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# NEWSLETTER

KNOCKLYON BRIDGE CLUB

December 2007

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## *A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR*

to all our Members from President Mai and the Committee

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### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to the winners of our three Pairs Competitions held in October. Kitty Ward and Marie Landy won the 'B'/Novice competition, the O'Boyle Cup, with Dorothy Whelan and Mary O'Leary winning the Donnelly Cup for the middle section, while Betty and Eamonn Hardiman came out winners of the top section Stephenson Cup.



The picture shows Betty and Eamonn with President Mai and her husband Niall Stephenson, sponsors of the Stephenson Cup.

Other prizewinners were:

#### **Stephenson Cup**

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Helen Boland & Breda O'Connor  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Catherine King & Anne Reville

#### **Donnelly Cup**

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Maura Croke & Geraldine Lynch  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Eileen Donnelly & Anne Sharpe

#### **O'Boyle Cup**

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Nora Byrne Page & Ken Page  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Irene Heneghen & Mary C. Lynch

Congratulations to all prizewinners, and thank you to everyone who took part.

### **Father Pat's work in India**

We are sure all who were at the Christmas Party on 3<sup>rd</sup> December enjoyed themselves and President Mai and her 'crew' deserve a big round of applause. Those who won a prize in the raffle will be especially pleased – such wonderful jewellery and mouth-watering hampers. There is, of course, a serious side to this – the cause to which the magnificent sum of almost €1800 will be put. For a number of years Mai, and husband Niall, have worked tirelessly to raise funds for Father Pat Byrden who runs a centre for street children in Hyderabad. All the proceeds of the raffle, like every cent raised on previous occasions goes to support this invaluable work with some of the most destitute of children who would otherwise be left to scavenge around the streets with no hope of education or betterment.

What you have helped to provide has been a safe refuge (through the building of a house), daily food and education, such that the young people grow up with hope for the future. For example one young girl is now training as a beautician.

A big THANK YOU, therefore, for your generous support.



## Gerber is the Maker of Baby Food!

So said Eric Kokish, one of the world's leading bridge analysts and coaches at a seminar here in Dublin a few years ago, when asked about the use of Gerber in exploring a Slam in a suit contract. As Seamus Dowling wrote in a recent issue of the *Irish Bridge Journal*:

“The renowned Australian teacher, writer and expert, Ron Klinger, has recommended that players should give up Gerber for a trial period – of about 25 years. I once mentioned that to Pat Walsh, Ireland's leading theoretician and expert. Walsh thought Klinger was wrong – 25 years was not nearly long enough.”

During a recent series of Improver Classes here at the Bridge Centre, Thomas Mac Cormac outlined the history of Blackwood and Gerber. In 1934, Mr Easley Blackwood of Indianapolis devised his conventional bids of 4NT and 5NT when he found he was going down in too many of the Slams he was bidding. Playing Rubber Bridge, this was costing him money, so he wanted a way to avoid bidding Slams when missing Aces or Kings. When 1NT or 2NT has been opened, of course, 4NT is quantitative, again seeking a Slam contract. So, if you wish to find out if partner has Aces and Kings in this situation, a new way is required. For this reason, in 1938, Mr John Gerber of Houston, Texas, devised the ‘4 Clubs’ convention that bears his name, specifically for use when seeking a No Trump Slam.

“But”, said many members of the Class, “‘4 Clubs’ keeps the bidding low”. Thomas replied “If you can't support a 5-level contract, you should not be looking for a Slam.” Also, it takes away a natural ‘4 Clubs’ bid, but more importantly, it eliminates Cue Bidding – a very useful method of exploring Slams when Blackwood is not suitable.

People will say, of course, “Can't we agree that we shall use it?” Yes, but don't take our word for it, look at the evidence and advice of the experts. Pick up any Bridge book – be it basic, improver or advanced, and you will find that when seeking a suit Slam “Gerber is the maker of baby food!”

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## Irish Bridge Journal

Quoting from Seamus Dowling's article above, gives us the opportunity to mention that great little magazine *Irish Bridge Journal*. Little in page size, that is, but great in content.

With news, results, photographs, playing and bidding quizzes, as well as Seamus' regular feature *For Novices and struggling players*, it is well worth the €15 subscription for six issues a year.

To subscribe, contact the Editor, Úna Walsh, 41 Friar's Hill, Galway, Tel.: (091) 526502.

## Christmas Arrangements

There will be Bridge as usual until Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. The Bridge Centre will be closed from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December until Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January inclusive. Bridge will begin again on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2008 with St Jude's Club meeting as usual.

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## Increase in Table Money to €5

With effect from 7<sup>th</sup> January, Table Money is being increased to €5, with an increase in the number of prizes being given. This means that a second prize will be given when there are at least 7 tables in a section, with ‘brown envelopes’ being given for the first four places when there are 12 or more tables in a section.

Although this makes it easier by using a ‘fiver’ for Table Money, don't forget to bring a single euro for the Lotto envelope. With at least €1,000 at stake, remember that “If you're not in, you can't win!”

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## Weekend Away

Many of you have already signed up for the Club's weekend away on 18<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The selected Galway Bay Hotel, a four-star hotel is situated on the Promenade at Salthill, and overlooking Galway Bay.

To ensure a place, deposits of €50 per person must be paid during January, with the balance of the cost of €225 being due by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Further information about the hotel can be found at <http://www.galwaybayhotel.net>.

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## Dates for your Diary

8 <sup>th</sup> January (A.M.)	Seniors Money Competition (TCCBC)
14 <sup>th</sup> January	I.B.U. Qualifiers
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Centre Teams Competition
4 <sup>th</sup> February	C.B.A.I. Simultaneous Pairs
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Seniors Money Finals (Nenagh)
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb. & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar.	Club Team Competitions Garvey, Malone & Knocklyon Trophies
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Centre Teams Competition
12 <sup>th</sup> April	West of Grafton Street, Open Pairs, TCCBC.
21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> April	President's Prize

And don't forget:

18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> April: Weekend away.

If there is any topic you would like to see covered in a future Newsletter, or if you have a view which you would like to see published, please get in touch with our Secretary, John Gibson.