



Dublin North Region April Newsletter

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Dia Dhaoibh

The last few weeks have been a blur, with a huge level of activity happening within every part of the bridge world.

While our international team have been performing brilliantly, we take most pride in the recent "graduation" of our beginners, moving from the world of education, into the club scene, at the very successful *Gathering* which took place in Malahide.

As we've mentioned so often, the Beginners and Novice hold the future of the game in their hands, so be nice to them.....you may well be sitting across from our future International Team.



Michael O'Keeffe
DNR President

The upcoming weeks will be extremely busy, with the business end of the season upon us.

Many of our bridge players in the Dublin North Region will be competing shortly in the National Finals in Athlone. We have great faith in their abilities and have already booked the open top bus and civic reception !

Continuing in line with the objectives of this year's CBAI Presidency, we have run more Bridge Workshops, this time with Ranald Milne, which was hugely successful.

Remember, if you have any stories or news articles, feel free to pass them on and I'll make sure that they get published.

Finally, hoping that you didn't eat too many Easter Eggs....Cáisc shona dhaoibh go léir.



Camrose Trophy

If you thought the last day of the Rugby 6-Nations Trophy was exciting, you should have been watching the Camrose Trophy.

Like the rugby, the Camrose Trophy is the home countries international competition, with Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland competing. The hosts get a special entry, with the NIBU entering an additional team this time as the matches were being held in Belfast.

Mirroring our rugby team, like a phoenix from the ashes, Ireland won the Camrose Trophy. Coming from 3rd place on Sunday morning, the team of Hanlon, McGann, Moran, Boland, Garvey and Carroll, with Barton as NPC had a superb day to pip Wales on the final match. Going into the last session, Ireland needed a huge win against Northern Ireland, while simultaneously Wales had to be trashed by Scotland.....not a chance, apparently.

Playing brilliantly, Ireland beat Northern Ireland 18-2, and headed to the bar to contemplate what might have been.....with only a couple of boards left, Scotland made a slam in clubs, and the fat lady started to warm up her vocal chords.....final score 16-4 to Scotland.....signalled an Irish victory and a busy night for the bar staff !



Victorious Irish Team with NPC Grainne Barton & TD, CBAI President, Fearghal O'Boyle

Results attached....with thanks to an incredibly efficient Fearghal O'Boyle ...as always....who was the Tournament Director for the weekend

(F.09) Camrose 2015 - Weekend 2 (6th - 8th March 2015)
Hosted by NIBU in La Mon Hotel Belfast

Final Result	W1	Rank	W2	Rank	Total	Average
1st Ireland	71.33	2	65.91	2	137.24	13.72
2nd Wales	71.67	1	63.81	3	135.48	13.55
3rd England	57.71	3	74.43	1	132.14	13.21
4th Scotland	41.23	4	44.51	4	85.74	8.57
5th N. Ireland	35.93	5	33.91	5	69.84	6.98
6th NIBU	22.13	6	16.43	6	38.56	3.86

And if this wasn't enough, Ireland also got presented with the Colonel Walshe Trophy. This trophy is awarded each year, and is played between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and was competed for as part of the Camrose Trophy. We were delighted to see Grainne Barton (Ireland NPC) being presented with Col. Walshe Trophy by John Bergin of the NIBU.

A great weekend for all concerned.



NPC Grainne Barton receiving Col Walshe Trophy from John Bergin (NIBU)

All in all, it was a great weekend, and not just because we won. It was well organized and run and a credit to the NIBU Team:

- Match Manager: Brian McDowell
- Asst. Match Manager: Anne Hassan
- Chairman of Appeals: Alan Hill
- Chief Director: Fearghal O'Boyle
- Scorer: Mairead Basquille
- NIBU Chairman: John Bergin
- NIBU President: Ian Hamilton

And we'd like to give a special thanks to Brian McDowell and Jeff Millership for the photos.



Galway Congress

As the inimitable Seamus Dowling reported in the Irish Times 'Galway, Ireland's oldest bridge Congress - it has been organised annually without a break since 1940 - was held over the Easter weekend'

There was the normal bumper entry for the traditional Easter competition, and it was a pleasure to see some of our Dublin colleagues get honourable mentions.



In the Intermediate A Pairs competition, Sean Joyce, partnered Jackie Bolster to third place. To those who may not know him, Sean is a member of St Cronan's Bridge Club in Swords, and a previous president of the club, in 2011.

Jackie and Sean, both hailing originally from Galway, are annual supporters of the Galway Easter weekend Congress. Together they have organised Bridge Weeks in both Galway and Westport. Watch out for their next one in Westport in October.

In addition our own DNR Secretary, Kay McDonald, together with Colm McDonald of St Gabriels Bridge Club also continued their successful run, with another Top 10 finish.

We hope to have more details next month.



**CBAI President, Fearghal O'Boyle, Bernie Finan
Congress President, Jackie Bolster & Sean Joyce**

The Gathering

Every year, Dublin North Region Bridge Teachers invite the new bridge players together to launch their bridge careers. The "Gathering", an event to introduce new beginners to the reality of bridge play, took place on 28th March.

The afternoon was put together by the Dublin North Bridge teachers, and with over 80 new players, compèred brilliantly by Paddy English, the afternoon was a great success

It introduced the players to the concept of club play in a friendly and open atmosphere.

It was a delight to see so many new "graduates" turning up in such reassuring numbers to Malahide, to hopefully launch their new bridge careers. Whether playing socially, for enjoyment, as a hobby, for competitive reasons or for all of the above, I know that they will enjoy it.

As a famous bridge player, Dr. Harold Rockaway, once said, "*Bridge is a kind of benign addiction*". It was a pleasure to see so many players, as well as Mary Kelly Rogers, our former CBAI President, and on the European Bridge League Committee, who along with the current DNR President, Michael O'Keefe, was armed with cameras to record the day's events.

I know that they will find a great reception in our clubs and we will roll out the welcome mat for any of the new players.. Please make sure that you give them a big welcome and plenty of patience & encouragement.

Many of these will be the bedrock of the club in future years.

You can see plenty of photos of the day at www.facebook.com/DublinNorthRegion or on www.dnrbridge.com/styled-3/styled-30/index.html



Winners at the Gathering in Malahide



Bridge Workshop

Before the Gathering, the Dublin North Region held another excellent workshop, continuing this year's series.

Run by the excellent and entertaining Ranald Milne, he gave a master class (both in terms of the attendees, and the quality of the class!).

He showed us all how to bid to ridiculously high levels.....legitimately!



Ranald Milne

Aimed at Intermediate A and Area Master players, it focused on Cue Bidding for Slams, and was a treat to attend.

As they say: *"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning is young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young"*

Bridge Classes

As they say, if you liked the Bridge Workshop.....you'll love this.....Ranald Milne, will be holding a series of classes aimed at a range of players. Ranald Milne is one of the top players and teachers in Dublin, as well as being an international bridge player, and it promises to be an excellent set of courses. Times for these classes are as follows:

Foundation Bidding II (suitable for Year 1 & 2 novices. Topics include Overcalling, Doubling, Opening Strong Twos & Pre-empting) These will be held on Thursday afternoons in Drumcondra from 16th Apr. 2015 at 2.00 pm as well as Thursday evenings in Drumcondra from 16th Apr. 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Novice Improver Coaching (suitable for all Novice grades). Starting on Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30 p.m. in the Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Drumcondra

Senior Improver Coaching (suitable for Intermediate grades). Starting on Tuesday 21st April at 7.30 p.m. in the Marino Institute

The theme for this Bridge year is Improving Your Bridge, so why not give it a try. For more information Ranald can be contacted on [086 386 8480](tel:0863868480) or visit onto his web-pages at www.iibi.ie/DublinBridge%20-%20Spring%20Courses.html.

4-Fun Teams Competition

On a far less serious level, but possibly more enjoyable for the average player, the 4-Fun Teams competition will take place in Westmanstown on 6th June.

A *fun team* comprises a Novice playing with a Master and an A player playing with a B player. Really nice competition, great fun, and without doubt, one for the diary.

So start planning now and get your team together for the big day.....and of course, dress code is somewhat less formal!



Bankers Congress

Every year, we look forward to the Bankers Congress and the undoubted pleasure in raiding the Southside and taking prizes back across the Liffey.

This year was definitely high on the list of successes. A number of players in the DNR Region were successful and were high on the roll of honour.

In the Intermediate A, Declan Keane & Maureen Keane again claimed prizes, getting runners up in the competition. Full results as follows;

Intermediate A Pairs

1. Kieran Crowley & Pat Egan
2. **Declan Keane & Maureen Keane**
3. Mary Kavanagh & Pat Dunne

In the Intermediate A Teams, Declan Keane & Maureen Keane again claimed prizes, playing with Anna O'Donnell and Joanne Lyons. Full results as follows;

Intermediate A Teams

1. Fionnuala O'Hanlon, John O'Mara, Kate Daultrey, Kazimierz Noga
2. **Declan Keane, Maureen Keane, Anna O'Donnell, Joanne Lyons**
3. Lilian Foley, Nora Potter, Marie Cronin, Rosemary Matthews third



Inter A Winners with Bankers President Michael McAuliffe



Joanne Lyons, Anne O'Donnell, Maureen Keane and Declan Keane with Micheal McAuliffe (Bankers President)

In the Ladies Pairs, we had another two excellent results, with Catherine Quinn & Nora Wayte achieving an incredible 3rd place and Frances Gill & Patricia Quigley getting the prize as best Area Masters. Full results as follows;

Ladies Pairs

1. Sandra Newell & Teresa Rigney
2. Betty Cody & Ann Marie Heavey
3. **Catherine Quinn & Nora Wayte**

Area Master Frances Gill & Patricia Quigley

Finally in the Congress Teams, our own Máiréad Ní Oistín appeared on the podium, taking the best in the Area Master category. Full results as follows;

Congress Teams

1. Ronan McMaugh, Thomas MacCormac, Mícheál Ó Briain, Pádraig Ó Briain
2. Sheila Kelly, David Dunne, Breda Synnott, Joe Walsh
3. Mary Trench, Elva Gannon, Jim McAndrew, Valerie Hand

Area Master Aidan Hodgers, Máiréad Ní Oistín, John Reilly, Jackie McBride



Finally, we'd like to congratulate the Bankers for their excellent and highly enjoyable Congress. As always, it was a credit to all concerned.



Bankers President Michael McAuliffe, Congress President Hillary Moran, CBAI President Fearghal O'Boyle and DSR President Rory Egan

Dublin Summer Bridge Congress

And so here is the news you've all been waiting for. The previously successful M50 Tournament has now been expanded to full Congress status

This will be held on July 5th, in the Citywest Hotel and if previous years are anything to go by, promises to be an excellent tournament.

Competitions are scheduled for all levels from Novices to Masters. If you've booked holidays....now is the time to cancel and clear your diary for that weekend. For more information, contact dublinsummercongress@gmail.com.

Women's On-Line Bridge Festival

As many of you know, Mary Kelly Rogers, ex-DNR and CBAI President is involved in the European Bridge League - Women's Committee. One of the initiatives that they are supporting is the On-line Women's Bridge Festival.

On 13th – 19th April 2015, come and join other bridge players for the Spring Online Women's Festival to be played. A really fun event to play in and enjoy !

Just for women, playing online at BBO and with a wonderful prize. Come and join women from all over the world and take part in this lovely Festival of Women's Bridge. The President of the European Bridge League has offered the overall winner :

- *Entry to the European Women's Pairs Championship to be held in Tromso, Norway*

You can find all the information about the Tromso Championships by clicking on website [www.http://tromso2015.no/](http://tromso2015.no/) to go to the official website for the event.

There will be BBO awards as well, of course, and fun prizes that are not based on skill – lucky prizes will be awarded throughout the event ! There will be WBF Online Master Points and BBO Master Points as well.

For more information about the Festival, the times of play and how to enter please go to our website: www.wbfwomensbridgeclub.org



Novice & Intermediate Congress

This is held every year, and is located in the region of the current CBAI President. Therefore this year's congress was held in the homeland of Fearghal O'Boyle, Sligo.

To say that this was a fabulous weekend would be an understatement. Visiting Sligo, there were over 300 Novice and Intermediate Players in action, many of whom travelled long distances from all parts of the country.

Overall, It was run impeccably by the CBAI President, Fearghal O'Boyle and was a example of how a tournament should and could be run. Even if you did not play particularly well, the back-up was superb. After each session Fearghal published a guide and commentary on each hand on his website. Always good to know what I should have done.....All in all a great weekend and a credit to all in Sligo, not least to Fearghal, who was the understated star of the show.



Apologies for repeating myself. the congratulations go (again) to Declan Keane, Maureen Keane, Joanne Lyons and Anna O'Donnell for their 2nd Place in the Intermediate A Teams.....surely they must be getting bored of winning so much !

Paddy English Trophy

Encouraging, coaching, mentoring Novice and Beginners is always critically important for the future.

Having brilliantly managed *the Gathering* for the new beginners, Paddy now moves on to the next challenge. On Saturday, April 25th, the Novice Teams competition takes place in Malahide.

Starting at 12:00, it is always a great and friendly event. If you haven't played teams, you're really missing out. Don't worry if you have not a team, contact me if you'd like to play, and I'll help pairing up the teams. If you have a team ready to go.....let me know and I'll make sure you're entered. For more information contact either me or Mary Reid at 086 1010 698 or at reid.maryb@gmail.com.

Grandmaster

At one end of the scale, we've just launched our new bridge beginners onto an unsuspecting world.

At the other, it was great to see our latest Grand Master. Following the recent win by the Irish Dream Team in the Camrose, Tommy Garvey received a presentation on achieving the rank of Grand Master.

Congratulations on another brilliant performance !



Tommy Garvey receiving his presentation from Fearghal O'Boyle, making the achievement of Grand Master



Obituary: Nora Foley

Nora Foley (nee ní Scanaill) passed away quietly and peacefully on January 6th surrounded by her husband Bill and their family. Nora was a woman with a full heart, a woman of compassion and a good friend to the game of Bridge.



Nora's contribution to Bridge was immense. At the founding of the Dublin North Region (DNR) in 1989 Nora became a member of the inaugural Committee becoming the second Regional Secretary in our history, taking over from the late Marie Cummins and serving until 1994. She was thus Regional Secretary during the formative years and it was in her tenure that both the Dublin North Festival and the DNR League were founded. Nora loved the Festival, brainchild of Marie Cummins, in the knowledge that it gave DNR members the opportunity to play against players from all over Dublin and beyond in the comfort zone of their own region. Nora would politely ask for support and Bill, Nora's husband, would join an army of volunteers to borrow playing tables from Clubs around the region and then a collective pride was evident when the Festival in late January would come to a successful end.

It was the DNR League that Nora was most passionate about, sponsored in the early years by Aer Rianta and now sponsored by Kirwans. Nora was keen that the league would have a social dimension and thus the intermediate matches were played in clubs around the region with the host club providing refreshments. The Master League, back then, also enjoyed this social element as Nora believed it was a tool for friendship and hence the overall enjoyment of the game. The DNR Kirwans League continues to be a great success and is certainly part of Nora's legacy.

Nora was a Master Player playing both a competitive and social game of Bridge. She was a member of Raheny and St. Anthony's and at times was a member of Howth, Malahide Regional and the Regent. Her partners included the late Mary Dillon, Frances O' Sullivan, Marie Cummins and Margaret Browne. Counted among her good friends and partners in Bridge were, Norma Madden who succeeded Nora as Regional Secretary, Betty Ryan, Phillip Dowling, Evelyn Buckley, Madge Kinahan, Irene O' Driscoll and of course her supportive long-time partner and special friend, Jackie Furey.

Nora, was diplomacy personified in her role as Regional Secretary. She was an efficient Secretary and Administrator who brought insightfulness to these roles. She was a friend to all of us that served on committee with her and her respect for first secretary of the Region, the late Marie Cummins, was evident. Both became great friends. Nora took pride in bringing information back and forth to National Management and Executive meetings and was pleased that Martin McMahon was publishing a monthly newsletter to help keep members informed.

Paul Porteous, CBAI Chief Executive, in his circulation notice of her death to Governing Council had this to say:-

"You will be sorry to hear of the passing of Nora Foley who was Regional Secretary of Dublin North Region for a number of years and a long serving member of the Executive as it was known then.



Many of you will not remember her as her involvement was some time back, but those who do will remember the twinkle in her eye as she innocently asked the questions that no-one else would! ”

Those of us that served with Nora would wholly endorse Paul's words.

Nora gave and got so much from the game of Bridge which she truly loved. She was an outstanding friend to all. Our sympathies go to Bill and her children Tomás, Maireád, Siobhán, Tadhg, Liam and Ciarán, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law and her 15 grandchildren.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam

Mary Kelly Rogers

Events Calendar

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

April 2015

3-6 Galway Congress
11-12 Moylan Cup
12-17 Rosapenna Congress
17-19 JJ Murphy, Lambert & Cooper Cups
25 Paddy English Trophy (Novice Teams)
25-26 National Teams Championships
25-26 NIBU Spring Congress

May 2015

1-3 Carlow Congress
16 Kirwan's League Final Day
15-17 IBU Club Pairs
15-17 Senior Camrose
9-17 Killarney Congress
22-24 Yeats County Congress

Dublin North Region Committee

With the AGM fast approaching, (put it in your diary - 12th June), we'd be only delighted to have additional support and committee members.

If you'd like to get involved, or even if you have any ideas, contact me and let me know.

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 Brohoun (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

You can contact us at either :

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



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 !



And Finally.....

Bill: My cardiologist says I can't play bridge.

Tom: Why not? Do you have a heart problem?

Bill: Nope. He's just played with me enough to know I'm hopeless.



With thanks to Bridge Bandit

