



Dublin North Region December Newsletter

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Dia Dhiabh

Can you believe it. There we were, enjoying the summer, and suddenly we're going to Christmas parties. Another year over and hopefully another 12 months of challenges, opportunities, excitement and enjoyment ahead.

At this time of the year, we also look back on the year, thinking of the highs and lows, and of course remembering lost bridge friends and colleagues. It is also a time to think of others less fortunate. Many of the bridge clubs in our region are planning fund raising events to support various local charities and causes. Our members have traditionally been very good at supporting these causes and I hope that you will continue to do so for many years to come



Michael O'Keeffe
DNR President

The bridge year has started well, with the great enthusiasm being shown all around, and participation rates improving.

Youth bridge is doing well and as ever, these players are the future of our game. Anything that we can do to support and develop this critically important cohort is essential to the development of bridge in Ireland.

Finally, your Dublin North Region Committee would like to thank all of our members for all the work, commitment and support and wish each and every one of our members, families and friends a Happy and a Peaceful Christmas.

Nollaig shona agus bliain nua faoi mhaise dhaoibh



IBU Inter Provincials

The I.B.U. Inter Provincials were held at the start of November in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel, in Athlone.

Lasting the entire weekend, it was clear that the cream would rise to the top. At the end of the day, the Leinster Team emerged triumphant, beating Connaught into second place. The three Leinster Teams in the competition were as follows:

- **O'BRIEN:** BJ O'Brien, Ranald Milne, Padraig O'Briain, Micheal O'Briain
- **NOONAN:** John Noonan, Carol-Ann Cummins, Terry Walsh, Brid Kemple
- **ELVIN** Richard Elvin, Peter Stewart, Peter Goodman, Thomas MacCormac

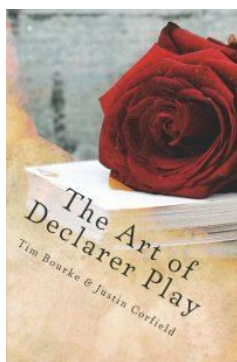
The final standings were as follows:

1. Leinster	303.5
2. Connaught	297.0
3. Munster	244.5
4. Ulster	235.9

**Leinster
Champions**

Well done to the Leinster on an excellent performance.

The Art of Declarer Play



If you are looking for a present for one of the bridge players in your life, you could do a lot worse than this award winning book.

"One of the best books on declarer play ever written." Ireland's own Justin Corfield, together with Australia's Tim Bourke,

has won the IBPA and Masterpoint Book of the Year Award for their book, "The Art of Declarer Play".

Justin is understandably "entirely chuffed at this development." And it's available on Amazon.

Bridge Gives You Wings !

Congratulations to John Carroll and Tom Hanlon for their excellent performance during the recent Red Bull World Bridge Series in Sanya, China.

Playing against the world elite of the bridge world, they were competing in the Open Pairs.

They qualified for the A Semi-Finals, by coming in an impressive third place, finishing 19th overall in the A Finals of the event, and impressing many of those who met or played against them, including featuring in the daily bulletins, achieving an impressive top (100%) playing 6NT with 30 pts and missing the Hearts-Ace

Tom and John also competed in the Open Teams ("Team Rosenthal" with Lorenzini-Bessis and Rosenthal-Silverstein), losing out in the 32 K-O to the eventual winners, Team Mazurkiewicz.



Tom Hanlon and John Carroll

Novice & Intermediate Congress

Every year, this annual congress is held in the current CBAI President's Region. So this year's congress will be held in the Radisson, Sligo, on the weekend of 20th February. Confined to just Intermediate and Novice players, there will be Mixed Pairs, Gala Intermediate Pairs, Intermediate A Pairs, Intermediate B & Novice Pairs and Intermediate Teams.

You can start booking direct with the Radisson 071-9140008 or call Mairead on 087-9274448.

Always an excellent event - so make sure you encourage your Intermediate and Novice players !



ABCD Bridge Club

While a little outside the DNR world, our neighbours in Drogheda have undertaken a fascinating project that could be a lesson for many of us.

In 2011 the seven Bridge clubs in the Drogheda and surrounding area came together and formed the Associated Bridge Clubs of Drogheda (ABCD). The aim of all the clubs was to create a single, suitable building under one roof for all of the clubs, meeting the needs of all the members.

The current membership of the clubs is in excess 500 with c.350 players playing each week.

Due to the age profile, it was necessary to source a property on a single floor, with adequate parking and facilities.



Proposed ABCD Bridge Club

The committee have found and purchased a suitable building, which is 3,500 ft with loads of parking but something of a "fixer-upper" and the club are now fundraising to carry out the refurbishment.

If you have a spare €250,000 that you can lend the club, feel free to contact them...if not please support their fundraising as this is really a tremendous and noteworthy initiative by the Drogheda clubs.

For more info, contact Martin O'Brien (mob259@gmail.com) or click on their website at www.bridgewebs.com/abcd

East of Ireland Congress

Following hot on the heels of the Drogheda Congress, the East of Ireland Congress, known to most of us as the Dundalk Congress.

Unfortunately, with the exception of Gerry and Joe, the prizes this time did not return to Dublin. However by all accounts it was a great weekend. Given that the Dublin North players ransacked Drogheda, a couple of weeks previously, it was only polite to let the locals win this time.

For the record, the results were as follows:



Congress Pairs Winners

Congress Pairs:

1. Gerry Murtagh & Joe Walsh
2. Patsy Gibney & Maura Hand
3. Wojciech Gorczyca & Slawomir Lubanski



Inter A Winners

Intermediate A Pairs:

1. Martin O'Brien & Paul Brennan
2. Pamela MacMahon & Mai Healy
3. Pearse & Claire Coyle

Good to see Martin O'Brien is doing more than building a new Bridge Centre. Congratulations to all on a great event.



Kilkenny Congress

Having taken a rest and recharged the batteries, a large contingent of DNR Players travelled to Kilkenny for the recent congress.

Apart from being a great location, traditionally the Kilkenny Congress has welcomed many a player from throughout the country, being easily accessible from nearly everywhere.

The winners of the Congress Pairs, were again from Dublin :

1. Peter Goodman & BJ O'Brien
2. Brendan Martin & Rita O'Neill
3. Katherine Lennon & Frank O'Farrell

However, a special mention must be made for Maureen Keane & Declan Keane (CRC). Following on from an excellent performance in Drogheda, Maureen and Declan won the Inter A competition in the Congress. Not only did they win, but they were runaway winners. Well done, a great performance

The results were:

1. Maureen Keane & Declan Keane 63.16 %
2. Maurice Brosnan & Richard Walsh 58.51 %
3. John Long & John McDonald 58.47 %



Kilkenny: Martin Walsh, Declan Keane, Joanna Lyons, Colette Walsh, Maureen Keane and Anna O'Donnell....DNR on Tour !

IBU Simultaneous Pairs

Simultaneous Pairs are a great way to improve your thinking on relatively ordinary hands and to incorporate new ideas & conventions.

This year the competition was played over 4 consecutive nights, giving bridge players the opportunity to pitch their playing skills against competition on a national basis.

While it is great to see many of our members appear on the roll of honour, as with the Olympic Spirit, the participation is everything.....although it is nice to win !

The DNR were delighted to see the following - all places are based on a national basis:

Monday

5th Gerard Kelly & Patricia Kelly (Baldoyle)

Wednesday

14th Patrick Dunne & William Kehoe (Malahide)

Thursday

6th Norma Murphy & Louise Young (Malahide)

15th Bryan Wallace & Eileen McCann (Malahide)

McLoughlin Cup

The McLoughlin Cup was resurrected a couple of years ago and has been a great success. Confined to Intermediate B and Novice Players, it gives relatively inexperienced bridge players the opportunity to play in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Starting at 12:00 noon and only lasting a single session, it is taking place in Malahide Regional Bridge Club, on Saturday 17th January - it's definitely one for the diary.

You can enter on line at www.dnrbridge.com or email secretary@dnrbridge.com for more information.



DNR Regional Pairs

The DNR Pairs competitions are some of the most important and prestigious tournaments in the DNR Calendar. This year, the competition was, as usual, excellent, with a strong entry vying for the bragging rights for the next 12 months.



Pat Kelly & Dave Terry with Michael O'Keefe

Masters - Cummins Cup

This is the qualifier for the Davidson Cup, being held next March, in Athlone. This year the winners were Pat Kelly and Dave Terry, with Tom Gilligan & Billy Ronan in 2nd place



Marie Dalton & Veronica Miller with DNR President Michael O'Keefe

Intermediate As - Moran Cup

This is the qualifier for the Laird Cup, being held on next March, in Athlone. This year's champions were Marie Dalton & Veronica Miller with Declan and Maureen Keane (yes again !!) coming in the runners up positions. This was very competitive with nearly 40 pairs entering

Novices & Intermediate Bs - Dillon Cup

Finally, a qualifier for the Civil Service Cup, in Athlone, this was won by Sheena Duffy & Finola McDonald.



Sheena Duffy & Finola McDonald with DNR President Michael O'Keefe

Well done to all, and a huge thank you to all you assisted in making this such a successful competition, especially Jacqui Furey and Eamon Galligan, (poacher-turned-game-keeper) our Tournament Directors for the event.

Comhghairdeas gach duine !

4-Fun Teams

This ever popular event is due to take place in June this year. Scheduled for Westmanston, due to the popularity of the competition, we are considering holding qualifiers this year shortly before Easter, for the "honour" of representing Dublin North.

If you are interested, please email us using the contact details at the end.



Obituary

At this time of the year, we always enjoy ourselves, but it is also a time to remember those who have departed but left us with fond and long lasting memories

Paddy McHugh

Paddy has recently left us following his untimely death after a short illness at the age of 87. Paddy was known throughout the length and breadth of Ireland as the weatherman on RTE television.



Paddy McHugh

Paddy's life centred on his Wife Kay, - who is also a member of Foxhall Bridge Club and his family. In his private life Paddy had a preference for socialising with small groups in order to pursue his hobbies.

He was an avid supporter of trips away with Foxhall Bridge Club, and many a good party - some, which are legendary, were attended by neighbours family and friends in Paddy's home

Paddy was a very keen and enthusiastic bridge player and he liked nothing better than a good battle at the bridge table, playing two to three times a week in Foxhall (his home club) and St Paul's on a Thursday night.

Paddy worked tirelessly for Foxhall bridge club. He was passionate about bringing it forward, and was proud of its achievements. He was secretary of the club up until he retired in 2011.

Paddy was instrumental in finding Foxhall Bridge Club a new home in Johnston Hall, beside All Saints Church in Raheny, when the Old Shieling, which had been home to the club for 30 years, closed.

Paddy will be much missed by his family and many friends. Paddy was a very loyal and treasured friend, and one of life's gentlemen, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him or those whose path he crossed.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Teresa McGrath

It was with great sadness that we heard earlier this year of the untimely death of Teresa McGrath

Living in Kiltimagh, in Mayo, Teresa was a former President of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland.

Teresa also gave a tremendous commitment to bridge in the North-West during her onerous term as Regional Secretary, and played important roles as player, teacher and tournament director.

As a player, she was widely respected and appeared regularly in the lists of prize winners.

Many of us had had the pleasure of meeting Teresa at this year's CBAI AGM in Sligo, and she will be sadly missed by all in the Irish Bridge family .

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Kirwan League

The Kirwan League has kicked off and is in full flight. As results are still coming in, next month, we'll be looking at how all the teams are getting on.



Regent Congress

As many of you may be aware, the Regent Bridge Club is celebrating their 90th anniversary this year, and are celebrating this august event with a Congress from the 1st - 4th January. Space is limited, with places rapidly booking out.

It would be a shame not to participate and bring the prizes, money and trophies back to the Northside.

For information on this, contact Declan Byrne (regentclubmanager@gmail.com) or log on to :

www.bridgewebs.com/regent/RegentCongressBrochure.pdf

George Ryan & Seamus Dowling

You may be aware that long time Irish Times Bridge Correspondent and Bridge Writer George Ryan has finally decided to call it a day and has hung up his pens.

The author of "The Bones of Bridge", "Some of the Flesh" etc, George has been a fantastic proponent of our game for many years and I know you would all want to join with me in wishing George every happiness and good health in his retirement. You will of course be delighted to hear that another eminent Bridge writer, Seamus Dowling, will be looking after the weekly Irish Times column into the future.



At the retirement presentation for George Ryan are (from left) Fearghal O'Boyle, president of the CBAI, George Ryan and his successor at The Irish Times, Seamus Dowling. *Photograph: Dave Meehan*

DNR Regional Teams

The DNR Teams are coming up soon, so make sure you're planning this now. This is open to all players who are members of a club in Dublin North Region.

Taking place in Malahide Regional Bridge Club on Saturday 31st January, 2015, it starts at 10.00, and lasts two sessions.

With sections for Masters, Intermediate A, Intermediate B & Novices, you'll always be welcome. More importantly, this is the Qualifiers for National Teams Finals next April.

Enter on-line on www.dnrbridge.com or call Gerry McHugh [086-2642654](tel:086-2642654)

Events Calendar

Over the next few months, there are a number of important events coming up.

January 2015

30/12-4 Tralee Congress
1- 4 Regent Congress
9-11 Waterford Congress
9-11 Camrose No. 1 (Scotland)
16-18 Cork Congress
17 McLoughlin Cup (B pairs)
24-25 Men's & Women's Pairs & Teams
30-1/2 Ennis Congress
31 Regional Teams

February 2015

2-6 CBAI Simultaneous Pairs Week
6-8 Wexford Congress
14-15 Holmes Wilson
20-22 Novice & Intermediate Congress
20-22 Senior Camrose Trials
20-22 Junior Camrose
28-1 IBU Burke Trophy



Follow Us !

You can catch up with regular updates on

Our website :
www.dnrbridge.com/

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/DublinNorthRegion?ref=hl

Twitter :
[@DNRBridge](https://twitter.com/DNRBridge)

We'd love to have you follow us and give us feedback.. and please be patient, we're learning !



You can contact us at either :

- martinmcmahon01@gmail.com or
- secretary@dnrbridge.com
- dnrbridge01@gmail.com

And Finally.....



Learning she was going
to have twins, the bridge
playing wife said,
"That's just like my husband?
doubling me when I'm
vulnerable."

With thanks to Bridge Bandit

Dublin North Region Committee

Your committee is working hard to help and support all of the activities in the Region. Please feel free to contact any of us, if you feel we can assist or support your club in any way.

Our committee members are as follows:

Michael O'Keefe (Foxhall) *President*
Martin McMahon (C.R.C)
Mary Reid (Swords)
Kay McDonald (Raheny)
Teriona Rogan (Whitehall Regional)
Liz Sherlock (St. Gabriel's)
Margaret Rowland (Whitehall Regional)
Phil Brohoon (Malahide Regional)
Gerry McHugh (Foxhall)
Aidan Synnott (Glasnevin)
Norma Madden (Glasnevin)

We'd be especially interested in hearing what you'd like to see in our newsletter and how we can make it more interesting and relevant to you, your clubs and your members. If you have any news, events or information please let me know and we'll publish it on line

