

## **Irene O'Brien**

The Club was very sad to hear of the death of our esteemed Life Member Irene O'Brien who passed away peacefully yesterday (28 March 2019).

Irene has been involved in LCC over many years and in that time her contribution to the Club has been immense. Her work and interest spanned all sections, being a true LCC member notwithstanding the fact that her beloved husband Noel, who predeceased her, was a life-long member of Railway Union Cricket Club!

When her two sons, Charlie and Oliver, were schoolboys she developed a thriving junior tennis section. Many of these juniors, including Charlie, are still active members of the Tennis Section. Her interest in developing the junior game was also evidenced by her involvement for many years with the junior section of the then Irish Lawn Tennis Association (now Tennis Ireland).

Irene did not confine her LCC tennis interest to the juniors, she participated fully as a player and administrator working on committees (and umpteen subcommittees!) to help guide the tennis section in a period of major change during the 1980s when it made the transition from grass to hard courts and became an all-year tennis club.

At Club level Irene was very involved in the development of the new Club House during the late 1980s and early 1990s. This development coincided with Irene's Presidency of the Leinster Cricket Club in the period 1990-1992. Many will recall the difficult Club decisions and planning challenges associated with this project but Irene refused to be put off and the new building opened in 1994. It has to be noted that Irene remains the only woman to hold the position of Club President, further evidence, if it was needed, of her supreme ability as a leader and motivator of people.

Looking at ways to capitalise on the potential of the forthcoming new Club House, Irene gathered a few interested people together and started the Leinster Bridge Club in the early 1990s. It started small, with classes in the bar in the old pavilion and under Irene's guiding hand gradually developed into a registered Bridge Club with regular Wednesday night games and teams participating in external competitions. Irene's Bridge legacy continues each year with the awarding of trophy she co-donated for the annual Pairs Competition.

In time, Irene's interest led her to the Bowling Section where she was an accomplished bowler, playing Division 1 for many years. She loved her bowling and had great enjoyment both on and off the green, making new friends and travelling to far flung places on bowling holidays.

Irene's health sadly faded in recent years but she faced it with characteristic bravery and determination and made the very best of her new life in Bray over the past 4 years.

Irene achievements speak for themselves but it was Irene the person who will be remembered most. Irene was a fun-loving, caring friend and it is that which will be most sadly missed by all who knew her.

LCC owes Irene a huge debt of gratitude, and at this very sad time we offer our sincerest sympathies to Charlie and Celeste, Oliver and Rosemary and their families on the passing of the true lady Irene was.

Anne FitzGerald  
Hon Secretary, Bowling Section