



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS – OSTEND – 2010

OPEN TEAM

B J O'BRIEN

BJ is an experienced international player who has played in several European Championships for Ireland, with several different partners. Illness has prevented him from taking a full part in International events recently but he is now fully in recovery mode – unstoppable!! He has also had much experience as a non-playing captain with both Ladies and Seniors teams – the Ladies said “he was the best Captain ever!” – the Seniors said

PETER PIGOT

Peter, with Mark Moran, was on the Camrose winning side from 2006. Peter has won numerous National titles and played in the Malmo European Championships with Pdraig O'Briain.

The Pigot family has been part of Irish bridge since the 1930's. Peter's grandfather, David, played with his wife, Copper, in the Camrose in the late thirties, was part of the European Bridge League committee and presented the Trophy that is still being played for by the Juniors in the bi-annual Junior European Championship. Peter's father, also Peter, was the most prominent player of his era, regularly representing Ireland during the sixties and seventies with some success, winning a bronze medal at the Lausanne Europeans in 1979. Peter's mother, Allie, was herself a very fine player who also represented Ireland.

Peter is the proprietor/director of a Tech Manufacturing company in Dublin and is a very fine golfer.

DEREK O’GORMAN

Derek is a Senior Engineer with Cork County Council who lives in Cork city. His early International experience was with Hugh McGann, with whom he played in the World Pairs in Geneva. Derek & Terry have formed a partnership in the last few years, gaining their first Camrose caps in 2009. This is their first European experience together.

TERRY WALSH

Terry Walsh is a senior Civil Servant in the Department of Finance in Dublin. He is a very experienced player who has been on recent CBAI Camrose Teams and captained the second CBAI team in 2008.

Terry is an avid cricket fan who has been really energised with Ireland’s recent cricketing successes!

MICHEAL O’BRIAIN

Micheal is an actuary working for the Irish Health Insurance regulator. His international career began in 1972 when he played with his brother Padraig in the Junior European Championships in Delft. He has had a long standing international partnership with Donal Garvey. He resumed his international partnership with Padraig in 2004 as part of the winning CBAI Camrose team. Micheal became a Grand Master in Irish bridge in 2007 and has won many national Titles. Golf is another of Micheal’s sporting interests where he has slipped (!) to a 10 handicap.

PADRAIG O’BRIAIN

Padraig, a software engineer, started his international playing career with Micheal and has played in internationals with Tomas Roche, Thomas MacCormac and Peter Pigot.

Padraig too, is a Grand Master with many titles to his name, but more importantly, is a recent (very young) grandfather!!

THOMAS MacCORMAC (NPC)

Thomas makes his debut as NPC of an Open Team at this Championship. He has played at junior level in European and World Championships and in the Camrose series with Padraig O’Briain. He is well known internationally as a great supporter of Junior Bridge and has acted as NPC of many schools and junior teams over the years. This is his real tester!!

WOMENS TEAM

CIARA BURNS

Ciara, a solicitor from Belfast, has been playing bridge for many years now – with Hilary Dowling Long in Juniors, with Diane Greenwood in European events and in Lady Milne for Northern Ireland as permanent fixtures on the team and more recently with Mary Finn internationally. They bring a wealth of experience to the table, having won many national titles, together and with Mixed partners.

MARY FINN

Mary has played with Ena Cleary in the Lady Milne, European and World events on a number of previous occasions. Mary is a Systems Analyst with a software company now based just outside of Dublin. Originally from Cork, she never wastes any time in letting listeners know her allegiances are with the “real” capital of Ireland.

JILL KULCHYCKY

Jill is a Logistics Manager with a major Motor company in Dublin. She has won many Irish National Ladies’ titles. Jill has represented the CBAI on Lady Milne teams with Helen Carroll and Clare Pippet. When not playing bridge, Jill enjoys gardening. The claims she has made to enjoy para-gliding in her spare time have been discounted; instead she has been President of the Bray Horticultural Society in her time.

TERESA RIGNEY

Teresa has recently “hung up her boots” after a long career as a teacher of Mathematics at a Dublin Secondary school for young ladies. With retirement has come a greater facility to relax, so detention for those who don’t know their system is no longer on the cards. She has won many national titles and represented the CBAI in a number of Lady Milne teams
Jill & Teresa have the distinction of being the only ladies pair to play Camrose matches in recent years.

EMER JOYCE

Emer is a solicitor from Clifden in Galway who formed a partnership with Joan Kenny from Headford some years ago. Together they have played Lady Milne, and in European & World Championships – after winning many national titles.

JOAN KENNY

Joan is also a retired Maths teacher who has turned her hand to being BBOs greatest Irish proponent. Log on at any hour – and you will find her at the table. Joan & Emer exemplify the partnerships who have gained most from the development of BBO, a wonderful tool to allow players from various parts of the country to practice on line.

GAY KEAVENEY (NPC)

Gay is a Doctor of Chemistry in GMIT and is the holder of the highest number of National Points. He has played international bridge in many European and World Events with the late Paddy Walsh and more recently with Rory Timlin. He achieved European Grand Master level in 1999. He was part of the CBAI Camrose winning team in 2000 – the first time that the CBAI won. He too has been for the ladies “the best Captain ever”!!

SENIOR TEAM

DONAL GARVEY

Donal, from Millstreet in Cork, is a statistician by profession. He is now really enjoying his retirement from his post as Director of the Central Statistics Office, preferring the scenic beauty of Kerry to civilisation. Playing with Michael O'Briain, he represented Ireland on many Open teams in European and World Championships, and has now decided that the challenge of Banzai Jackson on Irish Senior teams is what life is all about!!

DAVID JACKSON (PC)

David is a statistician of some renown and he recently produced a new book on a revised method of point counting for bridge – entitled “Better Balanced Bidding – the Banzai Method” (available from CBAI National Headquarters!)

David captained the CBAI to four Camrose successes and a European silver medal, setting a record and an example that many will be unable to match.

MICHAEL MacDONAGH

The ever youthful Michael recently played in his second successive CBAI Senior Camrose team - joining the ranks of Ireland's Grand Masters just last year. He is an accountant by profession and one of Irish Bridge's best known smokers!

PAT McDEVITT

From Donegal originally, Pat moved to Boston in his earlier years establishing a highly successful real estate business. He has been returning to his roots over the last number of years, playing (and winning) many National events. He played with Rex Anderson in Beijing in the Olympiad on the Senior Team

REX ANDERSON

Rex is a solicitor from Coleraine who also has been playing for many many years. For a long spell, he was Monty Rosenberg's partner in Camrose matches and on the Irish Team and with him won a bronze medal in Lausanne in 1979. Peter Pigot (Senior) was also on that team.

This time out – he resumes an international partnership with Pat Barry that they first put together in 1970 for the Junior European Championships in Dublin.

PAT BARRY

Pat is a retired banker and part of the extended Barry clan that has produced at least 6 international players over the years. Of course, Pat's favourite partner is his wife Maria with whom he has won practically every possible National Title!