

Pitch and Putt
Ireland

BACKSPIN NEWSLETTER

Official E-Zine of Pitch and Putt Ireland

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Where is the time going!!!

Another month has flown by in our calendar and lots of things have happened since. Here's a look back some of the things that took place in the past couple of weeks. New National Matchplay champions came to the fore in Larkspur Park on the June bank holiday. Coaching is in full swing up and down the country. The female leadership course has been completed and safeguarding 1,2 &3 are continuing online. The provincial Championships have rendered new champions and the Irish Open took place in Ryston. Irish players dominated the leaderboard in the World Championships. The National Gents Strokeplay Championships took place last weekend and the Ladies take to Stackallen next weekend

Dates for your calendar

August

17/18 National Ladies Strokeplay Stackallen

24th /25th National U16 Strokeplay & Interco Hillview

26th -30th Nat. Scotch F,somes qualifying

31st Aug/01 Sept Provincial Intercounty

7th/ 8th Sept U 16 National Matchplay, Athgarvan

14th /15th National Intercounty Bagnalstown

Backspin blast from the past:

What happened in 1974?

By John Manning

On the evening of Friday 17th May, three bombs exploded in Dublin and one in Monaghan, killing 34 people and leaving 300 injured. Almost twenty years later, the UVF claimed responsibility for the atrocity.

On 9th July, Dublin's longest ever bus strike ended after a 65 day stoppage.

Having been under pressure for several months, in the wake of the Watergate break-in revelations and the threat of impeachment, Richard Nixon resigned from the office of US President on 8th August.

A government-sponsored bill to legalise the sale of contraceptives was defeated in the Dáil on 16th September. The then Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave voted against the motion.

"The Dubs are back, let the Railway End go barmy" rang out at Croke Park as Dublin won the All Ireland Football championship. Kilkenny were hurling champions.

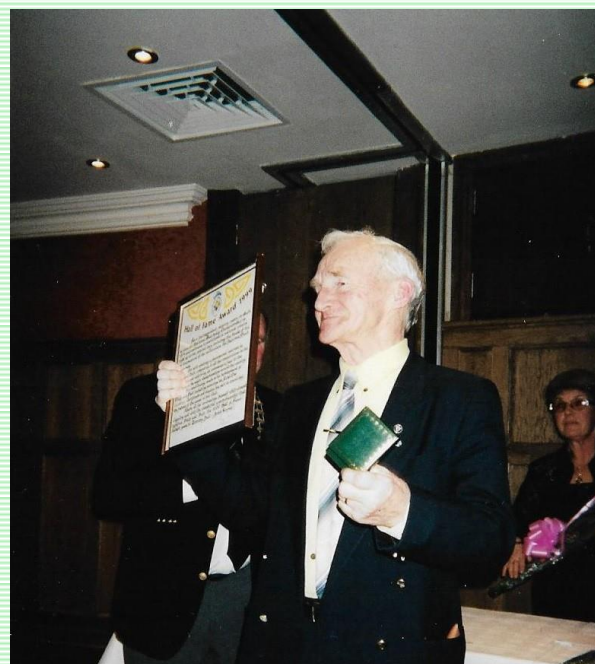
Over in the Pitch and Putt world, one of the greats of the ladies game annexed the last of her four National Matchplay titles while the matriarch of a Co. Meath dynasty claimed the second of her two Strokeplay crowns. For the first time ever, a gents Matchplay/Strokeplay double was completed whereas the Matchplay saw an "oldest champion" record set.

Tommy Hall

Tommy Hall's greatest day on the Pitch and Putt course came at Shandon on 3rd June 1974. Tommy defeated Ierne's Jack Perry on the 36th green in the National Matchplay final. Tommy had earlier eliminated Bart Millard (Highfield) by 6&5 in the semi-final. It could have been an all-Irish Ropes decider as Tommy's club colleague Peter Bell narrowly lost out (by 4&3) to Jack Perry in the last four.

By his victory, Tommy Hall created a little bit of history as the reigning National Strokeplay champion at the time was Tommy's clubmate Andy Dempsey. Hall was the first Kildare man to win the National Matchplay championship. Tommy was doubly pleased as the P.P.U.I. President of the day was fellow Kildare man and friend Mick Geraghty (Athgarvan).

Tommy was a month short of his 47th birthday when he took National Matchplay laurels. His record as the oldest champion stood for nearly two decades until 49-year-old Liam O'Brien emerged victorious at Fermoy in 1993.



Pitch and Putt Ireland Coaching 2024



Pitch and Putt Ireland have been involved in primary schools coaching for many years, ably led by our National coach Stephen Enneguess. In the past few years Stephen has indicated that Primary schools are very, very happy with our game and our sport. Schools are extremely happy to have it and it has been received very well. So much so that this year Stephen looked for help to extend and expand the schools involved. This year our President Mark Keohane, who is in the process of his assessment as a coach tutor, and Honorary Secretary, Ger Holland who is a level 1 coach, stepped in to help Stephen and to expand the program. This began in early spring and on into the summer months when nearly 40 primary schools were visited and up to 25 schools will be visited again in September and early October. This coupled with coaching courses reappearing on the calendar for the first time in 5 years starting with the first coaching course in Larkspur park in Cashel in April . 1 in late May early June in Stackallen and 1 taking place this week in August in Bishopstown in Cork.



This year we have been involved in Meath LSP and Carlow LSP, Sligo LSP and various other projects. These included running Disability inclusion camps, girls in sport and Multisport camps. We attended the PEXPO which was held in the indoor National Arena which was hosted by Sport Ireland and Fingal County Council. Over 1,000 young people from Secondary schools all over Ireland tried our sport of chipping and putting. The feedback was highly positive



from this event.

For the first time, this year Pitch and Putt Ireland will be attending the Ploughing Championships in County Laois and we will be demonstrating our sport again to the many, many thousands of patrons who attend. We are really looking forward to this event.

Pitch and Putt coaching is in the midst of a change. Stephen has long looked for people to help and move coaching along and this year for the first time it really has changed. We are training new coaches. Introductory courses are being run in the hope that we will get more level 1 coaches. It is also hoped to send people to the coach tutor training college in Limerick through Sport Ireland coaching . This will train new tutor coaches who will help us to develop new programs.

A new aspect coming on stream later this year will be transition year coaching, where we will be coaching transition years and introducing them into the art of coaching and how to coach others.

This has been spearheaded by Stephen Enneguess for over 20 years and he has done an incredible job. We do need more people involved of Stephen's ilk. It would be impossible to replace his experience. Stephen is willing to pass on his wealth of knowledge and experience.

Fairview CY Pitch and Putt Club



National Coach Stephen Enneguss held a taster pitch and put coaching session in CY Fairview Pitch and Putt club Everyone had a fantastic time. Dwyne Hill, Pitch and Putt Ireland CEO and Hon Secretary Ger Holland were on hand to help.



He makes it so easy for anyone to come in and help him and indeed to branch out and start doing all these coaching courses and running camps. Next year we hope to bring back the much loved Summer Camps that so many children have enjoyed but have not been run for a few years. So in 2025 we will be starting to run them again in our local clubs around the country.

Coaching has been done since early April this year and will continue into September. During the winter months we are hoping to run indoor coaching from October through to February with both primary and secondary schools. This will bring us through to the beginning of the coaching season again in 2025.

More information on where coaching courses are coming up will be posted on the Pitch and Putt website as the season progresses.

