

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

TOM HANLON

Born in 1967 Tom has been playing bridge since 1981. Long-time partner of Hugh McGann. In 1994 he moved straight from the Irish Junior Team to the Irish Open Team. In 2004 he became Ireland's youngest Grand Master and in 2006 was part of the Irish team which won silver at the European Championships and semi-finalist in the 2012 world Olympiad. All-time leading Irish master point holder. He has more than 50 National titles under his belt and has won the Camrose (7 times) and the Lederer (twice), the Gold Cup and Crockfords. Winner of the Copenhagen invitational, 3 times (in a row) runner up in the springs 4s. Runner up in Cavendish teams. Partner of Cedric Lorenzini in the Street team in US Nationals and Zaleski team in French Premier League.

When not playing bridge Tom is fond of the odd game of poker.

HUGH McGANN

From Fermoy in Co. Cork, Hugh now lives in North Yorkshire and works in Leeds as a doctor specialising in infectious diseases. He formed a partnership with Tom Hanlon in 1991 and won a silver medal in the E.U. Junior Pairs in 1993. He has shared Tom's recent successes with the Irish Open Team. Hugh reached Grand Master rank in 2008.

With Tom, Hugh was part of the European Team that took part in the first two stagings of the Warren Buffett Cup. Europe beat USA in September 2008 in Louisville, Kentucky having lost in Dublin in 2006.

NICK FITZGIBBON

Nick is the first of the growing circle of Grand Masters in Irish bridge. His international bridge career predates his partnership with Adam, as he played on the Irish Open Team in the Miami Olympiad in 1972 finishing in 12th position. Since then he has played with Adam in numerous European Championships and Opens, Olympiads, World Mind Games, Bermuda Bowls and World Pairs / Rosenblum Teams. Together they have gained silver and bronze in the Europeans, won the Cavendish Trophy and placed fifth in a number of European Open and transnational events with current team Hugh, Tom, John, and also Tommy Garvey. They would have more medals if results properly reflected cheating teams. With another current team member Grainne, playing with Pat Walshe and Kathryn FitzGibbon, he won silver in the EU Championships Mixed Teams in Ostende 1989.

Now retired from telecoms, he helps his daughter Nicola with her showjumping career. She also has represented Ireland in European Championships in her sport.

ADAM MESBUR

In 2005 Adam established a French based commercial property fund for Irish investors. He has managed the fund since then. He is married to Noelette with two adult children He has had a long-standing partnership with Nick. This was put on hold for about 10 years while both played active roles in bringing up their children.

Playing with Nick, Adam won a Silver medal in the Junior European Championships in 1974. They also finished third in the European Teams in Lausanne in 1979. More recently they were part of the Irish team that won the Silver Medal in Warsaw in 2006 and in 4th position in the World Teams Championships in Lille in August 2012. Most recently they finished 5th, playing with the Texas Aces, in the 15th World Bridge Open Team in Orlando in 2018. He and Nick are World International Masters and the highest ranked WBF Irish players.

GRAINNE BARTON

Grainne, herself an international medal-winner and former Lady Milne player, has been in the job of NPC with this team for some little time now! She guided them to major success in Monaco in October 2013 when they were narrowly beaten in the final of the Cavendish Teams, leaving the greats of world bridge playing in the “Plate”!! Since then, she has captained the team in many events across Europe – including winning the Camrose!

This year, the playing role with the team was thrust upon her and of course she has the most even-tempered partner for this adventure in John. This is Grainne’s first Camrose playing cap.

JOHN CARROLL

John is a Research & Development Manager with a software house based in Dublin. With regular partner, Tommy Garvey, he has won a number of caps for Ireland on the European stage, and was on the Irish team that finished in Silver Medal Position in Warsaw in 2006 and in 4th position in the World Teams Championships in Lille in August 2012.

If this wasn’t enough to be busy with, he and his wife Ann Marie, also an international player, have two boys to keep out of trouble!!

DAVID WALSH (NPC)

David hails from Galway. This is his first time to act as NPC in the Camrose – the desire to get his own hands on the cards may well be too much for him to cope with as he has numerous playing caps under his belt.

David and his wife, Orla, have now 4 children to watch over.

He started playing bridge almost 30 20 years ago as most of his family were very keen players. Cards as an alternative to study, well, there was always going to be one winner.

He is self-employed with a computer shop in Galway for close to 20 years. An avid sports fan with a particular interest in hurling, rugby and football, he knows Connacht will provide reasons for celebration again this year!.