

## Northern Ireland Lady Milne 2015 biographies

### **Ciara Burns**

Ciara Burns is a solicitor specialising in litigation. She is currently President of the Irish Bridge Union and Development officer of the NIBU.

She has played on the Northern Ireland lady Milne team since 1993, although this is her first appearance in partnership with Ruth.

Ciara is also a frequent Camrose player, in partnership with the long suffering John Murchan. She has also played on the Irish women's team in 3 European Championships, on 2 occasions with Mary Finn, who represents the Republic of Ireland in this event. Away from bridge, Ciara has no time for hobbies because playing bridge and bridge administration work are a full time occupation, alongside her full time job.

### **Ruth Connolly**

Ruth, (the baby of the team, hence the photograph) started playing bridge at school 15 years ago and has recently retired from the Northern Irish Junior Squad. This is her first proper outing at the Lady Milne, partnering Ciara, however this partnership would probably have never existed had Daddy Murchan just agreed to wear a pair of heels for the weekend!

Ruth is a full-time Civil Servant working in Belfast. When she is not busy saving lives or playing bridge she is generally crazy about movies, sport and red wine.

## **Heather Hill**

Heather is a retired Maths teacher who keeps her hand in by working for the local examination board in several capacities. She is playing in her third Lady Milne - each time with a different partner. She enjoys travelling - in particular to visit her four grandchildren in Boise, Idaho, and Newcastle upon Tyne. Time is also spent knitting creatively for them - at present a cardigan with a horse's head on the back!

## **Clare Watson**

Clare has played on the lady Milne team before with 4 different partners. She and Heather are a new partnership this year.

Clare worked in education and is now happily retired. She enjoys swimming, reading and walking. Her family keeps her busy the rest of the time.

## **Toni Sproule**

"I first fell in love with husband & bridge (better in that order) way way way ago in Uganda in the days of that self named & styled despot Dada Idi Amin when curfews were the order of the day so long nights would be spent playing, amongst other pastimes, bridge. This is my second outing with Dymphna whom I'm fortunate enough to have as a partner."

## **Dymphna Friel**

Dymphna is a Civil servant, married to John, with two daughters Mary and Anna. This is her 5th time playing in the Lady Milne.

## **Alan Hill**

Alan is a retired University lecturer. This is the fourth time he has been NPC of the Lady Milne team. However, his association with Home Internationals goes back to the days when he acted as referee for Northern Ireland home matches and he still spends more time directing than playing. For once he will be wearing the trousers this weekend as his wife Heather is on the team