



IN THE SWING

**Portarlinton Golf Club
News & Views**

**Issue 13
June / July 2006**

Articles in this issue of the newsletter are as detailed below. As always comments, suggestions and feedback is always appreciated.

Ryder Cup	1
Sponsors	2
Attendance at Prizegiving	2
Golfnet Charity Challenge	2
Competitions	3
Course Developments	3
Wildlife Board	3

Captain's Prizes	3
Rules Corner	3
RULES - From the Sublime to The Ridiculous	4
Golf Courses of the World	5
Webgolf	5
Interclub Competitions	6
Golf Humour	6

Rules Corner Answers	6
ILGU Underage Teams	7
Golf in Verse	7
GUI National Academy	8
Some more Golfing Quotes	8
Want to check your handicap	8

As this issue will span Open Week 2006 can I, on behalf of our Captain Pat Carlyle, Lady Captian Anne Turley and all the members of the club, extend a warm welcome to all of our guests during the week.



Ryder Cup 2006

We continue our build up to the Ryder cup with some more of the history of the tournament. This issue we will focus on the changes in format it has experienced over the years.

From the beginning of the series through 1959, The Ryder Cup competition was comprised of four foursomes (alternate shot) matches on one day and eight singles matches on the other day, each of 36 holes.

The format was changed in 1961, to provide four 18-hole foursomes matches the morning of the first day, four more foursomes that afternoon, eight 18-hole singles the morning of the second day and eight more singles that afternoon. One point was at stake in each match, so the total number of points was doubled to 24. In 1963, fourball (better-ball) matches were added for the first time, boosting the total number of points available to 32.

The format was altered again in 1977, this time with five foursomes on opening day, five four-ball matches on the second day, and ten singles matches on the final day. This reduced the total points to 20.

In 1979, when the Great Britain & Ireland Team was expanded to include players from Continental Europe, the format was revised to provide four fourball and four foursomes matches on each of the first two days and 12 singles matches on the third day. The total points awarded were 28. This format will continues today.

The Ryder Cup was interrupted for the second time in history following the September 11, 2001, attack upon America. Some eight days following the tragedy, The 2001 Ryder Cup were rescheduled to the following year in 2002, with all future competitions conducted in even-numbered years.

.oOo.



Samuel A. Ryder presented the Ryder Cup to The Professional Golfers' Association of Great Britain to place as a prize for an international competition between American and British professional golfers. The Ryder Cup was commissioned for £250. The trophy stands 17 inches high, is nine inches from handle to handle and weighs four pounds. The golfing figure depicted on the top of the trophy reflects the image of Abe Mitchell, a former gardener and a friend and instructor of Samuel Ryder. Mitchell himself played for Great Britain in 1929, '31 and '33 stagings of the event.

Sponsors

The club appreciate the generous sponsorship of those listed below for competitions in June & July. Please show your support to your sponsors at prize giving.

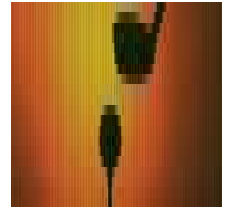
Super Valu
Cullen Auctioneers
Riverdrive Construction
Brereton Plumbing
Lawlor Electra-tek ltd
Tom Slevin Electrical
Portarlington Tyres
Bank of Ireland
McElee Chemist
Mountmellick
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Martin Turley
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Dermot Murphy
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Costcutters Mountmellick
Finline Furniture
Dominex
Flanagan Brothers (UK)
Colgan Stores
Michael Moore Car Sales
JJ Byrne Cabinet Makers
Whelan Electrical
Centra Main Street
O'Donnell Solicitors
Mullaney Chemist
MJ Turley & Assoc.

ATTENDANCE AT PRIZEGIVING

Attendance by prize winners at the last few prize giving evenings has been very poor and shows a lack of support to the club, and more particularly, to the sponsors. Every prize winner is respectively asked to be in attendance in person to receive their prize. The committee have been monitoring the situation and will continue to do so over the weeks to come. Options as to how non attendance will be penalised are being discussed and will be put into action if this trend continues.



The GOLFnet Charity Challenge

The **GOLFnet Challenge**, sponsored by **Bulmers**, is open to any male amateur golfer over the age of 18 and holding a CONGU handicap from a GUI affiliated club.

The challenge itself is a type of All Ireland golfer of the year event and will be judged on scores registered by that player between June 1st and August 31st. The results will be taken as those uploaded to golfnet by the club so it is critical that all cards are entered on the computer after playing each competition.

The competition is split into four categories **Category 1** - Handicaps of 5 or less, **Category 2** - Handicaps 6 to 12 inclusive **Category 3** - Handicaps 13 to 20 inclusive and **Category 4** – Handicaps 21 to 28 inclusive.

The top 12 players in each category will qualify for the national finals which will be played in Carton House in September. In the final there will be prizes within each category (you will play in the category you started in) and you will play off your handicap at the time even if your handicap has dropped sufficiently for you to be rated in another category.

To enter for this you will pay an entrance fee of **€15** to the Club. A Club Official shall then register the competitor on GOLFnet, noting the date of receipt of the entrance fee from the Competitor. The club will then forward on the entire entry fee to the GUI who will administer the competition

All proceeds from this event will be split between a number of charities which will be decided between Bulmers and Carton House Golf club.

If you are interested in this event please contact any member of the mens committee or log onto www.golfnet.ie for more information. Updates of the scoring will be posted on the golfnet website and if applicable the club will post updates on the club newsletters.

Competitions

The Competitions for June & July are as follows (*Ladies competitions in Italics*)

Sun. 4 th	Dr. Canning Cup
Mon. 5 th	Invitation Scramble
Tues 6 th	<i>Irish Wheelchair Association Qualifier for Valerie Doyle</i>
Wed. 7 th	18 Hole Men's Open Singles

OPEN WEEK

Fri. 9 th	18 Hole Scotch Foursomes
Sat. 10 th	18 Hole Team Classic
Sun. 11 th	18 Hole Fourball Stableford 9 Hole Mixed Foursomes
Mon. 12 th	<i>Ladies 18 Hole Singles S/ford</i>
Tues. 13 th	18 Hole Singles Stroke <i>Ladies 9 Hole Stroke</i>
Wed. 14 th	18 Hole Scramble
Thurs 15 th	18 Hole Fourball Stableford <i>Ladies 9 Hole Stroke</i>
Fri. 16 th	18 Hole Team Event
Sat. 17 th	18 Hole Fourball Stableford
Sun. 18 th	18 Hole Fourball Stableford 9 Hole Mixed Foursomes

Tues. 20 th	<i>18 Hole V - Par</i>
Wed. 21 st	St VdeP 18 Hole Stableford
Sun. 25 th	18 Hole Singles Club Championship Qualify
Tues. 27 th	<i>Captain's Prize to Ladies</i>
Wed. 28 th	18 Hole Men's Open Singles Final of Vice Captain's Prize
Tues. 4 th	<i>Vice-Captain's Prize to Ladies</i>
Wed. 5 th	18 Hole Men's Open Singles
Tues. 11 th	<i>18 Hole Stableford</i>
Wed. 12 th	18 Hole Men's Open Singles
Sun. 16 th	Cobbe Cup
Tues. 18 th	<i>Meals on Wheels</i>
Wed. 19 th	18 Hole Men's Open Singles
Sun. 23 rd	Wheeler & Mansfield Cup
Tues. 25 th	<i>Irish Cancer Society</i>
Wed. 26 th	18 Hole Men's Open Singles
Sun. 30 th	Jim Smith Cup

Course Developments

In previous issues of the newsletter we had discussed the developments to the 7th hole which would involve the construction of a new green approx 75 mtrs. behind the existing green. This will involve extending the hole to a par 5. After review, principally in the distance and safety of the return to the 8th tee, it has been decided to put this work on hold.

What was suggested by the contractor was that this development could take place at the same time the new land beside the 5th will be at some stage in the future. The inclusion of the developed new land together with the extended 7th could result in a restructure of the order the holes are played as follows

1st – 7th as is
8th will be the current 15th
9th will be the current 12th
10th will be the current 13th
11th will be the current 14th
12th will be the current 8th
13th will be the current 9th
14th will be the current 10th
15th will be the current 11th
16th – 18th as is

At this stage this is only being discussed and I'm sure will lead to much debate in the years to come. It will be at least five years before any developments happen so there is loads of time to look at the various options.

.oOo.

On other developments on the course, you will have noticed that the final phase of the "slit" draining has taken place on the 17th and 18th holes. I'm sure you will agree that this work was money and effort well spent, especially considering the weather we have been experiencing in the past month.

Wildlife Noticeboard

Frank Higgins has put together an excellent Wildlife noticeboard in the front hall. It is kept up to date with various press cuttings relating to wildlife found on and around our course. If you would like to help with this I'm sure Frank would be delighted to talk to you.

CAPTAINS PRIZES

Saturday June 30th – Sunday July 2nd

Captain's (Pat Carlyle) Prize

Sunday June 9th

Lady Captain's (Anne Turley) Prize

**Both of our Captains would appreciate your support
on their big days**

Rules Corner

1. In a stroke play event you discover you are carrying more than the allowed 14 clubs, what is the penalty ?
2. In match play two players agree in advance to concede putts within a certain distance – is this allowed ?
3. In match play what penalty is incurred if a player tees up in front of the tee markers.
4. What is the diameter of the hole ?

Answers at the bottom of page 6

Rules are meant to be obeyed. If you are playing professional golf for a living, or playing championship caliber golf, you had better memorize the rule book. That is why we have so many fine intelligent young college graduates on the Pro Tour. You have to be a mental giant to understand some of the rules. Many rules were implemented because of incidents that had occurred in tournaments, while others are hypothetical. If it was compulsory to know all of the rules of golf before you were allowed on the golf course, we would probably only need about five golf courses in the country. This is a game that is supposed to be enjoyed, and luckily the majority of golfers don't play strictly by the rules.. If they did, slow play would be more of a problem than it is now.

If you are playing in a little Club tournament, rules for that tournament should be obeyed. If you are playing in your regular foursome, or you have your regular little bunch, You should have your own rules. If you are playing in larger tournaments, you must follow the tournament rules.

I am a stickler for honesty in golf. I beat this into youngsters. "If you are caught cheating on the golf course one time, nobody is ever going to believe you no matter what you do." "If you are caught stealing, but then straighten out, you will be the first suspect if something is missing."

When I was Pro at The Panama C. C., in Florida, we had a member by the name of Gardner Dickinson Sr. (Gardner Rewash his son on the Tour) You could be out having a enjoyable foursome, and Gardner would join you at the turn. Within three holes everybody would be mad. Just his presence could irritate the hell out of you. He was a good player and was the Club Champion at one time. He would not play for more than fifty cents a side, and just playing against him made you feel as if it was fifty dollars. One day we almost went to war because of a ruling. The seventeenth hole on the course was bordered by huge oak trees laden with Spanish Moss, About thirty yards to the right of the fairway was the bay. The rule then, was that if your ball just rolled off of the fairway and could not be found, it was stroke and distance. You went back to the tee and hit your third shot. If, on the other hand, you hit a wild slice that ended up in the bay, you lost only distance. You were only penalized half as much for a shot that was twice as bad. This particular day Gardner hit his into the trees, and the caddies saw it. He hit another ball claiming that it was in the water. We almost got into a fight over that fifty cents. That rule was later changed.

While I am on the subject of Gardner, I must tell you another incident with him. I had an assistant when I was pro in Richmond, Virginia, and he came down on a vacation. His name was Jimmy Van Horn, and he was good little player. Gardner called and wanted to know if there was a game around, and we told him to come on out. One of my members, B. J. Crane was there and he would make up our foursome. B. J. didn't particularly like Gardner and agreed to getting Gardner in a trap. B. J. was a high seventy shooter, and we knew in our getting up a bet, that Gardner was going to take B.J. as a partner, rather than an unknown partner. The first thing Gardner asked, was what kind of a golf did Jimmy play?. I told him that I gave him two up a side, so he took B.J. I told Jimmy to hack it around the first couple of holes and Gardner will jump on you for a bet. That is what happened, and then Jimmy turned it loose, and we beat them like a drum. Gardner didn't say a word. He paid off and left, and we gave B. J. back his money. The next day Gardner called and wanted to know if my friend was still in town, and I said, "Yes" He said he was going to bring his own partner. He brought Gardner Jr., fresh off of the Tour. That is enough of that story.

One of the most stupid rules that was ever in golf, was the Stymie Rule in Match Play. This rule was still in effect during the PGA in Richmond, Virginia in 1949. The way the rule worked was that if you opponents ball was in your line you had to leave it there, or play over, or around it. The only time you opponent had to mark his ball was if it was within six inches of your ball, or his ball within six inches of the hole. Score cards were all made six inches in length to be used to measure. We used to try to cut the ball to make it spin and curve, or we would try to chip over the opponents ball. If you happen to hit his ball and his went in, he was to have considered to have holed out on his last shot. There were many times when you were about to lose a hole, and you would deliberately try to lay him a stymie. We used to practice chipping a lot. It was not related to golf. I don't know when it was abolished, but good riddance.



Courses of the world

For this issue we continue to look at the great golf courses of the world with a visit to the home of the 2006 U.S. Open - Winged Foot Golf Club in the town of Mamaroneck, New York.



Winged Foot, the mere mention of the name immediately conjures up an image of authority, of a certain respect shared by golfers the world over. For since its inception, this fabulous club in Mamaroneck, New York, has been at the centre of golf's proudest traditions - in purity of design, individual accomplishment, quality of membership, and milestones of the sport itself.

Playing Winged Foot for the first time evokes a sensation similar to the first time you go to a ballgame and walk up the runway to see the immaculate green grass of the field. Immediately, the history of the ground you're standing on and the game itself comes rushing to you. The grass is greener, more manicured, than you ever imagined and the overall grandeur of the place strikes at you.

To say that Winged Foot is great would be understating. It has a sense of nobility, a majesty, if you will. It has two of the world's greatest golf courses and a clubhouse to match, and into whose past is woven some of the greatest moments in golf.

“ The Country Club Magazine Jan-Feb 1995 ”

This club has two A.W. Tillinghast designed courses, both demanding powerful, yet accurate golf. The West course has hosted numerous USGA events and is known as the championship course. Its fairways are narrow, rough is deep, and the greens are highly contoured. It is not only important to hit most of your tee shots long, but as straight as humanly possible. Players will make use of their middle irons more frequently than normal. They will also need to do some creative work around the greens. Water does not come into play on the West Course. The East Course is tighter and shorter than the West Course. One pond comes into play on this course.

One of the two courses is always closed on Monday. This club hosted the 1929, 1959, 1974, and 1984 U.S. Opens. The winners were R. T. Jones, Jr., Billy Casper, Jr., Hale Irwin, and Fuzzy Zoeller, respectively. The 1997 PGA Championship, won by Davis Love III, was played here as well. Claude Harmon holds the course record on both courses with a pair of 61s. Winged Foot has a rich place in golf history -- among other points of interest, the term "mulligan" was invented at the club.



It is a private club and no green fee information was available

Tees	Yardage	Par
Championship	6956	72
Regular	6560	72

Webgolf.ie

The club has recently been made aware of an online timesheet booking package called which is being investigated as an alternative to the paper timesheets currently in operation. The system is accessed via the internet on www.webgolf.ie and a member will be able to log on with a predefined user id and password. The member will then be shown an online timesheet for selected events and will be allowed to book a time – a message will then be returned to their mobile phone confirming booking.

As this system rolls out around the country (already in place in Abbeyleix, Castle Barna, Cill Dara, Athy and Craddockstown to mention only a few) you will be able to book in for Open competitions. On booking you will be able to pay online also via credit or debit card to secure your place.

It is an interesting option and will be investigated further by the club with a view to continuing the improvements to members and guests alike. If anybody has first hand experience of using this system the officers of the council would love to hear you opinion.

Interclub Competitions

Things have picked up recently for the mens teams after a poor start while the ladies and mixed teams maintain the winning feeling within the club. As some of the matches were being played the question of where the names of the various competitions came from is posed from time to time. Here are a few brief profiles of the men after whom some of the more famous cup competitions are named.

JB Carr Trophy

Joe Carr was a member of Sutton Golf Club and he won the first of his 40 major amateur championships, including three British Amateur titles, at age 19 in 1941 when he prevailed in the inaugural East of Ireland Championship at Baltray. Carr claimed the first of his four Irish Amateur Open titles five years later and was in his 30's when he clinched the first of his six Irish Close victories in 1954.

Jimmy Bruen Shield

Jimmy Bruen was rated as the natural successor to Bobby Jones before war and then a wrist injury curtailed his career, the Cork genius was 17 when he won the 1937 Irish Close title - one year older than Rory McIlroy was at Westport last year. Bruen then clinched his place on the winning Walker Cup team in 1938 with a sensational double in that year's Irish Amateur Open and Close.

Pierce Purcell Shield

Professor Pierce Purcell, Captain of Portmarnock G.C. on two occasions was President of the Golfing Union of Ireland from 1948 to 1950. He was instrumental in having the Canada Cup played at Portmarnock in 1960 which undoubtedly created a huge interest in the game of golf on these shores.

Barton Cup

In 1903 Mr. Justice Dunbar Plunket Barton was elected President of the Royal Dublin Golf Club and subsequently President of the Golfing Union of Ireland in 1906. He presented the magnificent Barton Cup to be played for by Leinster Clubs and today this is one of, if not the most, sought after golf trophy in the province.

Golf Humour

As a young man, Norton was an exceptional golfer. At the age of 26, however, he decided to become a priest, and joined a rather peculiar order. He took the usual vows of poverty, chastity, but his order also required that he quit golf and never play again. This was particularly difficult for Norton, but he agreed and was finally ordained a priest.

One Sunday morning, the Reverend Father Norton woke up and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So... he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and convinced him to say Mass for him that day.

As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish. Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not.

"Just then Father Norton hit the longest drive he ever hit, it shot straight towards green, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. It was a 420 yard hole in one!

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiled and replied, "Who is he going to tell?"



Rules Corner Answers

1. The penalty for carrying over 14 clubs is two shots per hole with a maximum four-shot penalty.
2. No – players may only concede their opponents next stroke, rule 2-4
3. No penalty – the player may be requested to tee up again. In stroke play it is a two shot penalty.
4. Four and a quarter inches

ILGU Underage Teams

The Irish Ladies Golf Union has selected four underage-level teams to represent Ireland at various International events in June and July.

For the first time in the same year, Ireland will send teams to the Under-21 and Under-18 European Team Championships which take place in the Netherlands and Denmark.

"A new approach to our underage training programme is producing young players capable of competing at both levels simultaneously," said ILGU Chief Executive Sinead Heraty.

All players selected on the Under-21 side are experienced Under-18 Internationals who have competed in various international events over the past number of years. The side is captained by Donabate's Mary McKenna who will bring her vast knowledge as player and Team Captain to the squad. The Under-18 side is not lacking in international exposure either and once again Co Louth's Jackie Quinn will be at the helm in Denmark.

Additionally, the Union has announced that Curtis Cup hopefuls Claire Coughlan (Cork), Martina Gillen (Beaverstown) and Tricia Mangan (Ennis) will form the Irish team to play in the British Amateur Championship at Royal Co. Down, 13-17 June. The GB&I Curtis Cup team to play the USA at Pacific Dunes, Oregon, 29-30 July will be announced following the event.

U-21 European Team Championships, Golf Club de Pan, Netherlands, 11-15 July 2006

Fiona Carroll (Athenry), Dawn Marie Conaty (Ashbourne), Tara Delaney (Carlow), Danielle McVeigh (Royal Co. Down Ladies), Sinead O'Sullivan (Galway), Catherine Tucker (Limerick)
Reserves in order: Niamh Kitching (Claremorris), Vicki Power (Brampton Park)
Captain: Mary McKenna (Donabate) Manager: Anita McCaw (Royal Co. Down Ladies)

U-18 European Team Championships, Esbjerg Golf Club, Denmark, 11-15 July 2006

Victoria Bradshaw (Bangor), Sarah Faller (Galway), Holli Snelling (Killarney), Linda Toomey (Limerick)
Reserves in order: Stephanie Meadow (Royal Portrush), Sarah Cunningham (Ennis), Anne McCormack (Roscommon)
Captain: Jackie Quinn (Co. Louth) Manager: Rose Doyle (Shannon)

European Young Masters Styrian, Murhof, Austria, 27-29 July 2006

Sarah Cunningham (Ennis), Stephanie Meadow (Royal Portrush)
Reserve: Ciara Sharkey (Enniscorthy)

R&A Junior Open Heswall Golf Club 17-19 July 2006

Hannah O'Brien (Lahinch)

British Amateur Team Award Team Royal Co. Down, 13-17 June 2006

Claire Coughlan (Cork), Martina Gillen (Beaverstown), Tricia Mangan (Ennis)
Reserve: Tara Delaney (Carlow)



The 17th hole .. looks easy doesn't it !

Do you have any digital photos from around the course which we could use on the website ? – let us know.

Golf in Verse

Mary had a little putt, she needed it for par.
Mary has a second putt...the first one went too far!

ooooo

This golfer has a wicked slice, and quite a follow-through
That's why his partner, who stood too close, is on the green in two.

ooooo

Some golfers lie awake at night and brood on what went wrong;
I'd rather think of what went right, it doesn't take as long

ooooo

I sank a long and curling putt, it's like I've seldom seen.
It would have helped my scoring but, 'twas on the practice green.

If you see an Irishman salute the crowds as he makes his victory walk up the 18th fairway of a future major championship, it is quite likely that he will have honed his skills in the idyllic surroundings of the Golfing Union of Ireland National Academy at Carton House

This spectacular new complex, which sits at the heart of the 800 year old demesne just 14 miles west of Dublin city near Maynooth in Co. Kildare, has just opened its doors to the public and is the jewel at the centre of a ?7.5 million development that includes the GUI's new offices and Golf Museum.

Any member of the public is entitled to use the state-of-the-art facilities, which will put Ireland at the very forefront of golf development worldwide.

A joint-venture between the GUI and Carton House, the National Academy features a magnificent driving range with a vast grass teeing area, 12 covered bays and two central teaching bays, equipped with the latest swing analysis and putting technology.

The range itself features lots of pop-up greens at varying distances as well as three large practice greens, dedicated in turn to putting, pitching and bunker play. Ryder Cup star Padraig Harrington has also made several suggestions which have been incorporated into the design, including a second grass teeing area at the opposite end of the range, offering an alternative when wind or light conditions are unfavourable.

Some more Golfing Quotes

Eighteen holes of match or medal play will teach you more about your foe than will 18 years of dealing with him across a desk.
~Grantland Rice

Golf is so popular simply because it is the best game in the world at which to be bad. ~A.A. Milne

Golf is a fascinating game. It has taken me nearly forty years to discover that I can't play it. ~Ted Ray, *Golf - My Slice of Life*, 1972

Golf is a lot of walking, broken up by disappointment and bad arithmetic. ~Author Unknown

Fifty years ago, 100 white men chasing one black man across a field was called the Ku Klux Klan. Today it's called the PGA Tour. ~Author Unknown

Golf combines two favorite American pastimes: taking long walks and hitting things with a stick. ~P.J. O'Rourke

If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt. ~Dean Martin

Golf gives you an insight into human nature, your own as well as your opponent's. ~Grantland Rice

If profanity had an influence on the flight of the ball, the game of golf would be played far better than it is. ~Horace G. Hutchinson

They say golf is like life, but don't believe them. Golf is more complicated than that. ~Gardner Dickinson

Want to check you Handicap ?

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

