



Aontas Teilgin agus Amais Na hÉireann
Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland

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PPUI President Mervyn Cooney: Address at Strategic Plan Launch

Good afternoon and welcome to the launch of the PPUI's 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for attend this afternoons launch, especially those who have travelled long distances to be here. I would like to pay special thanks to Glenville Pitch and Putt Club, their committee and members for allowing us to use their facility for this launch.

We are delighted to be at Glenville Pitch and Putt Club who will host the 2018 PPUI Gents National Strokeplay Championships. This will be the 2nd time Glenville will play host to the Gents Strokeplay and the 11th time a National Championship will be held here, a testament to a great course and a great club. I would like to wish all the committee at Glenville the best for 2018 and especially Eileen Cousins and John Carr, Lady and Gents Captain for the coming year, Glenville's 70-year anniversary.

I would like to thank the Strategic Plan sub-committee for their hard work and commitment to producing this body of work. John Manning as chair of the committee ensured that the plan reflects the needs of our members and the desire of the PPUI to continue the progress made over the past number of years. I also want to thank the other members of the sub-committee, Ger Holland from RGSC, Darren Keogh of Ryston, Mark Keohane Rocklodge and NEC Officer, Michael Murphy Royal Meath and NEC Officer and Paul Hayes our National Coaching & Development Manager. This group dedicated a lot of time and energy to ensuring the completion of this document and ensuring the highest standards are set of the PPUI.

Sport operates in an ever-changing environment and many factors outside the control of sporting bodies can have a major influence on our development. This plan aims to focus on areas that we can control. That focus is separated into 6 distinctive Strategic Pillars that compliment

each other and set specific targets for the PPUI to achieve in the coming years. Governance has never before been more important for all organisations in receipt of public funding and the PPUI want to ensure that this topic is to the forefront and that's why that particular pillar is afforded such prominence.

The heart of Pitch and Putt in Ireland is the clubs and its members. The PPUI want to ensure that every opportunity is provided for people to participate in our game. The next 2 pillars focus on ensuring that the PPUI are able to provide the best service to clubs and their members, both existing and potential. The PPUI aim to provide all the necessary supports they can offer that clubs require in terms of development and training. Clubs also need support in the attraction and retention of their members and key actions have been identified where the PPUI can help with this. The competitive aspect of Pitch and Putt is a main focus of the PPUI and ensuring that all its members have an opportunity to compete against their peers is a priority. The best of facilities should be available to members when they enter Provincial and National Championships and the PPUI endeavour to support clubs to provide this.

The PPUI have a great responsibility to provide training opportunities for its members. The PPUI in partnership with Sport Ireland Coaching will provide opportunities for people to get on the coaching ladder and pass on their knowledge to future generations of Pitch and Putt players. The PPUI also commit to providing the best of supports to its coaches in terms of regular training and the updating of coaching resources. The introduction in 2016 of the PPUI National Handicap System also brings about the need for the PPUI to provide training in the use of this resource. The PPUI will ensure that new and existing club officers will have training resources available to them and that these resources are regularly updated.

The PPUI have a major role in the promotion of the sport of Pitch and Putt and the activities within. This is an area where the landscape is ever changing, and society is constantly evolving in how it gathers and processes information. The PPUI will need to keep up with modern communication methods and ensure that our message gets to its target audience.

The Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021 is a vital cog in the development of the sport of Pitch and Putt but is entirely dependent on one vital resource, people. We need the support of all PPUI members, clubs and county boards to ensure the success of this plan. I firmly believe that this

plan will ensure that the PPUI will provide a quality service to its members and I hope that all members will support the work of the PPUI in ensuring its success. I thank you for your attendance here today at this launch and wish you a safe journey home.

Mervyn Cooney

PPUI Honorary President