# BACKSPIN

Official E-Zine of the Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland **April**, 2015



## Issue Highlights:

• Liam Sherry - Hall of Fame

- Pitch and Putt returns to
   Newmarket
- What has Happened in 2015
  so far

A Look Back on the Annual Convention

• Plus Much More...

## WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF 2015!

A Chara,

You're very welcome to this, the first edition of Backspin for 2015. After a long winter, the changing of the clocks usually signifies that we are about ready to get the Pitch & Putt season into gear. Some counties have already got their programme of fixtures underway as can be seen from the reports contained in this edition, while this coming Easter Weekend sees a lot of action around the country.

Also in this edition we report on the recent Annual Convention in The Anner Hotel in Thurles, Co Tipperary which was held on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Not only do we look at the actual business of the Meeting itself but we also profile our most recent inductee into the PPUI Hall of Fame, Liam Sherry of St. Bridget's, with Liam's contribution to the game chronicled by *(continued on last page)* 



Liam Sherry, the St. Bridget's clubman, pictured above with his wife Mary accepting the PPUI Hall of Fame award for 2014. A truly deserving winner, Liam, together with Mary, has been at the heartbeat of the club since it's foundation in 1987. Since then he has become an instantly recognisable figure throughout the country as a result of his massive work developing Pitch and Putt. John Manning pays tribute to Liam in this issue. **Report on page 2** 

# LIAM SHERRY - HALL OF FAME

By John Manning

After being inducted into the Hall of Fame himself only last year, John Manning pays tribute here to the man who directly follows him into the illustrious and hallowed Hall, Liam Sherry of the St. Bridget's club.

Back in the mid-1980s, the area of land close to the Kilcullen Community Centre was a marsh to say the least. There was even a swans' nest in one corner! A meeting was assembled to explore the prospect of developing the land into a Pitch & Putt course. Mary Sherry attended that first gathering. At that time, Liam Sherry was a keen golfer at Baltinglass GC. A twelve handicapper, Liam had won the Captain's and President's Prizes at Baltinglass.

He agreed to attend the next Pitch & Putt meeting. The original meeting had elected a Secretary but due to other commitments he was unable to accept the position. Liam Sherry was chosen as Secretary at his first meeting. He has played very little golf since! Liam and Mary Sherry were two of the driving forces behind the formation of St. Bridget's Pitch and Putt Club in 1987. As well as steering the rise and rise of St. Bridget's in the near three decades since, Liam Sherry cheerfully filled prominent administrative posts at county and provincial level before stepping up to the National Executive for the 2000/01 season.

Last February, for the first time in many years, Mary Sherry had decided not to attend PPUI National Convention. A Saturday morning revelation meant a flurry of phone calls and a rapid change of plans. Mary and long-time friend Dina Dillon made it to Thurles to watch proudly as Liam Sherry was inducted into the Pitch & Putt Union of Ireland Hall of Fame for his outstanding services to the sport. Liam Sherry was born under the star sign Leo some three score and ten summers ago in Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny, the same part of the world that gave us the hurling legend Eddie Keher.

Before heading down the golf route, Liam actually first played Pitch and Putt in 1963. So his dedicated playing career stretches back over half a century, albeit with a break in between. Liam contended strongly at county and provincial level and supported events right across the country and internationally. The eve of the 1998 Ladies Strokeplay Championship gave me one of my first opportunities to play with Liam Sherry. The Inter Council Challenge was held at Athgarvan that evening and Liam, representing Leinster Council, a model playing partner. He was also demonstrated his consummate senior capabilities in a trouble-free 49. Liam was previously a Kildare Intermediate Strokeplay champion and was a Leinster Matchplay runner-up to Frank Ryan in 1996.

Liam contributed hugely as guardian of the P.P.U.I.'s handicaps (National Registrar) for three years. He was also a very active and effective National Children's Liaison Officer (2001-2003). His jovial, loyal and outstanding service to the National Executive continued at various times as P.R.O. (2005-2006) and as Development Officer (2010-2011).Liam's innate enthusiasm for Pitch & Putt (particularly handicaps) meant the Union found many fitting outlets for his considerable talents. Brimming with Leo confidence, Liam prominently and industriously filled administrative posts at club, county and provincial level, many of them held simultaneously and many performed while still working with the E.S.B. He was Board P.R.O., Board Competitions Secretary and Board Chairman in his adopted county of Kildare. He was Leinster Council Secretary and Registrar. Liam's Handicap Group was the first of the original Strategic Plan Committees to file a report.

Liam's ambitious administrative aspirations were always to help in the efforts to develop Pitch and Putt. Liam linked up with the late Willie Parker in a unique initiative. The putter wielded by the Cork left hander John Crowley to successive Irish Strokeplay championships in 1971 and 1972 features in the Pitch and Putt Museum, which opened some years ago and further enhances a visit to the excellent St. Bridget's complex. The museum displays old magazines, news reports, whatever may be of interest on the game. Liam Sherry's ultimate Pitch and Putt allegiance is to the to the club he helped found – St. Bridget's. A keen interest in gardening led naturally to an aptitude for green keeping. The Kilcullen course has been a flawless host venue for half a dozen national events, never more so for a memorable Ladies Strokeplay championship in 2004, won in some style by the incomparable Geraldine Ward.

As Club Secretary and Club Chairman, Liam Sherry masterminded St. Bridget's evolution into one of the top Pitch and Putt clubs of the modern era. Another key attribute of a Leo is encouraging. Liam nurtured local Kilcullen talent (players like the Byrnes, the Dillons, Bernadette Coffey, Cathal Dunne and Jason Hannon) that delivered many titles and which culminated in one of his most memorable Pitch and Putt moments - an Inter-County double in millennium year. As a central figure in one of the country's most prosperous and welcoming clubs, it was quite an honour for Liam Sherry to visit his home course with the Championship Committee (for the National Mixed Foursomes in 2001) during his first year as an Executive Officer of the P.P.U.I. Liam can be justly proud of his efforts towards ensuring that St. Bridget's have players that contend at all levels and course and clubhouse facilities that stand comparison with the best.

One of St. Bridget's finest, Marian Byrne, has this to say of the excellent spirit, engendered by Liam Sherry and his Kilcullen peers, "St. Bridget's is a really homely club, a family club you might say. Everybody gets on well together. Everybody helps each other. It's a great supporting club." There was no greater manifestation of that support than Liam Sherry, who is a judicious observer of all facets of Pitch and Putt. Wherever a St. Bridget's or Kildare player is contending, Liam can always be relied on to be close to the centre of the action, full of the relevant stats.

Liam was a witty commentator on all aspects of Pitch and Putt. After the last ever Central Council meeting in 2003, the delegates filed into the Dining Room for lunch. Fittingly, the seating arrangements comprised one large table – Last Supper style. Liam Sherry was prompted to quip, "How many people attended the Last Supper? Fourteen. Fourteen? Our Lord, the 12 apostles.....and the photographer!!" Liam would like to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone who phoned and sent texts, to all who shared, liked, commented and wrote on Facebook, and for the wonderful reception the announcement of his induction received at Convention. He will never forget the kindness shown and will hold the memory dearly.

That there was such an outpouring of goodwill at the Anner Hotel in February and in the aftermath, demonstrates the esteem in which the 29<sup>th</sup> Inductee into Pitch and Putt's Hall of Fame is held. Take a bow, Liam Sherry.



Liam Sherry - St. Bridget's. The latest inductee into the PPUI Hall of Fame

# **ANNUAL CONVENTION 2015**

By Jason O'Connor

Jason O'Connor reports on proceedings from the recent convention at The Anner Hotel, Thurles on Saturday, February 28th.

A total of 110 people comprising 87 delegates and 23 observers were in attendance when our most recent Convention got underway at 11am in the morning. The Meeting began with the Officers Reports and once these were discussed, proposed and seconded, the Meeting moved on to the Election of Officers and all bar one were returned unopposed. Frank Dineen of the St Annes club contested the position of Registrar with sitting officer Helen McMorrow (Lakeside) which saw a subsequent ballot.

The ballot saw Helen win the contest of a vote of 55-39. Before lunch both the Hall of Fame and Club Award winners were announced. There was widespread applause and acclaim in the room when Liam Sherry of the St. Bridget's club was announced as the 2015 Hall of Fame inductee with PPUI President Eamonn Birchall presenting Liam with his memorial plaque. The Club of the Year awards saw Royal Meath of Clonee; St. Patrick's of Enniscorthy and Lakeside of Templemore win the prizes in the Gold Category. The Silver category saw Fermoy (Cork), Inniskeen (Monaghan) and Kilbeggan of Westmeath pick up awards while the Bronze category saw awards for Collinstown (Westmeath), Douglas, Rocklodge (Cork) and St. Bridget's (Kildare). Old County from Dublin won the Most Improved Course award.

The Meeting then broke up for lunch and resumed with a discussion on the various motions and recommendations submitted in advance. Of the 28 motions put forward, seven were withdrawn during the discussion with a further seven being carried by the Meeting. Three motions in relation to Scratch Cup cuts, the optional use of a third club and relief around sprinkler heads got a majority of the votes cast but crucially did not get the required two-thirds majority needed to come into effect. The motions passed see our Appeals process come into line with Just Sport Ireland meaning anyone who wishes to bring an issue dealt with by the Union's Appeals process further may go to this body.

Also, rather than gaining a handicap upon turning 16, all U-16's may now decide to remain juveniles for the remainder of the season, if under 16 on March 1st of that season. Also, the handicap of players on the second Friday in May each year will now confirm their eligibility for inter-county teams throughout the various grades of Senior, Intermediate and Junior in both the Ladies and Gents grades. After the motions were discussed, the recommendations were taken with delegates given a detailed presentation by Handicap Sub-Committee member Keith Redmond of how the proposed new handicap system will work for 2016. Following the recommendations, presentations were made to the No 1 ranked players in the Ladies and Gents grades, Ger Ward (Portmarnock) and John Walsh (Collins) respectively in recognition of their success in 2014.

Just prior to 6pm, PPUI President Eamonn Birchall formally declared the Convention closed, thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a safe journey home.

#### **2015 National Executive Officers**

President: Eamonn Birchall (Shandon) Hon Secretary: Michael Murphy (Old County) Hon Registrar: Helen McMorrow (Lakeside) National Competition Co-Ordinator: Mary Farrell (Gaeil Colmcille) Communications & Press Officer: Jason O'Connor (Deerpark) Leinster/Ulster Co-Ordinator: Davy Reddin (Custume) Munster/Connaught Co-Ordinator: Liam Leahy (Lakeside) Development & Marketing Officer: Stephen Enneguess (Lakewood) Technical Officer: Myles McMorrow (Lakeside) Youth Officer: Noel Collins (Claycastle)

Patrons: Vincent Allen, James Bermingham, Eamonn Birchall, Thomas McGough, William Lynch & Myles McMorrow

# 2015 - THE STORY SO FAR

By Paul O'Brien & Jason O'Connor

#### <u>Clare</u>

The Clare County Board held its annual Clare Cup Open competition on Sunday March 15th at the well prepared Clare Road course. Played in ideal conditions a total of 41 players turned up to fight it out over 36 holes for the Clare Cup. The early clubhouse lead changed hands a number of times during the morning but it was from within the last five pairings that the competition heated up. Paddy Sheedy of the Clare Road club recorded rounds of (54 + 50) to take the Junior grade prize on a count back from Parteen's Conor Fahey.

Kieran Earls of Parteen returned with rounds of (45 + 48) for a total of 15 under to set a new clubhouse lead. From the next group Alan Bennis from Parteen shot a 12 under round which would prove good enough to claim the Intermediate grade prize. Tommy Hanley of Bruff followed up with scores of (50 + 45) for a total of 13 under and in the penultimate group Liam O'Donovan shot rounds of (49 + 45) to fall just one shot short of the target of 15 under to give Kieran Earls the Clare Cup title for 2015. Overall Winner (Clare Cup 2015) Kieran Earls (Parteen) 93, Senior Grade - Liam O'Donovan (Bruff) 94, Inter Grade - Alan Bennis (Parteen) 96, Junior Grade - Paddy Sheedy (Clare Road) 104.

#### <u>Cork</u>

THE County Leagues started on the first weekend of February and unfortunately the weather was not kind and after the first two weeks no less than nine matches had been postponed. With considerable assistance from Clubs the fixtures were rescheduled however the reserve weeks that had been allocated were now taken up. Despite another week where rain was the order of every day a couple of venue changes ensured we were still on track to find our Champions by the end of March.

In the Senior League Fermoy won all of their matches including a defeat of five-in-a-row champions St. Anne's. In the Intermediate Leagues ESB were undefeated in Section B whilst Section A saw three teams finish on the same number of points with the minimum margin of 1/2 point deciding the qualifiers. The Junior League also had an undefeated team in the shape of Collins A. Not forgetting the U16's they have also been in action where Douglas remained unbeaten. There has been a lot of great Pitch & Putt played by Juveniles from the age of 10 upwards. The U-16 finals were decided on Saturday 28th March with Douglas defeating St Stephen's in the County Final and Raffeen Creek defeating St Anne's in the B Final. Both matches were played in Bishopstown in front of a large crowd.

The Gents League Semi-Finals Senior Grade saw Fermoy lose their first game of the season at the hands of Collins and Raffeen Creek bring the curtain down on St Anne's quest for six in-a-row. Meanwhile the Gents League Semi-Finals Junior Grade saw a repeat of the 2014 Final with Majestic once again prevailing over Raffeen Creek and Collins 'A' remaining unbeaten as they ended St Stephens' campaign. The Senior Final between Raffeen Creek and Collins and the Junior Final between Majestic and Collins A were decided on Sunday 29th March at Kilshannig. Raffeen Creek came from 4-1 down to win the last four singles matches and emerge victorious in the senior final. Collins took charge after the foursomes and won 3 singles to defeat Majestic in the Junior final. In the Intermediate final to be decided in Raffeen Creek on Sunday 5th April, Fermoy will play Collins.

This year's table quiz was held in Lakewood on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> and Majestic won the Denis Cullinane Perpetual Shield after a great battle with Rocklodge which needed eight tie break questions to decide the winner. At the same function the Cork Personality of the Year award was presented to William O'Brien of Ballinlough in recognition of nearly 50 years' service to Pitch & Putt, Bill was a founder member of Ballinlough and stepped down as chairman this year after 17 years of service.

#### <u>Kerry</u>

This years' Bob Casey Memorial Kerry Inter Club was run over three Sundays. Round One took place in Deerpark on March 1st. This year the competition had seven teams of seven players plus one sub. This meant over 50 players took part on each Sunday and in Round One it was the two Deerpark teams who took advantage of playing at home with Deerpark B leading after the first round.

The second Sunday saw Round Two in Listowel and Round Three in Tralee. Castleisland won the round in Listowel and Tralee A came second to get both teams into the reckoning. However it was not a good performance for Tralee on home soil and Round Three was won by Deerpark A with Castleisland coming in second to leave the table showing Deerpark A and Castleisland joint leaders.

The third Sunday and the final round was in Castleisland. Castleisland definitely looked favourite with home advantage. The top two leading seniors were Damien Fleming and Conor McCarthy, both gross players on the Deerpark A side however Castleisland put in a fantastic team effort to win the round and the title they had not won since 2009.

Damien Fleming won the senior grade from Conor McCarthy, Jason O'Brien (Deerpark B) took the Intermediate grade, the Junior grade was won on the last day by Sean Hickey (Castleisland) by a shot from Robbie O'Brien (Deerpark B) while Betty O'Brien (Deerpark B) won the Ladies grade.



Damien Fleming - Bob Casey Memorial, Kerry Inter Club - Senior Grade Winner

#### <u>Limerick</u>

The Year got underway on the somewhat unconventional day of St Patricks Day with the Ryan Cup in Bruff. 63 players took part in the event with Kieran Dunscombe from St. Anne's the winner from a returning Brian Webster. Niall Seery from the Clare Road club won the Intermediate prize with Conor Fahey from Parteen the winner of the Junior prize.

The O'Byrne Cup competition was then held on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> in Charleville. Bruff duo Tom Hanley and Patsy Farrell were the Gross prize winners with a total of 90 while the Nett prize was won by Dom Kavanagh and Matt Galligan from the host club with 82. Hole-In-One prize-winners on the day included Pacelli Darcy, Billy Farrell, Dan O'Connor and Billy O'Donovan (Bruff) along with Tony Cusack and Brian O'Flynn from the host club.

#### <u>Meath</u>

The County Board U-16 Scratch Cup was held in Navan on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>. Evan Carry from Castletown was the overall winner with Dylan Collins of Bellewstown (10-13) and Liam Carroll of Navan (14-16) the other prize winners on the day. The County Board Scratch Cup will take place on April 26<sup>th</sup> with players asked to note Royal Meath as the venue now for same.



Evan Carry (Castletown) Meath Under 16 Scratch Cup Winner

#### **Tipperary**

The Spring League had its weather interruptions throughout the League stages but all who played have to be commended and the Co Board are indebted to all those who continue to support us year in year out. The standard in which the courses were presented to the players was fantastic for the time of year, this was evidently proven with some of the scoring that players achieved throughout the League and everyone enjoyed playing of the five courses that Tipperary have to offer. After the fifth staging of the league in Tipperary Hills, the finalists were known and it was a repeat of the 2014 final where Tipperary Hills & Riverdale would lock horns yet again. The final would be played at the same venue as last year in Larkspur Park.

A tight final was anticipated and a great final we got. After 28 years the trophy has returned to Tipperary Hills. The catalyst of this win was set up primarily in the Doubles were Tipperary Hills really stamped their authority and intent by claiming the doubles 3.5 to 0.5. This was a massive statement of intent but Riverdale are never beaten and whilst Paul Malone was simply unrelenting in his singles, where he won 9&8, an emphatic victory to say the least, back came Riverdale. They lost the next few singles games where the score was to sit on 4.5 to 3.5 with Mikey Morrissey of Tipperary Hills in serious trouble in his singles match. Morrissey being 3 down to with 3 to go he went to the well for one last effort and the well came pouring with water. Mikey managed to halve the match in what was a Lazarus type resurrection in his match to really set Tipp Hills on their way to the coveted 6.5 points.

Team Captain Anthony Culhane once again showed why he is rated one of the top players in the County when he played a captains role by ensuring victory in his singles and edge closer to the finish line. With the game in the melting pot, only now needing a halve Tipperary Hills Pat Martin was A/S with Riverdale's Stephen Shoer after 16 and Martin won the penultimate hole and in turn ensured that victory went West to Tipperary Town for the first time since 1987. James Ryan beat Sean Minogue to put the icing on the cake for the Hills and the eventual scoreline was 7.5 to 4.5.

During the presentation, President Johnny Lyons and Captain Anthony Culhane accepted the trophy on behalf of Tipperary Hills. Anthony Culhane made an emotional and heartfelt speech where he thanked everyone involved and he paid a special tribute to the clubs previous President Sean Keane who passed away last year and no doubt he would have been thrilled to see Tipperary Hills sitting as Kingpins in Tipperary Pitch & Putt yet again.

#### <u>Westmeath</u>

A busy start to the year thus far in the Lake County with the staging of both the Alliance and Classic competitions. The Alliance competitions attracted on average 45 players each weekend it was played with a Three Ball Scramble format proving to be a great success. The Classic (sponsored by the McCormack family) competition was held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> in Kilbeggan with a total of 132 players taking part.

Pat Malone from the Custume club was the winner with Ian Dillon of St Bridgets second and Tracey McGrath of Erry third. Darren Reilly of Collinstown won the Intermediate Prize while John Sweeney of Lough Owel won the Junior Prize. The Ladies prizes were won by two Tullamore players Margaret Hogan (0-10) and Amy Galvin (11-18).

The County Board have also produced a yearbook which is available from Stephen Ruane (0868272692) or Mick Cunningham (0877535198) at a cost of €10.

#### Carlow/Kilkenny/Wexford

March 15<sup>th</sup> saw the first Scratch Cup of the year take place at the St Patrick's club in Enniscorthy. The winner was Paul Tobin from the host club, who in the process won his first Scratch Cup to add to his ever increasing list of conquests, more of which are believed to follow.

89 cards entered in total and out of the Top 12 spots in the playoff, nine were home players. It was a great day for the club as Paul's 54 hole total of 25 under par saw him finish three clear of club-mates Martin O'Neill and William Hudson with Martin second on countback. Full Results: 1st Paul Tobin 137, 2nd Martin O'Neill 140 (Back 18), 3rd William Hudson 140 (Back 8), Final 18 John Hudson 46, Intermediate Derek Ryan 98, Junior Aaron Moorehouse 96, Ladies Glenda Hoey RGSC 115

\*Elsewhere the Offaly County Board Scratch Cup takes place this Easter Sunday (April 5<sup>th</sup>) in Tullamore.

# **NEWMARKET RE-OPENS**

By Jason O'Connor

After two and a half years of work and two decades in exile, Newmarket Pitch & Putt Club has finally come back into the Pitch & Putt Union of Ireland fold. After last being officially registered with the Union back in 1992, the course that sits on the border between North Cork and East Kerry reopened its doors to both the local community and the Union on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> with a nice opening ceremony that included a performance from the local Newmarket Pipe Band.

About 100 people comprising local dignitaries, people from the town and PPUI President Eamonn Birchall and Technical Officer Myles McMorrow were on hand at the lunch time ceremony that saw the Chairman of IRD Duhallow and former Cork County Manager Noel Dillon formally cut the ribbon on the new facility. To mark the occasion from the PPUI's perspective, two Challenge matches were played comprising teams from Cork, Kerry and Tipperary that had all played at inter-county level in the past year. In the Adult Challenge, Kerry were represented by Damien Fleming and Conor McCarthy in the adult match while Stephen McCarthy and Michael Cronin were the Kingdom's representatives in the Juvenile match. Tipperary were represented by James Ryan and Anthony Culhane in the adult match with Ed Walsh and David Howard the representatives on the Cork Juvenile team.

After the curtain came down on the opening for the club, PPUI life continues for the club on Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> when they host the Paul O'Sullivan Memorial Scramble run by the Kerry County Board of which it is now affiliated to. We wish the club every success in becoming a viable entity both in the PPUI as well as their local community. As a course, many of those who played it remarked upon its tricky nature and hopefully it will be a fine test of any player should it host major PPUI events down the line.



Newmarket Pitch and Putt Course is official opened by Mr. Noel Dillon, former County Manager of Cork and Eamonn Birchall, President of the PPUI.

Newmarket's return to the PPUI fold comes at a time when more clubs are looking to either join or re-affiliate to the Union. Oldcastle in Meath is one such course, Woodpark in Clare has just joined the PPUI books while Edenderry in Co Offaly have also registered in anticipation of their course opening in the near future. They will play out of the McDonagh course in Kildare for the time being.

While it can be easy for one to be presumptuous about such developments, this certainly is a welcome development for more season PPUI members sadly more used to losing as opposed to gaining courses in recent decades. We wish all concerned the very best in their endeavours to get the sport off the ground in their areas.



Above, a view from the top at the picturesque Newmarket course and below, representatives from Cork and Kerry who played a challenge match to mark the opening of this border straddling course; Stephen McCarthy, Michael Cronin, Ed Walsh and David Howard.



## MAJOR UPCOMING FIXTURES AND DATES TO REMEMBER

May 9th:	P.J. Bell Mixed Team Competition @ E.S.B.
May 16th & 17th:	Leinster Ladies and Gents Matchplay Championships @ St. Bridget's and Ryston
May 16th & 17th:	Munster Ladies and Gents Matchplay Championships @ Rosscarberry
May 30th to June 1st:	National Ladies and Gents Matchplay Championships @ Lakeside
June 28th: June 28th:	Leinster Ladies Strokeplay Championship @ Bagenalstown Leinster Gents Strokeplay Championship @ St. Patrick's
June 28th: June 28th:	Munster Ladies Strokeplay Championship @ Fermoy Munster Gents Strokeplay Championship @ Riverdale

## PRODUCTION TEAM FOR THS ISSUE

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

## (continued from page 1)

his most immediate predecessor in the Hall of Fame, John Manning. As well as Liam induction into the Hall of Fame, we must also congratulate our Technical Officer Myles McMorrow on being named as one of new Patrons of the Union. The Technical Committee have produced a Greenkeeping DVD that will hopefully serve as a vital tool and source of information to Grounds Committees around the country.

Another project the Technical Committee were heavily involved in was the development of the Newmarket Pitch & Putt course which formally opened its doors on March 22<sup>nd</sup> last. We profile that opening which is one of a number of positive prospects for the Union in gaining some new and active courses.

In terms of the Communications & Press Sub-Committee, we have a slight change this year with Christine Mulvey coming on board to replace her Glenville club-mate Linda Thomson. I thank Linda once again for her work last year and welcome Christine on board with John, Paul, Alan and myself.

That's it for this first edition of the year Our next edition (June) will have a lot more information as the action really will have got underway in earnest. Remember to keep an eye on the PPUI website for further articles and information about our great game.

Until next time,

Jason O'Connor PPUI Communications and Press Officer 086-8048933 Email: jason@ppui.ie

© Copyright Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland 2015