

BACKSPIN

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

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PPUI

Issue Highlights:

- Tullamore Through the Years
- Under 16 Championships Weekend
- National Gents Strokeplay Review
- A Look Back on the National Ladies Strokeplay
- Plus Much More...

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST ISSUE!!

A Chara,

You're all very welcome to this the second edition of the Backspin e-zine for 2014. Without question this will probably be the biggest edition we will do this year as no less than 35 different grades of Competition and Championships are reviewed within these pages. We looked forward with interest to Fermoy and Stackallen in our last edition and they certainly didn't disappoint in producing two sudden death playoffs to decide two of the titles while another came down to a chip that had to be seen to be believed.

Events with competitors young and old are reviewed with a special look back at previous National events in Tullamore by John Manning with the National Ladies & Gents Inter-County now just one week away. We learn about the only ever Pitch & Putt team to be celebrated in song, Westmeath's 1978 Inter-County winning team. However for anyone who has seen it, Alan Hanlon has a nice little number done on the first ever Westmeath team to win the Leinster Senior (*continued on last page*)



Ger Ward has only gone and done it again! The Portmarnock stalwart claimed a record 16th National singles title in Fermoy six weeks ago. Not many of them will have matched the drama this produced. 63 holes, with totals of 21 under par failed to separate Ger and St. Bridget's Tara Dillon. A birdie for Ger at the 10th playoff hole finally ended this titanic tussle. She is pictured above with Tara, Breda Lonergan (Tipp Hills) and Maree O'Toole (Shandon) and NEC Officers Eamonn Birchall (President) and Mary Farrell (National Competitions Co-ordinator). Report on page 8.

NATIONAL UNDER 16 CHAMPIONSHIPS REVIEW

By Jason O'Connor



Boys Strokeplay Champion for 2014, Charlie Morrissey of Raffeek Creek receiving the Eugene McCarthy Cup from PPUi President Eamonn Birchall.

Saturday

63 Juveniles competed the Singles Championships on Saturday with the Girls Championship turning into a battle between the respective Munster and Leinster Champions. A little bit of history took place as Tullamore's Amy Galvin became the 10th multiple winner of the competition joining illustrious names such as Eleanor Walsh, Barbara Farrell, Anita Langstone, Marian Byrne, Bernadette Coffey, Tracey McGrath, Sarah Coffey, Elaine Dee and Claire Keatinge in achieving the honour. Rounds of five and three over par were enough to allow her join that illustrious group as she had six shots to spare over Niamh Byrne of Collins on 116. Lucan's Eimear Keane claimed third place from Seapoint's Sarah Murphy with a score of 143.

The Boys Championship saw plenty of contenders make a claim for the Eugene McCarthy Cup but in the finish Raffeek Creek's Charlie Morrissey just did enough in his second round to claim victory with a score of 11 under par. Seven under in his second 18 was crucial to his win as he just held off Ciaran Cregan from Portmarnock. Ciaran had seven under par himself to lead overall after the First Round but a closing round of three under par saw him just come up short in his pursuit of the title. Three players shot nine under par with two of them ending up with prizes. Conor Doyle from the host club had rounds of two and seven under par to finish on that total with his latter round crucial in securing the bronze medal. David Howard also had nine under but his second round of five under saw him finish fourth overall. Leinster Boys 10-13 Champion Evan Carry from Castletown finished on nine under as well with his score good enough to claim the 10-13 prize on the afternoon.

Leinster Boys 14-15 Champion Ross O'Reilly finished on eight under par with Greg Barrett from the Majestic club also shooting the same score. Munster Boys 14-15 Champion Conor Irwin from Douglas had sole possession of eighth overall on seven under par. A special mention must go to Old County's Cillian Smith however, who achieved the remarkable feat of securing three hole-in-ones in his second round in Navan on the way to record a tournament total of three under par.

Sunday

THE battle for the Tommy Murphy Cup was contested amongst seven counties with it being fairly obvious from early on that defending champions Cork meant business. A fine six under par round in the Foursomes from the duo of Charlie Morrissey and Cian Morrison helped them to an eight under par total after the first 18, which was 10 shots better than Dublin's total with Meath a shot ahead of Kerry in third on four over par. Cork showed no signs of easing up in the Singles, Conor Irwin and Anthony McSweeney pitched in with rounds of six and five under respectively as Cork's eventual total came to 405, 27 under par for the tournament and an eventual 20 shot win.

The real battle was for second place between Dublin, Meath and Kerry and it was the Leinster Champions who just managed to edge it. Two five under par rounds from Ciaran Gregan and Aaron Donnelly were crucial for the Dubs in securing second on 425 as despite a great six under par round from Liam Carroll, Meath had to settle for bronze on 426. Kerry finished outside the Top Two for the first time since 2010 with a score of 429 with a five under par round from Ciaran Doyle helping Offaly to fifth place overall on 455. Louth edged Tipperary for sixth with a score of 481 but it was undoubtedly Cork's weekend on nearly all fronts in Navan last weekend.

The course proved to be a great test of the players, well done to the club for having it in such great condition and thanks to the players, mentors and indeed the parents for their encouragement and support of their children playing the game throughout the past year. Hopefully the Juvenile game can prosper around the country in the years to come.

What Navan told us? (By John Manning)

- Charlie Morrissey is the first Cork winner of the All Ireland Boys Strokeplay championship since 2009 and the eleventh in all from the Rebel County.
- Players from Co. Offaly have a 100% record in Irish Girls' Strokeplay championships played at Navan. Tracey McGrath won on the only other occasion the championship was played there - in 1999.
- Cork won the Juvenile Inter-County Pitch and Putt championship for the 16th time and have now won the Tommy Murphy Cup twice as many times as any other county.
- Dublin now have eight runner-ups places in the Juvenile Inter-County championship. That's second in the all-time list, behind Cork and ahead of Kerry.
- Meath's third place in the Juvenile Inter-County championship was the Royals' best performance since the win at Seapoint in 2007.



Amy Galvin (Tullamore) was the overall winner in the Girls section for the second time. She is pictured here with PPUI President Eamonn Birchall and Niamh Byrne (Collins), Eimear Keane (Lucan) and Sarah Murphy (Seapoint).

PREVIOUS PPUI NATIONAL EVENTS AT TULLAMORE

By John Manning

In all, 21 PPUI National events have been played at Tullamore. Here is a quick trip down memory lane:

1971

It all started for Tullamore (still called Arden at the time) over the weekend of June 19th/20th 1971. Miss Mary Snell (Athgarvan) beat Clare Keating by 5&3 in the final of the National Ladies Matchplay Championship.

1973

Two years on, the Gents Strokeplay came to Arden, on July 8th 1973. Andy Dempsey (Irish Ropes) shot 94 to win the senior Championship by two from Eamon O'Reilly of Portmarnock. Fermoy's Joe Kearney won the Intermediate championship on 97 while Pat Harrington (Collins) took the Junior title.

1974

Arden's third national event was the 1974 Major Extra Size Final on August 25th. Gormanstown's (S. Wilson, W. Prout, B. Corcoran and J. Courtney) return of +31 was a full dozen shots clear of runners-up Castleisland. Champions finished third on 18up.

1977

The inaugural Boys and Girls Strokeplay championships were played at Arden on July 3rd 1977. A superb 93 by Damian McGowan (Old County) won him the Boys' Championship from Shandon's Mark Collins. First-ever Girls' champion was Ann Ginnane (St. Annes). Margaret Morgan of Rochfortbridge was runner-up.

1978

See Attached Article on page 6

1980

The 1980 Final of the John Player National Mixed Foursomes was played in Tullamore on October 5th. The Castlelyons, Co. Cork pairing of Tom and Olive Herlihy came out on top with +12. Second was another Cork pairing, Kieran and Miriam Desmond (Douglas) on 11 up. The impressive National Mixed Foursomes record of Jack and Rose McCormack began when the Kilbeggan couple returned 4up to take the Gross.

1983

Kilcormac (L. Lowry, A. Troy, K. Monaghan and P.J. Lowry) won the 1983 Carrolls Club Tournament over the Tullamore course with a 36 hole team total of +29, that was just one clear of runners-up Gaeil Colmcille. Kilbeggan were just another stroke away in third.

1986

A small field of eight teams contested the Ladies Inter-county Championship at Tullamore on July 19th. Dublin, represented by Maree O'Toole (Capt), Marian Marks, Marie Mallin, Sheelagh Elmes and Geraldine McLernon shot 404 to win by six from Westmeath. The following day was a triumph for Kerry, their only success to date in the Inter-County. The Kingdom team of Domo Lyne, Con O'Sullivan, Willie Maguire, Sean Kelly and Willie Lynch produced a team tally of 375 to head runners-up Dublin by two on a day of blistering scoring.

1989

The Carrolls Ladies Strokeplay Championship was contested at Tullamore on June 25th. It was a triumphant day for St Annes player Chris O'Shaughnessy, who shot a marvelous 100 for a three shot senior winning margin over R.G.S.C.'s Marie Mahony (second) and Eleanor Walsh of Fermoy (third). Intermediate champion was Clare Murphy (E.S.B.) on 113 while the junior title stayed at home with Catherine Cronly who returned 126.

1990

Tullamore completed their set of the five P.P.U.I. 'majors' when the Sunday World Gents National Matchplay finals were played there on the June Bank Holiday (2nd-4th) weekend of 1990. It was the era of the short-lived Graded Matchplays. Ciaran Culleton (St. Fiaccs) took the Senior Championship, beating Jack McCormack (Kilbeggan) by 7&5 in the Final. Intermediate champion was Ciaran Feeley (Stackallen) while Liam O'Donovan (Bruff) took the Junior.

1991

The Carrolls Club Tournament final took place in Tullamore again on 29th September 1991. Local team Kilbeggan prospered. Their A team of A. McCormack, P. McCormack, E. McCormack and J. Carton edged out their B team by a single hole, 25up to 24up. The men from Erin's Isle were third on 20up.

1992

Back to Tullamore again on 4th October 1992 for the Penfold Commando National Mixed Foursomes Final. Soccer player Mark Flynn teamed with his Cloghogue clubmate, Maura Conyard to clinch the Newry club's first ever national title. Their +15 up return was one clear of runners-up, Phil McNamara and Patsy Farrell (Bruff). Gross winners were the Portmarnock partnership, Geraldine Ward and Christy McDermott (+6).

1996

May 19th saw the National Season open with the Skoda National Team Event final at Tullamore. Templebreedy were in the shake-up again but lose out on count back to hosts Tullamore (Vincent Murphy, Alice Murphy, Eamon Craven and Imelda Craven) after a tie on 158 Stableford points.

1999

1998 National Matchplay Champion, Marian Byrne atoned for her defeat in the 1999 Matchplay final by producing a brilliant fourteen under par aggregate in warm sunny conditions at Tullamore on July 11th to win the Senior Championship by a seven shot margin. Jean Cooney of Bissell made a birdie on the final green to clinch the runners-up spot for the second time. A fine one under par return of 161 gave sixteen year old St. Bridget's player Christine Byrne a ten shot winning margin in the intermediate championship. Tullamore's Marie Owens posted 176 to win the Junior by five shots.

2002

Tullamore hosted the Juvenile Championships for the second time on 17th-18th August 2002. Cork recorded a team total of 412 to win the Inter-County by nine shots from Tipperary. Cork's Brian Allen (St. Stephen's) fired 92 to win the Boys' Strokeplay championship by a single stroke from Patrick McBride (Stackallen). Valerie Leahy completed a Cork clean sweep. The Rocklodge player scored 110 to defeat holder Kilbeggan's Sarah Coffey by two in the Girls' Strokeplay.

2003

William Buckley Junior (Erry) won a nine hole play-off for the National Men's Strokeplay championship with Frank Dineen (St. Anne's). William shot 21 for the nine holes to take his first national title after a tie on 136. Keith O'Connor (Tullamore) took the Intermediate championship on 144. 146 secured the title for Darren McCann (Cement) in a Junior Championship of

unprecedented scoring levels.

2006

Sarah Coffey from neighbouring Kilbeggan returned to Tullamore four years on to win the National Mixed Foursomes partnered by her brother Christopher Coffey. Their +14 return on 1 October 2006 was a stroke too good for Erry brother & sister combination Joe and Tracey McGrath. Collinstown's Alan Hanlon & Liz Quinn won the Best Gross on +8.

2007

Geraldine Ward (Portmarnock) won her then fourth National Ladies Strokeplay championship title at Tullamore on July 29th. Ger's 22 under par aggregate of 140 was just a single stroke ahead of runner-up Siobhan Scannell (Collins). The previous day, Margaret Webster (Larkspur Park) was crowned intermediate champion (162) while 170 won the Junior for local player Martina Marron.

2008

The National Men's Strokeplay Championships returned to Tullamore after just five years. Frank Dineen (St. Anne's) went one better than 2003 in claiming the Donnelly Cup. Frank's 133 for 54 holes on 27th July left him a single shot clear of Paul O'Gorman (Tullamore). On the Saturday, Riverdale's Stephen Shoer fired a phenomenal 133 to win the Intermediate Championship by 12 strokes while Davy Hallinan (Hillview) was a two shot Junior winner with 153.

2009

Six Over-55's Championships were decided in Tullamore on the weekend of September 26th/27th. Ladies Champions were Phil Condron (Lucan) on 103 in the Senior; Eleanor Gillic (Kilbeggan) with 115 in the Intermediate and Loughlinstown's Betty Cody (127) in the Junior. McBride's Michael Bedford shot 94 to win the Gents Senior. Tullamore's own Brendan Gorman won the Intermediate Championship on 99 while PJ Dunne (Ferbane) beat Poulaphouca's Billy Hamilton in a Junior play-off after a tie on 112.

2011

Tullamore co-hosted the National Scramble with neighbours Erry on 7-8th May 2011. Riverdale (Hannah Ryan, Con Clear and P.J. Ryan) won with 171. Cunnigar were runners-up.

PRAISED IN SONG AND STORY..... THE 1978 INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

By John Manning

How many Pitch and Putt Inter-County winning sides have been immortalized in song? Not many.

Tullamore Pitch and Putt club hosted the Inter-County tests for the first time on July 23rd 1978. It was the scene of the second ever playoff and a first (and so far only) Gent's Inter-County triumph for a proud county wearing maroon. Westmeath defeated Cork in a thrilling playoff. Cork were bidding for a five-in-a-row in the Championship, having survived the first ever Inter-County playoff at RGSC the previous year against Dublin and Kildare.

Earlier the teams had tied after the regulation 36 holes. Westmeath (Bobby Gorman 95, Jack McCormack, 97, Murty Quinn 101, Pat Morgan 101 and Feichin Morgan 105) totaled 394 for the best four -out-of-five format to match Cork's 38 under par return (Mick Forrest 92, Donal Long 98, John Crowley 100, Brendan Donaghy 104 and TJ O'Riordan 104).

In those days the Gents and Ladies championships were contested on the same day, that meant a three hour wait for the Gents playoff. The Westmeath team piled into a car and repaired to Jack and Rose McCormack's house in nearby Kilbeggan. While they were away, the Dublin's Ladies team total of 435 won the Inter-County Championship by eleven shots from the runners-up who were coincidentally enough, Westmeath

The Gents of Westmeath meanwhile relaxed in their nearby bolt hole, their captain Pat Morgan even had a shave!

At 6pm on a sunny and windy day, the Cork and Westmeath teams took to the course again.

They were tied after the regulation three holes play-off. Nor could they be separated after four holes. In the first four groups, Cork scored one bogey on the 5th to all Westmeath pars but the play-off was still best four scores out of five.

In the last group, Cork's Donal Long put his tee-shot through the fifth green. He chipped too strongly and took bogey. To the delight of the huge Westmeath contingent in the gallery, the Lake County's skipper "Big Pat" Morgan holed a six footer for birdie on the fifth. The quintet's place in Westmeath history and folklore was secure.

All of the renowned men in maroon had their own nickname. In addition to Collinstown's "Big Pat", there was "Little Maestro" Jack McCormack (Kilbeggan), "Music Man" (Feichin) Morgan (Collinstown), Murty ("Liverpool") Quinn from St. Loman's in Mullingar and Kilbeggan's "The Veteran" Bobby Gorman.

Bobby Gorman won the individual best nett that day with 93. Forrest's (Cork) 92 was the Best Gross.

The song? Here it is...

THE FAMOUS FIVE

(Air: Courtin' In The Kitchen; Words: Seán Meally, aka "Socket" – a leading Pitch and Putt writer of the time).

Come listen one and all, unto me pay attention,
I'm giving up Pitch and Putt, for tis the Devil's own invention.
Into a six inch hole, to Putt a small white ball,
May be your idea of fun, but it drives me up the wall.

CHORUS

With a TOO-RA-LOO-RA-LEI,
Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Laddie,
Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Lei,
Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Laddie.

Tis a most frustrating game. And don't tell me I'm lying.
Just when you think you've mastered it, Out of Bounds your ball goes flying.
Some say it will relax you, after a hard day's toil,
For me it's about as relaxing as, a dose of Caster Oil

CHORUS

Central Council run the Show, by remote control from Dublin,
They're not so bloody bad, as long as you don't trouble them.
Their Blazers are grand, with Crests upon the Pocket
They're a damn sight more than you'll ever see, on the back of poor oul' "Socket"

CHORUS

Of course you've heard the news, of our great jubilation
In Pitch and Putt we really are the toast of the Nation.
In this year's Inter-County, Cork said they would succeed,
But in an exciting play-off, they were bottled by WESTMEATH.

CHORUS

We salute these gallant lads. Of that there's no denying,
On 23rd July in Tullamore – They kept our Banner flying.
They did us all right proud, and put us on the Map,
They are MURTY, FEICHIN, BOB and JACK, And sure we can't leave out our BIG PAT.

CHORUS

Twas a win we'll all remember, Until our dying Day,
Dick Abraham said it was harder to watch than it was to Blooming Play.
Packing them off to Kilbeggan, was what really did the Trick,
And twas fitting that the Final blow be struck by Pat's BIG NIBLICK.

CHORUS

Now that's all I'm going to sing. For my throat is getting dry,
At performing for the Public, I am really very shy.
While this Town of Ours is Great, and has got a lot of Class,
I hope in WATERFORD NEXT YEAR? THEY WON'T BREAK ANY GLASS.

CHORUS

NATIONAL LADIES STROKEPLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Linda Thomson

THERE was no shortage of drama on the weekend of July 20th in Fermoy. Linda Thomson reflects on a Ladies weekend that had a bit of everything, a long delay on Saturday due to rain, ideal conditions on Sunday and a Senior Ladies Championship that just couldn't be decided over 54 holes...

Junior and Intermediate

On Saturday July 19th our Junior Ladies opened proceedings in Fermoy. Play got underway at 9am, and 23 players took to the first tee-box. The scoring from the ladies after nine holes was very consistent, with one player in particular making her mark early on and that was Sarah O'Neill from the Collins club. At 11.30am the rain came and slowed proceedings and at 12.40pm, play was completely suspended due to heavy rain. This heavy rain did not dampen the spirits of the Junior Ladies or a good share of the Intermediate Ladies who were waiting to swing into action. Sarah O'Neill managed to complete her

36 holes prior to the delay and did so with a score of 113. The nearest was Jacinta Nugent from Tipp Hills on 120.

After a 90 minute delay and many a cuppa had, play eventually resumed in both grades. By 3pm, the entire field had finally teed off. Aoife Carton was the early pacesetter in the Inters on -1, with Una Brosnan matching her for their opening 9 holes. It was nip tuck with the ladies, but Mary Donnelly of Ryston held the clubhouse lead on level for her 36, 4 shots of the next best – Glenda Hoey of RGSC on 112. Una Brosnan was to turn for +1 after 27 to -1 for the lead on 107 going into the final 18. The Junior playoff got underway at 5.15pm and by nearly 7pm Sarah O'Neill from Collins was to prove too much for the other ladies. She won the Championship by 15 shots from second place Lily O'Brien (Lakeside) with Karen Aherne (Ballinlough) taking third and Sarah also added to the Cork Junior Strokeplay title that she had won three weeks prior.



Intermediate and Junior Ladies Champions 2014 - Mary Donnelly (Ryston) and Sarah O'Neill (Collins)

The Top 10 of the Ladies Inter had taken to the field, a margin of only 10 shots between 1st and 10th, making it all to play for in the Final Round. Mary Donnelly, who was one behind the leader going out posted a 52 with her playing partner and leader Una Brosnan posting at 54. It was fitting that the two Provincial Strokeplay winners at Intermediate level the week before were battling it out to be the outright National Champion in the grade and Mary would be the one to emerge victorious. She won by one shot from Una with Glenda Hoey posting a fine round of 51 to put her into the medals and finishing third overall.

It was a long day for both players/spectators and NEC Officers alike, but finally by 8.30 that evening it was time to go home, and turn the focus to the Sunday for the Seniors, and hope the weather would be a lot kinder!!!

Senior

10am Sunday morning and a better morning by far!

Play got underway pretty much seamlessly for the 40 Seniors in the field. Defending champion Chrissie Byrne, and Shandon's Maree O'Toole were the early leaders after 18 on -5 a piece, but many ladies were posting scores of -3/-4 under to stay in contention. Chrissie's challenge would fade over the course of her second 18 however and by midday, we had a new club-house leader, Ger Ward on -6. Maree O'Toole was in flying form on the course, and was -11 for 27 holes, with Tara Dillon -7 for 27 and Breda Lonergan was moving along nicely at -6 after 18.

Maree O'Toole completed the 36 and is the clubhouse leader on -12, but she was soon joined by Tara Dillon who posted an excellent round of -9 on her second 18 to join Maree on -12. Their lead however was short-lived as Ger Ward posted -14 for her 36. We had five ladies playing for 4 spots and only separated by a mere five shots. The drama would continue; Ger Ward and Tara Dillon were tied after the final 18 on -18! Breda Lonergan was only one shot away from joining them in a further nine holes after finishing on -17 with Maree's total of -14 good enough for fourth place overall.

However all the focus would now switch to who would be crowned 2014 Champion? Those who had come to Fermoy to watch proceedings made the right choice as the Elvery Cup would need more holes to decide whether it be going to Dublin or Kildare from the Cork venue. Ger in search of her 16th National title, Tara finding herself in a playoff in a National for the second time this year and a repeat of a National Matchplay Quarter-Final which the latter had won, what a tantalising prospect! The nine hole playoff commenced and the two Ladies were never more than a stroke away from each other after the completion of each hole. Tara made the better start going to -3 and Ger needed a crucial putt at the seventh to stay within one stroke with two to play. She drew level on -3 and by the end of the regulation nine we were still none the wiser! Sudden death would now be needed to separate both players. Ger sank her putt for a birdie at the 10th first, with Tara now the one needing to match Ger to keep us all in further limbo. Cruelly for Tara it missed by a narrow margin and Ger Ward was to win title sweet sixteen in one of the most keenly contested battles you could imagine.

By 5.45pm, some two and a half hours earlier than the previous day, the Ladies were presented with their crystal and medals. Among the spectators was a welcome face in the form of PPUI Patron Vincent Allen, indeed what everyone had witnessed was the sort of stuff many of his great reports of the sport have been written about down the years. A special word of praise must go to Fermoy for being excellent hosts and preparing a course that had to put up with quite a lot on the weather front over the course of the weekend. It was encouraging to see the amount of spectators there over both days along with the players that continue to enter and support these Championships year upon year.

Finally well done to Sarah, Mary and Ger – three worthy National Champions. We look forward to seeing it all again next year in Ringcommons!

NATIONAL GENTS STROKEPLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Paul O'Brien

THE 2014 staging of the National Gents Strokeplay Championships took place at the renowned Stackallen course whereby we were presented with a course that was impeccably prepared by the ground staff led by the legendary Sean Downes. This course has it all in terms of what makes a championship course and over that weekend the wind showed its worth and evidently proved how tough this track can be. If you could score on the front nine and held on as tightly as you could to the foundations laid as you entered the massive test the back nine proved to be, then you would be there or thereabouts. The greens were fantastic, the fairways cut tight which certainly punished a shot that failed to hit the green and all in all it was a pure test of one's playing ability over the weekend.

Junior Strokeplay

Alan Bennis (Parteen) proved his true worth over the duration of play on the Saturday to win the Junior title. He finished on a total score of -11 to win by three shots from Declan Mulpeter (Ryston) who finished in runner-up on -8 and he was two clear of Barry Dyas (McBride) in third. It was a fantastic Junior

Championship whereby you had 10 players playing the playoff and there was nine shots separating them in advance.

Alan proved that the front nine holes was ultimately where he won the competition when he shot and opening -4 in the final 18. Declan mounted a late challenge when he shot a closing -4 for his final nine holes to try and haul back the Limerick man but to no avail. Barry Dyas played steady throughout the final 18 and as those in front of him floundered as they dropped shots on the devilish back nine. Dyas continued to climb up the leader board where he eventually would take third spot from the 36 hole leader Colin Sheehan (Douglas).

Intermediate Strokeplay

What a Championship! It had it all one could say. Birdies at a premium and a battle between Leinster & Munster as you had 7&5 split respectively from each province ready to battle it out in the Final 18. We had some players with Inter County experience, some with little experience but what a play-off that ensued. Nine holes so much so that we then had sudden



Liam O'Donovan (Bruff) earned his second National Strokeplay title at Stackallen. He defeated John Walsh (Collins) and JR Crangle (Loughlinstown) into 2nd and 3rd place. All three are pictured with PPUi President Eamonn Birchall.

death! You couldn't script what unfolded on the hallowed turf of Stackallen.

Eventually we had a winner in the name of Owen Farrell (St Bridgets) who managed to overcome the Kingdom and Deerpark's Creagh Courtney with Michael Vaughan (Inniskeen) taking third spot on the Back 18 from Richard Jordan (Raffen Creek). The play off between the two young guns was magical, we had a hole in one from Owen, Courtney showed massive resolve to fight back with birdies at the eighth and ninth to force sudden death. Owen chipped in on the signature 10th hole to claim his maiden victory. As I said, this championship was enthralling and I expect to hear a lot more of these two players as the years unfold.

St Bridget's have enjoyed massive success over the years in the Ladies grade and now Owen becomes the third player from the renowned club to deliver a Gents National title. Creagh Courtney has been a fine Juvenile player in the past where he won the National Boys and now he has now entered the Gents game with great gusto and one has to think that he will be a player to watch out for as in the near future, as will Kilcullen's finest. Inniskeen's Michael Vaughan deserves a special mention as he is playing in a new club, a club that we hope will excel in the years to come and his placing is sure to inspire the players in his club to bigger things and we hope they continue to prosper.

In the last 10 years we have seen Leinster slowly claw back Munster's dominance in this championship as it is now seven to three but more importantly Leinster have now won the last three championships and this can only benefit the game going forward. It really was a brilliant championship and all players that played can really be proud of their efforts.

Remember the name, Owen Farrell as one has to believe that this could push this young man on to bigger and better things.

Senior Championship

They say resolve, grit, determination, luck, massive ability and pure will to win makes a Champion. All these words sum up Liam O'Donovan (Bruff). Did the decorated player think his best days were behind him? If he was honest he might say he did but you can never keep a great player down for too long. 2014 has seen Liam re-evaluate his game, he changed his pitcher and with it brought a new found consistency to his game albeit one bad day at the office in the

National Matchplay. Liam is and always will ooze class, his play can be fearless but when in the zone there is not many better who can handle the pressure like the genial Bruff man.

What can one say about his win, in ESB twelve years ago he held a beautiful nine foot putt for his maiden win but in Stackallen he faced a far different obstacle. People knew that going big of Stackallen's 18th is no place for anyone but to go massively big was like the climbing Everest to get up and down for par. O'Donovan has been known to be a brilliant chipper of a ball, has very soft hands with that club in his hand and what he produced on the final hole when it mattered most was simply incredible. To chip within one foot of the hole from that position was most deserving of any tournament win and those who witnessed it realised that they really did see something very special when it mattered most.

The final 18 in the Senior Gents, probably couldn't have been tighter in ways as you had 20 players within six shots of the 36 hole leader George Beardsley (Cement). Leinster players had the edge on their Munster counterparts with a ratio of twelve to eight representatives in the final 18. It was the first time since 1997 at Seapoint that they have had this edge. And so it began, Ian Farrelly flew out of the traps and his posting of -14 set the early clubhouse lead. Kieran Earls shot a blistering -7 in the final round to finish of -15 whereby he would claim fourth spot overall when the play came to an end, another stepping stone for the magnificent Parteen player.

Then you had John Walsh (Collins) and JR Crangle (Loughlinstown) bring home -7 and -6 respectively to finish on -18 and they had an anxious wait of seeing could they manage to sneak into a nine hole play-off with O'Donovan playing his final hole. I am sure they thought they would when they witnessed his tee shot but one must admire the sportsmanship shown by all present when rapturous applause was sent Liam's way after producing probably the best chip of his life under the most extreme of pressure.

Munster players continue to dominate this championship over the last 10 years with eight wins to two from Leinster. What a weekend overall for Limerick Pitch & Putt though. They had two winners and a podium placing and hopefully this will inspire the Treaty counties players as the future unfolds.

LEINSTER LADIES INTER-COUNTY REVIEW

By Linda Thomson

It's hard to believe how quickly a year goes by in the Pitch & Putt world. When the season and indeed the trials for the Inter-County teams start (which for many counties is in April), the thought of the county jersey seems a long way off, particularly to the provincials in August. To the players participating in these trials however, it is not a long way off! They play in many dedicated trials plus Majors and are under the watchful eye of their county selectors to hopefully make a claim for a place on their county team.

Senior

Collinstown was the venue for this year's Leinster Inter-county and the club may be nestled in a small village, but the one word you would never use to describe this course is small! This course is up there with the best pitching courses in the country. There were five Ladies teams this year – Dublin, Kildare, Offaly, Louth and Meath. Dublin, Offaly and Louth opened proceedings on the Sunday morning at 9am in a dull, drizzly and windy Collinstown. Kildare as holders were out last with Meath. Kildare were going for their eighth title while Dublin were in search of their seventh and looking to go level overall with the Lilywhites.

As the weather conditions were up and down for all the doubles, the wind was proving difficult for most. The doubles in the Inter-county are vital to get a good start in and cement a firm score. After the doubles had come in, Kildare had a total of -20 with Dublin on -18, Offaly on Level, Louth +3 and Meath +6. A shoot-out between Dublin and Kildare was now on the cards. While conditions improved slightly in the singles, the first two Singles cards in for Dublin both posted a score of -1 to draw level with Kildare. It was tight with all the last few singles for each county out there. Dublin had concluded with -19 in total. Kildare were leading with two players on the course.

The closing holes in Collinstown would not be the easiest with the wind direction, and in the end, Dublin discovered their fate, shots had been dropped by Kildare in the closing holes and Dublin were crowned Leinster Inter-County winners for 2014 and for the seventh time to equal Kildare's record. Offaly came third this year and a county that is growing with each year will surely be a threat in Tullamore.

1st - Dublin (M O'Toole, G Ward, S Elmes, S Keely, P Condrón & L Thomson) 467

2nd - Kildare (C Byrne, M Byrne, T Dillon, M Donnelly, M Keogh & M O'Toole) 470

3rd - Offaly (A Farrell, L Flanagan, T McGrath, D Pyke, L Pyke & H Wynne) 498

Intermediate

The following week, all eyes turned to McDonagh in Kildare and the first time for the Inter & Junior Provincial Inter-Counties. Unfortunately, we had only three Ladies Inter teams enter (Kildare, Offaly and Louth) with no Junior teams entered. While it is obviously disappointing that we could not get more teams involved hopefully these are events which will take off in the coming years, a new venture always takes time. Although only three teams were involved it didn't take from the tournament and the counties involved. Kildare, Louth and Offaly were going to fight it out, and personally I think this is huge experience for Ladies playing in the Inter game and can only be good for a player's development in the sport.

Kildare, being in their home county, were always going to be favourites. What made this competition a little more unique is, some of the ladies, on all teams, were involved the week previous in Collinstown. Indeed the more you play in these events, the more familiar it becomes. The hosts proved too strong for Offaly and Louth on the day leading from start to finish with the Faithful County finishing 12 shots ahead of Louth in second. As said on the day, all the teams thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hopefully it can become a permanent fixture in the calendar in the years ahead. We would encourage all counties to make an effort in supporting next year.

1st - Kildare (B Dunne, M Donnelly, A Doyle, M Loakman, M Sherry & C Smith) 530

2nd - Offaly (E Guerin, C McCarthy, A Minogue, K O'Lone, L Pyke & G Ryan) 570

3rd - Louth (P Brennan, C Carroll, M Everitt, A Fagan, B Hanratty & A Ward) 582

We would like to thank Collinstown and McDonagh for hosting these events and look forward to Tullamore which is thankfully just around the corner.

RHAPSODY IN MAROON!

By John Manning

Just after 6pm on a late Summer Sunday. Westmeath's favourite adopted son Alan Hanlon approached the 18th green at Collinstown. For once, there was no spectacular finish from the popular and inspiring left hander. He didn't need it. A carefully played two putt par from six feet was all it took. After 21 years of trying, Westmeath were finally Leinster Gent's Inter-County champions.

Meticulous team manager Martin Carter's charges ended the championship five shots clear of playing partners and defending champions Louth. The final Westmeath tally was 424, an impressive 62 under par. Eight times champions Dublin finished third on 436. The foundation of the Maroon County success was laid in the morning scotch foursomes when the three Westmeath pairings produced play of irresistible quality. Pat Malone and Martin Kenny (after a birdie at the first and an ace at the fifth) fired 43, a score replicated by John Browne and Michael Buckley. The experienced Alan Hanlon linked up with debutant Dessie Baker to return 44. That 32 under par aggregate left the Lake County representatives seven clear of near neighbours Offaly and eight ahead of the reigning champions from the Wee County.

John Browne's 'bounce-back ability' was undeniable when the ultra-committed Collinstown player suffered a rare double bogey after pitching through the 15th green in the singles. Three birdies to finish followed. With a vital 49 was chalked on the scoreboard. Michael Buckley was home in 21 (birdieing six of the last seven) for a 47. Martin Kenny, who has been playing on Westmeath teams since 1989, contributed an ultra steady 48. Pat Malone and Dessie Baker scored 50s. That meant the canny

Hanlon knew all he had to do was to avoid catastrophe and three closing pars secured a singles 50 and that nap hand margin. Louth outscored their hosts by three shots in the singles, helped in no small measure by a 45 by George Beardsley (a member of the Louth team that claimed four titles in five years from 2002) and a 46 by Sean Goggin, a three time past winner with Louth.

Keith Redmond (on his first appearance in the famous blue colours) and Mark Millar (a victor with Louth in the past) were the standout Dublin performers, combining for 44 foursomes tally and shooting 47 and 48 respectively in the singles. But it was Westmeath's day and the landmark victory was celebrated long into the night at the Lough Lene Inn. Team captain Liam Buckley and 1999 National Strokeplay champion Niall Cuffe were also integral members of the squad.

The Collinstown course was presented in beautiful condition on a typically tricky day weather-wise.

Westmeath (Pat Malone, Dessie Baker, Michael Buckley, John Browne, Martin Kenny and Alan Hanlon) 424

Louth (Ian Donnelly, Padraig Sarsfield, Owen Smith, George Beardsley, Sean Goggin and Shane Redmond) 429

Dublin (Keith Redmond, Junior Smith, Mark Millar, John Ross Crangle, George McGreal and Chris Gallagher) 436

Other Scores: 440 Offaly; 441 Kildare; 443 Down; 444 Wexford; 470 Longford, 449 Meath; 475

WINS FOR WESTMEATH AND WEXFORD

By John Manning

The inaugural Leinster Gent's Graded Inter-County championships were contested on the famed Athgarvan course in Co. Kildare on Sunday August 17th.

Intermediate

Just a week after their Senior counterparts had tasted Leinster glory for the first time, Westmeath Intermediates powered through in the Singles to outscore Meath and Wexford overall by eight shots.

There was a strong link between the two Lake County teams. Having managed Westmeath to the title at Collinstown a week previously, Martin Carter now took to the course himself. A fine singles return of 49 by Martin allied to a flawless 47 by Darren Reilly were central contributions to a -14 singles team score by Westmeath. That was seven better in singles than any other side (having been tied fourth after the opening foursomes) and made up nine shots on Meath and twelve on Wexford. The Westmeath aggregate of 462

was a cumulative 24 under par. Wexford carded -14 in the foursomes to lead by two over Kildare and three from Meath at that stage. Aaron Moorehouse and James Kenny shot a joint best of the day 48 in the foursomes for Wexford. A 47 in singles by James Byrne Jun. helped Meath to make up that three shot deficit on the Model County. Meath survived a tense count-back to take second place on the back nines after the tie on 16 under par 470.

Westmeath (Martin Carter, Gary Middleton, Darren Reilly, Sean Langdon, Jonathan Daly and Stephen Ruane) 424

Meath (John Byrne, Dom Scully, Barry Nelis, Peter Collins, Jason Hughes, Anthony Gibney) 470 (on back 9)

Wexford (Shane Redmond, Gavin Kenny, Aaron Moorehouse, James Kirwan, Stephen Kirwan, Kevin Doyle) 470

Other Scores: 471 Kildare; 474 Dublin, Offaly; 490 Down; 482 Louth and 491 Carlow.

Junior

Ruairi Fortune, Mark Kirwan, Richard Grannell and

Aidan O'Brien were all under par in singles to help Wexford to take the junior championship. Wexford were poised in joint third place (alongside Offaly) after the initial foursomes, six shots behind the home county Kildare and two back of Louth. The Wexford sextet's collective two under par return for the singles was eleven better than any of the other eight teams. That left Wexford on nine under par 477 and thirteen strokes clear overall at the finish.

A second best singles return of +9 enabled Westmeath improve from joint 6th place (with Down) after the foursomes to finish second on 490, just a single stroke clear of Kildare, who posted +18 for the singles.

Wexford (Ruairi Fortune, Richard Grannell, Aidan O'Brien, Mark Kirwan, Glenn Fortune, Aidan Whelan) 477

Westmeath (James Greene, Keith Hope, Mark Power, Mark Kelly, Martin Loran, Alan Foxe) 490

Kildare (Stephen Bolger, Emmet Doran, Martin Russell., Stephen Murphy, Martin McGee, Paddy Phillips) 491

Other Scores: 494 Offaly; 501 Louth; 513 Dublin; 521 Down; 525 Longford and 529 Meath.



History Makers at Collinstown: Westmeath - Leinster Inter-County Champions 2014

MUNSTER SENIOR INTER COUNTY REVIEW

By Paul O'Brien

TIPPERARY Hills was the venue for the Munster Inter County Championship where Cork continued their dominance in the Juvenile and the Gents only to see the Tipperary Ladies record their first ever win in his championship after years of runners-up finishes. Tipp Hills is unique, placed at the foot of the Galtee Mountains, the course is so, so special in my view. Every shot you can think of is seen here and the walk back from the 18th to the 1st is very well known. A grand walk if you pick up a shot, a very lonely walk if you drop a shot! The course was perfectly presented and before the event, players were correct in suggesting this event would see very low scores. The wind came alive on the hills though which ensured that scoring could be achievable but only if a player was in full control of their games.

Ladies

Tipperary were flawless and have really proved that last year was no flash in the pan when they won the National Inter County at Hillview. They have added to their team in the names of Michelle & Gemma McCarthy and this has made them very strong albeit in the absence of Breda Lonergan. They were far too strong for the Cork Team on the day but special mention must go to Una Brosnan who fired home -5 in her singles for the best round from any lady on the day. Her quality is undeniable but wasn't it really great to see five young ladies playing in the form of Michelle & Gemma McCarthy, Martha O'Brien, Sarah Byrne & Una Brosnan. This success was Tipperary's first in the competition since 1996.

While I wish to take nothing away from Tipp's win, I must say that having two teams is simply not viable in order to run this sort of Championship going forward in my view. The Ladies game remains a struggle but it will continue to struggle if players or boards decline to enter the Championship. I know counties might not have six players but would it be a good idea to reduce the number of players from each county to four? All options should be put on the table in terms of team numbers, gross or nett and the format in general I believe. All in all something has to be done.

1st - Tipperary: (M McCarthy, G McCarthy, S McCarthy, M O'Brien, M Quinn & B Shelley) 480

2nd - Cork: (U Brosnan, S Byrne, V McCarthy, M Murray, P Murphy, & P Nolan) 520

Gents

Cork rolled in and Cork once again rolled out victorious in the Munster Gents Inter County. Kerry had led the way after the doubles on -31, with Cork five shots behind and Tipperary four shots adrift of Cork. The Limerick team shot -19, Clare -15 and Waterford -12. As always it would be the Singles where it would be decided and it was Kerry who were to post a score of -48. It was surprising in many ways after their doubles start but that's the singles for you and I am sure this experience will stand to their new players as they look forward to Tullamore. Limerick it has to be remembered were missing both John Cunningham and Kieran Earls and they will be a formidable force in Tullamore. Clare and Waterford are also likely to be excited about the introduction of a second tier in the National Inter-County, great credit for which must go to Niall Reynolds for spearheading.

Tipperary were below par in their own words in the Doubles but one thing they can take from this runner-up position is that they beat Cork in the Singles albeit not an important factor in the overall scheme of things. Cork once again proved their worth with a terrific win, they had two fantastic doubles scores, one well below their usually very high standards but when it mattered most were able to keep breathing distance between themselves and Tipperary. All teams in Munster have a lot to work on before Tullamore it must be said however. Cork have a tendency to just get birdies when it matters the most and this is what makes them so hard to beat.

It was a great championship and one Tipperary Hills can be very proud of hosting and the competition was ran very well and all counties looked fantastic and played very sportingly throughout which is what the game is all about.

1st - Cork (J Cahill, B Delaney, S Doolan, K Dunscombe, R Murphy & J Walsh): 427

2nd - Tipperary (J Cleary, A Culhane, P O'Brien, J O'Meara, J Ryan & S Shoer): 430

3rd - Kerry (J Blake, D Fleming, J Goodall, SJ Kelliher, C McCarthy & J O'Brien): 438

MUNSTER INTER & JUNIOR INTER-COUNTY REVIEW

By Jason O'Connor

IT was hard to know what to expect when we all arrived in St Stephens for the first ever Ladies and Gents Intermediate and Junior Inter-County Championships. With no previous form or lack of knowledge that one would generally have of players at senior inter-county level, it made for an intriguing prospect to have players line out in their county colours for the first time. There was a giddy excitement amongst the players as they awaited their call to the first tee-box and bar a brief shower of rain it truly was a great day weather wise for the inaugural staging on a very challenging course.

The Junior Gents began proceedings at 8.30am with Clare and Limerick the first two counties to tee-off. It was the host county Cork who held the lead after the Scotch Foursomes on 13 under par, 10 shots ahead of playing partners Kerry with Tipperary a further five shots behind the Kingdom. The scoring in the Singles proved to be tough but Cork held on to take victory in the competition by six shots from Tipperary as all bar one of their players broke 60 in the Singles. Tipperary stormed ahead of Kerry to take second thanks to a tremendous six under par round for Paddy Murray and two under from Robbie O'Donnell to finish on 501, 12 ahead of Kerry's third place total of 513. The winning Cork team of Chris O'Donovan, Colin Sheehan, Martin O'Sullivan, Nicky Byrne, Steven Miller and William O'Callaghan were the ones to take spoils however with a winning total of 495 (nine over par).

The Junior Ladies competition was contested between three counties (Cork, Tipperary and Waterford) and there was very little to separate them after 18 holes. Tipperary led by two shots from their opponents with a total of 196 thanks mainly to a fine 59 from the duo of Helen McMorrough and Lily O'Brien. Rounds of 65 for both Lily and Margaret Courtney in the Singles were key factors in Tipperary going on to extend their eventual winning margin to 20 shots with a final total of 609. Elaine Courtney, Margaret Clear and Josie McCormack were the other members of the Premier County team that brought back a second provincial inter-county title after the Senior Ladies success in Tipperary Hills the previous week. Cork were second with Waterford finishing in third place. Tipperary were denied a clean sweep of the Ladies titles by Cork

in the Intermediate however as both counties replicated the straight shootout that was going on between the two counties in another code up in Croke Park! Tipp had led after the Scotch Foursomes by 13 shots but Cork gained a 20 shot swing in the Singles to win out by seven. Both Una Brosnan (Cork) and Gemma McCarthy (Tipperary) deserve great credit for shooting level par 54's in the Singles but Cork's eventual total of 555 was the winning score. Along with Una, Cork were represented by the two Catherine's, McCarthy and Waters, Ailish Sexton, Sarah O'Neill as well as team captain Linda O'Donovan.

The Intermediate Gents competition proved to be a Top Three placing for the same counties as the earlier Junior Gents grade but it was the order that proved to be different. Hosts Cork held a two shot lead after the Scotch Foursomes with total of 15 under par with Kerry on 13 under as Tipperary and Limerick were both tied for third on six under par. The course seemed to get the better of the players once again the Singles as no team improved on their Scotch Foursomes score but one county crucially managed to stay on their same score. That team was Kerry as they finished on level par combined for the Singles and 473 (13 under) for the tournament with Cork losing 13 shots themselves in the Singles in finishing second on 484. Tipperary finished four shots ahead of Limerick to take third on 497. The winning Kerry team contained Gavin Carroll, Creagh Courtney, James Dignam, St John Kelliher, Jason O'Brien and Aidan O'Connor with John Fitzgerald (Castleisland) the team's non-playing captain.

Come the presentation of prizes at 6.30pm that evening it certainly had been a memorable day in St Stephens for the 102 players of the 17 teams entered by the six Munster counties in what was for the vast majority the first time they ever put on their county colours in such a setting. It's an event that's not only going to stay but prosper on the Pitch & Putt calendar in the years to come.

PROVINCIAL STROKEPLAY ROUND-UP

By Jason O'Connor

Munster

It truly was a great day for Tipperary Pitch & Putt on Sunday July 13th last, particularly so in Douglas where they won two of the three Gents titles and were runners-up in another two. Tipperary Hills in particular will have fond memories of that day as with the memory of the late Sean Keane in mind they were victorious in both the Senior and Junior Gents competitions. James Ryan had a one shot lead over Michael Kennedy of Hillview going out into the playoff on nine under par and he improved his score by six strokes in the last 18 holes to finish with a total of 15 under par for a four shot win. James' club-mate Pat Martin matched that score of six under par in the playoff to claim second overall on 11 under with a level par round of 54 for Kennedy seeing him finish on eight under par for third place overall.

In the Junior competition Riverdale's John Minogue had led after the first 18 holes with a total of 42 but he was to be undone by the Tipp Hills tidal wave in the second 18 as Jamie Malone fired a superb round of 39 to add to an opening round of 46 for the winning score of 85 Nett. Minogue's second round of 45 saw him finish second overall on 87 while third place in this section went to Limerick as Bruff's John Farrell shot rounds of 47 and 43 to finish with a score 90. The Intermediate Gents competition resulted in success for the host club as Martin Freaney came from one behind after the First Round to come out victorious. Fermoy's Justin McCarthy was one ahead after the first 18 on 44 as opposed to 45 for Martin but a round of 43 in the second 18 gave the Douglas player victory on home turf with a score of 88, two shots better than McCarthy's final total of 90. Michael Morrissey shot a Second Round of 43 to continue Tipperary Hills' great day by coming in third on 91.

Meanwhile in Ballinlough at the Ladies event, all three titles went to the host county, the Junior of which went to the host club. Geraldine Hanrahan led from start to finish in the competition with rounds of 42 and 44 giving her victory with a score of 86 Nett. St Stephens' Mairead Manning was a consistent performer in the runners-up spot firing two rounds of 45 to finish four shots behind Geraldine on 90. Cunnigar's Stella Kinsella was nearly as consistent in finishing in third with rounds of 45 and 46 for 91. In the Intermediate competition, 2013 National Girls

Strokeplay Champion Una Brosnan from Claycastle continued her terrific rise with an eight shot victory and a score of 87 Nett. This came courtesy of rounds of 43 and 44 as she finished well clear of the field. Margaret Forde from Riverdale was only two shots behind Una on 45 after the First Round but couldn't quite live with her pace in the second 18 as she added a round of 50 to finish on 95 in total. Maura Aherne from the host club was third overall in the grade on 99 following rounds of 50 and 49.

In the Senior Ladies event, Mary Murray from Rocklodge just edged Fermoy's Sarah Byrne in a tight finish. Sarah had led Mary by two after the First Round with a 48 but Mary was the player to add a 48 herself in the second 18 to finish with a score of 98 Nett as a round of 51 for Sarah saw her finish on a total of 99. Lakeside's Martha O'Brien claimed third thanks to a closing 48, but it was an opening round of 53 that proved costly to her in posting a 101 total.

Leinster

THREE different venues (two of which are actually in Ulster) played host to the Leinster competitions with Lucan hosting the Ladies competitions. The Senior field was small but it was no less competitive as Phil Condron from the hosts put a slight dampener to an otherwise happy week for Erry's Tracey McGrath off the course with a one shot win. Tracey led by two after the First Round with a score of 48 but a level par 54 proved to be her undoing in the Second Round as she finished on 102 with rounds of 50 and 51 giving Phil victory with a score of 101 Nett. Tracey was just ahead of another Offaly player, Anne Marie Farrell from Ferbane, who had rounds of 54 and 49 for a third place finish on 103.

The Intermediate competition was won by a Kildare player in the form of Ryston's Mary Donnelly who denied the host club a clean sweep of the titles on the day with rounds of 51 and 49 for a winning total of 100 Nett. Evelyn O'Gorman from Lucan was the one to miss out on making it a memorable day for the hosts but rounds of 53 and 48 gave her second with a total of 101, one away from victory. Lucan's second title came courtesy of a victory for Fiona Langan in the Junior competition with rounds of 46 and 45 for a 91 Nett total. That was three shots better than the total

of runner-up, club-mate Patricia Anderson, who had two rounds of 47 for a total of 94. Valerie Barron from the Seapoint club in Louth was third overall with a score of 99, comprising rounds of 52 and 47 respectively.

The two Gents competitions were split between Ulster venues, Inniskeen in Monaghan and Cloghogue in Down. In Inniskeen, the number 80 was the magic one as it turned out to be the winning total in both the Intermediate and Junior competitions. In the Intermediate, Aaron Daly from Longmeadows in Dublin claimed victory with consistent rounds of 40, giving him victory over Brian Casey from the hosts who despite matching Aaron on 40 in the First Round could only post a round of 43 in finished second on 83 Nett. A superb final round of 38 gave Cloghogue's Mark Flynn third overall on 84 after he opened with a 46. The Junior saw another local player denied the overall prize with Anthony Burke from Granard in Longford victorious after rounds of 39 and 41. Ciaran McCreech from the hosts had led after the First Round with a 38 but a second 18 of 44 saw him finish

second on 82. Darren McNally from Bagenalstown was third over with scores of 40 and 43 for an eventual total of 83.

Up in Cloghogue the Senior competition was decided, with former two time National Boys Strokeplay Champion Shane Redmond continuing his rise up the ladder thanks to victory after final holes on 22 under par. Rounds of five and ten under par had left Shane four shots behind 36 hole leader John Delaney (89) from St Bridgets ahead of the last 18 but he took victory overall in the competition with a further round of seven under par. That just held off a strong local challenge from Liam McMahan of the host club who was level with Shane ahead of the playoff on 15 under par. Six under was Liam's total for the final 18 however as he lost out to Shane by a single stroke.

Kevin Thompson (also from Cloghogue) finished third overall thanks mainly to a fine closing round of 11 under par to go with a nine under par total ahead of the playoff for a twenty under total overall.



Brendan Lawlor (Channonrock) chips his second shot after his pitch came up short on the difficult 15th at Cloghogue

GREENKEEPING TIPS: AERATION

There are three different types of aeration procedures:

- Hollowtining
- Solid-tining
- Scarification

Hollowtining

Why Hollowtine?

It is one of the most common aeration procedures carried out on a Pitch & Putt course. Many members may complain that the process is carried out when the greens are at their best but it is a necessary one to get air into the greens and also helps relive compaction. The cores that are taken out are replaced with a recommended free draining sand and this helps improve the soil structure and drainage on the green. Benefits will then be seen in the winter months.

The Hollowtine hole may vary in size between a 6.35mm up to 15.87mm and the depth of the core taken out would be no more than 101.60mm. A Hollowtining machine is used and a series of holes are punched on the green and the core is taken out to the desired depth and the hole that is left is then filled with sand and this acts like a small drain as water will pass through sand easier than topsoil. This helps the greens to drain more freely in the winter months.

Another benefit of Hollowtining is that it helps the removal of thatch (organic matter). It allows the greens to breathe and releases any gases built up in the green. As our greens in Pitch & Putt are usually 50 square meters in area, compaction is a big problem and Hollowtining helps to alleviate this. Compaction is the breaking down of the soil structure by constant walking and cutting/maintenance of greens.

Hollowtining should be carried out twice yearly if possible and during the month of March when soil temperatures reach 10 degrees or over and early September whilst there is still heat in the soil. This will aid with the quick recovery of the greens.

Solidtining

Why Solidtine?

This is one of the most effective forms of aeration. If a club is fortunate enough to have an aeration machine solidtining can be carried out all year round. The process involves punching a series of holes in the green varying in sizes from 6.35mm to 25.4mm. This can be carried out during the summer months with 6.35mm tines and top dressed after.

Scarification

What's this?

This is another form of light aeration. This process helps remove thatch from greens and this is a pedestrian operated machine involving a series of discs rotating backwards and a depth of around 3mm. They create lines removing thatch and leaving airspace. It should only be carried out when there is a strong grass growth and never in the winter months. Also a clean-up lap should never be done as part of this process.

PROVINCIAL UNDER 16 CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

By Jason O'Connor



*Leinster Under 16 Strokeplay Champions following 36 testing holes at McBride:
Aoife Mahon (Lucan), Amy Galvin (Tullamore), Ross O'Reilly (Old County and Evan Carry (Castletown).*

Leinster

McBRIDE were the hosts of this year's Leinster Juvenile Championships with the Inter-County Championship beginning proceedings on Friday August 8th. Dublin were the defending champions and were paired with host county Louth as Meath and Offaly were the other two counties to take part. A round of 10 under par for the duo of Jamie Power and Ross O'Reilly along with rounds of eight under for the two Ciaran's, Gregan and Lynch along with the two Aaron's, Donnelly and Monaghan in the Scotch Foursomes were enough to give the Dubs an 11 shot lead over the Royal County after the first 18. Meath did close the eventual deficit to nine shots in the end thanks to a five under par round from Conor Doyle along with rounds of three under for both Luke Heeney and Evan Carry but there was to be no denying Dublin their victory on a combined score of 456 (30 under par) with Meath ending up on 465 in second. Offaly claimed third with a score of 484 with hosts Louth in fourth on 523.

The Singles on Saturday saw the four titles on offer shared amongst three counties (Dublin, Meath and Offaly) as there was no change in the Girls Champions. Lucan's Aoife Mahon retained the Girls 10

-13 grade on a score of 122, four shots better than Bellewstown's Kate Heeney on 126 with Seapoint's Emma Murphy finishing in third on 142. Tullamore's Amy Galvin (a former National Girls Strokeplay Champion) retained the 14-15 title with a score of two over par, 15 shots ahead of Lucan's Molly McCarthy in second on 125 with Molly's Lucan club-mate Eimear Keane third on 141. The Boys 10-13 grade saw a good showing for Meath with Castletown's Evan Carry victorious with a score of two under par. That was three shots better than Lucas McKeen (Bellewstown) in second on one over par with Longmeadows' Craig Hennessy a shot further back in third.

The Boys 14-15 grade was all about Dublin however as Old County's Ross O'Reilly led home a 1-2-3 finish for the county. His 12 under par total was three shots better than his inter-county team-mate of the previous day Ciaran Cregan (Portmarnock) and Longmeadows' Eric Byrne who both had nine under par. Ciaran's second round of eight under par saw him claim the runners-up spot on Countback. A great weekend for Dublin but certainly enough for the other counties to take encouragement from going forward.

Munster

TIPPERARY Hills played host to the Munster equivalent and it couldn't have gone any better from a Cork perspective as they claimed every single title on offer over the two days in Tipperary town. Niamh Byrne started the Rebel success story with victory over Lakeside's Sive Shelley in the Girls competition with a score of 125, 17 shots better than the Tipperary player's total. The Boys 10-13 grade saw victory go to Douglas' Eoin Keating with a 36 hole total of five under par six clear of another Cork player, Ballinlough's Iain Aherne in second on one over par. Adam Buckley was the only other non-Cork prize-winner besides Sive Shelley on the day with a total of five over par, defeating Tralee's Eoin Higgins on Countback for the bronze medal.

The Boys 14-15 grade was really where Cork showed their form however as they locked out the three medal positions. Conor Irwin completed a great double for Douglas with a fine score of 14 under par, two clear of Majestic Greg Barrett in second on 12 under with another player from Douglas, Cian Morrison third on 10 under par, rounding off a fine day for the Cork City club. The Inter-County competition on Sunday was contested between three counties, Cork, Kerry and Tipperary with Cork regaining the title that they lost to Kerry on home turf in St Annes the year before. A round of 10 under par from Ryan Towler & Conor Irwin along with scores of seven and six under par respectively from the combinations of David Howard & Anthony McSweeney and Charlie Morrissey and Cian Morrison

gave Cork a nine shot advantage over Kerry after the Scotch Foursomes and despite Kerry making a good charge through the deficit in the front nine of the Singles through Sean Courtney, Mark Harnett and Michael Cronin in particular, Cork still emerged victorious after a decent back nine to win by 11 with 444 (42 under par in total).

Tipperary finished third on 502, a round of six under par from Conor O'Halloran in the Singles the standout feature of their performance on the day. Certainly all the Munster players who are underage for next year got a good taste of what they can expect next year when Tipp Hills hosts the National Juvenile Championships over the course of the weekend's play.

Paul O'Brien adds:

I CAME across old records I had recently where you had a combination of Limerick/Clare or Limerick and Clare on their own and Waterford always had a Juvenile team. It doesn't matter whether they win or not, it's about getting them involved. People don't realise the pride you have playing for your county until you have experienced it. In my day, there was no Provincial Juvenile Inter County but if there was you would have had six teams represented in Munster and it would have been a spectacle. County Boards should be encouraged to try and ensure that participation is increased in Juvenile Inter-Counties in both provinces. These players deserve a chance; why not make it a reality for them?



The Cork team that are Munster and National Under 16 Inter County Champions 2014: Anthony McSweeney, Charlie Morrissey, Cian Morrison, Conor Irwin, David Howard Edward Walsh and Ryan Towler.

MAJOR UPCOMING FIXTURES AND DATES TO REMEMBER

August 31st: Provincial Mixed Foursomes Competitions @ Old County and Fermoy

Sept 6th & 7th: National Inter County Weekend @ Tullamore

Sept 20th: National Ladies Seniors Championships @ Gaeil Colmcille

Sept 21st: National Gents Seniors Championships @ Gaeil Colmcille

Sept 28th: National Mixed Foursomes Competition @ Ringommons

Oct 10th: Provincial Schools Competitions @ Erry and Cunnigar

Oct 24th: National Secondary Schools Competition @ Ryston

PRODUCTION TEAM FOR THIS ISSUE

Jason O'Connor (Editor), Linda Thomson, Paul O'Brien, John Manning and Pauric Buggy.

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Inter County in Collinstown recently! Alan spoke eloquently of that win on Midlands 103 Radio recently in what was a very positive presentation of our game.

I must thank Paul (O'Brien) and Linda (Thomson) for taking time out of their playing and County Board duties to do reports for this edition. Paul certainly has some thought provoking ideas about the Provincial Inter-Counties which might get a new lease of life with the new graded Championships that were recently held on Sunday, August 17th. Its great know that every member of the Union has a realistic chance of putting on a county jersey at some level with these new Championships.

Away from the playing side of things, our green keeping tips in this edition concern greens aeration, a process that is commonly undertaken during the month of September. Our Technical Committee are nearly set to embark on the making of a Greenkeeping DVD, more details of which will be announced anon.

Our next edition in mid-October will round up all of September's busy action before we move toward a Review of the Year edition prior to Christmas. Remember to follow the PPUI website, Facebook, Twitter and Flickr pages for all the latest news on our activities.

Anyone with any items of interest for future editions is gladly welcome to contact me on the details below.

Until next time,

Jason O'Connor

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