

PITCH & PUTT IRELAND



National Strokeplay Finals 2026

Intermediate Ladies

August 15th & 16th

Intermediate Ladies Official Venue

Cunnigar Pitch and Putt

Championship Preview by John Manning

Ladies Intermediate Preview

Holder Mairead O'Toole (St. Bridget's) will be early into action in Saturday's intermediate championship. 2011 and 2025 winner Mairead's bid for a third title will be conducted in the company of R.G.S.C.'s Marie Dooley, the reigning Dublin Matchplay champion and former Dublin Strokeplay victor.

Trim's Bridie Cummins was runner-up in the recent National Over-55s Intermediate grade Strokeplay championship at Rochfortbridge while playing partner Irene Reid (Portmarnock) was the capital's Strokeplay champion in 2024 and in 2025.

Bridget Shelley (Lakeside) boasts an outstanding record in the National Strokeplay championship, dating all the way to her junior success at Douglas in 1992. Since that memorable success in Cork, Bridget has twice claimed the intermediate title, at Ierne in 2012 and at St. Bridget's in 2019. She has also twice finished third, at Ashgrove in 1996 and at Tullamore in 2007.

The sole host course representative in the championship is Mary O'Neill, who will draw strength from happy memories of the 2010 National Junior Strokeplay championship at Cunnigar, which she won by four strokes from her clubmate Corinne McGee.

Grainne Shelly (Lakeside) won the National Mixed Foursomes in 2022, the same season she claimed a third place finish in the All-Ireland Junior Strokeplay championship. Grainne is drawn to play with Patricia McLoughlin (Shandon). Patricia's standout campaign was 2006, when the Dublin lady lifted the Leinster and National Strokeplay championship trophies. Patricia is still a proven performer at the highest level, as witnessed by her Best Nett performance in the National Over-55s Intermediate grade Strokeplay championship at Rochfortbridge.

2025 Munster Matchplay champion Nicola Ahern (Collins) was All-Ireland Junior Strokeplay champion at Lakewood in 2003 while Elaine Salmon (RGSC) is a regular winner in events such as Seapoint Open and Dublin's Des Flanagan Memorial Mixed Foursomes.

The next group links current National Over-55 Intermediate grade Strokeplay champion Margaret Conneely (Trim) and Cloghogue's Karen McVerry, who was National Junior Strokeplay silver medallist at Stackallen two years ago.

2013 National Over-55 Intermediate grade Strokeplay runner-up Pauline Lucey (Hillview) was Munster Strokeplay champion in 2017 and now crosses swords with Carlow Inter-County player Ann Hickey (Bagenalstown), a Scratch Cup winner already this season in Wexford, Kildare, Offaly and Kilkenny.

2016 Leinster Junior Strokeplay champion Catherine Smith (McDonagh) was third in the 2009 National Over-55s Junior grade Strokeplay championship before claiming third place at McDonagh twelve months ago behind Mairead O'Toole.

Bishopstown's Linda Griffin was Munster Junior Matchplay champion (at this weekend's host course) and provincial Mixed Foursomes winner in 2024.

2024 National Over-55s Intermediate grade Strokeplay champion Paula Nolan (ESB) is a three-time Munster Strokeplay runner-up and is scheduled to tee-off with Susan Ritchie (R.G.S.C.)

2024 Irish Girls Strokeplay champion Megan Ahern (Collins) was Munster Intermediate Strokeplay and Matchplay runner-up last year while 2026 Leinster Mixed Foursomes champion Tara Halpin (Rathfeigh) finished second in the recent Leinster Intermediate Strokeplay championship at Killineer.

Reigning Dublin Junior Matchplay champion Lorraine Duggan (R.G.S.C.) is scheduled to play with the vastly experienced Inter-County star Vera McCarthy. The Collins lady collected a bronze medal in the 2024 National Over-55s Intermediate grade Strokeplay championship at St. Stephen's, having been a silver medallist in the regular All-Ireland Intermediate Strokeplay final at the same venue in 2018. Vera reached the 2024 Munster Matchplay final at Cunnigar.

Deerpark's Ciara Lowe captured the recent Munster Strokeplay championship while Angela Connolly (Eden) is a former All-Ireland Junior Matchplay semi-finalist.

A pair of former National champions face-off in the penultimate grouping of the day. 2024 All-Ireland Junior Strokeplay champion Ashlene McKevitt (Cloghogue) meets inaugural National Matchplay Nett Cup victor Elaine Quinn (Lakeside). Elaine finished as 2025 runner-up at McDonagh twelve months ago.

Last twosome to take to the course will be Siobhan Foy (Rocklodge) and Gemma Martin (Hillvie