

BACKSPIN

Official E-Zine of Pitch and Putt Ireland

December, 2019



Issue Highlights:

- Vincent Allen
- International diary and calendar
- Diary of a decade
- Plus More...

A Chara,

You are welcome to this our second edition of Backspin for 2019 and the first designed by our new Development Manager Shaun O'Donnell. I welcome Shaun to the Pitch & Putt Ireland family and look forward to him working with our organisation into the future.

As I wrote back in May in our final edition with Paul Hayes, I would put Backspin on hold until Paul's successor was in place and in allowing them some time to settle in and get to know our organisation. Shaun and myself both agreed a pre-Christmas issue would be best when he was appointed. This issue focuses primarily on a look back on the decade that is about to end as John Manning looks at what happened both nationally and internationally between 2010-2019.

I want to say a big thanks to John for his assistance over the last few months. As you may be aware I am under new employment in my job since September and have relied greatly on John to assist me in ensuring our events are covered as best we can on our website. We had a great summer of action in our sport since the last edition. Our live streaming expanded to include streaming of the National Ladies Scratch Matchplay final along with the Mens decider in Rocklodge. I want to commend Declan Sheedy and Darren Keogh on their presentation of the Ladies Final.

We also streamed the National U-16 Boys Matchplay Championship Final in Deerpark which I thank the parents of the players concerned for their consent in doing so. I hope we can expand on this more heading into the new decade, I hope to have provincial pages set up for Munster and Leinster before the start of the new playing season which will allow us the chance to showcase our game more. Volunteers are more than welcome for same! *(Continued on the last page)*



The 2019 National under 16 Strokeplay and Intercounty held at Glenville in August.

Vincent Allen tribute

By John Manning

An era truly ended in November when Vincent Allen retired from his position as Pitch & Putt correspondent with Examiner publications in Cork. For over 50 years, Vincent's weekly Pitch and Putt column formed essential reading for the Pitch and Putt community. John Manning pay tribute to Vincent's many years in the following piece.

Back in October 1969, a decent bottle of brandy cost 22/6 (the equivalent of €1.43). Cork's Evening Echo newspaper cost four old pence (€0.02). A decent family saloon car might set one back £675 (€857).

St Annes Pitch & Putt club was scarcely three years old. Its Vice Chairman Vincent Allen made his way to the Cork County Board Convention at the Metropole Hotel. Vincent was elected Press Officer of the Board and immediately took over production of the already-established Pitch and Putt column in the 'Evening Echo'.

Already employed by the then 'Cork Examiner' in Academy Street since 1959, Vincent soon made the Saturday Pitch and Putt column (previously penned by 'Wedgeman') his own.

At the same time as Vincent served as Vice Chairman of St. Anne's in 1966, a certain Miss Philomena O'Leary was Secretary of the Club. Phil and Vincent married in 1969 and Phil was to be a huge support right through Vincent's career as Pitch & Putt columnist.

Of course, Vincent occasionally took a holiday. But wherever he was in the world, be it Benalmadena or Ballycotton, the Pitch & Putt column always appeared! Renowned Examiner journalist and golf historian Tim O'Brien (who became a close family friend) occasionally helped out when Vincent was on leave.

Vincent Allen received the Pitch & Putt Union of Ireland Hall of Fame award at the 1990 National Convention at the Hotel Blarney in recognition



of his distinguished services to the sport. His connections in the Examiner delivered handsome sponsorship by the publishing giant of the Munster Mixed Foursomes and Team Event.

Vincent retired from his full-time position with the 'Examiner' in 1991 but continued to deliver high quality copy right through the title changes of the publications and moves from the iconic Academy Street premises, first to Lapps Quay and later to Blackpool. Having resigned from Cork County Board in the mid-1970s, Vincent took on a publicity role with Munster Council in the 1980s and also served as a Central Council delegate.

Stories are legion of Vincent's intrepid pre-internet age efforts to telephone details of competitions, championships and meetings from all corners of the country back to the copy-takers in Cork as previews, reviews and reports of practically every county, Munster and national event appeared in the Examiner/Echo.

Vincent was no mean player in his day, playing to a best handicap of -2. He still speaks fondly of the rainy day that he defeated former National Matchplay Champion John Foley in the St. Annes Club Matchplay. He won the Captain's Prize at St. Anne's in 1967. He also captained the St. Anne's Junior team to victory in the 1979 Munster Strokeplay Team Championship.

Vincent was elected a Patron of the PPUI at 1998 Convention in Longford. He also immersed himself in the playing, social and cultural side of Pitch & Putt and was part of successful St. Annes sides in Inter-Club quizzes.

Even when illness or serious surgery occasionally prevented Vincent from attending events in person, reports and photographs continued to appear. The superb photographs were largely thanks to Phil Allen's dedicated camera work. Phil also involved herself in provincial administration as Munster PRO.



Such was its popularity, Vincent succeeded in increasing the Echo column from one page to two in 1994. The location of the column in the newspaper altered as did the day of publication (to Thursday) but the quality never varied. Born into a political family (his father was Cork's Lord Mayor in 1942), Vincent took a keen interest in the career of his nephew Bernard Allen, who was Minister for Sport in John Bruton's Fine Gael-led Government.

Bernard's wife Marie Allen was an accomplished Pitch and Putt player and Vincent also took a keen interest in her progress on the course as he did with all of his St. Annes colleagues. But his previews and reports in the press always remained resolutely neutral. Vincent is indebted to the countless club scribes who have submitted copy down through the decades – the individual club 'notes' have been an integral part of the column from Day One.

A highly-principled administrator and an articu-

late communicator, Vincent remains modest about his achievements. But there's no doubt, his contribution to Pitch & Putt publicity in Cork and around Ireland over the last half century has been immense.

We wish Vincent and Phil a deserved happy retirement.



International diary

By John Manning

Where there was a tie for second place, the player who got second on countback is the one mentioned.

2010

Ireland fail to win the European Team Championship for the first time ever. In the final at Lloret Papalus on September 26th, Catalonia recover from 2-1 down after the Foursomes to defeat the holders by 5-4 in an absorbing final.

2011

In the International Challenge Cup at Tralee on April 14th, Ireland beat Catalonia by 13.5 matches to 2.5.

Deerpark's Damien Fleming clinches the Irish Open over his home course on April 17th. Damien's total of 139 wins by a single shot from Corkman Paudie O'Sullivan. Tracey McGrath (Erry) fires an aggregate of 154, which gives the Co. Offaly player victory in Ladies by six from Holland's Esther de Schiffart.

Bellewstown's Ian Farrelly clinches the inaugural European Strokeplay championship at Imjelt, Norway on July 17th. Farrelly shoots 145 to beat John Ross Crangle (Loughlinstown) by one stroke.

2012

Under the non-playing captaincy of the late Helen McMorrow (RIP), Ireland (John Ross Crangle, Ray Murphy and John Walsh) defeat Australia 5-0 in the World Cup final at Royal Meath on 26th.

2013

John Walsh (Collins) is crowned World Strokeplay kingpin in searing hot conditions at Tambre on July 7th. Walsh fires a 72-hole aggregate of 198 and finishes two strokes clear of Australian James Rogerson. In a wonderful battle for the Ladies Championship, holder Chrissie Byrne (St. Bridgets) holds off Dutch player Esther De Schiffart (-11 to -10).

2014

Glenville sees unseasonably cold conditions for the Irish Open on May 10th/11th. Eamon Gibney (Castletown) scores 137 to finish three strokes clear of Liam O'Donovan (Bruff). A 156 return sees Marian Byrne (St. Bridgets) take the Ladies Irish Open by a shot from Tracey McGrath (Erry). Catalonia 13.5 beat Ireland 10.5 on June 7th/8th in the International Challenge Cup at Lloret Papalus.

2015

Liam O'Donovan (Bruff) just edges out John Cahill (Fermoy) to win the European Strokeplay Championship at Orvelte, Netherlands on August 23rd. O'Donovan birdies each of the last five holes for a 54-hole aggregate of 143, which is one clear of Cahill. With a score of 165, Pacelli Darcy (Ireland) is the European Seniors (O-55) champion.

2016

On July 3rd, Ireland (John Ross Crangle, John



World cup winning team from 2012.



The 2016 world cup winning team in Andorra.

Walsh and Eamon Gibney) retain the World Cup with a 3-2 final win over Catalonia at Xixerella, Andorra.

On September 25th, Frank Dineen (St. Anne's) wins the Irish Open at Rocklodge. Frank posts a total of 135 for the three rounds, which secures a one shot margin over Damien Fleming (Deerpark). Breda Lonergan (Tipperary Hills) is a five stroke winner in the ladies open on level par 162 from local Rocklodge player Mary Murray on 167.

Pacelli Darcy (Bruff) picks-up yet another O-55s victory, scoring a 54-hole total of 151 to finish just a stroke clear of Anthony Malone (Lucan).

2017

The first-ever World Pitch and Putt Pairs championship is played at the Tambre course in Sigüeiro, Spain from June 9th-11th 2017. Pacelli Darcy and Liam O'Donovan (Bruff) sign for a 31 under par tally of 239 to overhaul their Irish and Limerick colleagues Tommy Hanley (Bruff) and Kieran Earls (Parteen) who score 240 after leading by six into the final round.

After a tie on 197, Bruff's Liam O'Donovan wins the World Strokeplay championship at Imjelt (Norway) on July 9th in a play-off against reigning Champion John Walsh (Collins). Eleanor Walsh (Fermoy) clinches the Ladies Championship while Pacelli Darcy (Bruff) is second in the O-55 event.

2018

Breda White (Ireland) wins a play-off with Catalan Pilar Montero to become World Seniors (Over

55s) Ladies Strokeplay champion at the Verin course in Galicia from on April 29th.

The Urduna course in the Basque Country hosts the European Team Championship from June 22nd-24th. Ireland (represented by Bryan Delaney, John Ross Crangle, Eamon Gibney, Thomas Hanley, James Cleary and John Cahill) are crowned champions for the sixth time with a comfortable win over Catalonia in the final.

Deerpark's Damien Fleming scores 139 at Seapoint to win the Irish Open on August 25th/26th by two strokes from Ray Murphy (St. Annes). Geraldine Ward (Portmarnock) wins the ladies open with 148, six clear of Chrissie Byrne (Ryston). U-16 winner is Evan Carry (Castletown) who fires a 146 while Glenn Towler (St Annes) takes second. Dennis Monaghan (Shandon) is awarded top O-55 prize on 148, two clear of John Campbell Snr (Killineer).

The Ladies and Juveniles International Challenge Cup match at Seapoint on August sees Ireland run out winners by 13-5 against Catalonia.

2019

The European Strokeplay Championship is played at the Central Park course in Dagenham from August 16-18th. John Cahill of Ireland is the new Champion, scoring a three round aggregate of 144 to just hold off John Walsh (Collins). Esther de Schiffart (Netherlands) retains the Ladies title with 165, eight clear of runner-up Liz Quinn (Collinstown). Irish players dominate the O-55 Category with Anto Kavanagh (Bellewstown) producing the winning total of 154, a single stroke clear of holder Pacelli Darcy (Bruff).

International Calendar

By John Manning

The confirmed FIPPA international calendar for next year presents some very attractive fixtures as John Manning explains in this piece.

The lengthy Lough Owel course just outside Mullingar will become the centre of attention from the Pitch and Putt world in August when the VII Irish Open is staged there. Many visitors are expected from outside Ireland for the event, which has been won on three occasions by Deerpark's Damien Fleming, twice by Frank Dineen (St Annes) and by Eamon Gibney (Castletown) at Glenville in 2014. Geraldine Ward (Portmarnock) is the reigning Irish Ladies Open Champion.

There's already considerable Irish interest in travelling to the XIV Catalan Open, which is scheduled for April 17th/19th 2020, at the Lloret course in Lloret de Mar, Spain. The Lloret course has twice hosted the European Pitch & Putt Team Championship (Ireland won there in 2001 while the Catalans were victorious nine years later). Lloret was also the venue for the 2012 Catalan Open, when Catalan Marçal Moré was the winner.

Three Irish players have won the Catalan Open – William Buckley Junior, Liam O'Donovan and Tommy Hanley. Liam O'Donovan and Pacelli Darcy of Bruff were victorious in the 2014 Catalan International Pairs at Lloret. Irish Ladies Matchplay Nett Cup holder Sarah O'Neill (Collins) along with former National Ladies Intermediate and Junior Champion Mairead Man-

ning (St Stephens) are expected to travel to Lloret in 2020.

The inaugural European Club Team Cup is planned for May 15th to 17th at the Tambre course in Galicia. John Walsh (Collins) will have fond memories of the Tambre track, for it was there that the five-time Irish champion was crowned World Strokeplay kingpin in 2013. Tambre also hosted the 2017 World Pairs Championship, which was won by the Bruff duo Liam O'Donovan and Pacelli Darcy.

Europe's Pitch and Putt players will be back in Galicia for the III Galicia Open from July 3rd-5th. John Walsh won the inaugural Galicia Open at Pazo do Touza back in 2012 and was succeeded by Bruff's Liam O'Donovan at Tambre in 2014. O'Donovan had been runner-up to Walsh two years previously.

Andorra, Basque Country, Catalonia, France and Galicia will contest their Five- Nations tournament from July 24th to 26th 2020 at an Andorran venue to be announced. Catalonia are the defending champions.

The 2020 Dutch Open will be played at Koekange (the first-ever Pitch and Putt course in the Netherlands, founded in 1998) on August 22nd-23rd. Winner of an invitational event at Koekange in 2001, Ray Murphy (St. Anne's), Ian Farrelly (Bellewstown) and John Walsh are past champions at the Dutch Open. Cloghogue's Marina O'Rourke was third in that 2001 Invitational



The Lough Owel Pitch and Putt course will host the 7th Irish Open.



The victorious Irish team from the 2018 European Championships.

Open. Darren Collins (St Annes) has also been an impressive performer on Dutch soil over the years.

The IV Slovenia Open is scheduled for September 5th-6th, 2020. The 2019 Slovenia Open attracted players from Slovenia, Chile, Catalonia, Netherlands, France, Switzerland and Ireland.

Another event sure to be of massive interest to Irish players is the inaugural European O-55s Strokeplay Championship, slated for the HCP 1 Course in Spain from October 9th to 11th 2020. Players across the grades compete strongly in Over 55s championships domestically and Weeshie Murphy (Raffeen Creek) finished third in the 2018 World O-55s Strokeplay championship in Spain, an event in which Breda White (Tipperary Hills) claimed ladies laurels.

The Catalan International Pairs tournament has perennially been popular with Irish players and Tommy Hanley (Bruff) and Kieran Earls (Parteen) emulated their Limerick counterparts Darcy and O'Donovan by claiming the title at Sant Cebria in 2016. Old County combination Paul McGreal and Stephen Murray were runners-up that year while Collins pair Chris Scannell and John Walsh along with father and son duo Weeshie Murphy (Raffeen Creek) and Shane Murphy (Rocklodge) have also figured prominently in the past. The 2020 renewal will take place from October 23th to 25th 2020 at Sant Ce-

bria, some 50 kilometres north of Barcelona.

Arrangements are being finalised for the sixth World Cup of Pitch and Putt, which is listed for Chile in November. Ireland are the defending champions - the team of Collins' John Walsh, John Ross Crangle (Loughlinstown) and Eamon Gibney (Castletown) having won the 2016 World Cup in Andorra. Mark Millar (Cement) was victorious at the 2018 Chile Open.

Negotiations continue regarding possible Opens in Brazil, Ecuador and Peru while there's likely to be an Australian Open in late 2020. Ballinlough's David O'Leary finished fifth at the 2018 Australian Open, an event that was won in 2007 by Ian Farrelly (Bellewstown).



The Catalan Open will be held at the Llorent De Mar course in April 2020.

Diary of a decade

By John Manning

2010

The decade opens with the National Scramble final at Douglas and Ballinlough on 8th-9th May 2010. Cunnigar are the victors, beating runners-up Deerpark by four strokes.

The National Matchplay finals are played four weeks later at Larkspur Park. In a repeat of the 2007 final, Chrissie Byrne (St. Bridget's) wins the ladies title for the third time with a 2&1 win over Portmarnock's Geraldine Ward. Chris Scannell (Collins) is a 5&4 Gents final winner over John Ross Crangle (Loughlinstown).

In the National Mixed Team Event Final at Stackallen on June 13th, Channonrock (Bertie Markey, Bridget Finn, Paddy Byrne and Louise Markey) score 162 points to finish five clear of runners-up Loughlinstown.

It's down to Cunnigar for the National Ladies Strokeplay championships on 10th-11th July. As the football World Cup reaches a climax in South Africa, Geraldine Ward earns a comprehensive 10 shot senior victory over Tracey McGrath (Erry) with a superb 147 for the three rounds. Cloghogue's Bernie Somers wins the Intermediate Championship on 174 while 187 secures the Junior title for home player Mary O'Neill.

There's a play-off two weeks later in the National

Gents Strokeplay Championship at Ryston. Eddie Carey (Athgarvan) shoots 23 in extra time to beat John Walsh (24) of Collins after the pair tie on 132. Daniel Clinton from Cement returns 151 to become the new Junior Champion while the Intermediate Championship goes to Kerry and Tralee club member Declan McCarron (141).

Cork (Gavin Murphy, Jack Howard, Michael Howard, Darragh O'Herlihy, James Devonshire and Shane Murphy) shoot 393 to win the Juvenile Inter-County championship at Kilbeggan on 22nd August. Dublin are second on 400. The previous day's Juvenile Strokeplay features a Girls' play-off for the second successive year. Local player Laura Coffey (Kilbeggan) defeats defending champion Claire Keatinge (Old County) after a tie on 112. Channonrock's Shane Redmond shoots a fabulous 92 to clinch the Boys' Championship by a shot from Kieran O'Keefe (Deerpark).

Cork (Linda O'Donovan, Vera McCarthy, Claire O'Flynn, Eleanor Walsh, Ann Daly, Sharon Bowes) win the Ladies Inter-County Championship on September 11th at St. Annes. Kildare are second, 15 strokes shy. The following day, the Leaside double under the new foursomes/singles format is secure as Ray Murphy and John Walsh lead Cork to victory in the Gents' Championship.



The 2013 National Scramble held in Tralee and Castleisland.

Murphy and Walsh card matching 44s in the singles and are ably supported by Kieran Duncombe, Thomas Lynch, John Cahill and Bryan Delaney to a team score of 377, 19 clear of Kerry.

Lakeside hosts the Over 55s championships on 18th-19th September. Titles are claimed by Sheelagh Elmes (Portmarnock), Kathleen Shanley (Hillview), Nora Tierney (Prosperous), Christy Broe (Old County), James Thompson (Lucan) and John Sweeney (St. Bridgets).

Brenda Purcell and Paul Dillon survive an extraordinarily tight finish to the National Mixed Foursomes at Lucan on September 26th. The Lucan pair's +11 offering gave them the Sean Coyne trophy on the last three holes from Mary Sherry and Paddy Dunne (St. Bridgets).

It's the inaugural year of the National Schools tournament. St. Josephs, Rochfortbridge post 295 at Tullamore on November 3rd to head St. Josephs, Drogheda by 11 strokes.

2011

Riverdale get the season underway on May 8th with a three stroke triumph in the National Scramble over the Erry and Tullamore courses. Holders Cunnigar are runners-up.

Margaret Hogan (Tullamore) wins one of the longest-ever National Ladies Matchplay Finals. Margaret edges out Tara Dillon (St. Bridgets) on the 41st green at Collinstown on June 6th to take the title for the fourth time. Deerpark's Damien Fleming is a comprehensive winner over Gents' holder Chris Scannell in the decider.

In the National Mixed Team Event Final at Cunnigar on June 12th, Cunnigar (Martin Hayes, Lorraine Troy, Paddy Noonan, Mary O'Neill) score 158 points to finish one ahead of Fermoy.

A flawless performance on July 10th wins the National Ladies Strokeplay crown for Chrissie Byrne. The St. Bridget's player cards three scores in the 40s around Ringcommons to score 139 and beat her sister Marian by seven shots. Christina Carroll (Seapoint) dominates the Junior Championship with 172 and the Intermediate Champion is Pauline Balfe of Old County on 161.

A closing 42 at Douglas on July 24th gives Anthony O'Loughlin (Claycastle) a runaway victory in the National Gent's Strokeplay Championship. Anthony's 54 hole tally of 132 is eight ahead of

Loughlinstown's John Ross Crangle. Colin O'Sullivan (Douglas) shoots 103 to win the junior title while brilliant second and third rounds secure the intermediate crown for Shane Murphy (Pfizer) with 148.

Claire Keatinge's second of two National Juvenile Girls championships arrives at Deerpark on August 20th. The Old County player shoots 109 to win comfortably from Michelle Flynn (Fermoy). Creagh Courtney of the home club returns a 97 to secure the boys' title by a single stroke from defending champion Shane Redmond.

Dublin (Aaron Daly, Fintan O'Connor, Sean Gallagher, Barry Hendrick, Simon Lenihan and Conor Gorey) enjoy a one shot winning margin in the Juvenile Inter-County Championship at Deerpark. The Dubs return 411 to the Kingdom boys' 412.

The Inter-County Championships are played in Portmarnock on a mixed weekend of September weather. Dublin ladies (Geraldine Ward, Linda Thomson, Maree O'Toole, Sheelagh Elmes, Siobhan Keely and Helen Greagsby) shoot 441 for a six shot win over Kildare. Cork Gents (John Walsh, Bryan Delaney, Anthony O'Loughlin, Paudie O'Sullivan, Frank Dineen and Ray Murphy) retain their title by shooting 391 to Meath's 404.

Sheelagh Elmes retains her National Ladies O-55 Senior grade Strokeplay Championship at Cement, on 17th September 2011. The other winners are Kathleen Grendon (Rathfeigh) Breda O'Donnell (Cunnigar), Johnny Campbell (Cement), Dan Kiely (Kilmichael) and Joseph O'Riordan (Bruff).

Ailish and David Sexton of the host club win the National Mixed Foursomes with a fine score of 16up at Fermoy on September 25th. Lauren Pyke & Gary Pyke (Tullamore) are runners-up with +14.

It's a Cork 1-2 at the National Schools Final in Hillview on 25 October. Coláiste an Chraoibhín return 294 to beat Coláiste Críost Rí by nine strokes.

2012

To Inniscarra on May 13th for a National Mixed Team Event final, which is won by a home club quartet (John Buckley, Eileen Hennessy, Noel Hennessy, Nell Honohan) by eight strokes from runners-up Cunnigar.

June 4th 2012 sees the National Matchplay championship finals at an unseasonably cold Claycastle. It's a second title in three years for Chrissie Byrne (St. Bridget's). Chrissie is a 5&4 winner over the gallant Eleanor Walsh (Fermoy). An all-Cork Gents final results in a one hole win for Kevin McCarthy (Rocklodge) over Eoin Walsh (Collins).

Margaret Hogan (Tullamore) celebrates her fifth National Ladies Strokeplay Championship at Ierne on July 22nd. Margaret's 150 is four ahead of Tara Dillon. Left-hander Bridget Shelley from Lakeside wins the Intermediate Championship on 167. Former Union Secretary Peg Smith is a contender in the junior championship but the eventual champion is Fermoy's Ailish Sexton on 184.

RGSC hosts the Gents Strokeplay Championships on July 28th/29th. Jonathan Goodall (Tralee) heads a top-class field to clinch the senior title. His 137 is just a stroke clear of runner-up, Damien Fleming (Deerpark). Drimoleague's David O'Mahony is Junior Champion on 153 while Daniel Clinton adds Intermediate laurels to his 2010 Junior win with 152.

Kerry, inspired by Conor McCarthy's 47 and a mighty 46 from Jason O'Brien, shoot 396 to thwart Cork by three shots in the Juvenile Inter-County championship at St. Bridget's on August 19th. McCarthy and O'Brien's Kingdom teammates are: Jason O'Sullivan, Jason Brosnan, Creagh Courtney and St. John Kelliher. The previous day, Shane Redmond (Channonrock) wins a second boys' championship, helped in no small measure by a second round 44. Shane's 94 is one ahead of Luke Heeney (Bellewstown). Tullamore's Amy Galvin clinches a first of two Girls' Championships, foiling Claire Keatinge of a second successive title, 104 to 106.

We all travel to the sunny south-east for the Inter-County Championship at St. Patrick's on the weekend of 8th/9th September. Cork (Ann Daly, Vera McCarthy, Valerie O'Leary, Sharon Bowes, Eleanor Walsh, Siobhan Scannell) emerge from a halfway tie in the Ladies Inter-County to pip Kildare by two, 460 to 462. After an immense battle for the Gents Inter-County, nine-in-a-row champions Cork are dethroned, foiled 404 to 405 by an outstanding home county performance. Martin O'Neill, Shane Redmond, Conor Murphy, Kevin Doyle, William Hudson and Paul Tobin are the local heroes.



The 2012 Inter Counties from St. Patrick's.

It's an autumn day on the links at Seapoint for the Mixed Foursomes final on September 23rd. Locals Concepta Maddick and Gerry Rock team-up to take the title by two shots from the Conneelys of Trim, Margaret and Michael, +14 to +12.

Sheelagh Elmes completes a Ladies Senior grade treble at Collins on October 6th and the other National O-55 Strokeplay champions are Mary Sherry (St. Bridget's), Margaret Forde (Riverdale), Paddy Kelly (Loughlinstown), Weeshie Murphy (Pfizer) and Finbarr Looney (Collins).

St. Mary's Diocesan, Drogheda win the All Ireland Schools' Tournament at St. Bridget's on 26th October. Their total of 300 is 12 ahead of Rochfortbridge academy, St. Josephs.

At the National Scramble Final at Navan and Castletown on October 27/28, Charleville (Pat Tynan, Charlie McCarthy and Brian Lenihan) score 152, which is 2 2/3 better than runners-up Cunnigar.

2013

Ferbane (Denis Carter, Thomas Murphy and Eileen Guerin) score 65 in the PJ Bell National Mixed Team Event Final at Douglas on May 12th and finish just ahead of a joint Douglas/Ballinlough combination.

Ray Murphy reaches his seventh National Matchplay final at Lucan on June 3rd and beats Sean Goggin (Cement) 1up. Geraldine Ward wins another National Ladies Matchplay title when she defeats Marian Byrne (St. Bridget's) by 2&1.

The National Ladies Strokeplay Championships are played in bright sunshine at Navan on July 20th/21st. Chrissie Byrne (St. Bridget's) is again a runaway winner as the Kildare virtuoso returns 143 to Geraldine Ward's 155. The Junior Cham-

pionship is also won in a canter by Lauren Pyke of Tullamore on 175. One of the titles stays in Co. Meath as Carol O'Brien (Gaeil Colmcille) shoots 167 to win the Intermediate grade.

Just a week later, the Gent's Strokeplay Championships are decided at Rocklodge. Ray Murphy's three round tally of 133 ends up four shots ahead of Donal Duggan (St. Annes). A player destined to go on to golfing stardom, Brendan Lawlor (Channonrock), bounces into prominence with a win on 96 in the rain-shortened Intermediate Championship. Deerpark's Conor McCarthy is the Junior Champion with 95.

Another star is born at Pfizer on August 17th when Una Brosnan (Claycastle) returns a record 98 to win the Girls Strokeplay Championship by 5 strokes from holder Amy Galvin (Tullamore). Deerpark's Conor McCarthy beats Edward Walsh in a nine hole play-off for the Boys' Championship after a tie on 99. In a thrilling finish to the Juvenile Inter-County Championship, Cork (Brian O'Neill, Adam Bulman, Edward Walsh, Ryan Walsh, Charlie Morrissey and Anthony Sweeney) shoot 415 at Pfizer on August 18th to win by one stroke from Kerry.

In the National Scramble at Tralee and Castleisland, on August 24th/25th, Riverdale (Seamus Gleeson, Liam Burke and Margaret Forde) return 154 1/3 to win by one from Tralee.

Martha O'Brien inspires Tipperary to victory in the Ladies Inter-County Championship at Hillview on 8th September. Martha scores 45 in singles and is ably assisted by Bridget Shelley, Mary Quinn, Margaret Courtney, Shula McCarthy and Breda Lonergan. Tipperary's team total of 586 is four ahead of Kildare. Stephen Shoer and James Cleary team-up for a brilliant 42 for the Premier County in the Gent's Inter-County Championship while Anthony Culhane delivers an inspirational 90. That doesn't bother Cork (John Walsh, Sean Doolan RIP Kieran Dunscombe, Chris Scannell, Donal Duggan and Ray Murphy). The Rebel County's tally of 771 gives them eleven in hand over runners-up Tipperary.

As his beloved Dubs win the All Ireland under Jim Gavin, a typically flamboyant performance by Anthony Malone sees the Lucan legend clinch the National O-55 Senior Grade Strokeplay Championship in a play-off with Patsy Reamsbottom (Ferbane) at Erry on September 22nd 2013. Mairead O'Toole (Poulaphuca), Mary Sherry (St. Bridget's), Margaret

Clear (Riverdale), John Carton (Kilbeggan) and Fergus Handy (Erry) are also crowned Champions that weekend.

Mary Murphy & Damien Fleming (Deerpark) score +11 at Lakewood on September 29th to win the 2013 National Mixed Foursomes by a single stroke from Valerie O'Leary & David O'Leary (Lakewood).

In the National Schools Competition at Lakeside on October 25th, Davis College Mallow enjoy a 12 stroke victory over Colaiste an Chraoibhín, Fermoy.

Niall Reynolds' brainchild, the National Inter-Club tournament, sees the light of day for the first time. St. Anne's beat Loughlinstown/Old County 7-2 in the senior final at Bruff on October 26th. St. Anne's complete the Gents' double with an Inter/Junior victory over Deerpark while Riverdale overcome Cunnigar 4-2 in the Ladies decider.

2014

The 2014 PJ Bell National Mixed Team on April 27th provides a very exciting finish at Douglas as it came down to the second and third last teams in to decide the victors. Cunnigar (Paddy Noonan, Jacinta O'Mahony and Lorraine Troy) emerge victorious on a total of 64 1/3, just edging out a joint Douglas/Ballinlough trio.

The National Ladies and Gents Matchplay Championships are played at Parteen over the June Bank Holiday weekend (June 1st–3rd 2014). Breda Lonergan takes her first ever National Matchplay title with an extra-time Ladies final win over Tara Dillon (St Bridgets). John Walsh (Collins) takes the Gents Matchplay by 5&3 in the final over Deerpark's Damien Fleming.

The Ladies Strokeplay at Fermoy on 20 July (held as Rory McIlroy triumphs in The Open at Hoylake) is a triumph for Geraldine Ward (Portmarnock) but brings further heartache for Tara Dillon. Ger and Tara both score 144 in regulation and are still tied after a nine holes play-off. Ger eventually prevails on the first sudden death hole. A flawless 160 secures the Intermediate title for Ryston player, Mary Donnelly. Sarah O'Neill (Collins) takes Junior laurels with 169.

Stackallen presents a testing venue for the National Gents Strokeplay a week later. One of the pars of the decade at the 54th hole means Liam O'Donovan regains the senior crown he previ-

ously won in 2002. The Bruff man's 143 leaves him one clear of runner-up John Walsh (Collins). Alan Bennis (Parteen) wins the Junior Championship with 151. Owen Farrell (Trim) beats Creagh Courtney (Deerpark) in a play-off for the Intermediate Championship after a tie on 153.

Amy Galvin (Tullamore) signs off her juvenile career with a second win in the Girls' Strokeplay. Amy shoots 116 at Navan on August 23rd to win by six from Niamh Byrne (Collins). Raffeen Creek's Charlie Morrissey takes the Boys Championship with 97, one ahead of Ciaran Gegan (Portmarnock). Cork (led by newly-crowned Champion Morrissey, and also including Cian Morrison, Edward Walsh, Conor Irwin, David Howard and Anthony McSweeney) shoot 405 for a 20 shot victory over Dublin in the Juvenile Inter-County championship at Navan on August 24th.

The Inter-County championships go to Tullamore on 6th-7th September 2014. Kildare (Mairead O'Toole, Marian Byrne, Margaret Keogh, Chrissie Byrne, Mary Donnelly, Tara Dillon) total 565 to head Dublin by 5 shots. Dublin gents appear to have completed a massive comeback but a phenomenal finish by Cork (John Walsh, Bryan Delaney, Kieran Dunscombe, John Cahill, Frank Dineen and Ray Murphy) sees the Leesiders just getting over the line in front, 745 to 746. The reintroduced B Division results in a win for Clare.



The 2014 Inter Counties at Tullamore.

A classic Margaret Hogan performance at Gaeil Colmcille on September 20th sees the Tullamore player deliver the all-time low scoring aggregate in the National Ladies O-55 senior grade Strokeplay championship. Also top of the Over 55s tree are Betty Cody (Loughlinstown), Margaret Clear (Riverdale), William Sheridan (Bellewstown),

William McNally (Stackallen) and Gerard Walsh (Cement).

Kilkenny win the All Ireland hurling final replay on September 27th but in the All Ireland Pitch & Putt Inter-Clubs Finals at Tullamore, St. Annes retain the senior crown with a 7-2 win over a Fermoy/Collins combination. St. Patrick's beat Collinstown 7-2 as well to claim the Inter/Junior title while Lakeside's Ladies pip Riverdale in tie holes after a hugely exciting battle.

Catherine McCreevy (Navan) & William Sheridan (Bellewstown) are National Mixed Foursomes winners with +11 at Ringcommons on September 28th. Runners-up spot is filled by Gemma McCarthy & Michael Kennedy (Hillview) on +8.

Cork dominance of the National Schools Competition continues at Ryston on October 24th as Carrigaline Community School top the leaderboard on 319, just two clear of Coláiste Críost Rí.

2015

The P.J. Bell National Mixed Team Event final is played at E.S.B. on May 9th. Ferbane (Geraldine Ryan, Sean Robinson, Mary McKenna) shoot 66.66 to win from runners-up Laytown.

John Walsh clinches the National Matchplay for the third time. In the final at Lakeside on 1st June 2015, Walsh grinds out a 1up victory over ESB's Bryan Delaney while Chrissie Byrne (St Bridgets) secures yet another national title when she beats good friend Tara Dillon by 5&3.

There is no denying Geraldine Ward in the National Ladies Strokeplay championships at Ringcommons on 18th/19th July. Ger signs for 148 to defeat Portmarnock club-mate Sheelagh Elmes by five shots in senior. Lakeside's Mary Quinn wins the intermediate Championship on 172 while 179 secures the Junior title for Ann Duffy, to the delight of her many fellow Ringcommons members in the gallery.

John Walsh completes the double at the National Gents Strokeplay Championship in Cunnigar on July 25th-26th. The Collins record-breaker shoots 147 for 54 holes to clinch the senior championship by four shots from John Ross Crangle (Loughlinstown), who emerges from a three way tie for second place with a final round 47. Damian Creevey from Lucan returns 151 to become the new Intermediate Champion while the Junior Championship is decided in a play-off. There is

much local rejoicing as Paul O'Riordan (Cunnigar) fires a 23 in that play-off to outlast Richard Burke (Granard).

Dublin (Ross O'Reilly, Conor O'Reilly, Ciaran Lynch, Ciaran Cregan, Craig Hennessy and Lennon Blake) return to the Juvenile Inter-County Championship summit on August. The Dublin total of 417 at Tipperary Hills is four ahead of Cork's 421. The previous day, Aoife Mahon (Lucan) wins the Girls Strokeplay Championship with 123. She finishes eleven ahead of runner-up Sive Shelley (Lakeside). Ryan Towler shoots 100 to clinch the Boys' Championship by one shot from Deerpark's Sean Courtney.



Action from the 2015 Inter Counties.

Cork make the most of home advantage to record an Inter-County double as apocalyptic rain hits Douglas on September 12th/13th. The Leeside Ladies' (Linda O'Donovan, Vera McCarthy Una Brosnan, Eleanor Walsh, Mary Murray and Sarah Byrne) total of 310 is three clear of Kildare. John Walsh, Bryan Delaney, Kieran Dunscombe, John Cahill, Daniel Keohane and Ray Murphy record a weather-affected team total of 378. That's 18 better than Louth. Waterford win Division B.

Old County hosts the Over 55s Strokeplay Championships on a lovely September weekend. Anthony Malone (Lucan) wins the Gents' senior grade for a second time in three stagings as Anto Carroll (Erin's Isle), Aidan Whelan (Ryston), Ger Holland (RGSC), Agnes Redmond (Old County) and Catherine Fox (Glenville) also excel.

On October 4th at Collins, the St Stephen's mother and son pair of Mary and Alan Daly secure the National Mixed Foursomes. Their score of +15 is three shots ahead of Tony Blake and Lisa O'Connor (Tralee).

New inter-club champions emerge at Tramore on October 10th. St. Patrick's are 6-3 senior winners over Bruff. It's also 6-3 in inter/junior as Collinstown defeat Bagenalstown.

2016

May 7th sees the season open with the PJ Bell National Mixed Team Event Scramble at Lakeside. A home club trio are in the shake-up but lose out by less than a couple of shots to Cunnigar (Paul O'Riordan, Michael Aherne and Michelle O'Connell) who produce a remarkable 60 nett.

In the battle of the young guns at Seapoint on June 6th, Shane Murphy (Raffeen Creek) beats Dayle Donohoe (St. Patrick's) by 4&3 in the Gent's National Matchplay final. Geraldine Ward returns to the scene of one of her previous National Ladies Matchplay wins to clinch her 10th title. Ger has an 8&6 final win over Fermoy's Eleanor Walsh.

William Sheridan (Bellewstown) scores 90 at Fermoy on 17th July to win the All Ireland Senior Grade (Over 55) Strokeplay Championship. Other champions on the weekend are Charlie Egan (Erin's Isle), Martin Verbeek (Lough Owel), Breda Lonergan (Tipperary Hills), Mary Murray (Rocklodge) and Dina Dillon (St. Bridget's).

Just a week after her Fermoy heroics, Breda Lonergan (Tipperary Hills) wins another national title by claiming the National Ladies Strokeplay Championship at the St. Stephens course in Cork. Breda's 153 is three in front of Marian Byrne (St Bridgets) whose final round 51 is best of a four-way tie on 156. St. Stephen's own Mairead Manning wins the Junior Championship with a 54 hole tally of 177. The Intermediate Championship goes to Mary Murray (Rocklodge), who is also celebrating a second national title within a fortnight, on 174.

Liam O'Donovan (Bruff) wins the 2016 National Strokeplay championship (and his third overall) at Tullamore on 31st July. Liam's all-time record 54 hole tally of 130 is seven ahead of Darren O'Connell (Tullamore). Ashley Lowry (Tullamore) shoots 151 to win the junior title while the intermediate crown goes to Dayle Donohoe of St. Patrick's on 141.

On August 20th at Royal Meath, Evan Carry (Castletown) wins the National Juvenile Strokeplay Championship. Evan's reign begins as his

96 proves five better than Deerpark's Lorcan Martin. In the Girls' Strokeplay championship, Aoife Mahon (Lucan) returns 121 to edge out Katie Rose Heeney (Bellewstown) by three strokes. The following day, it's a win for Cork in the Juvenile Inter-County Championship at Royal Meath. Kieran Mills and Iain Aherne jointly top-score for Cork and are joined by Eoin Keating, Conor Bowdren, Glenn Towler and Cian Murphy. Cork's 398 is 19 ahead of runners-up Kerry.

The Inter-County championships are played in RGSC on the weekend of September 10th-11th. Dublin Ladies (Geraldine Ward, Ger Holland, Siobhan Keely, Glenda Hoey, Sheelagh Elmes and Maree O'Toole) shoot 571 for an eleven shot win over Kildare. Dublin gents (Keith Redmond, Junior Smith, Gary Healy, John Ross Crangle, Tom O'Reilly and Stephen Murray) complete a metropolitan double on capital soil. The Dubs' total of 782 is three clear of runners-up Louth. Waterford annex Division B honours once more. Chrissie Byrne and Derek O'Toole (St. Bridget's) win the National Mixed Foursomes with a fine score of 17up at Riverdale on 17 September. Margaret and Dean Courtney of Riverdale are runners-up with 15 up.

The juveniles are back at Royal Meath for the inaugural Juvenile Matchplay Championships on October 1st-2nd. In the Boys Final, Glenn Towler (St. Anne's) beats Kieran Mills (Collins) 3&2, while Katie Rose Heeney (Bellewstown) earns a decisive Girls' final win over Katelyn Farrell (The Acres).

Fermoy defeat St. Annes 6-3 in the National Senior Inter-Club Final at St. Bridget's on October 15th while Parteen overcome Deerpark 6.5-2.5 in the Inter/Junior showdown. In the Ladies Inter-Club Final at Bagenalstown on October 29th, St Bridgets beat Lakeside 4.5-1.5.

2017

The National Schools' Tournament switches to its new date in May. The run of Cork success continues. Davis College, Mallow retain their title on 337, just a single stroke clear of Douglas Community School.

Pitch & Putt aficionados converge on Tipperary Hills for the National Matchplay finals on 3rd-5th June. Geraldine Ward (Portmarnock) meets Chrissie Byrne (Ryston) for the third time. Victory goes to the Portmarnock legend by 2&1. In the Gents' Final, John Ross Crangle (Loughlinstown) is a 3&2 winner over Ray Mur-

phy (St. Annes).

On July 1st/2nd, Geraldine Ward completes another national double by scoring 152 at Cement to win the Ladies Strokeplay championship. Ger's margin is two from Chrissie Byrne (Ryston). Cathy Richardson (Bellewstown) takes the Intermediate Cup with 161 while 173 secures the Junior award for Riverdale's Margaret Forde. Hillview hosts the Gents Strokeplay Championships on the weekend of July 15th/16th. A rejuvenated Mark Millar (Cement) cards an impressive 133 to beat Stephen Shoer (Lakeside) by a single shot in the senior event. Two young Cork club members triumph in the other grades. Keith Power (Fermoy) is Junior Champion on 149 while Conor Irwin (Douglas) takes Intermediate honours with 147.

Seanie Bellew (Castletown) beats Iain Aherne (Ballinlough) at the 38th in an epic National U-16 Matchplay Championship final at St. Stephen's on July 30th. Aaron Roche of the local club wins the Plate event with a 3&2 verdict over Adam Kelly (Deerpark).

Up north on the same weekend, six championships are decided at Cloghogue where the local club enjoy much success. Seapoint's Pat Greene delivers a tour de force to win the National O-55 Senior Grade Strokeplay championship on 94 while Ronan Hollywood (Cloghogue), Matt McArdle (Cloghogue), Kathleen Geraghty (Skryne), Maree O'Toole (Shandon) and Nora O'Hare (Cloghogue) dominate their respective grades.

Evan Carry (Castletown) retains the National Juvenile Strokeplay Championship when his 98 around Erry gives him a five stroke cushion over local boy Dominic Scully. Another new Championship is added to the calendar as Conor Irwin (Douglas) compiles matching 48s to be crowned the first-ever National U20 Strokeplay Champion, ahead of Old County's Ross O'Reilly. Cork are six stroke winners over Kerry in the following day's U16 Inter-County Championship at Erry. Aaron Roche, Glenn Towler, Liam McGrath, Cian Murphy, Dylan Seymour and Iain Aherne record a team total of 409.

Lucan is the venue for the 2017 Mixed Foursomes final on August 26th and home pairs dominate. Marie O'Toole and Ted Flynn take the title by a shot from club colleagues Tracey Smith and Anthony Malone, +13 to +12.

As Hurricane Irma hits Florida, Ryston hosts the Inter-County championship on the weekend of

10th-11th September. The Ladies sees the best performance since the format change as the home county return to the pinnacle for the first time since 2014. Margaret Keogh, Chrissie Byrne, Mairead O'Toole, Marian Courtney, Mary Donnelly and Tara Dillon produce a team total of 557 and finish 33 ahead of runners-up, Dublin. The same day, Cork win their seventh Gents' Inter-County title of the decade. Bryan Delaney and Declan Freeman lead the way on 94 and are nobly supported by John Cahill, Ray Murphy, Darren Collins and Frank Dineen. The Leaside total of 765 is five clear of Dublin. Waterford retain Division B.

Fermoy beat Tipperary Hills 6-3 in the National Senior Inter-Club Finals at Hillview on October 14th. It's a double for Fermoy as the North Cork outfit see off Riverdale 7.5-1.5 in the handicap event. Lakeside defeat St. Bridget's 3.5-2.5 in the Ladies Inter-Club Final at Tullamore on October 30th.

2018

In the All Ireland Schools Competition at Fermoy on 27 April, St. Francis College, Rochestown score 304 to defeat St. Brendan's College, Killarney by 15 strokes.



Action from 2018 schools competition at Fermoy.

As the PPUI live streams the action for the first time, Bryan Delaney (Fermoy) beats Ray Murphy (St. Annes) in the National Matchplay final at Tullamore on June 4th by a margin of 1up. Seeking to extend her haul of ladies titles, Geraldine Ward (Portmarnock) wins an absorbing battle against Chrissie Byrne (Ryston) with a three foot par putt on the home green. In the new Ladies Nett Cup Final, Elaine Quinn (Lakeside) beats local player Annie Galvin by 11&9.

The National Ladies Strokeplay championships are played at Collins on July 1st. Heatwave conditions apply for the return to a 36 hole format. Geraldine Ward (Portmarnock) plays superbly for a seven under par aggregate of 101 and a one shot margin over Chrissie Byrne (Ryston). The Junior Championship is won by Phil Downey (Collins) on 118. Mairead Manning (St. Stephens) shoots 112 to clinch the Intermediate class.

A parched Glenville course is the venue for the Gent's Strokeplay Championships. Damien Fleming (Deerpark) produces a fine final round of 46 around the Kiltipper Road track on July 15th to win the senior championship for the first time. Damien's score of 144 beats John Ross Crangle (Loughlinstown) by one. Larkspur Park player Michael Kirby outlasts Michael Vaughan (Inniskeen) in a play-off for the intermediate championship after a tie on 161. Lucan's John Byrne is the junior champion with 174.

Mary Murray (Rocklodge) cards 107 at McDonagh on July 28th to capture the National Ladies O-55 Senior Grade Strokeplay Championship. Mary is joined on the winners' podium by Mairead O'Toole (Poulaphouca), Anne Sweeney (St. Bridget's), Frank Ryan (Athgarvan), Sean Minogue (Riverdale) and Christy Sweeney (St. Bridget's).

In the National Juvenile Matchplay Championships at Kilbeggan, on 28th/29th July 2018, Evan Carry (Castletown) beats Shea Fennell (Parteen) 8&7 while Jack Buckley (Collinstown) defeats Liam McGrath (Douglas) by 8&6 in the Plate Final.

Sophie Farnan (Skryne) returns an aggregate of 130 to win the Girls' Strokeplay championship at Fermoy on August 18th. Sophie prevails by four from another rising star, Eimear Ahern (Lucan). Castletown's Evan Carry retains the Boys' Championship (and becomes the second player ever to complete a three-in-a-row). After a 100 around Fermoy, Barry beats runner-up Jack Mullins (Kilbeggan) by a shot.

Two consistent rounds of 47 give Eoin Keating (Douglas) a couple to spare over Dylan Seymour (Fermoy) in the National U-20 Championship. Kerry (Cillian Courtney, Robbie Harnett, Jack McCarthy, Fintan Martin, Eoin O'Riordan-Looney and Erin Moloney) shoot 411 at Fermoy on August 19th to win by the U-16 Inter-County championship by three shots from Cork.

A superb 46 by Mairead O'Toole and Chrissie Byrne inspires Kildare to victory in the Ladies Inter-County championship at Deerpark on September 8th-9th. Elizabeth Smyth, Marian Courtney, Mary Donnelly and Tara Dillon are also part of the Lilywhites' latest title retention performance. Kildare's team total of 604 is seven ahead of Dublin. In the Gent's Inter-County Championship, Cork (John Cahill, John Walsh, Bryan Delaney, Eoin Keating Declan Freeman and Ray Murphy) run out 13 shot winners over Dublin, 779 to 792. Carlow capture Division B.

Lakeside hosts its latest national event on September 15th - the 2018 National Mixed Foursomes. Mairead Manning & Dave Towler (St. Stephen's) card +15 and win by one from Margaret Courtney and Dean Courtney (Riverdale).

At the National Inter-Club Finals in Royal Meath on October 26th, Lakeside beat Royal Meath 3.5-2.5 in the Ladies Final; Fermoy overcome Lakeside 5.5-3.5 in the Gents Scratch Final while the Nett decider results in a Gowran victory, by 6-3 over Riverdale.

2019

St. Munchins College win the National Schools Competition at McDonagh on May 17th. The Limerick academy score 316 to beat St. Francis College, Rochestown by six.

Mary Murray (Rocklodge) recovers from six down to defeat Chrissie Byrne (Ryston) 1up in a

cracking National Ladies Matchplay decider at Rocklodge on June 3rd. Damien Fleming (Deerpark) also retrieves a halfway deficit to win on the first extra hole of the Gents' showdown against Bryan Delaney (Bishopstown). In the 'Collins local derby' National Ladies Matchplay Nett Cup Final, Sarah O'Neill beats Patsy O'Donovan by 4&3.

A really tight finish lights up the National Ladies Strokeplay Championship at St. Bridget's on June 30th. Martha O'Brien (Lakeside) and Chrissie Byrne (Ryston) tie on 152 over 54 holes and are still deadlocked after a nine hole play-off. Martha edges home on the first sudden death hole. Bridget Shelley (Lakeside) takes intermediate laurels on 169 while 184 clinches the Junior crown for Adeline Revins (Kilbeggan).

An incredible second round of 40 sees JR Crangle take the National Strokeplay Championship by the scruff of the neck at Ryston on July 14th and the Loughlinstown star wins by four on 135 from Bryan Delaney (Bishopstown). Brian O'Flynn (Tipperary Hills) scores 151 to take the Intermediate Championship. Derek Delaney (Gowran) equals that return in winning the Junior grade.

Patsy Farrell (Bruff) finishes with an ace and a birdie to post 98 and win the All Ireland O-55 Senior Grade Strokeplay Championship at ESB on July 28th. John Tett (Raffeen Creek), Gerry Doyle (McDonagh), Margaret Hogan (Tullamore), Frances Ryan (Lakeside) and Margaret O'Donovan (Bruff) join the party in their



Tipperary Ladies winners of the 2019 Inter Counties held at Mc Donagh. (photo from Pat Tinsley)

respective grades.

Glenn Towler (St. Annes) wins his second National U16 Matchplay Championship with an 8&7 victory over Shea Fennell (Parteen) at Deerpark on 28th July. Eoin O'Riordan-Looney (Deerpark) defeats David Murray (Bishopstown) in the Plate Final.

Patrick Mitchell (St. Anne's) scores 97 at Glenville on Saturday August 24th to be crowned National Juvenile Strokeplay Champion by four strokes from Conor Mullins (Kilbeggan). In an exciting play-off for the Girls' Championship Sophie Farnan (Skryne) edges out Eimear Ahern (Lucan) after a tie on 122. David Horan is a popular local winner of the National U-20 Strokeplay Championship, at Glenville on Sunday August 25th. David's 100 sees him finish four clear of Evan Carry (Castletown).

A Kerry two-in-a-row in the National U-16 Inter-County Championship is complete at Glenville on Sunday August 25th. Cillian Courtney, Robbie Harnett, Jake Shine, Bobby McCarron, Eoin O'Riordan-Looney and Ryan Neeson power the Kingdom to a team total of 410, nineteen ahead of Dublin.

Dublin (Chris Gallagher, George McGreal, Jason Larkin, Paul Nolan, John Ross Crangle, Junior Smith) prove unstoppable in the Gents' Inter-County Championship at McDonagh on 7th/8th 2019. The Dublin aggregate of 739 is 10 clear of Louth.

When Martha O'Brien holes a tricky par putt on McDonagh's 18th green, Tipperary are declared winners of the Ladies Inter-County Championships on the sixth card. Breda White, Shula McCarthy, Michelle McCarthy, Gemma McCarthy and Mary Quinn combine with Martha for a team total of 590. Dublin finish as runners-up.

There's a fresh look to the National Scotch Foursomes at Bellewstown on Sunday September 15th. Paula Lynch (Oldcastle) & Kevin Carolan (Oldcastle) score 99 points to claim the overall Mixed prize while William Corry & Derick Seery (Bellewstown) secure the new Non-Mixed top spot on 98 points.

The National Inter-Clubs Finals are contested at Lakeside on October 19th. Fermoy beat Larkspur Park 6-3 in Gents' Senior Final to clock up a fourth successive win while in the Gents' Handicap Final, Riverdale also beat St. Patrick's 6-3.

At the new National Gents Graded Inter-County Championships in Tullamore on November 3rd, Cork beat Dublin by 5-4 in the Inter Final while the Junior Final results in a Tipperary win, by 5-4 as well over Westmeath.



Winners from the 2019 National Gents Strokeplay at Ryston.

Coaching & Development

By Shaun O'Donnell

My name is Shaun O'Donnell, I have taken up the role as the Coaching and Development Manager in recent months. I have completed my studies in UCD in Coaching Science in Sport and at IT Carlow in Sport Management and Coaching a number of years ago. I have previously spent time working in a similar sports role in the United States for Challenger Sports. I'm from Donegal and currently living in Ballinteer. My first involvement with Pitch and Putt was playing during the summer months with my Father in a course in Buncrana in Donegal, the course has unfortunately closed in recent years.

I have been getting to grips with the role over the last couple of months along with taking up a place on the Coach Developer course at University of Limerick, this course is aimed at developing new coaches across many different sports in the various National Governing Bodies (NGB). We will be holding coaching courses next year with dates to be confirmed in due course as well as hosting schools competitions and kids summer camps. We will also be introducing a new web-

site and handicap system in the coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of Pitch and Putt Ireland a Merry Christmas and a Happy new year.

Yours in sport,

Shaun O'Donnell

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BACKSPIN PRODUCTION TEAM

Jason O'Connor, John Manning and Shaun O'Donnell



(Continued from the first page) Also in this edition John pays tribute to Vincent Allen who recently stepped down from writing the popular Pitch & Putt column in the 'Evening Echo' newspaper in Cork and charts his involvement in the game stretching back to the 1960's. We wish both Vincent and his wife Phil well into the future.

Shaun also outlines some of his hopes for his role in the New Year in this edition. As our organisation enters its 60th year next year we face some significant challenges going into the new decade. These are challenges I believe we can overcome with the right mindset and hopefully we will end the decade with our sport in a stronger position. The change to 'Pitch & Putt Ireland' offers us some new chances to grow our game and they are chances I hope are taken by our various stakeholders.

In wishing you all happy reading over the festive season I encourage everyone to take a moment on Christmas Eve to remember our late Youth Officer Helen McMorrow on the first anniversary of

her death. It was tough for us all coming to terms with her absence from events during the past year as well as the death of our former Vice-President Liam Sherry back in February. Please keep both in your thoughts as we prepare for 2020.

Thanks once again to Shaun and John for their work on this edition.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

Jason O'Connor

Jason O'Connor

Communications & Press Officer

Pitch & Putt Ireland

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MAJOR UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

February 22nd - Annual Convention held at the Templemore Arms, Templemore at 10.30 am sharp.



The winners of the 2019 Inter Counties held at Mc Donagh. (photo from Pat Tinsley)