

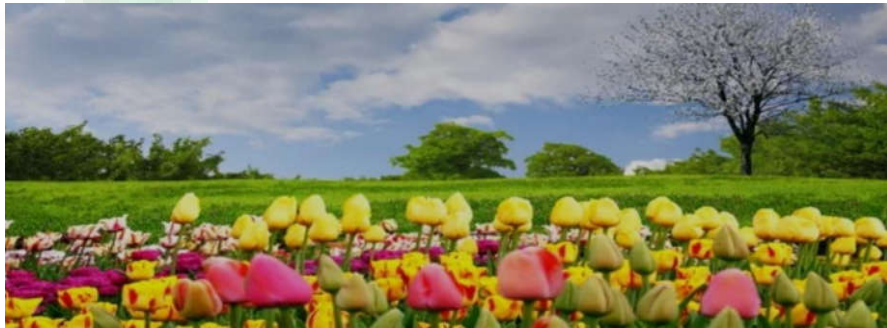


Pitch and Putt
Ireland

BACKSPIN NEWSLETTER

Official E-Newsletter of Pitch and Putt Ireland

May 2024 Edition



Welcome to Backspin newsletter 2024.

Dear friends, welcome back to the first edition of Backspin for the 2024 season. The new look Backspin will bring you stories from around the country, bring you blast from the past profiles of players (some sadly not with us anymore and some still going strong), updates of how our players are doing throughout the season and improvements and changes from different courses. So if you have something to share with us, send it to us for consideration. We hope you enjoy the following pieces. Let us know in the comments.

Dates for your calendar

May

03 Provincial schools finals Lucan

11 & 12 Provincial L&G Matchplay Finals

17th National Schools Finals

19 U16 County Matchplay

25&26 Provincial mixed and non mixed

June

1,2& 3 Natioal Matchplay finals, Larkspur Park

15th and 16th - County Strokeplay finals

29th and 30th- Provincial U16 Matchplay

Women in Sport



On the 11th of March 2024, 4 Ladies made history by officially participating and completing the Pitch and Putt Ireland Referees course. The course involved an online stage and a practical. John Manning, co-ordinator and facilitator took the ladies through their paces on a very wet and windy Athgarvan course, many thanks to the club for the use of the course and the celebratory tea and biscuits after.

The newest referees with Pitch and Putt Ireland pictured here with course facilitator John Manning are: Frances Ryan (Lakeside), Audrey Donnelly (MacBride), Mary Quinn (Lakeside) and Breda White (Tipperary Hills)

Look out for the ladies who may be coming to a course near you.

Congratulations



LADIES PROVINCIAL SOCIAL DAYS

Leinster ladies day:

The Leinster ladies social day was held in McDonagh this year. Over 100 ladies from clubs in and around Leinster descended on McDonagh for the first of the ladies social days.



Munster: Ladies social day

After a postponement on 6th April, the Munster ladies day took place in Cashel on 27th April.



We spoke to some of the ladies on both days to ask what appeals to them about the social days. Here's what they had to say: "We love the bit of fun with the other ladies from neighboring clubs and meeting new faces", "The cuppa after the game and the anticipation of who has the win", "Having fun and picking up a few tips on the way"

In all over 170 ladies took part over the 2 days and each day was a fantastic success. The ladies came from clubs all over the provinces. They renewed old friendships as well as making new ones. Events like these are vital to the ladies game. They forge bonds and help them to realise there are lots of ladies out there willing to help, guide and support each other in our great game. Hopefully we will see much more of these 170 ladies throughout the year at the different events to come.

Many thanks to McDonagh and Larkspur Park for hosting.

WELL DONE EVERYONE

Convention 2024

The NEC, acting on Sport Irelands directive to fulfill the gender quota, inducted three ladies to NEC at a meeting in Templemore on the 8th of December '23. At convention 2024 the ladies were elected in the following positions. Ger Holland (secretary) Margaret O Riordan (Munster/Connaught coordinator) Frances Ryan (communications and media officer). We wish them the best of luck going forward in their new roles. The following is a brief profile of the NEC's newest honorary secretary by ***John Manning.***

Ger Holland

Honorary Secretary Pitch and Putt Ireland



Ger Holland began her Pitch and Putt career at the now defunct Dublin Postal club and claimed second place in the 1995 National Junior Strokeplay championship at Portmarnock. The Dublin player took that silver medal on the back eighteen from Mary O'Donovan (Collins) after the pair had tied on 122, four behind winner Rita Guerin (Navan).

Ger has twice won Best Gross at the Dublin Mixed Foursomes Stableford (Des Flanagan Memorial Trophy) with Darren Thornberry (R.G.S.C.), at Glenville in 2015 and with John Lawlor (R.G.S.C.) at Ring Commons two years later. The R.G.S.C. stalwart holds three provincial Inter-County silver medals, earned at Lucan in 2010, St. Bridgets (2016) and Lough Owel (2017).

One of Ger's best days on the course came at Old County in September 2015 when she posted a two-round tally of 109 to win the All Ireland Ladies (Over 55) Senior Grade Strokeplay Championship by three from Margaret Hogan (Tullamore). In 2023, Ger narrowly

failed to add a second All Ireland Ladies (Over 55) Senior Grade Strokeplay title at Glenville. On this occasion 109 left the Dublin lady in second place, behind Geraldine Ward (Portmarnock)

She was runner-up in the 2020 Dublin Ladies Strokeplay Championship at Shandon and in the 2022 Dublin Matchplay at Lucan. Ger has represented Dublin with distinction in the Inter-County arena. She featured on the Dublin team that clinched national honours in 2016 at R.G.S.C. with a total of 571, that was eleven better than runners-up Kildare.

A regular qualifier for the final round of the National Ladies Strokeplay championship, Ger was twice a National Matchplay semi-finalist, losing to Geraldine Ward on each occasion (at Seapoint in 2016 and Tullamore in 2018).

In addition to sterling administrative service to her current club R.G.S.C., Ger has acted on the National Ladies Committee and Pitch and Putt Ireland Strategic Planning Committees.

Safeguarding level 1

In March, 60 members from around the country completed and were certified on the Safeguarding in sport level 1 course. Level 2 and 3 safeguarding took place in April. In compliance with Sport Ireland's Safeguarding policy there are now almost 100 club children's officers certified in Ireland. This is a great step forward to protecting and safeguarding our children and those who are responsible for them.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

LET'S KEEP THEM SAFE!

Backspin blast from the past:

Johnny Shoer

By John Manning

John Manning shares his own memories of a man that was known throughout the country for his wit and his pitch and putt skills. Everyone who met him will have a story to tell. Enjoy this throwback to the 80s and 90s with the late great Johnny Shoer.

Back in the early 1980s, I was an aspiring young player from St. Stephen's in Cork. I was delighted to qualify for the 1981 Munster Matchplay finals. I was drawn against Tipperary's John Shoer. I met him on the first tee at Catholic Institute. He was shambling around beforehand, complaining about his health problems, wondering whether he would be able to finish the match and then he proceeded to beat me "out the gate"! What a character! **John Manning**



Riverdale Scratch Cup was a tournament he made his own in the early 1980s, winning on two occasions and contending many times. He also acted as a welcoming starter for the tournament. Fittingly, John Shoer Junior won Riverdale Scratch Cup in 2001.

Newsletter by Frances Ryan
Contributions and editing by John Manning

Originally a member of the now-defunct Sallygrove club in Nenagh, the late Johnny Shoer represented Riverdale with distinction and became one of the most recognised and cheerful faces in the world of Pitch and Putt.

Amid tremendous scenes of celebration at Hillview in 1981, Tipperary (Leonard Devine, Jimmy Hough, Johnny Shoer, Roy Linden and John Shortt) took their second ever National Inter-County title. Their score of 384 was two clear of runners-up Meath.

In 1984 at Rocklodge, John Shoer joint top scored with 96 for a Tipperary quintet, that also included John Shortt, Roy Linden, Noel Joyce and Seamus Leavy, which finished third in the National Inter-County championship. The Tipp side scored 397 behind victors Cork and second-placed Dublin.

In the National Gents' Inter-County Championship of 1990, at Tipperary Hills, Tipperary (Paddy Kennedy, Sean Minogue, John Shoer, Robert Clear and Sean Keane) finished third on 392, outscored only by winners Cork and runners-up Limerick.

A week on from a famous 1991 hurling success by the blue and gold, the Pitch and Putt men from the Premier County almost won the National Gents Inter-County championship at Lucan. Noel Joyce, Sean Minogue, Richard O'Halloran, John Shoer and Anthony Culhanefired a team total of 388, which claimed second spot, just four behind host county Dublin (Mark Keane, Derek Courtney, Sean Harkins, Anthony Malone and Pat Brennan).

Tipperary County champion in the successive years of 1978 and 1979 and many times subsequently, Johnny was a fixture on the Tipperary County Board for many years. The popular Nenagh man was actually Chairman of the first ever Tipperary County Board in 1970 and later Secretary and Vice Chairman. Tipperary County Board's annual Scratch Cup honours the memory of the great Johnny Shoer.