

# **CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND**

## **President's Award 2014**

### **Winner - George Ryan**

Although George Ryan has not played bridge for quite some time, he is responsible in a very significant way for the health of Bridge in Ireland. In 1971, he wrote and self-published a small booklet – “The Bones of Bridge” – which became the “Bible” for beginning bridge players in Ireland for the next 20 years. Even now, 43 years on, with the booklet long out of print, we are asked for copies – “my daughter has just taken up bridge and I found it invaluable, it would be great for her”.

George went on to write another booklet “Some of the Flesh” to fill in the knowledge gaps for players, followed by two humorous tales - “No Time for Work” and “Vexed at his own Funeral” which received great reviews and had to be reprinted!

In his playing career, George Ryan was a formidable opponent at the bridge table, winning 6 National Championships in pairs and teams events, both at CBAI level and at IBU level, in the process making many friends all across the island. This was ideal preparation for his role as Bridge Correspondent for “The Irish Times”, from which George has just retired after 45 years! George could be found at virtually every significant bridge gathering, quietly checking name spellings of the prize winners and catching many errors in the process. Bridge players of all abilities looked forward to George’s Monday morning article where they could catch up with what had happened over the previous week and plan their outings for the following few weeks. He has done Irish Bridge a fantastic service for very many years and is a hugely deserving winner of the 2014 President’s Award.

Bridge players the length and breadth of the island would like to wish George a long and happy retirement.