



Pat Walshe Memorial Trophy

Grainne, partner and wife of the late Pat Walshe, presented the inaugural Pat Walshe

Memorial Trophy to the winners of the IBU Open Trials at the end of the IBU Trials 2012 for the European Championships taking place in Ireland in June. The names Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann, John Carroll, Tommy Garvey, Adam Mesbur and Nick FitzGibbon will be the first names on the Trophy and this team will represent Ireland at the 51st European Teams Championships in Citywest in June.

Pat partnering Rory Boland along with Nick FitzGibbon, Adam Mesbur, Ray Brennan and Paul Scannell had represented Ireland when we last held these Championships in

Killarney in 1991. It was symbolic that this trophy was presented 21 years later in Pat's fond memory by Grainne.

Grainne had given much thought to the purpose of the Trophy and felt that it was fitting to have Pat's Memorial Trophy for the winners of the IBU Open Teams Trials; a challenge he had delighted in for many a year and through which he had formed many fond friendships both North and South. These friendships resulted in him travelling North even when the troubles were rife to play in Congresses, to comment on the Camrose matches and also to support his NIBU friends in their bid to win the Camrose long

before the CBAI were invited back to the Camrose. He participated

in many mixed North/South teams and he played with Greer McKenzie in Seattle.

Pat, a three time Medallist and Grand Master represented Ireland internationally on many occasions winning Gold, and Bronze in the Common Market Pairs, and silver in

the Mixed Teams Championships. He won every major national Irish Championship. Over many decades, Pat gave willingly of his free time to coach and captain junior, ladies and open teams.

As a mark of respect to the late Pat Walshe and out of respect for his wife Grainne, a Silver and Bronze Medallist, the IBU President, a number of IBU Delegates and the triallists were present for the Presentation. Chairman of the International Committee, Michael O'Connor and members of his Committee Pauline Maguire, Kay Downes and Ian Lindsay were also present.

IBU President Mary Kelly Rogers in thanking Grainne for presenting the Trophy remarked on the symbolism of the occasion and said the IBU felt honoured that Grainne chose the IBU Open Trials as the Competition to commemorate one of the greatest legends of Irish Bridge.