

BACKSPIN

Official E-Zine of the Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland
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PPUI

Issue Highlights:

- 2017 National Inter-Club
- 2017 Provincial Winners
- PPUI Launch Strategic Plan 2017—2021
- Plus More...

A Chara,

You are very welcome to this the last Backspin for 2017. This issue serves not as the definitive review of the year but more as a starting point to a number of items you will see over the coming weeks both on our website as well as our YouTube Channel. We hope that you enjoyed the videos with some of our National Champions from the year gone by when they were put up last November.

Delighted to say that we had the TV cameras again at a major event in 2017, that being the National Inter-County Championships in Ryston back in September. Will Downing and his company Irish Sports Network were the filming crew again and we await details of when it will be broadcast on TV but at present both the Gents A and Ladies footage which includes commentary from both Will and Darren Keogh is up on YouTube for viewing. Next week videos of interviews that were *(continued on last page...)*



PPUI National Competition Coordinator & Patron Myles McMorow, PPUI President Mervyn Cooney and former PPUI President & current Patron Eamonn Birchall pictured recently at the launch of the PPUI Strategic Plan 2017—2021

2017 National Inter Club

by **John Manning**

2017 Scratch Gents Champions Fermoy have now emulated the St Annes team of 2013 and 2014 by winning two National Senior Inter-Club titles in-a-row with their latest success in Hillview last October. The North Cork club have also matched the Shanakiel outfit by adding the 2017 National Handicap Inter-Club trophy to the senior tournament – a feat St. Annes achieved in the inaugural year of the Inter-Club events, back in 2013.

John Cahill played for the Collins/Fermoy amalgamated team (that came second in 2014) and was a leading figure on the 2016 and 2017 Fermoy senior Inter-Club winning sides. Joining Cahill as two-time Fermoy National Senior Inter-Club winners are reigning Munster Strokeplay champion Bryan Delaney, Declan Freeman, Daniel Keohane, David Sexton and

Conor Clancy. Just a month previously, Cahill, Freeman and Delaney had helped Cork to the Inter-County championship at Ryston.

St. Annes maintained their record of reaching the semi-final stages of every National Senior Inter-Club tournament. Their record in the last four is now W3 L2. Kieran Dunscombe, Frank Dineen, John O'Sullivan Ray Murphy, Tim Murphy Liam Myers and Darren Collins all hold two winners' gongs for St. Annes. Fermoy's 7.5 to 1.5 victory over Riverdale is a new record for a National Handicap Inter-Club tournament final. Jimmy Quinn won a National Handicap Inter-Club medal on the same Hillview course where he had finished National Intermediate Strokeplay runner-up, two shots behind Conor Irwin, three months before.

Jimmy was joined in the Fermoy team by



PPUI National Ladies Promotional day winners Betty Fox (The Acres), Ann Sweeney (St. Bridget's) and Frances Murphy (Kilshannig) which was held in McDonagh P&P Club, Kildare

Cork Intermediate Strokeplay 2017 winner Peter O'Donovan and by J.J. Quirke, who was third in the same championship. Jimmy Quinn and J.J. Quirke were also teammates on the Cork team that won the Munster Intermediate Inter-County championship at Castleisland. Deerpark appeared in their third National Handicap Inter-Club semi-final. Their loss to Riverdale was the Killarney club's first loss at the semi-final stage. Fermoy become the third club after St. Anne's and St. Patrick's to win both the National Gent's Senior and the National Gent's Handicap Inter-Club.

Lakeside's outstanding record in the National Ladies Inter-Club continued. The Templemore team has now recorded two wins and one runners-up placing. The Templemore club reversed the result of their 2016 National Ladies Inter-Club final against St. Bridget's. It's the first

time the same two teams have met in successive Inter-club finals. Bridget Shelley, Helen McMorror, Elaine Quinn, Josie McCormack and Mary Quinn have been part of the 2014 and 2017 winning Lakeside teams and were also on board the squad that lost to St. Bridget's in the 2016 decider. Elaine Quinn was a Munster Junior Inter-County winner with Tipperary in 2017.

Munster clubs have won 10 of the 14 National Inter-Club tournaments played since 2014 (the Ladies event was not held in 2015). All three titles were claimed by Munster clubs in 2017 - for the first time since 2013 when Riverdale ladies triumphed alongside the St. Annes Gents double. Riverdale are now the first club to be runners-up in the National Handicap Inter-Club and in the National Ladies Inter-Club.



Pictured with PPUI President, Mervyn Cooney are the Kildare team, winners of the PPUI National Ladies Inter County Championship

PPUI Launch Strategic Plan 2017—2021

By Jason O'Connor & Paul Hayes

The PPUI recently launched its Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2021 in the presence of former Presidents, Patrons, NEC Officers, County/Regional Board officials and Glenville Pitch & Putt Club members at the Kiltipper Road course in Dublin.

The Plan which has been developed over the course of the last year under the Chairmanship of former NEC and FIPPA/EPPA Officer John Manning was formally unveiled, with John and PPUI President Mervyn Cooney amongst those to speak at the event. Formally introducing the Plan and describing himself as a keen observer of the game, John Manning said it had been a privilege and an honour to be asked to work with the Sub-Committee which included Hon Secretary Michael Murphy, National Coaching & Development Manager Paul Hayes, Munster/Connacht Co-Ordinator Mark Keohane along with Darren Keogh (Ryston)

and Ger Holland (RGSC).

Eight Meetings were held by the Group who also interacted through e-mail as the Chairman felt that a 'happy medium' had been struck in the objectives set out in this Strategic Plan and that it was not too ambitious or too conservative in its scope, like previous plans may have been. He said that it was focussed on six key pillars with the success of the plan depending on their delivery. PPUI President Mervyn Cooney meanwhile said it was appropriate that the Plan was formally unveiled in Glenville a year short of the club hosting the 2018 National Gents Strokeplay on its 70th anniversary. He complimented the time and energy that had been spent by the Sub-Committee on the Plan in the past year and felt that the needs of PPUI members are sufficiently addressed in the Plan. Sport Ireland CEO John Treacy, in his foreword for the Plan complemented the PPUI on the



Pictured at the recent launch of the PPUI Strategic Plan 2017—2021 in Glenville P&P Club are John Carr (Gents Captain Glenville), PPUI President Mervyn Cooney, Pat Greene (Seapoint & LDM Regional Board) and Eileen Cousins (Lady Captain Glenville).



Pictured alongside PPUI President Mervyn are Chrissie Byrne (Kildare), Declan Freeman (Cork) and Ian Flynn (Waterford) at the 2017 National Inter County Championships

ambitious targets laid out in the document and the considerable progress made since the publication of the organisations first Strategic Plan in 2001. He also felt encouraged by the prominence of good governance within the plan as the PPUI embark on the journey to be complaint with the Voluntary Code of Governance.

Along with Governance, the Plan also has other key Strategic Pillars that it focuses on. The section on Club Development highlights areas where the PPUI can provide support to affiliated clubs in terms of officer training, increase standards of their course, volunteer support and much more. The Strategic Pillar of Membership / Participation aims to provide actions that will promote our sport through club led programmes in order to attract new people to the sport and to ensure continued participation. The PPUI aim to continue to provide opportunities for all members to compete at various levels and the Championships / Competition Pillar outlines key objectives in achieving this goal. The area of Coaching / Training is be-

coming ever important and the PPUI recognise the need to provide more support in this area. The final Pillar is in relation to Marketing / Communication where the PPUI seek to improve on its communication with relevant stakeholders and to ensure a sponsorship strategy is in place that supports the PPUI's goals.

The PPUI President said that it was a Strategic Plan that focussed on the competitive aspect of the game and felt that its success would depend on the resources and effort the Union were willing to put into it. Although they were not able to attend in person both local TD and Minister of State for Children Katherine Zappone as well as Minister of State for Sport Brendan Griffin wished the PPUI every success with the implementation of the Plan.

The PPUI Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021 is available to download from the PPUI website and a hard copy will be posted to all clubs and county boards in the coming weeks.

2017 Munster Matchplay Winner Profiles

By Jason O'Connor

Stephen Shoer- Senior Gents

A GREAT year for the new Lakeside member, as the former National Intermediate Strokeplay Champion came within a whisker of being National Senior Strokeplay Champion in Hillview back in July, but he had game as September entered into October to win the Munster Matchplay and overcome a massive local challenge in Bruff in the process.

He had two big wins to begin his charge, 8&7 to start off with over Listowel's Declan McCarron while he ensured he would be involved on Sunday with a 6&4 victory over Michael Darcy from the host club. Sunday's matches to reach the decider were a bit tighter, 3&1 over another Tipperary player in James Ryan (Tipperary Hills) before he needed to go to the last hole with Fermoy's John Cahill and win 1up before securing his place in the Final.

World Strokeplay Champion and Bruff native

Liam O'Donovan looked a daunting prospect on home turf but he was ahead for most of proceedings, turning a 1up lead with nine holes left into a deserved 4&3 success as a nomination for a local sports award in Tipperary is a fitting recognition of his year in general.

John Farrell- Intermediate Gents

CONTINUING his rise up the ranks after being a Junior player previously, John Farrell had plenty to be proud of in registering a success on home turf. A 4&2 victory over Raffeen Creek's Bryan Murphy got his weekend underway before his second game on Saturday saw him win a local derby with William O'Donovan quite well by 8&6 in the finish.

Come Sunday morning he would start off with another win at his 30th hole, this time by 7&6 over JJ Quirke of Fermoy as his next opponent in the Semi-Finals would be Clint O'Keeffe. John gave a strong indication of his prowess in win-



Jason O'Regan & Declan McCarron (Kerry) with Kieran Earls & Conor Fahy (Limerick) at the PPUI National Inter County Championships held at Ryston P&P Club, Newbridge.



Mary Murray (Rocklodge) and Patsy O'Donovan (Collins), finalists in the Munster Ladies Matchplay, Intermediate Grade which Mary won 8&7

ning by 10&9 to enter the Intermediate decider quite convincingly.

Paul Malone of Tipperary Hills would be his opponent in Sunday afternoon's Final and John started off on the back foot trailing by 3 down after 9 holes but he turned matters around to lead by 2up after 27 holes. With the conclusion in sight, John moved on to a 5&4 win to be the only local winner of the weekend at Bruff.

Dom Kavanagh- Junior Gents

THE only Gent to have the distinction of winning his title over two courses, Dom Kavanagh has been a regular figure travelling around Munster for various competitions and his weekend began in Parteen on Saturday with three matches to earn his place in the Semi-Finals.

A 6&5 victory over Colm O'Connor was a good start before he had the same score to spare in winning over club-mate Joe Mulvihill in

the Second Round. His Quarter-Final match to secure a place in the second day was a much tougher affair as he needed to go to the last hole to defeat Bruff member PJ Ryan 1up and be on the road again for a second day. He had a 5&4 victory over Parteen's Brian Mason to go through to the decider where his opponent would be Hillview's Adrian Anglim, a player who had needed to go the 43rd hole the previous day in Parteen to secure his place in the Semi-Finals.

Dom took an early 2up lead, one that became 4up after 27 holes and he went on to win by 5&4 like the score in the Intermediate decider.

Mary Murray- Inter Ladies

MAYBE not as stellar as her year in 2016 but Mary Murray found success at the end of the year in the Ladies Intermediate grade by winning another provincial title. Her campaign began with a 3&2 win over fellow Cork player Sarah



PPUI President Mervyn Cooney pictured with 2017 PPUI Gents National Inter County winning team, Cork.

O'Neill of Collins while she followed up with a 5&4 success over another Cork player in club-mate Paula Nolan in Parteen to ensure she would be travelling from Parteen to Bruff on the second day.

The Semi-Finals on Sunday saw her record a 6&5 win over Lorraine Troy of Cunnigar to reach the decider where she would face her third Cork opponent of the weekend in Patsy O'Donovan of Collins who had to go to sudden death to defeat Munster Strokeplay winner Pauline Lucey in the other Semi-Final.

Mary took control of the match early on leading by 6up after 9 holes before she went on to record an 8&7 success to become both a Munster Strokeplay and Matchplay Champion at Intermediate level in the space of 16 months.

Kitty Murphy- Junior Ladies

CLARE Pitch & Putt successes have been rare

over recent times, but it was very welcome on the weekend of October 1st to see a title go the Banner County's way as Cill Na Mona's Kitty Murphy claimed the Munster Junior Ladies Matchplay title for 2017.

Her campaign began at the Quarter-Final stage on Saturday in Parteen where she had too much for Tralee's Charlotte Blake in winning by 11&10 as she would travel to Bruff the following day to take on Cunnigar's Mary Walsh in the Semi-Final. A tight encounter went all the way to the last hole with a win for Kitty on the 36th giving her a match win of 2up.

Riverdale's Margaret Courtney would be her opponent in the decider and although the match was level between both players after nine holes, Kitty soon began to take control going on to record a 6&5 win in what was the first success for Clare since their win in the Gents B of the Inter-County in Tullamore back in 2014.

2017 National Ladies Seniors (Inter Grade)

By John Manning

Maree O'Toole has campaigned at the top level of Pitch and Putt for over three decades. She has won eight Inter-County championships with Dublin but until July 2017, a national individual Pitch and Putt title had eluded the Shandon player. "It feels great, like a dream come true. The more years that passed the less likely I thought it would ever happen," is Maree's reaction to her National Ladies Over 55s Intermediate Stroke-play victory at Cloghogue.

Her performance with the short stick was integral to her triumph. "My putting was in top form. I tidied up all the short three footers for par and sank a couple of long ones too."

A potential crisis loomed during the opening round. "A few lazy chips cost me three fours on

10,11 and 12 and another on 15. You feel, "here we go again!" Then on the long 16th I made sure to keep well away from the bunker and sank a putt of about 12 feet for a two. Then a chip in on 17 got me back level. It was head down after that."

Maree is pragmatic about the relatively new pairings and timings format for the seniors' championships. "It was a shotgun start in Cloghogue, so you really have no idea how anyone else is doing - no scores on display so you have to just worry about your own game."

As usual, playing partners can dictate the mood music. "I played with Philo Condron and Mary Agnew. I know Philo very well and had played with Mary on a few previous occasions. I was



PPUI President Mervyn Cooney pictured with 2017 PPUI Ladies National Inter County runners-up, Dublin.

very comfortable with the two girls and it was a really relaxed game. They were both really encouraging when they saw I was going well.”

The revered Newry venue holds a special place in Maree’s heart. “Cloghogue is one of the top clubs in the country. It is a real pitching course with several tee-shots to hidden greens. Then you have the two 68 metre uphill 8th and 16th. you need oxygen by the time you climb the hills! It has good memories for me as I played my first Inter County there in 1982 and captained Dublin to Inter County success there in 2009. So maybe it was an omen.”

“The first thing is my love of the game,” says Maree, when asked what has kept her competitive for 35 years. “I started playing in 1970 as a juvenile and was hooked immediately. It wasn't until 1980 I started entering Majors and making friends all over the country. There is great camaraderie in the game. Pitch and Putt kept me sane when I had four small children and even though my game slumped my enthusiasm didn't. My family are all sports mad and have always been hugely supportive as is John's unfailing support and encouragement. I think Pitch and Putt will give me up and not the other way round!”



Pictured with PPUi Munster Coordinator Mark Keohane are the winners at the PPUi Munster Matchplay Championships held at Bruff P&P Club.

2017 Leinster / Ulster Winner Profiles

By John Manning

STROKEPLAY

Martin O'Neill Senior Gents

Martin O'Neill (St. Patrick's) scored 137 to clinch the Leinster Gents Strokeplay championship at St. Bridget's on 18 June. Frank Ryan (St. Bridget's) was second on 139 while Martin's clubmate Paul Tobin finished another four strokes back in third place. Martin's score was the lowest winning score in the Leinster Strokeplay since Eddie Carey scored 136, also at St. Bridget's in 2008.

Martin's greatest day in a team event arrived in September 2012 when Wexford returned 404 at St. Patrick's to beat Cork by a single stroke in the Inter-County championship. Martin's colleagues in that never to be forgotten Anchor Cup victory were Shane Redmond, William Hudson, Kevin Doyle, Conor Murphy and Paul Tobin. Martin had also featured on the Slaney-siders' third place finish at Portmarnock the pre-

vious year.

A Trojan worker for Pitch and Putt in Enniscorthy, Martin was a ninth-place finisher in the 2015 National Gent's Strokeplay championship at Cunnigar. Having reached the last sixteen at the 2004 Deerpark event (losing to eventual champion Derry McCarthy) Martin made it all the way to the semi-finals of the 2016 National Matchplay championship, at Seapoint. A battle royale ensued with Raffeen Creek's Shane Murphy. Martin led one up at halfway.

He continued to pitch superbly but some putting woes gave Shane his opportunity and the eventual champion advanced to the decider by two holes.

Ruairi Fortune- Intermediate Gents

Leinster Intermediate Strokeplay champion for 2017 was Ruairi Fortune (St. Patrick's) on 152, three clear of Thomas Judd (Portmarnock). For



PPUI President Mervyn Cooney pictured with members of the Dublin team at the 2017 PPUI Gents National Inter County who finished runners-up.

the second consecutive year, the same club provided the Senior and Inter champions. Ruairi scored 159 to finish fifth in the National Junior Strokeplay Championship at Stackallen in 2014.

In that year's Athgarvan Leinster Junior Inter-County Championship, on August 17th, Ruairi joined teammates Richard Grannell, Aidan O'Brien, Mark Kirwan, Glenn Fortune and Aidan Whelan as Wexford scored 477 to take the title.

Two years later, on August 13th, 2016 at McDonagh, in the Leinster Intermediate Inter-County Championships, Ruairi teamed-up with Richard Grannell, Maurice Donohoe, Dayle Donohoe, Derek Ryan and Kevin Doyle in a Model County sextet that placed second to Champions Kildare.

Aidan Thomas- Junior Gents

A 12 handicapper at the time of the qualifying last year, Aidan Thomas was down to eight after the McDonagh player outlasted fellow Kildare man Philip Cairnduff (Ryston) in the 2017 Leinster Junior Strokeplay championship, 163 to 164. Aidan enjoyed a six-stroke advantage on Philip heading into the final round. Philip shot 53 on the last eighteen but Aidan held on with a 58.

Chrissie Byrne- Senior Ladies

There was a Lilywhite 1-2-3 in the 2017 Leinster Ladies Strokeplay Championships at McDonagh. Chrissie Byrne (Ryston) fired 98 to beat club-mate Tara Dillon by three. Another Ryston player Marian Courtney was next on 104. Runner-up in 2005, Chrissie Byrne now boasts six Leinster Strokeplay wins since 2006. Chrissie has won the title in Co. Carlow, twice in Kildare and on three occasions over Dublin courses.

A multiple National title holder, Chrissie

has been crowned Leinster Matchplay champion no fewer than seven times. Her first Matchplay title was annexed at Tullamore in 2003. Chrissie has achieved the provincial Strokeplay/Matchplay double three times – in 2009, 2010 and 2015.

Twice World Ladies Strokeplay champion, Chrissie has been selected on eight Kildare Leinster Inter-County championship winning sides.

Philo Condron- Intermediate Ladies

An Inter-County winner with Dublin as far back as 1980, Philo Condron (Lucan) is still delivering Pitch and Putt titles. 109 at McDonagh gave Philo a five-stroke victory over Catherine Smith (St. Bridget's) in the Leinster Intermediate Strokeplay championship.

A County/Provincial/National Strokeplay treble wasn't far outside Philo's grasp in 2017. A play-off loss to Laura Whelan in the Dublin Strokeplay at Old County was followed by a close second behind National Intermediate Strokeplay champion Cathy Richardson (Bellewstown) at Cement. Twice a Dublin Matchplay champion as well as a two-time Dublin Strokeplay winner, Philo Condron was National Ladies' Seniors (Over 55) Strokeplay champion with a 103 return at Tullamore in 2009.

Philo won the Leinster Strokeplay Championship at Lucan in 2014, the year she returned to the Dublin colours, garnering a silver medal in the National Inter-County at Tullamore. She holds four Leinster Inter-County winners' gongs.

Patricia Anderson- Junior Ladies

Lucan Juvenile Officer Patricia Anderson was the new Leinster Junior Ladies Strokeplay cham-

pion. Trish's 123 left her a single stroke clear of Moira Behan (McDonagh). Having campaigned at Intermediate level for several years, Patricia was runner-up to her club colleague Fiona Langan in the Leinster Ladies Junior Strokeplay Championship at Lucan. Trish lost a play-off for the 2015 Dublin Ladies Junior Strokeplay Championships at Lucan to another clubmate Dora Keane.

MATCHPLAY

Dean Grannell- Senior Gents

It's been quite a Pitch and Putt journey for Dean Grannell (St. Patrick's) who beat Sean Goggin (McBride) 4&3 in the final of the 2017 Leinster Matchplay Championship. With Martin O'Neill having captured the Strokeplay in June, Dean's success at Navan ensured that the Matchplay and Strokeplay champions represented the same club for the second time in three seasons (matching Loughlinstown players' Hubert Kelly and John Ross Crangle 2015 achievement).

Back in August 2006, Dean fired Wexford's best score (102) at Lakewood in the 2006 National Juvenile Inter-County. Wexford's 13 under par 419 that day gave them a first (and to date only) Tommy Murphy Cup by six strokes, over Dublin. His 36-hole tally of 95 in the 2013 Leinster Intermediate Strokeplay championship at Ryston left him second, two shots behind the winner - Richard Lambe (Cement). He continues to play a major part in many notable team performances. Dean helped Wexford to runners-up spot in the 2016 Leinster Inter-County Championships at St. Bridget's and to third place at Lough Owel in the 2017 equivalent.

He earned two points out of a possible two for the St. Patrick's team that defeated Bruff in the 2015 National Inter-Club final at Tramore.

He carded 100 in the singles at the 2016 National Inter-County, as Wexford picked-up bronze medals at RGSC one ahead of event specialists Cork.

Gerard Gallagher- Intermediate Gents

After defeating club-mate William Buckley Senior in the semi-final, Offaly County Board Chairman Gerard Gallagher (Erry) beat Jason Hughes (Navan) at the 37th in the decider to become 2017 Leinster Intermediate Matchplay kingpin at Navan.

Gerry has wielded a Mizuno pitcher and a Ping Putter to Offaly county Junior and Inter titles. Affectionately known as the "the great Gal" down Clara way, Gerry captained Erry this year in the club's annual "Ryder Cup" encounter with near-neighbours Tullamore.

Kevin Knox- Junior Gents

After a 3&2 semi-final success over fellow Gowran player Derek Delaney, Kevin Knox beat Stephen McAuley (Navan) 4&2 in the final to become Leinster Gents Junior Matchplay champion for 2017. Kevin has served as Secretary of the Gowran club and was a leading light of the team that brought the new sprinkler system to the Gowran course in 2012.

To crown a wonderful year for Kevin, he helped Kilkenny to the Leinster Junior Inter-County Championships, at Lough Owel on August 12th. Kevin joined Nicholas Brennan, Derek Delaney, Aidan Gibbons, Eugene Gibbons, and Robert Middleton in a Kilkenny combination that totalled 494 to finish fifteen strokes clear of Louth.

Margaret Keogh- Intermediate Ladies

Sadly, no Leinster Ladies Senior Matchplay championship this year, but the handicap chang-



Liam O'Donovan (Bruff) and Stephen Shoer (Lakeside), the final pairing at the 2017 Munster Gents Matchplay, Senior Grade, with Stephen winning out 4&3

es ensured a very strong field for the intermediate championship. The final at Navan brought together two players who have represented their counties with distinction. Margaret Keogh (Ryston) beat Helen Greagsbey (Fairview CY) 5&4.

Margaret has achieved royally in Pitch and Putt since she scored 115 at the then Irish Ropes to win the 1988 National Girls Championship. She also fired 101 at St. Bridget's to clinch the 1995 Leinster Strokeplay championship. She narrowly failed to retain her title the following year, losing out by a single stroke to Ger Ward at Stackallen.

An eight-time National Inter-County winner with Kildare, Margaret has five times qualified for the final round in the National Ladies Strokeplay, achieving a best result of T5 at Tullamore in 1998. Margaret Keogh has earned eight Leinster Inter-County winners' medals.

Francis Farrell- Junior Ladies

Frances Farrell was a sixth-place finisher in the 2017 National Junior Strokeplay at Cement. After losing the 2016 Leinster Junior Matchplay championship final at Bellewstown to Ratoath's Bronagh Darby, Frances travelled to the 2017 provincial Matchplay with retribution on her mind!

Her club-mate Margaret Conneely was a worthy semi-final opponent at Navan in the semi-final. Frances survived that test to qualify to play Noreen Myles (Gaeil Colmcille) in the Leinster Ladies Junior Matchplay final. Noreen impressed in the last four with a win over Loughlinstown's Betty Cody, the former two-time National Over 55s champion.

In an absorbing final, Frances Farrell beat Noreen Myles at the 37th.

BACKSPIN PRODUCTION TEAM

Jason O'Connor, John Manning, and Paul Hayes

(continued from page 1) done with the Munster Strokeplay winners back in June will be posted along with a statistical Review of the Year at National level by John Manning over Christmas week.

This edition focuses on provincial successes from the Leinster Strokeplay and Matchplay Champions along with the Munster Matchplay winners from early October. A piece with Maree O'Toole on her National O-55's Intermediate Strokeplay win was sadly omitted from the last edition but we have re-printed the piece in this edition. Apologies to Maree for the omission. John also has a statistical look at the National Inter-Club winners from 2017. Last Saturday saw our Strategic Plan launched in Glenville and we have a feature by Development Manager Paul Hayes on the process. This Plan serves as an important blueprint for our Sport heading into the future and we hope it achieve its objectives over the coming years up to 2021.

Since our last edition former PPUI President Frank Smith and Clare Road member Marty Fawl sadly passed away. Both contributed to Pitch & Putt in various different ways, Frank both as a player and administrator going on to serve as President of EPPA/FIPPA at international level (he penned a number of forewords for Backspin as well during his time as PPUI President) while Marty was a well-loved figure on the playing circuit. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones once more as we do any

PPUI members who have lost loved ones in recent times.

While play might be limited with the weather and ground conditions at the moment we encourage every club and County/Regional Board to use the present downtime to plan ahead for 2018 and ensure they get the very best out of the year both on-and-off the course. I wish to confirm that I will be going forward for the Communications & Press Officer position again in 2018 but won't make too further a commitment beyond that.

I want to conclude by thanking Paul and John for doing a lot of the spade work on this Backspin, it's greatly appreciated but I feel we will get more out of Backspin if new contributors come forward with ideas for pieces that I promise will get full and deep consideration.

I finish by wishing both you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year.

Until 2018,

Jason O'Connor

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PPUI

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