

BACKSPIN

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

April, 2016



Issue Highlights:

- President Mervyn Cooney
- Junior Ryan - Hall of Fame
- What has Happened in 2016 so far
- Plus Much More...

A Chara,

After a year in exile, you are very much welcome back to Backspin for 2016. As I explained in my report for the PPUI Convention, Pauric Buggy's departure from the Office created a vacuum where I wasn't able to do further editions in 2015 as I wasn't able to do the graphic design work associated with the project. Now that Pauric's replacement Paul Hayes is in place, I'm delighted to get the project off the ground again and aiming for at least another four editions this year. I would just like to thank Pauric once again for his assistance in the editions he produced in 2014 and 2015. I also look forward to working with Paul on the development of future editions down the line.

As you know by now we had some changes at National Executive level at our recent Convention in Abbeyleix at the end of February. Eamon Birchall's long association with the game at national level came to an end at the end of his three year term as PPUI President and we all **(continued on last page)**



Outgoing President Eamonn Birchall hands over the chain of office to newly elected PPUI President Mervyn Cooney from the St. Patrick's club in Enniscorthy. Mervyn was elected PPUI President for the second time at the Annual Convention on 27/02/16 at the Manor Hotel in Abbeyleix, Co. Laois. Report on page 2

A Message from The President

I spent my first month as President finding my feet and trying to come to terms with the task ahead of me, and now like everyone else I am looking forward to the new season really getting underway.

The NEC have appointed a number of sub-committees in recent weeks.

We have Provincial Competitions Committees under the Chairmanship of the Provincial Coordinators, we have some excellent people involved in both Munster and Leinster and I am confident this will ensure the smooth running of all Competitions. We have also appointed a Championship review committee to look at all our National Championships and Competitions; this committee is chaired by the National Competition Co-Ordinator. Our Youth Officer Noel Collins has also set up a Youth Committee to look at ways to revitalise our U-16 playing numbers. We also have a sponsorship committee whose task it will be to see how the PPUi can progress its sponsorship strategy. This committee will be chaired by myself and our first meeting took place on Wednesday night, April 6th. I would like to thank the people who were in a position to accept my invitation to participate in the various committees and I look forward to working with them in the season ahead

The Provincial Matchplay draws are made and published and have thrown up some mouth-watering matches in the qualifying rounds. In an effort to reward members who supported the Championships in both Leinster and Munster a decision was taken to have 32 finalists in each grade, this should contribute to making the finals an even bigger occasion. We are giving serious consideration to using a second course in Munster and to having one Gents grade played in Bellewstown. This we believe will

make the finals a more enjoyable day for players and officials. The Provincial Committees will make an announcement in relation to this very soon.

We have extended the closing date for the Inter Club to the 27th April. We have agreed to extend it for two weeks following a request from some clubs. The very inclement weather we are experiencing has contributed to a very difficult start to the season for clubs, I hope this decision will give clubs and players a little extra time to get organised. We also decided to reduce squad numbers in the men's event to eight, and to allow clubs to enter two teams if they have sufficient numbers. I realise this decision caused some concern but it was taken in the best interest of the event and to try and secure its future. I would appeal to clubs to enter teams. This will help reduce travel time for group matches, and hopefully an enjoyable experience. We have a three man sub-committee looking after the Inter Club this year, Liam Sherry, Myles McMorrow and Niall Reynolds all three are working really hard to ensure its success.

In conclusion I am extremely honoured to be President of such a great sport, and I look forward to meeting many of our members as the season progresses.

Yours in Sport,

Mervyn

Mervyn Cooney
PPUI President



National Secondary Schools winning team from Davis College Mallow, made up of Ed Walsh, Greg Barrett and Roy Whelan, being presented their prize by Hon. Treasurer of the PPUi Breda Brophy and National Coaching and Development Manager Paul Hayes.

Junior Ryan—Hall of Fame

By John Manning

After his recent induction into the PPUI's Hall of Fame at the PPUI Convention in Abbeyleix, John Manning profiles Junior Ryan of St Annes.

Timothy 'Junior' Ryan joined St. Anne's Pitch and Putt club in 1969. The Blackpool resident has served the Shanakiel club in a wide variety of capacities in the intervening 47 years and is now a club institution. Club Chairman Frank Dineen sums it up articulately, "As St Annes celebrate its 50th year it would be very difficult to imagine the club without Junior Ryan."

As befits somebody born on July 4th, Junior has always exhibited an independence of spirit, which served him well in various roles, including a lengthy stint as St. Annes Club Chairman. He has been Head Greenkeeper at the St. Annes course for many years. Junior has

worked diligently on the course. His knowledge and understanding of the Greenkeeping role is advanced by the club as a reason for the high standards they try to maintain.

A keen Basketball coach and an able administrator in that sport, Junior's service to the Cork County Pitch & Putt Board commenced in 1994 when he was elected Registrar at Convention in Dunlops. His first term as Chairman began in 1997 when he was elected at Rocklodge. Having taken a few years out from 2003, Junior returned to the Cork Board initially as Registrar and then as Vice Chairman to Dan Cronin, who was to be a close colleague at county and national level for a number of years. Dan pays this tribute. "I always found Junior to be extremely reliable and honest in all my dealings with him. Couple that with a huge knowledge of Pitch & Putt matters and also extremely well liked by all involved in Pitch & Putt."

Junior resumed the Chairmanship of the Cork County Board in 2011. In all, Cork won eight National Inter-County championships during his terms as Board Chairman (four U-16, three Gents and one Ladies). People born under the Cancer sign are very loyal and empathetic people, qualities Junior displayed in abundance during his administrative career. Calling on his vast experience of Pitch & Putt and of other sports, Junior could always be relied on for a consistent approach and a clear opinion.

Having been a delegate to both the Munster Council and Central Council, Junior was first elected to the PPUI NEC in 2005 at the An-



Junior Ryan, from the St. Anne's Pitch and Putt club in Cork, pictured above accepting his PPUI Hall of Fame Award from outgoing President Eamonn Birchall.

ner Hotel in Thurles. Back in Thurles two years later, Junior was elected Competitions Secretary of the PPUI, a position he was fill very responsibly and capably for four years.

Junior has been an accomplished player over the years. He continues to play the game to a high standard and is an enthusiastic contestant in almost every St. Annes Club Competition and Fourball. “St Annes is the significant beneficiary over the years of the skill and enduring legacy of Junior,” avers Frank Dineen.

Captain of the St. Anne’s Senior League team on numerous occasions, Junior played a key role as captain during St Anne’s first successful Cork Senior League campaign in 1993. Junior secured both his Fourball and Singles (including a last green 20 footer) points in an unforgettable 5-4 final victory over Collins at Dunlops. Junior has captained St. Anne’s to a number of titles since.

Frank Dineen again, “We as a club were delighted and proud when Junior joined the ranks of the club’s other Hall of Fame members. Well done Junior.” Modestly, Junior said he was completely surprised when he was announced as the latest Hall of Fame inductee at Convention 2016

in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.

The Citation for the Memento he received at Convention read:

“For a lengthy and successful playing career, during which he was a prolific prize winner, in both individual and team events.

For being one of the most effective and most charismatic County Board Chairmen in Pitch and Putt history.

For an effective administrative career at all levels in which he displayed considerable acumen, drawing deeply from his widespread Pitch and Putt experience and from his expertise in other sports.

For rendering astute and perceptive service to club and county and as a delegate to provincial council and to Central Council.

For a tireless and productive four-year term as National Competitions Secretary.

The Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland Hall of Fame award goes to Timothy ‘Junior’ Ryan (St. Anne’s).”



National Mathplay 2015 champions Chrissie Byrne (St. Bridget’s) and John Walsh (Collins) with outgoing president of the PPUI Eamonn Birchall. Finals hosted by Lakeside Pitch & Putt Club.

Around the Counties and Regional Boards

Carlow/Kilkenny/Wexford

Firstly, congratulations to St Patricks' Mervyn Cooney on being elected PPUI President for the second time.

St. Patricks got their year off to a great start with their Scratch Cup on March 13th. A huge crowd of 126 took part on the day. Paul Tobin was the outright winner with a superb score of 129. In second place was Eddie Hennessy on a score of 136, Graham Donoghue took third spot with the same score, losing out on the Back 18. William Hudson was the Final 18 winner with a score of 46. Chrissie Byrne from St Brigid's took the Ladies Prize. Kevin Doyle won the Inter and Pa O'Brien won the Junior.

Bagenalstown are busy preparing for their Scratch Cup on Sunday April 24th. Over the Past few years the club's Scratch Cup has been struggling to attract big numbers as a result of clashes with other sporting events. This year the club took a conscious decision to pick a date in April in the hope it might attract bigger numbers. The Bagenalstown course is in magnificent condition despite all the bad weather. The club is thriving at the moment having attracted quite a number of top quality players over the past year. Many of them had been outstanding players as Juveniles and took time out to play other sports. Having now reached 'retirement' age from Hurling and Football, they have returned to Pitch & Putt.

The Club are very proud of the fact that they won Silver in the All-Ireland Final of the Inter-Club competition last year. They are currently holding trials for positions on this year's team such is the interest among the members. Gowran

is the venue on Sunday next April 10th, for the regions Three Person Team (Mixed) Competition. Tee off is at 10am and a big turnout is expected. Great credit is due to the members in Gowran for the work being done to ensure the course is in top condition for Sunday.

Clare

The year is really only starting to going as well at club level again after the winter. Unfortunately, the Clare Cups that were due to be played in March had to be called off due to the bad weather and it's hoped that it will be rescheduled in the coming months.

Cork

After a number of years where the weather has disrupted the County Leagues we took the decision to start a month later than usual in the hope that we would face less disruption. The decision taken has proved to be a success with only one game having to be moved due to a waterlogged course. The leagues are now at the semi-final stage with three clubs Raffeen Creek, St Anne's and Collins each having a representative in all three grades. In the Senior grade Fermoy complete the line up with St Stephen's being the fourth team in the Intermediate grade and Rocklodge Juniors completing the quartet in that grade.

The first competition of the year was held on Easter Monday in Douglas when the County Board Charity Scratch Cup was staged. This year's charity chosen by long standing supporter Ann McCarthy is Pieta House Cork. A total of 105 players teed off with further donations from non-players totalling €200. After a lot of superb



Winners from the National Ladies Senior Championships hosted by Old County Pitch and Putt club. Catherine Fox (Glenville), Ger Holland (R.G.S.C.) and Agnes Redmond (Old County).

play Eoin Walsh from Collins was the overall winner with 22 under. The Intermediate grade turned into a match between Douglas players Conor Irwin and Shane Madden with Conor prevailing when he returned 18 under. The Junior grade was decided after a three-hole playoff when both Chris O'Donovan (Collins) and Richie Kelleher (St Anne's) finished on two under. A chip in birdie at the 3rd hole secured the title for Chris. The best lady on the day was Mary Murray of Rocklodge with two under.

Dublin

The season got underway in Dublin with many drive-in's taking place over the St Patricks weekend. The first DCB event will take place on the 24th April in Portmarnock and this is the successful DCB Mixed Scramble (Confined). The Dublin Leagues will then get underway towards the end of April, something that is always looked forward to as they can spring up the best of surprises.

Kerry

On Sunday March 20th the brilliant Newmarket Pitch & Putt Course played host to the Paul O'Sullivan Memorial Three Ball Scramble. A great turnout of up to 50 players took on the newest club on the Kerry circuit and some great scores were returned. Four holes-in-one were carded with Deerpark's Paul Cronin and Castleisland's John McCarthy shared the prize having got one on the same hole. The Second Nett prize was won by the team of Deerpark's Gearoid Cronin and Kieran Fitzpatrick with Newmarket's W.J. Buckley with a score of 68 1/3 nett. The Gross prize was won with 26 under par by the team of Deerpark's Damien Fleming and Robbie O'Brien with Newmarket's Con Buckley. The Overall Winners with a score of 67 nett were Castleisland's Aidan O'Connor and Gleneagle's Sean Ashe.

On April 3rd Deerpark was the setting for the Danny Nolan Memorial Kerry Two Ball Scramble. The weather was fantastic and it was reflected in the scoring on the day. It was great to see the support from the Kerry clubs and especial-

ly Deerpark the host club in memory of Danny who was a stalwart for many years. The Hole-In-One prize was won by Deerpark's Paul Cronin for his shot on the 18th. The Second Gross with a score of 26 under were the pair of Deerpark's Damien Fleming and Newmarket's Con Buckley. They were pipped into second by the team of Tralee's Jamie Blake and Gleneagle's John O'Halloran who had a score of 27 under. The Second Nett prize was won by Deerpark duo of Mike O'Connor and John O'Brien but the Overall Winning pair was Kieran Fitzpatrick and Hugh O'Sullivan.

Limerick

The year got underway in January with the commencement of the Winter League. The format for the competition was Doubles Scotch Foursomes. The League was held on each of the four Limerick courses with each of the courses holding a 36 hole Nett and Gross competition over an eight week period. Following the eight weeks the top four pairings in both nett and gross qualified for the finals which were held at Charleville Pitch & Putt Club. Winter League Gross winners were Liam O'Donovan & Billy Farrell (Bruff) who overcame Parteen pairing Kieran Earls & Alan Bennis. In the Nett competition the Parteen pairing of Kay Scannell & Richard O'Sullivan proved too strong for local favourites Dom Kavanagh & Matt Galligan.

The O'Byrne Cup in Parteen saw 36 players take part. The Gross winners on the day were Kieran Earls & Alan Bennis Parteen followed by Liam O'Donovan & Billy Farrell Bruff in second. The Nett winners on the day were Mike Walsh & Pat Ryan Parteen followed by Kay Scannell & Richard O'Sullivan Parteen. Next on the calendar was Bruff on St Patrick's Day for the Ryan Cup.

70 players took part in the event where clubman Liam O'Donovan overcame Tom Lynch from ESB in Cork on the back 18. Dean Curtin from the Charleville club won the Intermediate prize with another Charleville player Jamie Maloney the winner of the Junior prize. The ladies winner on the day was Margaret O'Donovan from Bruff.

The PNA trophy was next up. It was hosted by Ardnacrusha on March 20th. 26 players took part. The Gross was won by Liam O'Donovan & Patsy Farrell with a great score of 28 under par. Second was father and son duo Pacelli & Mike Darcy. Nett winner was Brian Myson & Billy Nolan Parteen ahead of Richard O'Sullivan and Kay Scannell in second.

Louth/Down/Monaghan

With the winter now out of the way some clubs in the region such as Mac Bride & Seapoint were fortunate to host successful Winter Leagues which kept a lot of clubs active due to a large number of associate members so spirits are high as we enter the new 2016 season.

The first Open of the season was held recently by Cement which received great support from clubs nationwide, a tribute to the excellent work done by the club so early in year. The next regional competition is the LDM Scramble with qualifying in Collon, McBride & Seapoint and finals in Cement on April 10th. Seapoint, hosts to the National 2016 Matchplay hold their Open Foursomes from 28th April-1st May and their Scratch Cup on May 2nd. McBride will hold their Scotch Foursomes on the 5th, 6th & 8th May with Scratch Cup on Saturday 7th May. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Collon have decided to host only one open

this year due to the National Matchplay being hosted on their usual date in the region. They would like to thank their regular supporters and hopefully see them in August for what is usually their second Open. They will return to their normal dates in 2017.

Meath

We have just completed the spring alliance and it was very well supported. It got members back playing earlier than normal. Meath Scratch Cup takes place on Sunday 24th April in Royal Meath and we ask everyone for their support.

Offaly

After a long winter, the Pitch & Putt season sparked into life in Tullamore last Sunday (April 3rd) as 131 players descended on the Midlands venue for the 2016 Offaly County Board Scratch Cup. With many making what they hoped was just the first of numerous trips up the Arden lane, a competitive contest was expected and that's exactly what we got. The weather conditions on the day were poor but that didn't stop local man Joe Pyke sharing the 36 hole lead with Sean Goggin of Cement.

With the chasing pack closing in, Joe began well in the playoff and would eventually take the title by four shots from fellow Tullamore man Darren O Connell and Sean Goggin. The last 18 prize went to Pat Malone (Custume) while the Westmeath pair of Willy Prendergast (Custume) and Darren Creevy (Lough Owel) took the Intermediate and Junior titles respectively. Chrissie Byrne took the ladies 0-6 prize while Tullamore's Lauren Pyke took the 7-18 prize.

A full review of proceedings is available on the county board Facebook page and on our website.

The next County Board run event is the County Matchplay Championships which take place in Ferbane on the 23rd/24th April.

Tipperary

On Monday 28th March Hillview was the host Club of the Johnny Shoer Memorial Scratch Cup for 2016. This is the Tipperary County Board Cup held in honour of the late Johnny Shoer of Riverdale, Nenagh. There was a fantastic turnout of 94 players of all standards both Ladies and Gents. The weather on the day was also fantastic. Thanks to Hillview for presenting their course in excellent condition on the day. Thanks to Helen McMorrow, Noel Joyce and John Fitzgerald for their work on the day as well as the Hillview club for their work on-and-off the course.

Overall Winner: Anthony Culhane (Tipp-Hills) 137 (-25). Overall Runner-up: Stephen Shoer (Riverdale) 140 (-22). Third: Kieran Earls (Parteen) 141 (-21). Final 18: Eddie Hennessy (Tramore) 46 (-8). 36 Senior Gross: Tom Hanley (Bruff) 94 (-14). 36 Inter Winner was Bobby



**2015 National Ladies Strokeplay Champion
Ger Ward (Portmarnock)**

O'Donnell (Tipp-Hills) 96 (-12). 36 Inter Runner-Up: Jimmy Quinn (Fermoy) 96 (-12) Back 18. 36 Junior Winner: David Cahill (Hillview) 101 (-7). 36 Junior Runner-up: Tom Morris (Hillview) 103 (-5) Back 18. Ladies 36 Winner: Eleanor Walsh (Fermoy) 104 (-4). Ladies 36 Runner-up: Breda Lonergan 110 (+2).

There was a great entry for the county trials in all grades for 2016. The next trial will take place on Sunday 24th April in Larkspur Park, Cashel for the Larkspur Masters. Over the last eight weeks all five clubs in County Tipperary have been doing battle to qualify for the Final in the County Spring League for 2016. Each week

the entries have been great and after some very tight results the finalists have been sorted. The Final will take place in Larkspur Park on Sunday 10th April starting at 10am sharp. It will be between the defending champions Tipperary Hills and the challengers Lakeside.

Supporters and interested spectators are most welcome to attend.

Westmeath

Despite the bad weather all Winter Three Ball Scrambles were played. There was an average of 15-20 teams per alliance with lots of early interest being shown. Sunday March 20th saw a huge crowd of 130 players in Kilbeggan for the County Board Classic, kindly sponsored by the McCormack family in honour of the late great Hall of Fame winner Jack McCormack. The weather conditions were great and a marvellous Kilbeggan track led to some great scoring.

The overall winner with 92 was Ian Donnelly of Cement 2nd with Frank Ryan of Athgarvan second on 94. Third was Larry Maher from Erry on 95 on back 18. The Intermediate prize-winner was John Carton from Kilbeggan with 99 while the Junior winner Damien Creevy of Lough Owel had the same score to win that prize. 99 was also the magic number for Tracey Redmond of Erry in winning the Ladies 0-10 with Kathleen O'Loane of Ferbane winning the Ladies 11-18 grade with 125.

Overall a very good start to the season. Coming up in April Kilbeggan have their Open Scotch Foursomes while in May Kilbeggan and Custume hold their Scratch Cups. Club Competitions are also up and running across all clubs.



**2015 National U-16 Strokeplay
Champions Ryan Towler (St. Anne's) and
Aoife Mahon (Lucan)**

PPUI Launch New Handicap System

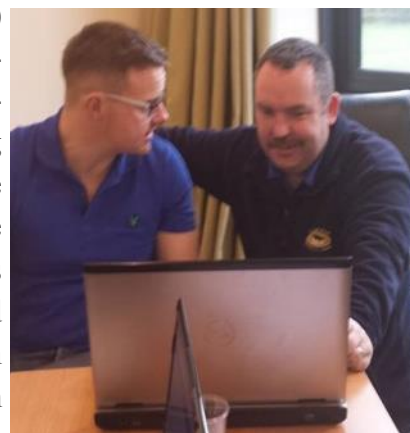
By Paul Hayes

By now most of you are aware, at Convention 2016 the motion for the implementation of the new Handicap system was unanimously passed by delegates. On Monday 11th April the new system will go live and the game of Pitch and Putt will have an interactive, online handicapping system that promotes handicapping relative to actual player performances ahead of competition results. The new system will generate handicaps that allow players to compete equally with their peers and to maintain this level playing field on an ongoing basis from week to week.

At the PPUI annual convention in 2015 which took place at the Anner Hotel in Thurles, the NEC and member delegates accepted a recommendation from the PPUI Handicap System Sub Committee to commence development and testing of a National Handicap System with the intention of submitting a motion to convention in February 2016 to adopt the new handicap system for the 2016 season.

The sub-committee of Helen McMorrow (Lakeside), Michael Murphy (Royal Meath), Liam Sherry (St. Bridget's), Niall Reynolds (Clare Road), Mark Keohane (Rocklodge) and Keith

Redmond (Lucan) are to be congratulated on their efforts in achieving this goal. The work put in by the committee was exceptional and special mention has to go to Keith Redmond who has put a lot of effort into building this



Keith Redmond and Michael Vaughan (Inniskeen)

system and making it as user friendly as possible. In January and February of this year presentations and training was provided to club administrators and many got to trial it for the first time.

The new system is live and ready to use, available at www.ppui.ie/handicapsystem. From here club administrators can manage their courses and competition and each member can check their current playing handicap. Keith has also kindly put in video tutorials on how to use the system which will help as the sport transitions into the new system.



Training in full swing as club administrators get to grips with the new PPUI Handicap system. Over 50 club delegates and administrators were present at the Maldron Hotel in Portlaoise as the Handicap Committee present the new system

MAJOR UPCOMING FIXTURES AND DATES TO REMEMBER

May 7th:	P.J. Bell Mixed Team Competition @ Lakeside
May 14th & 15th:	Leinster Ladies and Gents Matchplay Championships @ Ringcommons & Bellewstown
May 14th & 15th:	Munster Ladies and Gents Matchplay Championships @ Lakeside
June 04th to 06th:	National Ladies and Gents Matchplay Championships @ Seapoint
June 26th:	Leinster Ladies Strokeplay Championship @ Rochfortbridge
June 26th:	Leinster Gents Strokeplay Championship @ Collinstown
June 26th:	Munster Ladies Strokeplay Championship @ Hillview
June 26th:	Munster Gents Strokeplay Championship @ St. Anne's

NEC Appointed Committees

As mentioned by Mervyn Cooney, President of the PPUI in his address for this magazine, below are the members of the committees set up by the NEC.

Provincial Competition Committee – Munster

Mark Keohane (Rocklodge), Myles McMorrow (Lakeside), Dan Cronin (Kilmichael) and Niall Reynolds (Clare Road)

Provincial Competition Committee – Leinster

David Reddin (Custume), Liam Sherry (St. Bridget's), Breda Brophy (St. Bridget's), Michael Vaughan (Inniskeen), Keith Smyth (McBride) and Linda Thomson (Lucan)

Sponsorship Committee

Mervyn Cooney (St. Patrick's), Darren Keogh (Ryston) Rob Ryan (Old County), Frank Dineen (St. Anne's) and Paul Hayes (National Coaching & Development Manager)

Championship Review Committee

Myles McMorrow (Lakeside), John Manning (Shandon), Declan Sheedy (Clare Road) and Ann O'Rourke (Channonrock)

Youth Committee

Noel Collins (Majestic), Ray Murphy (St. Anne's), Joe McGrath Jnr (Erry), John Hanley (Tipperary Hills), Fergal Barry (Skryne)

BACKSPIN PRODUCTION TEAM

Jason O'Connor, John Manning and Paul Hayes

(continued from first page) wish him well as he steps back from administrative level. Pdraig O'Shea, Mary Farrell and Liam Leahy all departed the National Executive as well and we thank all three for their time and effort on the NEC over the last decade or so. We welcome Mervyn Cooney and Liam Sherry back to the top table and wish both Ger O'Connor and Mark Keohane the best of luck as they serve at national level for the first time.

In this particular edition of Backspin we look at our Hall of Fame Award winner for 2016 in Junior Ryan of St Annes who is profiled by a fellow Hall of Fame winner himself in John Manning. Ahead of its introduction on Monday next, April 11th, there is a brief outline of the new system. Tutorial Videos are also available on the PPUI Website at the following link: <http://www.ppui.ie/handicapsystem/Public/VideoTutorials> This is probably the most fundamental change to our handicap system in many decades and great credit is due to the Handicap Sub-Committee headed by our Registrar Helen McMorrow for their work over the last two years in bringing this project to fruition.

There is a round-up of County/Regional Board activity from the year so far included as well and thanks to all those at local level who supplied us with reports on same. Our next edition will hopefully be in June but we want to inform you all of a big day on Saturday, May 21st when we gather in Sport HQ in Dublin for the National Matchplay Draw as well as a formal launch of all our compe-

titions for 2016. We've decided to break with the tradition of travelling to the host clubs for the draw in an effort to garner more media interest with the majority of media outlets based in the city and also have it on a Saturday morning to make it easier for general members of the Union to travel to and go home from at a reasonable hour. With the facilities at Sport HQ as well, we hope to make it a more interactive experience as well in terms of the live element of the draw.

With a meeting between the NEC & County/Regional Boards alongside an International Trial for the World Cup Team in Portmarnock the same day it promises to be one gala day. More details will follow in due course but we are hopeful that this initiative will be a success ahead of the trip to Seapoint on the June Bank Holiday Weekend for the Finals.

That's all for now, remember to keep track of the PPUI website as well as our social media platforms on Facebook, Flickr and Twitter for all the latest news on the Union's activities.

Until Next Time,

Jason O'Connor

Communications & Press Officer

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