



# IN THE SWING

**Portarlington Golf Club  
News & Views**

**Issue 15  
March / April 2007**

After a break of a few months “In the Swing” is back. As always we try and get a wide variety of content, so if there is something in particular you would like to see in future issues let either David Hainsworth or Jerry Savage know of your suggestion. Details in this issue are as below :

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## Centenary Year – 2008

The initial meetings of the centenary committee have taken place and a number of sub committees have been set up to focus on golfing activities, fundraising, social and on historical content. The various committees have been at work in gathering ideas and formulating the plans for the year.

We have already secured the ILGU Midland Senior and Junior Championships and the GUI Captains and Secretaries outing for May, the GUI Leinster Youths Amateur Championship from June/July and we have an application in to host a PGA of Ireland sanctioned Pro-Am which we hope to schedule around open week.

We are also considering our options around running an interclub competition specifically for the centenary year. If you have any ideas on this front we would love to hear from you.

On the fundraising front we will be looking for a number of major sponsors for the year which will enable us to do everything we plan without any significant impact on the members. We will also be planning some fundraising social activities this year to build up funds for the year and some smaller initiatives to add to the monies raised are also being investigated. Keep an eye out for developments on this front in the next couple of months.

The social calendar will be enhanced to build on the activities already in place with a view to having something on every month of the year. We aim to have at least two specific centenary year focused events with a past Captains & Presidents celebration where we will take the opportunity to look back at the history of the club and a Gala evening during the summer to celebrate all that is good about our club.

The historical sub committee are already at work with efforts underway to resurrect all the old photos which graced the old club house and to gather all the trophies and memorabilia together in a new display cabinet in the bar area. In this area we would appreciate the input of as many people as possible – if you have any documentation, pictures, prizes etc. etc. relevant to the club over the years we would love to borrow it for display during the year.

Other ideas being investigated by the centenary committee are enhancements around the clubhouse and immediate area which may come to fruition this year. The objective of the committee will be to display the history of the club from Nov 1908 to the present day and to show off our wonderful facilities to our many visitors during the year and into the future.

If you can help out in any way, or if you have any suggestions, please contact centenary committee chairman, Aidan Colgan, or any member of the current or centenary committee.

## Sponsors

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

Hinch Plant Hire (Fint Hinch)  
Plum-Heat Ltd (Wesley Dempsey)  
Pat Carlyle  
Joe & Maura Fitzpatrick and Denis O'Sullivan  
N&E Menswear (Niall Coffey)  
Courtfields Restaurant (John & Martha Davies)  
Emo Oil (Sean Smith)  
Matt Dunne  
Tom McDonald  
AIB Bank (Kevin Kennedy)  
JDM Insurance  
Mountmellick Credit Union  
N.B.C.R.I

Portarlington Auto Parts (PJ Hyland)  
John Fletcher Hardware  
David Hainsworth  
Brendan Martin  
Bizmart (Jimmy Finn)  
Ger Philips & Phil Raynor  
Premier Equip. (Michael Slattery)  
Brian Whelan Electrical  
No. 57 (Mary Millar)  
Permanent TSB  
Creative Hair Designs (Jane Cunningham)  
Adrian Dunne Chemist

Attendance at the prize giving has been very poor and is a sad reflection on the esteem that our very generous sponsors are held in by the club. Without these sponsors the club simply could not continue to offer the number of competitions we currently do with the wide array of prizes. All those people who give of their time freely to run these competitions would appreciate your support in attending prize giving nights.

## Courses of the world

### Valhalla Golf Club, Louisville, Kentucky

The home of the 2008 Ryder Cup is Valhalla Golf Club. Valhalla has a front nine that is links-style, while its back nine is more traditional. The signature hole is #13, a 350-yard, par 4, requiring a tee shot to a small landing area, then an approach shot over water to an island green.

*Golf Digest* consistently rates Valhalla as the "Best in State" and one of "America's 100 Greatest Courses". In addition, *Golf Week* ranks it as one of "America's 100 Best Modern Courses". Valhalla Golf Club has been the host site for the 1996 and 2000 PGA Championships, the 2002

PGA Club Professional Championship and the 2004 Senior PGA Championship. In September of 2008, golf's most illustrious event, the 37th Ryder Cup, will be contested here. With this, the facility becomes only the third such in the nation to host a PGA Championship, a Senior PGA Championship and a Ryder Cup.

Valhalla Golf Club is the culmination of Dwight Gahm's dream to build a world-class course capable of hosting a major golf championship. It is also the culmination of a history-making partnership bringing championship golf to Louisville on a recurring schedule and resulted in The PGA of America's first owned championship site. For Dwight Gahm, a prominent Louisville business leader and golf enthusiast, that dream - the creation of a traditional "golf-only" facility with an outstanding championship course that would host a world-class championship event - began in 1981. Gahm and his three sons - Walt, Gordy and Phil - commissioned Jack Nicklaus to build a private golf facility on 486 acres of rolling Kentucky terrain that would provide its members with the highest level of service. It also would be the calibre of facility that could host a major championship comfortably. Valhalla Golf Club, located approximately 20 miles east of Louisville, opened its doors in 1986. Named one of the top three new private golf courses in the U.S. in 1987, the first year it was eligible, Valhalla Golf Club remains the No. 1-ranked course in Kentucky.



## Bar & Catering.

As you will have noticed we have a new Bar and Catering operation underway in the club . John and Martha Davies took over the operation at the end of January and are gradually settling into the task. The key objective is to give you the member and your guests a top class friendly service of the highest quality. Please examine the Food Menus and we hope they meet with your approval. At present the agreed opening hours will be Monday to Friday 10.00 am, Saturday 9.00 am and Sunday 8.00 am until dark.

John and Martha have previously operated Courtfields restaurant in Edenderry Golf Club and the new operation will continue with the Courtfields name. Initial reaction has been very favourable and I'm sure this will continue as John and Martha grow within the new role. If you have any queries or suggestions regarding the service please contact the House Manager, Kevin Kennedy, or any member of the committee.

## Competitions

The Competitions for March & April are as follows (*Ladies competitions in Italics*),

### March

4 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Captains Drive in 14 Hole 4 person Scramble	
6 <sup>th</sup>	<i>12 Hole Stroke</i>	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Williams Waller Cup 18 Hole Stroke	<b>GOTY</b>
13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>18 Hole Stableford</i>	
17 <sup>th</sup>	18 Hole Team Event	
18 <sup>th</sup>	Daffodil Day 18 Hole Stableford	
19 <sup>th</sup>	18 Hole Scramble	
20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>18 Hole Stableford</i>	
25 <sup>th</sup>	Holmpatrick Fourball 18 Hole Stableford (Qualifier for Club Fourball)	
27 <sup>th</sup>	<i>18 Hole Stableford</i>	

### April

1 <sup>st</sup>	Irish Heart Foundation Scotch Foursomes (Qualifier for Club Foursomes)	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Australian Spoons</i> <i>18 Hole Foursomes</i>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Mens Open Singles 18 Hole Stableford	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Portarlington Masters 18 Hole Stableford	<b>GOTY</b>
9 <sup>th</sup>	18 Hole Scramble	
10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Batchelor Cup</i> <i>18 Hole Stableford</i>	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mens Open Singles 18 Hole Stableford	
15 <sup>th</sup>	Vice Captains Qualifier	<b>GOTY</b>
17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Elsie O'Donnell Cup</i> <i>18 Hole Stroke</i>	
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mens Open Singles 18 Hole Stableford	
21 <sup>st</sup> / 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Fourball 18 Hole Stableford	
24 <sup>th</sup>	<i>NBCRI</i> <i>18 Hole Stroke</i>	
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mens Open Singles 18 Hole Stableford	
29 <sup>th</sup>	Russell Cup 18 Hole Stableford	

**GOTY** = Golfer of the Year

## GUI Handicap Meeting

A presentation on handicapping was delivered by John Ferriter of Leinster Branch GUI at Tullamore Golf Club on 13<sup>th</sup> February. The presentation was attended by a number of officers of Portarlington Golf Club.

A revised handicapping book is to be issued to all clubs next November by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU).

The issue of non-return of score cards was raised and clubs were advised to deal with repeated infringements under Clauses 17 and 19. It is also intended to post an Away Score Sheet on the club handicap notice board, for the self-logging of Away Scores by members.

The duties of the handicap committee was outlined to include: proper implementation of CONGU Handicapping System; ensuring that all score cards are returned; annual review or audit of handicaps; retention of handicap records for three years; retention of score cards for one year; posting of Away Score Sheet; recording and review of non-qualifying scores.

A new golf rule to be implemented next year will permit the "lift, clean and drop" of a plugged ball "through the green". At present the rule only applies to a plugged ball in closely mown areas.

## Rules Corner

1. A player's ball comes to rest inside a paper cup on the putting green. Then, the wind moves the paper cup with the ball inside to a new position. What is the ruling?
2. In stroke play, a player placed a ball when he should have dropped it and played it. What is the ruling?
3. Prior to his shot, a competitor lifts a towel covering a fellow-competitor's bag to determine what club the fellow-competitor used for his stroke. What is the ruling?
4. A player's ball is completely embedded in the vertical lip of a bunker that is not grass covered. What is the ruling?

Answers at the bottom of page 4

*"I play in the low 80's. If it is any hotter than that I won't play"*

The Fall season is probably the most enjoyable time of the year for outdoor activities. It is not too hot or cold -- nothing to gripe about. You can go to your favourite football stadium and watch your team in comfort. If the sun irritates your eyes, watching it on the stadium's big screen is the next option.... at least you get to enjoy being outdoors.

On the subject of football, many of you do not realize that Yale University was the first college to win 800 football games. The Ivy league deemphasized football many years ago and aimed their curriculum at producing politicians and lawyers. A great weight was placed on the lawyers, who later are to be hired to keep the politicians out of trouble. We would have been far better off if they had kept football higher on their priority list.

Early fall is a wonderful time of year for golf. The golf courses are probably in their best shape and most of the distractions caused by the summer heat are gone. Many of the clubs hold their annual club championships, as well as invitational tournaments, at this time of year. It is also your last chance to try to get your body in shape before you hibernate in front of your television set during winter.

Many of my early years in the golf profession were spent at clubs in the north. Most of the clubs, especially the summer resort clubs, would close in the middle or end of October. When that time arrived, I would find myself heading south with the Canadians and the geese.

Fall is also the time of year when golf hustlers start heading south. They will wear long sleeve shirts, broad brimmed hats, and gloves on both hands. The purpose is to prevent getting a sun tan. They are preparing to refine their game on southern courses. They are laying in wait for those poor unsuspecting white faced Yankees coming south for the winter. When the Yankees acquire a little tan they will lay off.

This part of the country has a two grass season on greens. The summer grasses are Bermuda, and the winter grasses are different strains of what is commonly known as rye. As soon as cold weather and heavy frosts arrive the Bermuda stops growing and will turn brown. Winter grasses are then planted over this dormant Bermuda, and will form a fine putting surface for the winter months. The winter grasses thrive on water and cool nights. There usually are a couple of weeks that the planting of the winter grass may cause a little inconvenience. You may have a little more trouble than usual with your putting, but at least now you have an excuse. This is a very short period of time, so show a little patience.

*"A golfer is a gardener digging up someone else's lawn."*

## **WHEN TO QUIT GOLF**

Some answers to that question we all ask ourselves at times !!!

1. *You have had three putts and your group members tell you that you're still away.*
2. *You can remember for a week the one good shot you had in the round.*
3. *The ball retriever is the most often used piece of equipment in your bag.*
4. *You and your group have rules for Mulligans.*
5. *You have more than the regulation 14 clubs in your bag including 3 putters.*
6. *You leave the pin in when you are on the fringe 8 feet from the pin in the hope it will stop your ball.*
7. *You have the thought you that if you hole out from 140 yards you can still make bogie.*
8. *The starter leaves a one hour gap after your tee off time.*
9. *When you call fore on a par three, and everyone runs to the green for safety.*
10. *The club has named a pond in front of the green after you.*

## **Rules Corner Answers**

1. He must lift the ball and place it as near as possible to the spot directly under the place where the ball lay inside the cup prior to the wind blowing it.
2. There is a two stroke penalty.
3. There is a two-stroke penalty for obtaining such information through a physical act.
4. He is not entitled to relief under the embedded ball Rule; an embedded ball is considered to lie in the part of the course where it entered the ground i.e. in the bunker

## Society, Green Fee & Classics.

One of the first tasks in the operation of any new committee is to allocate the roles for the year. One of the key roles is that of controlling the societies, green fees and classics for the year. Joe Bolton was assigned this task and quickly pulled together the assistance of Tommy Fitzpatrick and Dolores Murphy to review the rates for the year.

Subscriptions aside, this is the key income area for the club and we must optimise our income while being competitive in all aspects of the operation. Following extensive review of the rates charged by all the clubs in the area the new rates were presented to committee and ratified for the 2007 golf season as follows:

	Midweek	Weekend *	Note
<b>Green Fees</b>	€35	€40	50% reduction with a member
<b>Societies</b>	€50	€65	Per hour rates, Maximum of 24 people per hour

	Mon - Thurs	Friday	Note
<b>Classics</b>	€50	€80	Per hour rates, <u>Minimum charge</u> of €1,200 Mon – Thurs and €1,500 on Fri

\* Weekend rate will apply to all Bank or Public holidays

A Spring Green Fee special of €32 is being put in place and this will include golf and a two course meal, this offer will run until the end of April. If you have any questions in relation to these rates please contact Joe, Tommy or Dolores or any member of the committee.

### Club Officers for 2007

The officers of the club for the 2006/2007 season are as listed below

Pat Byron	Captain
Margaret Watchorne	Lady Captain
Michael J Turley	President
Nora Purcell	Lady President
Jerry Savage	Hon. Secretary
Mary Kavanagh	Hon Secretary , Ladies
Brian Mc Evoy	Hon. Treasurer
Kathleen Booth	Hon.Treasurer,Ladies
David Hainsworth	Vice Captain
Pat Cunningham	Vice Captain,Ladies
Michael Moore	Vice President
Kevin Kennedy	House Manager
Noel Dunne	H/cap Secretary, Mens
Stephanie Gorman	H/cap Secretary, Ladies
Pat Carlyle	PRO
Frank Smith	Juvenile Liasion Officer
Joe Bolton	Society and Green Fees
Pat Lyne	Course Manager
Frank Higgins	Wildlife
P J Delaney	Comp. Sec. , Mens
Breda Conlon	Comp. Sec. , Ladies

### World Amateur Rankings

Rory McIlroy (Holywood) leads the way for Ireland at World Number 2 (down one place from his recent position as world number 1) in the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) listing from The R&A which is now available live online at [www.randa.org/wagr](http://www.randa.org/wagr). Created as the universal standard for entry into The Amateur Championship, the ranking is a weekly performance table of the world's top 1200 players in men's amateur golf.

National handicapping systems will no longer be used as the primary condition to identify the international starting field of 288 players in The Amateur Championship, to be played this year at Royal Lytham & St Annes and St Annes Old Links Golf Clubs between 18 & 23 June.

The Amateur Championship field this year will feature an established number of exempt players and approximately the top 250 that enter, from those ranked 1- 800, on The R&A World Amateur Golf Ranking.

The R&A is golf's world rules and development body and organiser of The Open Championship. It operates with the consent of more than 125 national and international, amateur and professional organisations, from over 110 countries and on behalf of an estimated 28 million golfers in Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific and The Americas (outside the USA and Mexico). The United States Golf Association (USGA) is the game's governing body in the United States and Mexico.

*Golf is a passion, an obsession, a romance, a nice acquaintanceship with trees, sand, and water.*

## Junior Golf

The junior club has an active year ahead, some of the highlights are detailed below.

The Club will sponsor coaching for improving junior members ( boys and girls) from May to August in the Heritage Golf Club with Eddie Doyle and Eamon O'Flanagan. Some of our girls are receiving ILGU Coaching in Carlow, and 5 under 14 boys were assessed for GUI Coaching with Donagh McArdle in Tullamore recently.

The summer competition will be run in a similar fashion to 2006, with a weekly competition starting the week of 2nd July, finishing in the week ending 24th August.

Garryhinch Cup for Girls was a resounding success last year, and will be run again on 23rd August, in conjunction with the Junior open, for teams of girls ( u19years) from local clubs.

Junior Golfer of the Year is being run in conjunction with the Men's competition, and the qualifying competitions are the same as those indicated in the Fixtures Book 2007.

Overall, the Junior section is very active, with nearly 50 young golfers playing in the summer of 2006. We really appreciate all the sponsorship received last year from Pat Carlyle, Pat Byron, Dermot Murphy, Liam MacMahon, Aidan Colgan, Arthur Lambe, Eddie O'Donoghue, Frank Smith, PJ O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, John Lawlor, Frank and Bridie Higgins and numerous others who gave time and support. Particular thanks to Noel MacMahon for the time he gives to coaching Juniors.

## Committee Decisions

At recent committee meetings a few decisions were arrived upon for the coming season. A brief summary of these are listed below.

Competition entry fees have been reviewed for the year and they will be as follows:

- Singles €8 each
- Scrambles €30 per team
- Fourball / Foursomes €20 per pair

The committee will be looking at running a Seniors Open, possibly on a Monday morning, which will be open to Ladies and Men over 50. Keep an eye on notice boards for more details on this

A new set up for the entry of competition scores will be installed shortly. This will involve competition entry in the shop as at present but now your card will be printed for you. You will then enter your score via a new touch screen entry system in the locker rooms.

If you have any queries on these or any other matter contact any member of the committee

# Open Fairways

## Join Open Fairways & experience the benefits

The Open Fairways Golfer's Passports is the affordable way to enjoy the very best that Britain & Ireland have to offer in quality golf courses and luxury accommodation. By joining today, you too could enjoy the exclusive benefits of being an Open Fairways member.

## Discover the true game of golf

Variety is the spice of golf and our Passports offer unrivalled choice and value at over **1000 top courses** in the UK, Ireland and Europe (including **over 20 of Golf World's top 100**). Play the superb championship challenges of Turnberry, the K Club, The De Vere Belfry and Princes, or try a gentle round on one of our many hidden gems.

## A privileged member at every level

With exclusive green fee offers such as "4 for the price of 2" and "2 for the price of 1" you can save as much as £210 on a single round of golf at Turnberry, £125 at Burhill or €270 at Carton House! And the Passport covers parties of up to eight players so you can make **BIG SAVINGS** from a single membership - ideal if you like to play with a group of friends.

**Member privileges also include special offers on UK and Ireland hotels, golf holidays, golf lessons, European Tour tickets, golf insurance and equipment and kit discounts.**

Simply decide which Passport you require and join now on-line @ [www.openfairways.com](http://www.openfairways.com), by post or by phone on 0044 870 909 9111.

One of the new options in Open fairways this year is a "2 hours for the price of 1" at the new "drive-in" golf centre in the IFSC in Dublin. Details of this offer below

## **DRIVE-IN INDOOR GOLF CENTRE**

**Located in the IFSC in Dublin, this exciting new facility features -**

- 2 golf simulators, 33 courses*
- A-Star video capture unit*
- Professional Coaching*
- Driving range practice*

To avail of this offer simply contact John on 01 7918909 or 085 1431749 (if calling from outside RoI please dial 00353 ) declaring your intention to use the Open Fairways on-line offer number 643 (located on the reverse of membership golf card number 2)

Full details on [www.driveingolf.ie](http://www.driveingolf.ie)



## Club Teams

Over the coming weeks the various managers of the club teams for this year will be looking to put together panels for their teams. There is a place for you on at least one of the teams we put out every year as it covers the entire range of handicaps and ages.

Some of the teams will be based on your lowest handicap last year and others on your current handicap. Most of the GUI and ILGU sponsored competitions will have a requirements of a minimum number of four competitions played (and entered on the computer) in the past 12 months.

Check out the notice boards for details of all of the teams and the entry requirements for same. The team managers will endeavour to get all qualifying players from the handicap system but there may be some cases where people are missed out. If you would like to be considered for any of the teams contact the appropriate team managers which are detailed below and in the club fixture booklet.

Last year many of the teams showed improvements and this year we can take the next step to winning a pendant for the club.

For your reference, the team managers, and available draws, for all of the 25 club teams are listed below:

Competition	Managers	Opposition	Venue	Date
Barton Cup	<i>A. Colgan &amp; T. Hainsworth</i>	The Heritage	Portarlinton	Before April 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Barton Shield	<i>P. Mitchell &amp; G. Dooley</i>	Mountrath	Edenderry	June 16 <sup>th</sup>
Fred Daly	<i>N. Cooke &amp; L. O'Donoghue</i>		Edenderry	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Jimmy Bruen	<i>N. McMahon &amp; T. Kennedy</i>		Baltinglass	June 9 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup>
Junior Cup	<i>D. Conlon &amp; L. O'Donoghue</i>	The Heritage	Portarlinton	May 26 <sup>th</sup>
Junior Foursomes	<i>N. Cooke &amp; L. O'Donoghue</i>	Newlands	Mountrath	June 28 <sup>th</sup>
Leinster Fourball	<i>TBD</i>	Borris	Borris	Before April 8 <sup>th</sup>
Mixed Foursomes	<i>C. McCusker &amp; M. Whelehan</i>	Rathdowney	Rathdowney	Before April 15 <sup>th</sup>
Pierce Purcell	<i>C. McGettrick &amp; P. Carlyle</i>		Moate	May 19 <sup>th</sup>
Provincial Towns	<i>N. Cooke &amp; D. Hainsworth</i>	Mountrath	Portarlinton	Before May 13 <sup>th</sup>
Senior Cup	<i>C. Finlay &amp; D. O'Sullivan</i>	Curragh	Heath	July 14 <sup>th</sup>
Central Towns	<i>S. Brereton &amp; D. Hutchinson</i>			
South Leinster	<i>O. Egan &amp; T. Lambe</i>			
Tutenham Cup	<i>A. Turley &amp; M. Turley</i>			
Michael Moore	<i>P. Kitson &amp; L. McMahon</i>			
Duggan Cup	<i>P. Clarke &amp; J. Holland</i>			
Brennan Cup	<i>P. Byron &amp; M. Turley</i>			
JB Carr	<i>P.J. Delaney &amp; P. Fogarty</i>			
McDowell Cup	<i>P. Egan &amp; J. Fitzpatrick</i>			
Cullen Cup	<i>D. Murphy &amp; C. Bolton</i>			
Castlebarna Shield	<i>TBD</i>			
Heinekin Mixed	<i>M. Hogan &amp; S. Gorman</i>			
Under 15	<i>PJ O'Donoghue</i>			
Under 21	<i>Frank Smith</i>			
Garryhinch Cup	<i>Sharon Culliton</i>			



### Winter League Round up

Arguably the best mens winter league yet came to a close on Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup> with a sudden death play off between the two captains Denis O'Sullivan and Marty Fitzpatrick. After the teams finished level with 5 matches each, following a first extra hole victory by Norman Morton, Denis and Marty played the first and Denis came out as victor. Special mention must go to Finian Daly who got a hole in one in the match play final.

The entire tournament was very well supported with some excellent scoring throughout the weeks particularly by Liam Kearney, Daniel Murphy & John Connolly who were 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

The semi final on Saturday was high tension as the two qualifiers changed with almost every one of the final five or six three balls. In the end Martys team scored a magnificent 185 points (ave. of 26.4) with three teams on 182 (ave. 26) only being separated by the next best, 8<sup>th</sup>, card.

Well done to everybody who played.

## GUI & ILGU AGMs

The AGMS of both golfing unions were recently held and a few rules amendments and miscellaneous announcements were made. The more significant of these are as follows

At the GUI AGM the following motions were carried:

“That the Fred Daly competition consist of seven (7) players throughout the competition, i.e. Provincial, All Ireland semi-finals and All Ireland Final”. (Proposed by the Munster Branch)

“That the GUI will not give its approval to any competition in which prizes are, or appear to be, in breach of amateur status”. (Proposed by the Leinster Branch)

The following motions were defeated:

“That the four qualifying Club Competitions (to be returned in the previous calendar year) for eligibility to represent one’s Club in Interclub Cups & Shields, be played only in one’s Home Club”. (Proposed by the Munster Branch)

“The game of golf is supposed to be a game of equity and fairness by handicap, to all who play it. Killarney Golf and Fishing Club seek the restoration of full handicap for all men’s fourball competitions as there is neither fairness or equity in the present situation”. (Proposed by the Munster Branch)

“It is proposed that the GUI Leinster Branch ask the GUI to change the handicap allowance to full handicaps for fourball betterball competitions (strokes, v-par and stableford in Ireland)”. (Proposed by the Leinster Branch).

At the ILGU AGM the attendees agreed to introduce a nominal subscription fee for junior members and minor modifications to improve understanding of the ILGU Constitution were accepted.

Ann Marie Hughes from Junior Golf Ireland provided an update on activities at junior level to those present while Pat McGrath (who is a member of Portarlinton Golf Club), of Miele Ireland, announced details of their 3 year sponsorship of the National Inter-club Fourball Championships.

## Web Corner

This section hasn’t featured for a while but Colm Burke recently made me aware of a golf website which is a must for every lover of the game.

Check out [www.golfobserver.com](http://www.golfobserver.com) for information about the PGA, European, LPGA, Champions and nationwide tours. Not only does it have up to date reports on all the tournaments going on, it contains stats, course reviews, a user forum and a business section to review all the golf related business news and stock.

There is also a section where you could plan your next golf holiday with a list of sites dedicated to the selection of courses and accommodation.

It is just the thing to wean yourself off a weekend of golf and into the working week. Have a look at the site you will not regret it.

Continued thanks to Paddy Bates for keeping our own site [www.portarlintongolf.com](http://www.portarlintongolf.com) up to date. Check here for competition results.

## Course Work.

Over the coming weeks the irrigation system for the “old” nine holes (3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 18) will be upgraded. This is necessary work required as the current system is almost 25 years old and just can’t take the pressure of the water from the new system installed two years ago.

There will be some disruption around the course during the work but it is hoped that this will be kept to a minimum. We would ask for your patience and co-operation during the works.



*If I hit it right,  
it's a slice. If I  
hit it left, it's a  
hook. If I hit it  
straight, it's a  
miracle.  
~Author  
Unknown*

## Comments & Feedback

If you have any views on the newsletter, would like to see articles on specific areas or would like to contribute something yourself then please let me know

David Hainsworth