

Noel Hickey RIP

Noel came from a card-playing family. Noel and his wife Angela took up bridge about 1970 and they took to it to like a duck to water. Angela trained as a bridge teacher and set up her own Club, the Hamilton, which Noel continued to run after Angela's death in 1991. Noel was very involved in all aspects of bridge. He served as President of Limerick Bridge Club, 99 Bridge Club, North Munster Region, the Monument Bridge Club as well as serving as Treasurer of North Munster CBAI and being a member of the CBAI Executive. He stood for election to both Treasurer and President of the CBAI. Noel was a great card player and had a great knack of using his 8s and 9s to great effect. He would sometimes overbid but if opponents decided to double his contract they usually lived to regret it.

He won countless local, Club, Congress and Munster events. He won three National titles: the Lambert Cup with Mark Burke in 1985, the Kelburne Cup in 1990 with Angela, Brid Kirby and Marie Hanrahan and the Burke Trophy in 2003 with PJ O'Dea, Gerri McMahan and Liam Walsh. Noel enjoyed his game and made sure that his opponents enjoyed their game.

He had other passions, e.g. dancing and hurling. Often after a session of bridge he would go off dancing till the small hours. He lived a 24-hour day. He was delighted by Limerick's All Ireland win in 2018 and the win in 2020 must have given him further joy in the midst of the pandemic.