



IN THE SWING

**Portarlington Golf Club
News & Views**

**Issue 6
March / April 2005**

Contents

After the first issue back after a bit of a break in January we now have the second issue of the year. More info about the developments in golf at club, provincial, national and worldwide levels. Also a bit of fun and humour to keep the smiles on our faces

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Feedback

If there is anything you would like to see covered in future editions please let us know and we will do our best to meet your wishes - We will be around the club house or you can leave a note behind the bar marked for our attention.

This is your medium for getting information published so please use the opportunity.

Colm Burke & David Hainsworth

Invoicing & Members Information.

As most if not all of you will have received Invoices for the coming year and your personal details sheets by now can we now explain the reasoning behind this new approach. The invoice run was aimed a fulfilling a twofold role – primarily it was to issue each member with the exact amount which was due for the year to avoid confusion which has occurred in the past. Secondly the invoice run has allowed the club to establish a control audit practice around the receipt and monitoring of subscription income. It will allow us to get more detailed reporting of income and will allow us to provide members with detailed information.

The one unfortunate result of this process was that members who had already paid their sub for the year also received invoices. This was because we were unable to credit payment to peoples accounts unless the initial invoice had been run – sincere apologies to anybody put out by this process.

The additional sheet(s) included with the invoice detailed what details we had on file about every one of our members. This was our opportunity to ensure that everything is correct and up to date. Many people have returned corrections to phone numbers, added email etc which can only improve the manner of communication from the club to the members. Please check your details and ensure it is correct and complete.

Smart Cards



We have been looking at ways of using the smart card facility to the maximum. The one area we were hoping to work on was to have a central fund which could be used in either Bar or Restaurant – this unfortunately is not currently possible but we are looking at alternate methods.

We have also set up a facility on the smart card which will allow you to put money aside towards next years sub.

Entry to competitions with the smart card is also being looked into – it is possible and the logistics around validating the entry as being paid is now being looked at.

Rules Corner

Q1. The players in a match agree to omit two hole, i.e. agreed to settle the match over 16 holes. Is this permitted?

Q2. In matchplay a player mistakenly believing he has won a hole, picks up his ball-marker, what is the ruling?

Q3. A and B are partners in a foursome match. A was practising putting on the 11th green after B drove off from the 12th tee. Was A playing practice strokes during the playing of a hole?

Answers are at the bottom of page 4

Charity Contribution

With the income and donation from the first weekend of the winter league and the collection jar which was located in the bar, the club donated €1556.40 to Bothar for the Tsunami disaster. Thanks to everybody who contributed.

Sponsorship – Over the past months both of our captains have been busily following up on sponsors for the season ahead. They have secured the services of many long term sponsors, some new ones and a few who are returning following some time away. Both Arthur and Anne would like to that all of the members who have given sponsorship for the season ahead.

The sponsors for Competitions in March & April are as detailed below – please support our sponsors and their businesses.

The sponsors page will shortly appear on the website

*"If I had only one more round to play,
I would choose to play it at Pebble Beach.
I've loved this course from the first time I saw it.
It's possibly the best in the world."*

-Jack Nicklaus

Club Teams

The Draws for many of the interclub competitions have been posted in the locker rooms and the team managers are looking at the players who are eligible to make up the team.

Trials for some of these teams will be held shortly. If you are eligible for any of the teams then I'm sure the respective team managers would love to hear from you

Access your latest handicap using your mobile phone

Text your eight digit GUI/ILGU member number (on the back of your member card) to

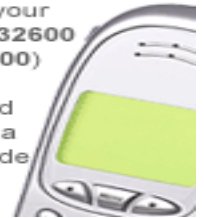
086 3832600

(N Ireland: +353 863832600)

Query your lowest handicap in the previous year

Text "L" followed by a space and then your eight digit GUI/ILGU member number (on the back of your member card) to **086 3832600** (N Ireland: +353 86382600)

Once you have submitted a query, you will receive a reply from GOLFnet inside a minute



Courses of the world - As a new item we will feature some of the classic courses of the world with a brief insight. This edition we will have a look at Pebble Beach. Web Site : www.pebblebeach.com

Pebble beach is a golf resort with four courses (Pebble beach golf links, the links at Spanish bay, Spyglass hill golf course and Del Monte golf course.) a golf academy, three accommodation options (The Lodge at pebble beach, The Inn at Spanish Bay and Casa Palmero) and a state of the art Spa. It is located on the Californian coast South of San Francisco near Carmel.

It offers the total golf experience but it comes at a price. To stay in the resort it will cost you anything ranging from \$475 to \$2,250 per night and this excludes taxes and service charge. To play on the Pebble beach course it will cost you \$395 for your basic green fee, if you stay in the resort you will get a cart for free otherwise you must hire a cart for \$25 per person. You will be glad to know that tee times are available and can be booked online ! Green fees at the other resort courses can be purchased for anything from €95 plus a \$20 per person cost for the carts.

To offer a complete experience there is a 17 mile private drive through the resort and the Del Monte forest where the wonders of the Californian natural beauty can be seen. Have a look at the web site – it is one of the best sites for a golf resort I have ever come upon – explains everything you want about the resort and even has a live web cam of the course

Non Conforming Drivers

There has been some discussion in the club over the past few weeks around the rule around non conforming drivers and when they will be illegal from. The following article has been taken from the GUI website as should clarify the position

The Golfing Union of Ireland will introduce a clause limiting the 'spring-like' effect of driving clubs to its Condition of Competition for all its leading National and Provincial Championships, effective from 1st January 2005. This follows similar action by The R&A, and the men's three Home Unions in England, Scotland and Wales.

For most club competitions and recreational play there will continue to be no limit on 'spring-like' effect until 1st January 2008 when the new rule will be introduced.

A list of driving clubs which have been tested and found to be contrary to the Driving Club Condition of Competition is published on the R&A website.

The R&A's interpretation of a "driving club" is that it is a club with a loft of 15 degrees or less. However, The R&A will continue to monitor design innovations of all clubs in respect of spring-like effect and, where appropriate, any club, regardless of loft, may be subjected to further testing prior to a conformance ruling.

The GUI's National and Provincial Championships that will be governed by the new rule from 1st January 2005 are:

Irish Amateur Open Championship; Irish Amateur Close Championship; Irish Boys' Amateur Close Championship; Irish Youths Amateur Open Championship; Irish Seniors' Amateur Open Championship. West of Ireland Amateur Open Championship; East of Ireland Amateur Open Championship; North of Ireland Amateur Open Championship; South of Ireland Amateur Open Championship. All Provincial Boys' Championships; All Provincial Youths' Championships; All Provincial Seniors' Championships

This Condition, which will be clearly stated in the entry form and the Conditions of Competition, will limit the characteristic time of driving clubs to 239 microseconds, plus a test tolerance of 18 microseconds.

To summarise – the timetable will be as follows

Competition Level	Date Effective
National and Provincial Championships	January 1 st 2005
Club Competitions	January 1 st 2008



A view over the lake beside the 15th green

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Last week after finishing a round the mobile phone rings in the men's locker room. I answered it and the conversation went as follows ☺

"Hello?" - "Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?" - **"Yes, just finished showering"** - "Great! I'm out shopping, and I just saw a beautiful leather coat and it's on sale for €1,000. May I buy it?"

"Well, go ahead if you like it that much." - "Thanks, Honey. By the way, I also stopped by the Michalel Moores and saw the 2005 models. I spoke with the salesman, and he quoted me a really good price on the one I love." - **"How much?"** - "Only €90,000." - **"OK, but tell him you'll only pay €89,500."**

"Thanks, Sweetie. I'll see you later. I love you!" - **"I love you, too. Bye."**

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I then hung up the call – never actually found out who owned the phone !

Captains Greetings – As we prepare for the season ahead both Arthur and Anne would like to wish all the members of the club the very best for the coming season. They would particularly like to thank all those who have given their support and best wishes for the season ahead.



Club Lotto

*"You can talk to a fade
but a hook won't listen."*

Lee Trevino

Investigations into running a club lotto are underway and the Treasurer would welcome input from any member who has experience of running a similar facility.

The funds raised would be intended for specific course developments and improvements and will not be used to cover the general running of the club.

The Most Important Golf Shot

(Taken from Golf Tips by the late Pat Dolan)

For years in many locker rooms and clubhouses, one of the main topics of discussion has been, "What is the most important shot in golf?" One side of the argument is for the tee shot, and the other side is for the putt.

One of the strongest proponents for the tee shot was Ben Hogan. In the early 1960's, while a teaching pro at The Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, TX, I discussed this with Ben, and he felt strongly that a players tee shot was THE most important shot.

It was Ben's fervent belief, that from a mental standpoint, one's whole round depended on the initial tee shot. He claimed to have rarely witnessed or been part of a great round that started with an errant tee shot. He believed that when you begin with an excellent tee shot, your mental attitude would carry forward on all successive shots.

On the other side, many argue that the putt is the most important. One such advocate was the legendary teaching pro Harvey Penick, who strongly believed that the short game, around the green, was the essence of scoring well. He contended that a two foot putt counted just as much as a tee shot.

This argument did not hold water with Ben. Adamantly he stated, "If you are trying to make a two foot putt for a seven, due to an errant tee shot, who in the hell cares? After all, a missed two foot putt will generally only cost you one shot, whereas a missed tee shot can easily cost you two or more shots."

After listening to Ben's logic, I calmly explained, that in my humble opinion, I thought both sides were wrong. This definitely got Ben's attention. I hurriedly added, that while both sides had made good arguments, I considered Willie Ogg's, the original teaching professional selected and respected by the membership of the PGA to conduct business school teaching seminars, to have been the best. You see he told us that the most important shot in golf is always "the next one."

Hogan laughed out loud and completely agreed. (And some of you thought he was always "the wee ice-man.") So the next time you overhear the discussion about the most important shot in golf, just sit back and laugh to yourself because you already know the Real Truth.



The **AIB Irish Seniors Open** is being held in the Heritage this summer and the club has been asked to supply stewards and caddies for the event. If you are interested then please put your name on the lists which are in both the Mens and Ladies locker rooms.

The club website – www.portarlingtongolf.com is undergoing an overhaul at present so that it can provide members and guests alike with the information and details they require. Thanks must go to Paddy Bates for the voluntary work he puts in to this facility and keeps it up to date with results on a weekly basis. Check it out for upcoming events and competitions. As always your feedback is appreciated as we aim to build and improve on the excellent facility we have developed.

Rules Answers : **A1.** No, the players should be disqualified under rule 1-3.
A2. The player incurs a one stroke penalty under Rule 20-1 and must replace his ball
A3. Yes, A and B lose the 12th hole for a breach of rule 7-2