



# IN THE SWING

**Portarlington Golf Club  
News & Views**

**Issue 10  
November / December 2005**

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We approach the end of another year, the committee changes and we continue to develop on our communication channels. The Newsletter has received generally good feedback and as long as there is support it will continue. Due to the volume of articles to be included and news to update we have extended this issue to a bumper eight pages - included in this issue :-

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### AGMs

The three AGMs of the club will be happening over the coming weeks, it is a very busy time for everybody involved in finalising reports, considering proposals, getting notifications out and indeed preparing for the meetings themselves.

All proposals and submissions for committee must be received by the respective secretaries no later than 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. As both the Ladies and Mens AGMS will be happening in early November this newsletter will be too late as a reminder however the overall club AGM will be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December so the details can be submitted at anytime up to and including Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December.

There have been many positive developments over the past few years and the various committees have been instrumental in these. As we continue to build and develop the workload also increases and hardworking committed people are always needed on committee. If you fit the bill then put your name forward.

This is also the opportunity for you to put proposals to the membership of the club. If there is something you think could work better, something new which could happen or something which should be ceased then this is your chance to put your case.

Overall it is the time when all the members of the club get the chance to directly impact on how our club should progress for the benefit of everybody in the club.

### Captains Dinner

The joint Captains dinner this year will be held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December in the club house and, as always, it marks the end of the tenure of the outgoing Captains. Arthur and Ann have had very enjoyable years and they would love to welcome you on the night. Keep an eye on the noticeboards over the coming weeks for details of the evening.

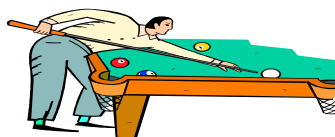


We are now registered with this website and have been uploading details. There were some initial problems with this but due to the efforts of Joe Bolton everything seems to be fully operational now. On the site you can get details of competition results, handicap adjustments and upcoming fixtures through this site free of charge. Just another positive development in the club and just another step along the road to providing all the members with ready access to information.

## SPONSORS

The following are the sponsors for competitions in November & December. As always the continued support of all the sponsors is much appreciated and your attendance on the presentation day is requested

O'Neill Refrigeration ( Oliver O'Neill )  
Brackens Butchers ( Kevin Bracken )  
Brendan Martin  
Catering & Laundry Equip. (Michael Slattery )  
Aidan & Helen Hanson



## ANYONE FOR SNOOKER

Investigations into the possibility of setting up a members only snooker club are underway and if you would be interested in playing please let Norman Morton or any member of the committee know. At this point we are looking for a suitable location and investigating the costs involved in such a venture. It could be a runner but will only move forward with your help.

## Portarlinton Golf Club 1908 – 2008

Our Centenary year is approaching fast, and at the AGM this year the incoming committee will be looking for approval from the members to establish a sub committee to commence our build up to 2008. This new committee will be looking for members so if you are interested in helping out over the next couple of years please let our incoming Captains and Presidents know.

At preliminary discussions ideas ranging from on course pro-am/celeb. tournaments, an additional centenary open week and inter club/county tournaments to off course centenary social events to the provision of a centenary fixture book/diary, score card etc and even twinning with another “centenary club” for the year have been discussed. There are obviously loads of ideas out there and I’m sure there are more out there. So if you feel you will have the time to offer then let it be known.

## Developments

Some things which have been done or are in the planning stages at present are as follows.

The fountain has been placed on the fairway lake on the 13<sup>th</sup> and has yet again been well received, investigation into a similar feature on the 16<sup>th</sup> is being investigated as something is required to generate movement in the water to clean it up.

Investigations into how the competition card entry system can be improved is underway. Options being considered in installing a separate machine in the golf shop which can be used for competition entry while the existing system can be used in the locker rooms for score entry after the round. To improve the performance of this the custom “touch screen” technology designed to operate with the system is also being sourced. Initially it will mean a learning curve but eventually it will be a vast improvement on what is in place at present.

There are also some preliminary investigations into the repair / replacement of the 7<sup>th</sup> green underway. Due to drainage issues with the green it is unplayable should there be any degree of heavy rainfall. The options being looked into is repairing the existing green which will mean it will be out of operation for a few months and we will be playing temporary greens. The other option will be to play the existing green when a totally new green is constructed in the area behind the 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> greens.

Developments in these and more areas in the months to come.

## New Chef

Interviews have taken place recently and we have called in the extensive hotel & catering experience of Michael Murphy and Michael Manley to assist us. Colm Burke, Anne Turley, Paddy Egan and David Hainsworth participated on behalf of the club and offered a club view to the process. Four candidates were interviewed from nine CVs received and these were all excellent candidates and any would perform the role required. The council are considering their options and drawing up terms and conditions before moving forward as it has been recognised that a proper and considered approach must be taken to this appointment. A final decision is expected over the coming week and will be communicated at this point.

The R&A, golf's world governing body and organiser of The Open Championship, today announced the publication of a List of Driver Heads that will conform to the new Rule limiting 'spring-like' effect to be introduced from 1 January 2008. Driver heads which currently conform to the Rules of Golf, but which will become non-conforming on 1 January 2008 as a result of the new Rule, are not included on the List.

Work began on the development of this List a year ago, after a formal proposal received enthusiastic support from the Professional Tours, The R&A's Affiliated Unions and equipment manufacturers. The List, which has been compiled and refined in close collaboration with manufacturers, will be an essential guide for golfers preparing for the 2008 Rule – whether it be to ascertain the status of their current driver or to help them in their future purchasing decisions. There are approximately 1700 models, dating back to 1999, on the List at the current time. A club manufactured before 1999 is considered to be conforming and on the List unless specifically ruled otherwise. The R&A already publishes a list of driving clubs that will become non-conforming in 2008.

Commenting on the launch of this List, The R&A's Director of Rules and Equipment Standards, David Rickman, said "The publication of this List should help ease the transition towards the 2008 Rule change. We are appreciative of the support that we have received from manufacturers and we are confident that this List will be of assistance to the golfing public."

The List will be updated weekly and will be maintained jointly with the United States Golf Association. It can be accessed from The R&A's website ([www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)) by following the links to 'Rules', 'Equipment' and 'Driving Clubs'. A publicity campaign to increase awareness of the List is planned for individual Golf Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland and via The R&A's 125 Affiliated Unions worldwide.

The decision to introduce a limit on the 'spring-like' effect of driving clubs was first announced in August 2002 and The R&A introduced a test in January 2003. Since 2003, the Rules have allowed Committees to introduce a Condition of Competition requiring driving clubs to comply with the 2008 Rule. Initially, this Condition was only used in Professional events, but in recent years it has been used in top Amateur events. From 1st January 2006 until 31st December 2007, the Condition will be revised to allow a Committee to require driving clubs to have a head which is detailed on the List of Conforming Driver Heads. For most competitions and all recreational play, the use of this Condition is not recommended. Further details of this Condition of Competition and its recommended use are attached, along with further details of the workings of the List.

Questions on the above should be directed to David Rickman or Claire Bates.

### DETAILS OF CONDITION OF COMPETITION

From 1 January 2006, Committees may introduce the following Condition:

#### "Driving Clubs

The driver the player carries must have a club head, identified by model and loft, that is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by R&A Rules Limited.

Note: Any individual driver on the List, if tested on pendulum testing apparatus approved by R&A Rules Limited, must not have a characteristic time greater than 257 microseconds.

Penalty for Breach of Condition: Disqualification"

### Rules Corner

*Answers at the bottom of page 6*

1. *(A topical one as something similar recently happened in the Presidents Cup match)*  
In matchplay a player mistakenly believing he has won a hole, picks up his ball-marker, what is the ruling?
2. The players in a match agree to omit two hole, ie agreed to settle the match over 16 holes. Is this permitted?

## Group Text

The workload in setting up the group text i.e. typing all the mobile numbers, has recently been completed and you should have received your welcoming text. If you did not receive a text we may not have your number so if we do not have your mobile, or email for that matter, drop a line to [portarlingtongc@eircom.net](mailto:portarlingtongc@eircom.net) and we will include you on the list. As it develops we hope to focus communications to particular groups in regard to competitions, socials, meetings etc



## Wildlife Update

Over the course of the year we have been blessed with the variety of wildlife gracing our course.

One comment, made to me, which typified the impact the wildlife has come from a competitor in the final of the Michael Moore. While returning to the club house after being beaten in his match this Gentleman said “I lost a tight match, played good golf, on a great course and to top it all I saw my first Red squirrel in about 15 years - that made the trip worth while “.

The deer have been plentiful on the course and generally haven't caused that much damage due to the firm underfoot conditions. As we approach the Winter months there is a need to protect the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> greens as the softer ground will show the tell tale signs of visits from the woods.

There have been a few Hares around also which, after a few years absence, show a welcome return.

The pheasant pen was stocked again during the summer and this generally went well. All of the birds have now been released and we hope that some will stay around the course. This is the intention so if they don't then we may see the end to this practice – fingers crossed.

The undoubted success of the year has been the wildfowl – a number of clutches of ducks graced the courses lakes, the swans hatched out for the first time in three years, the water hens had two small broods and we even had little grebe on the lake on the first.

For minimal expenditure the course has been blessed – long may it continue.



## Christmas Parties

Less than two months away now – some people will have already started but for the rest of us the rush will be starting shortly. We will yet again have to face into the prospect of buying presents, selecting the turkey and organising Christmas parties.

This is where we can help. With the bar in the Garryhinch room fully operational now it would be ideal for your office or works Christmas party. You will have a room to yourselves for food and drink and without fear of impacting on any activities which may be going on in the main bar at the same time.

If you want more information speak to Catherine who will be happy to discuss menu and price options with you.

## GOLF AND RELIGION

(Words of wisdom from Fred Larsen December 2004)

*“Golf is the Lord's punishment for man's sins.”*

My being in the golf business would naturally indicate that the Church and I were competitors. Not so. Have you noticed those four men dressed in casual clothes listening attentively to the sermon? They have a one o'clock tee time. They will tend to lose a little of the benefit of the sermon if caught in a traffic jam getting out of the parking lot, but apparently regain some religion once they are on the golf course. You can hear them calling on the Lord on occasion for various reasons.

I had a minister member of my club who was totally addicted to the game of golf. Early one Sunday afternoon he showed up to play golf. I asked him if he had lost his job, he replied, “All religion stops after twelve.” He will likely make a hole in one and not be able to tell anyone.

Before I became a golf professional, I had a religious background, starting with pumping the organ in a country Church. I sang in the youth choir as a soprano. Something happened when my voice changed. While attending an event that required singing, such as the National Anthem, my wife used to tell me not to utter a peep, but mouth the words. In later years I was also President of Christian Endeavors, but not in the golf season.

(continued ...)

(..... continued)

In one period of my life, I had to hitch hike to the club each morning and at time I used to get a ride with a Catholic Priest on his way to the club. I used to caddy for him, and when we were out of sight of the clubhouse he would let me use his clubs and play me for ten cents a hole, and I would end up losing my caddie fee.

While as the owner of a club, I was approached by a new minister in the area. He said that where he came from they let ministers play free. The combination of his attitude, and that he caught me when business was not good, brought out the other side of me. I told him that I would do that the day that the collection plate was not passed. That was the end of the conversation.

But on the other side of the coin, was a minister by the name of Love. It was an appropriate name for him. I noticed his absence for a period of time and inquired about it to one of his friends. He told me the Rev. Love's church was having some financial problems and that he was donating his salary to the church, and could no longer afford to play. I sent word to Rev. Love, that he no longer had to pay to play at my club. During this period, I had Paul Hahn, the famous trick shot artist perform at my club. Rev. Love had him as a member of his church while living in North Carolina. The afternoon of the exhibition Paul Hahn spotted him in the gallery. He went up and pulled him out of the gallery and introduced him and made a big fuss over him. That was a great day for Rev. Love.

At one time I was playing golf with a young minister, and he had just hit his ball into the water. It was in plain sight, but well out of reach. He pulled off his pants, waded out and retrieved his ball. They needed to raise his pay.

At one of my clubs, I had a foursome comprised of a Priest and three Jewish members. They told him one day that he ought to give up his Parish, and they knew of an opening at a Synagogue, and they would put in a good word for him.

*A minister once was heard to say, "I do not swear, but spit on the ground. Where I spit, grass never grows again."*

The Rev. Love story relating to being recognized by Paul Hahn reminds me of a somewhat related story. I had a cousin, who was an outstanding athlete and who played a number of years of pro football. Back in those days they did not have all of the protective equipment of today, and his nose had been broken about seven times, however he got me interested in sports. Once out of football he became a wanderer and bummed his way all over the country from job to job. One summer he landed in my home town and ran a Diner. While there he played tennis at the club where I worked. We had a Summer Stock Theatre in town that year, and one of the celebrities was Edwin Everette Horton, of Hollywood fame of those days. They became tennis partners while the show was there.

Some years later he was working on some construction job in Jacksonville, Florida. I had just hitch-hiked from Connecticut on my way to Miami, and I had gotten a ride to Jacksonville. I had his address, and looked him up and spent a couple of days with him. Fred, his name was Fred also, was quite intelligent, and could carry on a conversation on any subject, but was full of baloney. At that time he was an outstanding bowler in a local league. He had told his bowling partners about his relationship with Edward Everette Horton. One day his bowling partners approached him and told him one of his friends was coming to town to perform in a show. He was coming in by train and they were going to take him down to the train station to meet his old friend. Not knowing if Horton would even remember him, he was dreading this meeting. The first person Edward Everette Horton spotted was Fred. He threw his arms around him and asked what he was doing there and gave him an invitation to his show. Fred said that I can tell those guys anything now and they will believe me. I don't know what ever happened to him. His mother died and left him ten thousand dollars and he was never heard from since. This story has had nothing to do with my original subject, unless you can count the praying that Fred did on the way to the train station for the dreaded meeting with Edward Everette Horton.

*There are two things that require keeping your head down: golf and praying.*

**There are some wonderful stories which can be found on [www.fredlarsen.com](http://www.fredlarsen.com). Over the next few issues of this newsletter I intend to reproduce some of these stories for general consumption. If anybody has come across any other sources of golfing stories or humour please let me know and I will do my best to include them in future issues of the newsletter.**

## Courses of the world

As we continue the series looking at the courses of the world we cast our eye towards Spain and the majestic Valderrama.

Valderrama can be found situated between the Mediterranean sea and the mountains. With the large number of lakes and strategic places bunkers every hole is a different experience. Valderrama 7000 yards par 72 with no hole of less than championship quality but it can be fully enjoyed by players of all handicaps thanks to Robert Trent Jones Sr, who designed the course in 1974.

Regarded as by many as the number 1 golf course in mainland Europe, and is in the Top 50 World Rankings. Valderrama hosted the first nine editions of the Volvo Masters (1988-1996.) It hosted the Ryder Cup in 1997 and has hosted the first World Golf Championships - American Express Championship in 1999 and the second in 2000.

The amenability of the golf course to the handicap golfer and its deliberate severity to the championship player owe much to the extensive range of tees. Each hole has a Professional tee (6356 metres), a Club Championship tee (5994), an Executive tee (5498) and a Seniors' tee (5053), as well as a ladies Professional tee (5294) and a ladies Club tee (4873). The tees are differentiated not just by distance but by careful positioning.

### Rates October 2004 - Sept 2005

Green Fee (Monday to Friday)	250.00 Euros
Weekend Rate	275.00 Euros
Caddy (pre-booking necessary)	45.00 Euros
Buggy Hire	50.00 Euros
Electric Trolley	23.00 Euros
Hand Trolley	8.00 Euros
Set of Callaway Clubs (pre booked)	50.00 Euros
RFEG Insurance (included)	COMPLIMENTARY
Practice Balls (one basket)	COMPLIMENTARY
Use of the driving range (before round)	COMPLIMENTARY

The Practice Ground is near the Clubhouse and has been described by Nick Faldo as the best in Europe. Since that comment was made the facilities have been much improved.

For more info. check out [www.valderrama.com](http://www.valderrama.com)



The tee shot on the 8<sup>th</sup> – looks even narrower from this shot doesn't it.

### Club Matchplay & Golfer of the year

The club has run some excellent matchplay competitions during the year which was well supported with top class games. The winners of the different events are as follows:

#### Vice Captains

Conor McCusker

#### Club Championship

Pat Kitson

#### Fourball

Ger Reid & Tony Campbell

#### Scotch Foresomes

John & Sean Lawlor

#### Mixed Foresomes

The final between Maura & Sean O'Donoghue and Gerry & Noreen Savage had yet to be played at time of issue

The Golfer of the year this year is Richard Murphy while the junior section ran their own golfer of the year for the first time and this was won by Lorcan O'Donoghue.

The other significant achievement this year was the excellent course record shot by Steve O'Donnell in the Captains prize. His card has now been framed and hung on the wall in reception.

### Rules Corner Answers

1. The player incurs a one stroke penalty under Rule 20-1 and must replace his ball. (In the Presidents Cup it was deemed a misunderstanding and the ball was replaced without penalty)
2. No, the players should be disqualified under rule 1-3.



(taken from an article on [www.ilgu.ie](http://www.ilgu.ie))  
**The oldest Ladies Golf Union in the world**

On an autumn day in 1887, a remarkably far-sighted woman, Miss C.E. McGee, travelled to Kinnegar, Holywood, Co. Down, on a rather curious mission. The trip was made at the invitation of a Dr. Collier, who was convinced she would be intrigued by the sight of a very rare species. A lady golfer!

Six years later, in a letter to her friend Miss Leah Garratt, Miss McGee wrote that she had been introduced to the lady golfer who "inspired me with a wish to play the game." The golfer in question was the wife of a Captain Wright of the Scottish Light Infantry and that inspirational incident would become a key element in the founding of the Irish Ladies' Golf Union.

Today there are 381 Clubs affiliated to the ILGU, with over 56,000 members.

**Humour & Trivia**

Two golfing buddies that had not played together for some time met on the course one day for a round of golf. One fellow says, "Hey Jack, how's your game going?" Jack says, "My game is so bad right now I had to have my ball retriever regripped."

Did you know that the longest hole in the world is the sixth at Koolan Island Golf Club in Western Australia. Believe it or not, the hole measures 860 yards and is played as a par 7.

"My clubs are well used, but unfortunately not used well"

Jack Burrell

"The harder I practice, the luckier I get."

Gary Player

"The older I get the better I used to be."

Lee Trevino

**Holes In One**

As the trend of holes in one in the club continue with another Ace last month we have gone looking for some unusual hole in one stories

The feat of Terry Lilly from Slade Valley Golf Club in Brittas, Co. Dublin is one that really stands out. He managed to have two holes in one at the same hole on the same day in the same competition. It happened back in December 1997 when Lilly was playing in a 12 hole re-entrer competition. Using the same ball and the same club, he aced the 167 yard fifth hole at Slade Valley.

Staying with the elusive ace. Back in 1940, an American professional spent over 16 hours trying to hit a hole in one. Harry Gonder spent 16 hours and 25 minutes trying to ace a 160 yard par three. Unfortunately he wasn't successful with his 1,817 shots though he did come close with shot number 1,756. That one hit the pin and stopped just an inch from the hole.



**Suspension of Tullamore Lifted**

We will all be familiar with the events in our neighbouring club which led to their suspension. We have been keeping an eye on developments and the following statement was issued recently on the GUI website [www.gui.ie](http://www.gui.ie).

*Following a Special General Meeting of the Central Council at which the Leinster Provincial Council reported its findings arising from its investigation into breaches of the Rules of Amateur Status, as approved by R&A Rules Ltd., and the Constitution of the Golfing Union of Ireland, Central Council has agreed not to extend the suspension of Tullamore Golf Club beyond the minimum period of one month.*

*Central Council considered the report of the Leinster Provincial Council which arose due to the value of the Tullamore Captain's Prize exceeding the limit as specified in the Rules of Amateur Status, and accepted the assurances from Tullamore that systems are now in place in the club to prevent any possibility of a recurrence.*

*Central Council confirmed that the suspension imposed on Tuesday, 6th September 2005 will be lifted from midnight on Monday, 10th October 2005.*

.....  
*Issued by Seamus Smith  
Golfing Union of Ireland  
10th October 2005*  
.....



## OPEN FAIRWAYS

The Golfing Union of Ireland is pleased to announce a Special Offer for users of their websites at [www.gui.ie](http://www.gui.ie) and the GOLFnet site, [www.golfnet.ie](http://www.golfnet.ie).

Users of these sites can avail of The Open Fairways Golfer's Passport to Ireland at a reduced rate of EUR110/£75 (valid until April 06). The passport entitles them to exclusive half price green fee offers at over 200 courses in Ireland, 50% off 100 Irish hotels and a host of other golfing privileges. This is a significant reduction on the RRP of €149 / £99.

Speaking about the special offer, Albert Lee, President of the Golfing Union of Ireland said, "The special offer now available online will be of huge benefit to individual golfers and golf clubs in Ireland and we are happy to be able to make this available through our websites."

Founded in 1995 by Johnny Packham, the success of Open Fairways was recognised in 2001 on winning the Parcel Force Worldwide Small Business of the year for Northern Ireland.

To avail of this offer simply log on to the sites listed above and follow the links



## Ryder Cup 2006



With the Ryder Cup less than 12 months away this newsletter will have a look at the great competition with stories, statistics and useful information. With the issues to come we will build up to the 37<sup>th</sup> Ryder Cup in the K club from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2006. The first instalment in this series we will have a look at Samuel Ryder the man who the tournament is named after.

Ryder was an Englishman from St Albans in Hertfordshire, who made his fortune selling penny seed packets. Before the first unofficial matches at Wentworth, Ryder had engaged the British star Abe Mitchell as his personal golf tutor. Mitchell beat the reigning British Open Champion Jim Barnes, 8 and 7, in the singles, and then partnered with George Duncan in the foursomes to beat Hagen and Barnes, 9 and 8. After the matches, Ryder had tea with British Team Members George Duncan and Mitchell. Also joining them were Hagen and American team mate Emmett French. Duncan suggested Ryder provide a trophy and encourage the establishment of matches on a regular basis. Ryder agreed at once and commissioned the design of the gold chalice that bears his name and Mitchell's likeness on the top.

Unfortunately, Mitchell was suffering from appendicitis and could not join his countrymen at Worcester Country Club, Massachusetts, in 1927 for the inaugural Matches. The United States team defeated the team from Great Britain in that historic first match, 9 1/2 -2 1/2.

The inaugural US Ryder Cup Team was captained by Hagen, a charter Member of The PGA of America. Only American-born players were allowed to join the Team, according to a Selection Committee ruling, April 5, 1927, in Chicago. Joining Hagen on the Team were Leo Diegel, Johnny Farrell, Johnny Golden, Bill Mehlhorn, Gene Sarazen, Joe Turnesa and Al Watrous. Mike Brady and Al Espinosa were named alternates.

The British PGA Team was originally set with Mitchell as Captain, but he remained home due to appendicitis. Ted Ray took over the duties, and was joined on the team by Aubrey Boomer, Archie Compston, George Duncan, George Gadd, Arthur Havers, Herbert Jolly, Fred Robson and C.A. (Charles) Whitcombe. Samuel Ryder had sowed the Seed (excuse the pun !)



### CLUB TIES

The recently redesigned club tie is now on sale at a very reasonable €20. The tie is of excellent quality and has been well received by those who have purchased it to date.

Coming up to Christmas it would make an ideal present and something which will be worn proudly by anybody lucky enough to receive one.

A sample of the tie is currently on display behind the bar and I'm sure you will agree it is a top quality product.

*The club newsletter is produced for all the members of the club, if you have any feedback, suggestions as to content or if you would like to assist in the generation and publication please let me know.*

*David Hainsworth  
Hon. Treasurer*