so!), to make any useful suggestions, or even (gasp!) to join the Junior Committee, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Just send an email to irishyouthbridge@gmail.com and we'll be in touch. Equally, if you know of any junior players who might benefit from inclusion in our programme, again just let us know. And finally, as noted above we always encourage our promising juniors to play in as many competitions as they can and we stress the benefit they will gain from playing against better and more experienced players. So we would ask you all to make every effort to welcome juniors, especially the younger ones, whenever we are all back at the bridge table. For the moment, playing online, you won't know that it's a sixteen-year-old who's beating you!

Online Laws of Bridge

In the good old days when we played 'face-to-face' bridge, we occasionally managed to bid out turn, lead out of turn, make insufficient bids and revoke. However in these days of the 'New Normal', where we play a virtual online game, the computer software won't allow us bid out turn, play out of turn, make insufficient bids or revoke.

The current 2017 'Laws of Bridge' were written with live face-to-face bridge in mind but now that more and more of us have, of necessity, started to play online, we need to modify these laws to cater for the few irregularities that might occur in the virtual environment such as misclicks and failure to alert.

We need to lay down proper procedures and encourage good practice in ethics, etiquette, alerting etc. Thankfully the English Bridge Union (EBU) has already published their procedures in a document called the Sky-Blue-Book and we in CBAI land may as well look to that document as our starting point when we start writing our own 'Sky-Grey-Book'.

The following is my own personal modification of the EBU document – and it is merely that – a personal opinion – later in the year the CBAI Tournament and Play Committee will meet to discuss official CBAI procedures. Meanwhile feel free to submit feedback to me or to CBAI HQ on what you would like to see in our final document.

Disclosure of Systems

Ideally each pair should upload a system card to BBO, which should be available to the opponents during the round. The system card should include agreements for bidding and carding. In the absence of an online system card, the pair should 'pre-announce' at the beginning of each round – their basic bidding system and carding arrangements.

Players may consult their own system card and other notes at any stage. This might sound strange but any other provision is regarded as being unenforceable. This general condition could be overridden by the specific conditions of contest, in cases where the regulation could be enforced e.g. in games where the players are being monitored by online video.

Alerting and announcing on BBO

CBAI online games on BBO use 'self-alerting' i.e. players alert their own calls, not their partner's. Players must alert their calls even if the pair have a system card uploaded.

All alerts are made by the player making the call, not by their partner. This is done by the player entering an explanation/description in the Alert box before making the call – similar to announcements in face-to-face bridge. There is no problem with over-alerting online because partner does not see the alerts, so players are encouraged to alert/explain.

Players should:

- Alert/explain bids and passes with artificial or unexpected meaning - alert/explain if in doubt.
- Alert/explain the minimum length of short-suit bids, and other distribution.
- Alert/explain the range of NT opening bids, overcalls, responses and rebids; and alert/explain responses to NT bids, including Stayman and transfers.



- Also alert/explain if a 1NT opening bid can have a singleton (by agreement).
- Alert/explain weak bids which may sound strong.
- Doubles should be alerted and explained unless the double is a takeout double of a natural suit bid or the double is a penalty double of a NT bid or an artificial suit bid.
- Above 3NT, bids and passes continue to be alerted/explained if artificial or unexpected.
- Alert/explain doubles of a suit bid that are lead-directing but ask for the lead of a suit other than the suit doubled
- Alert/explain doubles of no trump bids that ask for the lead of a specific suit

How to alert/explain

Players should provide an explanation with the alert - they should type the explanation before making the call, and then when the call is made the explanation will be visible to the opponents. The partner does not see the alert, so there is no

harm in over alerting.

Asking questions

Whether or not a call was alerted, and whether or not an explanation was provided, an opponent can request a (fuller) explanation by clicking on the call. The opponents can also ask (further) questions by chatting to the player making the call - when answering a question, a player should send the answer to both opponents (using 'chat' to 'Opponents'); and not send a message to the 'Table', which partner would be able to see.

Asking questions of both players

It should not be necessary to ask the partner of the player making a call to explain the call. The opponents are not allowed to try and establish if the other side are having a misunderstanding.

If the opponents ask such a question, in the first instance, the partner should (politely) point out that the original player should answer the question.

If the opponents insist that the partner answer questions, then the TD should be called. If there is no TD (e.g. in a match 'played privately'), the players will have to achieve a resolution that allows the hand to continue, by open discussion (via 'Table' chat), and reserve their rights.

Mis-explanations on BBO

Experience has shown that it is possible to give the wrong explanation, even when players are explaining their own calls. It is likely that the explanation will be a description of the player's hand but not the correct explanation according to the partnership agreements. This can occur if the player forgets the system, or if they 'misclick' and do not make their intended call.

If there is a misexplanation, the opponents are entitled to a correct explanation of the agreement. If the player giving the explanation becomes aware of their error, then they must correct the explanation. The correction needs to be available to the defenders before the opening lead. The suggested procedure is for the player who knows that his explanation is incorrect, is to replace the incorrect explanation with 'WRONG explanation' as soon as possible, and later (if requested) give the correct explanation to the opponents, making it clear that this is the explanation of their agreements, not the player's intended meaning.

BBO robots: agreements and explanations

When robots are playing on BBO, the explanations of the calls

of both members of the partnership (robot or human) are provided by the platform: the explanation of the call made by a human playing with a robot is not the human player's explanation.

The robots will try to make the right call and will also provide an explanation, but the call will not always match the explanation. A player playing with a robot may choose to make a call which does not match the explanation that the robot will give. Such departures from the robots 'announced understandings' are legal, as they cannot lead to an implicit understanding.

If a player makes a call knowing that it does not match the explanation, and the player does not want inexperienced opponents to be misled by the explanation, the player can tell the opponents (in 'table' chat) that the explanation was not the player's intended meaning.

Advice for Players - Communication

'At the table' communication (on BBO)

It is possible to communicate to 'the table' - visible to all players at the table; or to one opponent - visible only to that opponent. It is possible to send a message to both opponents, but a reply from one opponent will not be seen by the other opponent. It is possible to communicate privately with partner between rounds.

General questions about general bidding methods and carding agreements can be addressed to all at the table so that either opponent can answer, and all can see the answers.

Specific questions about particular calls should be via the alert/announcement mechanism (in which case both members of the opposing pair will see any revised explanation), or through private message to the opponent making the bid.

Illegal communication

Illegal communication is cheating and is not allowed.

Do not communicate anything to partner in public which may influence their choice of calls or plays.

Do not communicate with partner during the round in any way which is not visible to the opponents: 'The gravest possible offence is for a partnership to exchange information through prearranged methods of communication other than those sanctioned by the Laws of Bridge'.

Skip bids

There is no online STOP card or other skip bid warning. Following a jump bid (i.e. a bid at a higher level than the minimum in that denomination), the next player should pause before making their call, and a pause of a notional ten seconds does not constitute unauthorised information.

As there is no skip bid warning, inexperienced online players will inevitably sometimes call quickly over a jump bid. Although this is not correct procedure, and in principle this variation in tempo can create unauthorised information, the limitations of the online playing environment mean that it is not expected that such violations will be automatically penalised.

Calling the TD

Most mechanical problems will be dealt with by the platform, and there will be no need to involve the TD (ie it is impossible to bid or play out of turn and it is impossible to revoke).

However, it is necessary to call the TD when:

- * the platform has not dealt with a mechanical issue satisfactorily;

- * a player is unresponsive, or the play becomes 'stuck' in some other way;

- * there is conflicting information about the meaning of a call or play, e.g. when an alert/explanation is different from the system card or does not reflect the partnership understanding;

- * there appears to be use of unauthorised information;

- * here is a dispute over a claim/concession;

- * there is any bad behaviour.

Note: To call the TD on BBO, there is a menu option 'Call TD'. The location of the menu with the 'Call TD' option depends on the version of the BBO interface.

Behaviour

The disciplinary provisions of the laws and the CBAI Bye Laws apply to online bridge.

Ideally players should greet on another in a friendly manner prior to start of play on each round', players should have their names available to their opponents (in their 'profile') or should give their names at the start of each round.

Appeals

Appeals are possible in CBAI/BBO events, and are subject to a deposit and possible sanction if deemed to lack merit. Appeal of a ruling given during a session must be lodged with the TD online within the 20-minute correction period. The arrangements for lodging an appeal of a ruling given after the end of the session will be set by the TD.

Regulations

Participants

Robots can play in some CBAI pairs events, and robots can play in more than one partnership. In some events, players will not be permitted to register to enter with a robot partner.

By contrast, real players can only play as one user person – not as two players in a pair, nor in more than one pair! Players may not play as one user and kibitz as another user.

Replacement of Players in pairs events

In pairs event, players may be replaced by a substitute at the instigation of the TD. Robots can be used as replacements, where this is provided by the platform, even in events where players are not allowed to enter with robot partners. Over the course of the session a pair may comprise any number of players (and robots).

All scores obtained by a pair where one or both players have been replaced stand for the pair and for the opponents.

If the player originally entered does not play half the boards, they will not appear in the final ranking list, and, in this case, if a substitute player plays half the boards, they will appear in the final ranking list. A player who is originally entered and plays at least half the boards will be eligible for master points.

Withdrawal and late arrival in pairs events

Pairs who are not online when the session starts will not play, even if registered. Players who are not present/responsive will be replaced (see preceding) and may be allowed to resume on their return.

Time Limits – Correction Periods

The correction period for rulings and scoring errors is 20 minutes after the end of the session.

At that point the results become final as far as BBO is concerned but a score correction, ruling or appeal which is decided after that time will change the result for CBAI.

Laws

Weighted scores on BBO

When the TD awards an assigned adjusted score which is weighted, the BBO platform does not allow this adjusted score to be entered. Instead, the TD will enter a score as a percentage of the match points on the board – this artificial score is an attempt to recreate the effect of the assigned adjusted score. If a ruling or appeal is decided after the end of the 'BBO' correction period, then this decision can (exceptionally) be entered as an assigned adjusted score, to appear in the CBAI results only. The CBAI results will differ from the results shown on BBO.

Unauthorised information

Significant hesitations and remarks ('table chat') are unauthorised information, which will constrain the player and can be subject to a ruling.

There can be reasons for pauses in an online game, due to the environment, but the TD is entitled to determine that a significant hesitation is nevertheless unauthorised information and rule accordingly.

Unintended calls and plays on BBO

BBO allows for calls and plays to be withdrawn on the request of the player, and with the agreement of the opponents: called an 'UNDO'. This facility can be restricted by the tournament organiser. In all CBAI events, there are no UNDOs in the play of the cards.

In events where 'UNDOs are allowed' then these undos are allowed in the auction for genuine 'misclicks' - a 'misclick' corresponds to a 'mechanical error'. UNDOs are allowed even if partner has called as long as the situation has not got completely out of hand.

When enabled, UNDOs should also be requested (and allowed) when there has been a correction of a mistaken explanation where the laws allow for a non-offending player to change the last call by their side.

In events where 'UNDOs are not allowed' then there are no UNDOs in the auction (or play).

When UNDOs are not allowed in the auction, there will be no adjusted score or other rectification for 'misclicks', however obviously unintended.

When UNDOs are not allowed, and there has been a correction of a mistaken explanation, the TD will rule as if it had been too late to change the call by the non-offending side and possibly adjust the score later.

Claims on BBO

If there is a claim and the opponents object, play continues. The opponent can call the TD at the end of play but the TD will be inclined to accept the table result. However, if the claimer has adopted a line not obvious in the original claim statement, which seems to have been informed by the objection to the claim, the TD will rule on a contested claim rather than rule as if the players had agreed to play on after the claim.

Exceptionally, if there is a claim and the round ends and play is curtailed before acceptance/rejection of the claim, then the TD will rule on the claim as if the opponents had objected to the claim.

If there is claim and the claim is accepted but the opponents subsequently disagree, the TD will return a trick if a player has agreed to the loss of a trick that his side would likely have won had the play continued.

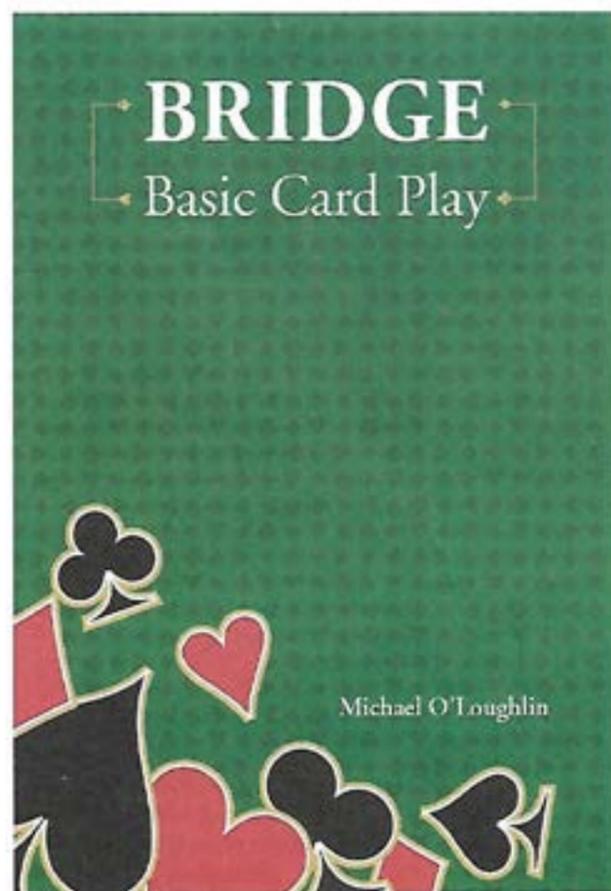
If one defender concedes and the other objects but the declarer accepts the claim/concession, then play ceases – there is no option for play to continue. In this case, or any case where one side object to their side conceding tricks, the TD will return a trick if a player has conceded a trick that could not be lost by any normal (including careless or inferior) play of the remaining cards.

If there has been a claim that the opponents have rejected (so the claiming side's cards are visible to the other side) and then a subsequent claim/concession which requires a TD ruling, determination of 'likely' and 'normal' will take into account that one side can see all the cards.

Slow Play in pairs events on BBO

Pairs events on BBO are 'clocked' where the round ends after a fixed time and the play of any unfinished boards is curtailed. If there are only at most four tricks remaining, BBO will assign a result based on the outcome from robots playing on from the point where play was curtailed. If there are more than a few tricks to be played, the TD will assign a score based on the auction and play that occurred.

It is possible for slow play to result in an advantage for one side; for example, if declarer can avoid taking a two-way guess until the last four tricks and the round ends before the board is finished, the assigned score will be the outcome where declarer always 'does the right thing'. If the side that was responsible for slow play gains an advantage in this manner, the TD can assign an adjusted score: for example, a weighted outcome between normal lines.



→ Bridge Basic Card Play ←

"Players who have lacked instruction in the play of the cards will be able to follow its progressive structure."
Seamus Dowling, author of
"Thank You, Partner: The History of Bridge in Ireland"

Bidding theory dominates bridge instruction to the detriment of card play; this book redresses the balance.

Can be used equally effectively as a Bridge class textbook and as a stand-alone "Teach Yourself Card Play".

Available from: **CBAI, Templeogue House,**
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(01 4929666) for **€10**

My Wild Atlantic Kitchen: Recipes and Recollections

A Snapshot of Maura O'Connell Foley's Life and Culinary Career

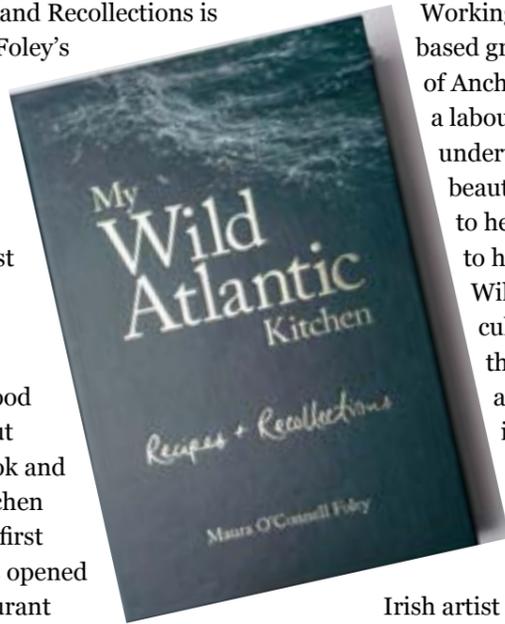
My Wild Atlantic Kitchen: Recipes and Recollections is a compilation of Maura O'Connell Foley's favourite recipes created throughout her career in Kenmare spanning over six decades. The dishes contained in the book follow Maura's ethos of keeping food simple, cooking with care and using the best available local produce.

Several years in the making, this book is a comprehensive collection capturing over 250 recipes of the food Maura has loved to cook throughout her life and successful career as cook and restaurateur. My Wild Atlantic Kitchen features stand-out dishes from the first tea shop she and her mother Agnes opened in 1961, The Purple Heather Restaurant and Piano Bar, The LimeTree Restaurant, Packie's Food and Wine and also from Shelburne Lodge Guesthouse which she continues to run today with her husband Tom.

Maura said, "Over the years, I was approached on many occasions to write a book, but I just didn't make the time. I finally put pen to paper, and I can tell you it has been a tremendous effort! The recipes are a diverse collection of the food I have loved to cook at various times in my life".

Maura's recipes are seasonal, classic and carefully organised into eight chapters in the book: Breakfast, Starters, Fish, Meat, Vegetables, Desserts & Baking, Sauces, Stocks & Staples, as well as a dedicated section on Dinner Parties.

Examples include Drop Scone Pancakes with Dry Cured Bacon and Apple Syrup, Confit of Duck Leg with Pear and Ginger Salad, Twice Baked Hazelnut Goat's Cheese Soufflé, Seafood Sausage with Beurre Blanc, Smoked Cod Cakes, Beef and Guinness Casserole, Dover Sole Stuffed with Atlantic Prawns and Brandy Cream Sauce, Chocolate Pots, Irish Barmbrack & Butter Pudding and, Spicy Apple and Rum Pudding.



Working in close collaboration with Kenmare based graphic designer Éamonn O'Sullivan of Anchor Studio, the project was very much a labour of love, with Maura and her family undertaking the task of lovingly creating a beautiful book that would be a testament to her years of hard work and dedication to her craft. Not only a cookbook, My Wild Atlantic Kitchen features Maura's culinary recollections and stories woven throughout. In keeping with her love of art and the Irish landscape, the book includes photography by nationally renowned landscape photographer Norman McCloskey, illustrations by artist Christine Bowen and paintings from internationally acclaimed

Irish artist Pauline Bewick.



My Wild Atlantic Kitchen: Recipes and Recollections (RRP €35)

is available on Amazon or directly from www.mywildatlantickitchen.com and selected bookstores nationwide

About Maura O'Connell Foley

Maura is a formidable woman with a strong family history of women in the food business. Her grandmother was a cook in Boston in the late 1800's. She returned to Kenmare in the 1930's and built and owned her own grocery store.

Since the early 1960's Maura has been a chef owner of several successful businesses in Kenmare. Born in London during the war in 1942, she returned to Kenmare and opened a cake shop at the age of 19 with her mother, Agnes, who had worked as a professional baker in Fraser's Tea Shop in Haverstock Hill, London.

In 1963 Maura and Agnes expanded the business and opened a restaurant, with Maura following her true passion of cooking in the kitchen mainly with fresh local fish including sole, cod, Atlantic prawns and lobster. She is largely self-taught, having completed a short course at Le Cordon Bleu in London in the 1960's and undertaking stages with great chefs including Sonia Stevenson, the first woman to earn a Michelin star in the UK.

As well as her culinary skills, she has great artistic flair, a keen eye for interiors and is a strong supporter of Irish art and crafts. In the early 1980's she renovated an old school house in Kenmare, where she had once been a student herself, and opened The Limetree restaurant with her husband Tom. During her tenure at The Limetree, she received great acclaim both nationally and internationally and earned a Michelin Red M. Later, in the early 90's, she converted her uncle Packie's grocery store to a more informal restaurant, simply called Packie's Food and Wine. In 1990 she purchased a large run-down Georgian house and after five years of meticulous renovations Shelburne Lodge opened to guests in 1996. Maura and her husband Tom, continue to run Shelburne Lodge today.

My Wild Atlantic Kitchen captures over 250 recipes from Maura O'Connell Foley's various businesses as well as her food related recollections and stories. It includes eight key chapters - breakfast, starters, fish, meat, vegetables, desserts and baking, sauces stocks and staples and a dinner party section. In keeping with Maura's love of art and being a supporter of local produce since she first started cooking, there are beautiful photographs of her recipes and of local producers.

Also included are Irish landscape photographs by nationally renowned photographer Norman McCloskey. Paintings from internationally acclaimed Irish artist, Pauline Bewick, a close friend of Maura's, are also incorporated in the dinner party section. There are delightful illustrations from Christine Bowen throughout the book which add a unique artistic component.

The foreword is written by Derry Clarke, Irish Michelin starred chef of L'Ecrivain restaurant in Dublin. He says "This book is the culmination of 60 years of passion, hard work and imagination and is a summary of Maura's life working in busy kitchens. These recipes are timeless, classic and detailed. This is a book I feel every cook should have in their kitchen as there are so many brilliant and varied recipes. This is a book recording Maura's legacy through the many years she has been at the forefront of Irish cooking. As a fellow chef, I am proud to know her and respect her for all her achievements."

Keeping food simple, cooking with care and using the best produce is the key to Maura's recipes. Throughout the years, seeking out quality and fresh ingredients for her cooking has been the number one priority. However, Maura also strongly believes that another important aspect when people eat out is that they relax and enjoy the surroundings, therefore ambience and lighting are up there with the food and service in creating a whole experience for a restaurant.



IBU acted swiftly on Covid-19 pandemic



Martin Brady

Joint Honorary Secretary, Irish Bridge Union

This season effectively became half a season due to the COVID-19 pandemic reaching Ireland in early March, and the subsequent postponement of all IBU competitions and effective suspension of club bridge. IBU Emergency Committee met several times over phone during March and agreed, with regret, to postpone all competitions until further notice. The IBU was ahead of most bodies in anticipating the scale of the emergency and the need to shut down, and the speedy decisions of Emergency Committee and support of Council assisted us in giving proper notice of cancellations, appreciated by our partners at the Cavan Crystal Hotel and throughout the bridge world.

In a year that would normally be dominated by the European Championships, we got as far as selecting three teams and halfway to selecting a fourth. The Championships are currently scheduled for 12-22 June 2021 in Funchal, Madeira.

Open Trials winners: Mark Moran, John Carroll, Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann, Nick FitzGibbon, Adam Mesbur. Nick FitzGibbon and Adam Mesbur have been nominated to the EBL Hall of Fame. We await and hope for news of their entry upon this prestigious honour!

Women's Trials winners: Teresa Rigney, Diane Greenwood, Joan Kenny, Jeannie Fitzgerald

Senior Trials winners: Randal Milne, BJ O'Brien, Micheal O Briain, Pdraigh O Briain

The Mixed Trials was postponed at the halfway stage, and will not resume until we can be assured of contestants' safety.

Our congratulations to the winners and our best wishes to all entrants in the mixed trials. Good luck to all next summer!

We also congratulate the Irish Youth Bridge Committee for another energetic and successful year. A new generation of talent is emerging, and we look forward to hearing of their development and success. Not to forget about our most successful juniors, well managed by Thomas MacCormac, who recently challenged and beat the Open team in an online fixture. We hope this portends even bigger things in their future! Well done to Dermot O'Brien and his committee for all their hard work.

Competitions:-

Inter-Provincials. Leinster won the Open Championships, Munster retained the Area Master Championships, and Leinster retained the Intermediate Championships.

The Simultaneous Pairs winners were Christine Mahoney and Kathie McGrath (Naas Trumps BC, Monday); Mary Dunne and John Gray (Navan BC, Tuesday); Anne McCartney and Theresa McGivern (Roselawn BC Blanchardstown, Wednesday); Jimmy Gallagher and John McGinley (Dungloe BC, Thursday); and Liz Dowling and Michael Flaherty (Naas Trumps BC, Friday). Provincial prizes were won by Neville Figgis and John Joyce (Clifden BC, for Connaught); Mark Tiernan and Eddie Walshe (Ballymahon BC, for Leinster); David Coleman and Liam Gavin (Scariff BC, for Munster); and Pat McDaid and Michael Peoples (City of Derry BC, for Ulster).

All other championships have been postponed.

Sonya Britton Trophy

The 2019 competition was won by the NIBU.

I am grateful to Jim O'Sullivan, President, as well as the rest of Emergency Committee, Anne Fitzpatrick (Treasurer) and Harold Curran (Vice-President) for their support and counsel during the present emergency.

Andra tutto bene, and we wish all good health and a speedy return to the table in the coming year!

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REGIONAL NOTES

Dublin South

Secretary: Máiread Ní Oistín



Dublin South Region has 45 Clubs, and over 4,500 members. This makes Dublin South the second largest region within the CBAI. As the 2019/2020 Bridge season was brought to an abrupt halt, Dublin South managed to hold almost all of its Regional competitions.

Dublin South Region held 2 qualifiers for the 4Fun teams competition. The first qualifier was held in the RDS, with 24 teams playing. The second was held in Milltown Golf Club, with 24 teams playing. This competition gives an opportunity to the less experienced player to play in team competitions, outside of their clubs, and to learn from the more experienced players. 16 teams were to represent the Region at the National Finals, to be held in Westmanstown in May 2020, but like all other competitions from March 2020 on, had to be cancelled. The Fanagan League was a great success again this year, until it's untimely cancellation in March 2020. Dónal Garvey, and his wife, Jenny, took over the administration of the Fanagan League from Ann Fitzmaurice. Both Jenny and Dónal have done a huge amount of work in organising the Fanagan League. There were 68 teams from 22 clubs taking part in this very popular competition. The Gala final night was to be held in Templeogue Bridge Centre on Sunday 10th May 2020. Dublin South Region will honour all the participants by carrying forward their entry fees for the new season.

Regional Competitions

We had a great turnout at all our Regional competitions. These are the results:

Carroll Cup: Conor Moore, David Ryan, Joe Coyne, Kevin O'Dea, Jim McAndrew.

Paul O'Reilly Trophy: Carol Daultrey, Meave Delaney, Melíosa O'Malley, Helem Lambkin.

Quinn Cup: Conor Boland and Karl de Raeymaeker.

Joe Moran Trophy: Marjorie McNeill and Max McNeill.

Duffy Cup: Ciara Gleeson and Margot Barnes.

Pigot Cup: Breda Synnott, Kevin O'Dea, Conor Moore, Mick Lynch

B.J.O'Brien Trophy: Sonya Hillis, Meave Delaney, Deirdre Fallon, Ruth Peare.

Ruth Giddings Trophy: Mary Burke, Julia Rowan, Áine Connolly, Moya Murphy.

Kay Downes Trophy: Niamh Boyle and Gary Beirne.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following Clubs for facilitating Dublin South Region events during the past year: The Regent Bridge Club, RDS Bridge Club, Templeogue Bridge Centre, Milltown Golf Club, Railway Union Bridge Club. Would also like to thank our Tournament Directors, John Royds and Brian Lawlor. We would also like to thank the CBAI Headquarters for facilitating our Committee meetings.

National Competitions

Coen Trophy: Aoife McHale and Peter Goodman were on the winning team.

Master Pairs: Nick Fitzgibbon and Adam Mesbur.

Jackson Cup: Ann Burns and Helen Healy.

Revington Cup: Mícheál Ó Briain and Peter Goodman.

Geraldine Cup: Jim McAndrew, Michael McGloughlin, David Ryan, Tomás Roche.

McMenamin Bowl: Gilda Pender, Rebecca O'Keeffe, Ann-Marie Horan-Carroll.

National Pairs Intermediate A: Mary Hickey and MaryRose McGovern.

As it is not feasible to hold an AGM at the moment, the Dublin South Region Committee will remain as was in the 2019/2020 year, with the exception of Ann Fitzmaurice. Ann has retired from the Dublin South Committee after many many years of hard work and dedication. She retired as Organiser of the Fanagan League last year. We wish Ann well and we will miss all her contributions to Dublin South Region, and indeed to the CBAI itself.

The Dublin South Region Committee for 2020/2021 is as follows:

President: Ciara Gleeson.

Vice-President: Niamh Gormally.

Ex Officio: Bríd Kemple.

Honorary Secretary: Máiread Ní Oistín.

Honorary Treasurer: Kevin O'Dea.

County Development Officer: Deirdre Fallon.

Fanagan League Organiser: Dónal Garvey.

Committee Members: Fiona O'Gorman, Moya Murphy, Teresa Gavin.

Honorary Life Members: Kay Downes, Séamus Dowling

All our members are welcome to contact our Secretary, Máiread Ní Oistín, at 0876750393 or email dsrbridge@gmail.com



BJ O'Brien winners: Deirdre Fallon, Maeve Delaney, Sonya Hillis, Ciara Gleeson, President, Dublin South Region and Ruth Peare.



Ruth Giddings Trophy winners: Moya Murphy, Mary Burke, Ciara Gleeson, President Dublin South Region, Julie Rowan and Áine Connolly.

REGIONAL NOTES

South Eastern

Secretary: Oona Dwyer



The Regional Officers remain for year 2020/2021.
President : Larry Mordaunt (087 9299241) chairperson Mary Kilgallen (051 873528) secretary Oona Dwyer (087 9893025).
Treasurer/CDO : Jim Doyle (086 3619911). CDO Michael Coffey (087 0622281).CDO: Jim Kennington (087 6294188)
Michael Coffey, Jim Doyle and John Phelan ran very successful beginner and improver classes at beginning of season last year.

Great numbers at Waterford congress which was held in newly revamped Tower Hotel
Any clubs that decide to reopen during Covid HSE have guidelines for a return to bridge along with CBAI recommendations for implementation . Table screens due at the end of September so if any club requires them please contact CBAI
It has been a strange year and also saw the passing of many members, may they Rest In Peace.
Please feel free to contact me any time and STAY SAFE.



Intermediate A winners: Left to right - Larry Mordaunt (S.E. Regional President), Rose White (Congress President), Margaret Barron (winner), Neil Burke (CBAI President), Eileen Brennan (winner), Michael Brennan (PRO)



Waterford Congress Committee 2020.

REGIONAL NOTES

South Midlands

Secretary: Hugh Donnelly-Swift



This has been a surreal year with bridge stopping in March 2020. Looking forward some clubs in the region are making preparations to play in the near future.

The South Midland has formed a virtual club on BBO that plays on Monday 7.30 and Thursday at 2.15. George Ryan who set up this club has done great work in organising competitions between teams from South Africa and UK.

Any member from region can give him your BBO name and partake. George can be contacted on 0872101461.

Results of Regional competitions

South midland trophy: 1st: Patricia Kelly, Domnhall Joyce. 2nd Marie O'Mara, Fran Swift. 3rd Jo Coffey Ann McFadden.
1st Session: Pat Karney, Columba Feeney. 2nd session Paddy Conroy, Tom O'Reilly. Best B: John Perry, Liam Carroll.
Regional pairs:
1st Paddy Conroy, Eileen Fingelton. 2nd Nora Kelly, Kathy Monks. 3rd Fran Swift, Anthony Lambe.
Best A: Martha Heffernan, Ita Stapleton. Best B: Melanie Hill, Brendan O'Donnel. 1st Session: Margaret and Damien Nee. 2nd Session: Chris Desmond, Bridget Ryan.

REGIONAL NOTES

North Midlands

Secretary: Lorraine Jameson



The North Midland Region bridge year commenced with the AGM in May 2019 when Frank Kelly from Ace Bridge Club became Regional President. The region came out in force for the promotion week in August and reaped the benefits from same when the season commenced in September. Many clubs ran classes and reported large numbers of pupils, many of which filtered into the clubs in the new bridge year.

The region hosted the regional pairs competition in the Bridge House Hotel Tullamore on the 01 December which was a great success. James Connolly and Sean Masterson took the overall prize. Margaret Martin and Lorraine Barry won best "A", Heather Ridgeway and Anne Crombie won best "B" and Anne Cosgrave and Tom Smyth took the novice prize. The Regional Gala competition followed in Shamrock Lodge on the 09 February. Maura Conway and Kathleen Shaw won the overall prize.

The John Cunningham memorial trophy took place in Mullingar Bridge Club on the 01 March. This was well attended with 24 tables. Liz Taaffe and Michael McDonagh won the competition. Rory Duncan and Brendan Murtagh won the B prize.

Our final competition, the regional teams, took place in Longford Bridge Centre on the 8 March. This was well attended and our regional president's team of Frank and Brenda Kelly, Bill O'Hanlon and Tony Ward took home the trophy. Margaret Martin, Mary Nooney, Joe Casey and Josephine Finnegan took the intermediate prize.

A huge word of thanks to our tournament director and scorers, Ultan and Eileen McCabe.

What you have now is fine Lorraine... if you want to maybe insert the following just to highlight the great work of the online workers.

Keyboard Heroes

As the end of our playing season was guillotined by the pandemic, certain "keyboard heroes" began to emerge. Those of us who were familiar with Bridge Base Online (BBO) and explored the platform for a game of bridge soon became acquainted with the virtual clubs being run by Eamon Galligan and Fearghal O'Boyle. In our own region, James Connolly soon came to the fore running the Longford game

with new-found expertise and more importantly, opening the virtual doors to interlopers from Ferbane, Athlone, Tullamore, Mullingar and as far south as Birr. Then another Phoenix arose from the flames in the form of Tullamore man Paul Harrison. Being a computer whiz by profession, Paul soon learned the ropes and promoted the aptly named Phoenix Club for the players of Tullamore and all our midland friends. Now with the help and support of the CBAI players can continue to play for as

little as \$1 a night. Though we cannot see our «bridge friends» in the flesh, we can keep in touch with our game until normal life resumes. Thanks James and Paul.

Finally the National President, Neil Burke, choose Denise Conlon as the person to receive his president's award this year. Denise is hugely deserving of this award as she has worked tirelessly for bridge over the past decade and has served the region well both nationally and regionally.

Bridge in the CoViD-19 era

Are you not looking forward to the CoViD-19 cleaning regime required to make your Bridge game as safe as possible?



Will your club find it hard to find someone to:

Disinfect all surfaces before each session;

Ensure adequate hand sanitizer is in place for frequent use, and;

Monitor the compliance which is CBAI/HSE guidelines.

All of these jobs are very tedious and stressful!

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A SUITE OF PRODUCTS (OR A SERVICE) THAT:

CLEANS SURFACES, LEAVING THEM RESISTANT TO MOST VIRUSES FOR UP TO 30 DAYS?

CAN SANITISE PLAYING CARDS, FRONT AND BACK, FOR THE SAME PERIOD, AND DRIES VERY QUICKLY?

A HAND SANITISER THAT LASTS FOR A WHOLE BRIDGE SESSION - OR TWO?

The Zoono range will fully satisfy the CBAI/HSE disinfectant requirements for a Bridge club. Lasting for up to 30 days on any treated surface and up to 24 hours on the skin, this revolutionary technology significantly reduces the spread of harmful bacteria, viruses (including Coronavirus), fungi (mould) and yeasts.

For example, a Club with:

7 Tables, with screens; 28 Bidding Boxes with Bid Cards; 24 decks and card-holders; Bridgmate set for the 7 Tables

One 5 litre bottle of the liquid will allow 7 treatments, each lasting at least 3 weeks, and the 5 litre hand sanitiser supplies 25,000 treatments. All this for €252 per pair! Assuming a very short Summer break, this means you can be covered for a full year for around €500!

For further prices and information, or to request a quotation, contact us at :

Derek O'Brien, Mobile: 083-1016713 eMail: gortnanull@icloud.com

OR clare.cdo@gmail.com Mobile: 086-8349155

For further information & documentation see www.zoono.co.uk

OR www.rineannabc.org/covid19

For a sample testimonial see www.shannonleisurecentre.ie/session-booking/



FALLS HOTEL & SPA

Ennistymon, Co Clare
At the heart of the Wild Atlantic Way



BRIDGE BREAKS WITH PAUL HANRATTY

Four nights B&B with Dinner each evening, tea/coffee & biscuits upon arrival, card clinics every morning and evening.

Daily afternoon arranged activities, including Aqua Aerobics & Flower Arranging, with optional sightseeing trips around Clare. Full use of our Aqua & Leisure Club

€295 per person - no single supplement!



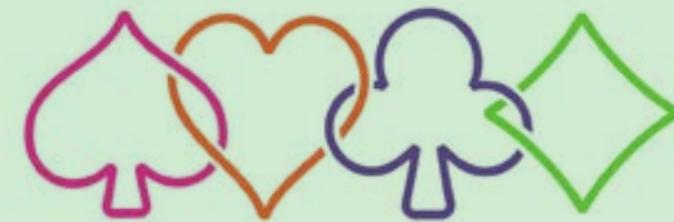
BRIDGE BREAKS AUTUMN 2020

October 11- 15
October 18 - 22
November 1 - 5
November 15 - 19

Whist Breaks
October 4 - 8 €285 p.p.

Five Night Breaks:
Nov: 29 - December 3 €295
Contact us on: 065-7071004
or e-mail:reservations@fallshotel.ie

FALLS HOTEL & SPA, ENNISTYMON, CO CLARE | +353 (0)65 707 1004 | RESERVATIONS@FALLSHOTEL.IE | WWW.FALLSHOTEL.IE



Bridge Classes 2020

In-person bridge classes are on hold because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The following CBAI-accredited teachers are offering classes online. Please contact them for details.

Teacher	Date	Level(s)	Contact Email	Contact Phone
Thomas MacCormac	Ongoing	Beginners	tmaccormac@gmail.com	086-3859953
Sean Murray	Mid-September	Beginners	sjomuir@gmail.com	086-1516388
Vanessa & Rebecca O'Keeffe	Late-September	Beginners, Improvers	vanessaokeeffe3@gmail.com	087-2866579
Peter Pigot	Ongoing	Improvers, Advanced	peterpigotbridge@gmail.com	086-8146320
Liz Taaffe	Ongoing	Beginners	lizzie@iol.ie	087-2208518

Bridge Face Coverings

I've made face masks for charity since Lockdown began, and raised over €3,200 for the Capuchin Day Care Centre and North Tipperary Hospice. As a member of Masks for All Ireland, I also donated over 700 masks to nursing homes, home carers, oncology patients and volunteers with vulnerable people.

This mask design has been tested by the Mater Foundation and came out on top of all the washable, reusable masks available. They are 100% cotton with elastic behind the head, which is more comfortable for long periods of wear. There's also a pocket for a filter, if you want extra protection (kitchen paper does the trick).



I've bought special Bridge themed fabrics from the US, enough for about 80 masks. Themes are -

- Stamp out Boredom, Play Bridge.
- Bridge Players do it with Finesse
- I only play bridge on days that end with 'y'
- What card did you just play?
- One can never spend too much time playing bridge
- Where's the hand you held in the bidding?
- Always remember to pull Trump!
- There's no such thing as a friendly game of bridge.

If you are interested in purchasing some please contact me, Fionuala, on 087-2329302. (WhatsApp is preferred). The cost (including postage) is €15.00 per mask, or €25.00 for two. I can only make about 10 of each kind, so it's first come, first served.

A Labour of Love

I grew up in Co. Wicklow, Ireland, surrounded by nature and stunning scenery. Enjoyed tennis, swimming and, of course, the piano, in my younger years. I began composing when retired and went to a recording studio with three compositions at a time. It all grew from there. I completed my 'easy listening' album, INSPIRATIONAL MEMORIES, last September, and reached the dizzy heights of the internet with great thanks to my niece who did everything for me except the composing and the playing. Please listen to and enjoy each of my melodies which were inspired by lovely memories.





THE ROSE HOTEL

The heart of the Kingdom

OVER 50'S MIDWEEK BREAKS

Enjoy a midweek break in Tralee, our Over 50's breaks include Bed/Breakfast & Dinner each evening and complimentary Tea/Coffee & Scones on arrival.

2020 PACKAGES	January-March & November-December	April 1st-14th May & October	17th-31st May June & September	July & August
2 Dinner, B&B	€110 pps	€115 pps	€135 pps	€155 pps
3 Dinner, B&B	€160 pps	€165 pps	€185 pps	€205 pps
Single Room Supplement	€28 per night			

To book call us today **066 7199100** or book online:
www.therosehotel.com

The Rose Hotel, Dan Spring Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry, V92 HKA4.
Tel: +353 (0)66 719 9100 | Email: reservations@therosehotel.com





Virtual Dates for your Bridge Diary



We are planning to hold the following CBAI competitions and congresses virtually, online on BBO. Our thanks to the tournament organisers and directors who have adapted so speedily to life online, and who continue to give their time and energy to ensure that we can all enjoy our bridge. The calendar for the remainder of the season will be compiled as circumstances permit.

26/27 September,

Virtual Duais An Uachtarain

Masters & Intermediate A's
3 sessions (Sat/Sun)
Intermediate B's & Novices
2 sessions (Sat only)

2 October, Virtual Drogheda
Gala Pairs In aid of Charity

9/11 October, Virtual Limerick
Congress
Contact Gordon Lessells on
061-340489

17 October, Virtual Spiro Cup (Mixed Pairs)

Masters & Intermediate A's only,
2 sessions

18 October, Virtual Coen Trophy (Mixed Teams)

Masters & Intermediate A's only,
2 sessions

**We urge all bridge players
to support our on-line
Virtual events**

23/25 October,
Virtual North
Kerry Congress
Contact Nicky Fitzgibbon
066-7185471

2/6 November, IBU
Simultaneous
Pairs Week
Contact CBAI if your club would
like to participate

6/8 November, Virtual
Donegal Congress
Contact Jim O'Sullivan
on 086-6028897

13 November, Virtual Dundalk
Gala Pairs In aid of charity

13/15 November, Virtual
Kenmare Congress
Contact Oliver Morgan
on 087-3560024

27/29 November, Virtual
Kilkenny Congress
Contact Marion Kilbride
on 087-6544737

**5/6 December
Virtual Master Pairs
Master Grades only - 3 Sessions**

12/13 December,
Virtual Tralee Congress
Contact Nicky Fitzgibbon
on 066-7185471

1/5 February, 2021
CBAI Simultaneous
Pairs Week

Contact CBAI if your club
would like to participate

5/7 March,
Virtual Malahide
Congress
Contact Paul O'Brien
on 086-2589351

26/28 March,
Virtual Clonmel
Congress
Contact Dolores O'Donnell
on 052-6121675

2/5 April,
Virtual Galway
Congress
Contact Marcella Mitchell
on 091-757986

Check the CBAI website for instructions on how to enter. Players should note that these tournaments will be held essentially for entertainment purposes. While Masterpoints will be awarded, national titles (where relevant) and monetary prizes will not. In addition, we would draw your attention to the CBAI's code of player conduct, which applies to online games in the same way as it does to in-person ones.

Fear

Khalil Gibran

It is said that before entering the sea
a river trembles with fear.

She looks back at the path she has travelled,
from the peaks of the mountains,
to the long winding road crossing forests and villages.

And in front of her,
she sees an ocean so vast,
that to enter
there seems nothing more than to disappear for ever.

But there is no other way.
The river can not go back.

Nobody can go back.
To go back is impossible in existence.

The river needs to take the risk
of entering the ocean
because only then will fear disappear,
because that's where the river will know
it's not about disappearing into the ocean,
but of becoming the ocean.