

## James R. Greer '64

(2/2/1943-11/10/2011)

by Maeve Lucey

James R. Greer, 68, of New Canaan passed away peacefully at his home in the presence of his loving family Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011, after a brief illness.

He was born on February 2, 1943, in Glasgow, Scotland, the son of William and Margaret (Robertson) Greer. He came to Stamford, Connecticut in 1954. He attended Dartmouth College and Boston University, and received his Bachelor's Degree in Government from Boston University in 1966.

Jim retired after a successful career in Executive Search and Outplacement, during which he concentrated his talents on helping other people meet their career goals. He said that he preferred working on Outplacement because it gave him the opportunity to be of material help to people who had lost their jobs.

After retirement Jim was able to devote himself to his avocation as a duplicate bridge player. Before his final illness he was the 12<sup>th</sup> ranked player in Connecticut and the 52<sup>nd</sup> ranked in all of New England. He was on the bridge team which, in 2009, won the District 25 Championship Flight North American Teams title. His record of more than 6000 master points put him in the top 1 percent of all duplicate bridge players in the country.

Jim met his beloved wife, Maeve, when he was asked to mentor her as a new bridge player. Together they loved to participate in bridge tournaments, attending virtually all Regionals in New England and New York and as many National tournaments as possible.

Many of Jim's closest bridge friends referred to him always as "Rabbit" after the Victor Mollo character, based on a hand he declared in 4S thinking he was in 3NT. Because he thought he was in 3NT, he chose the only winning line to make the hand.

Some of Jim's longtime partners included the late Monroe Magnus, Allan Clamage and Art Crystal, and, of course, his wife, Maeve. Jim served on the Connecticut Bridge Association board from 1980 until 2001 and was a frequent alternate thereafter. He also often served on Conduct and Ethics and Appeals committees.

Jim taught bridge to beginner and intermediate players both in private lessons and in at several local senior centers. He loved helping other players improve their game, and he was always willing to give advice and share his extensive knowledge of the game.

Jim was known to his many friends and to his family as a kind man with a penetrating mind and a dry sense of humor. He was a well-informed fan of many sports, always ready with unexpected insights on the teams he followed. He suffered as a Red Sox fan living in "Yankee country," and was thrilled when

they won the World Series in 2004. He will be remembered for his keen wit and gentle smile as much as for his many achievements.

He is survived by his wife, Maeve Lucey; his nephew, Ronald Kennedy; several cousins; and by many, many bridge partners, bridge students and friends. He was predeceased by his sister Catherine Kennedy.

An annual memorial game will be held in Jim's honor at the Wilton Bridge Studio in Norwalk, CT.