



Pitch and Putt
Ireland

Backspin

Official E-Zine of Pitch and Putt Ireland

May 2023



A Chara,

You are very welcome to this our first edition of Backspin since late 2021 as I am delighted to say that the project will hopefully become a monthly one now between here and the month of September.

I want to thank Declan Sheedy for his assistance in getting this project going again as we start this run with a basic edition to get us all going again. Hopefully we will add more to it as the month's progress but for this edition we look ahead to the National Matchplay in St Bridget's in the main with two pieces from John Manning. John looks firstly at the brief history of the National Intermediate and Junior Matchplays in the early 1990's in recognition of the fact the Provincial Matchplay winners at Gents Inter and Junior level this year will play a national final on the Monday in St Bridget's. He also looks at previous national events to take place at the Kilcullen venue.

John also has a look at the international scene so far this year from an Irish perspective topped by Bruff's Kieran Earls becoming the first ever winner of a WPPT event in late April.

We also hear from our President Mark Keohane in his first address since Convention as we also take a brief look at tomorrow's National Secondary Schools Finals in Athgarvan where 18 teams will be in action.

As everyone is aware I am now Honorary Secretary fully and I have vacated the Communications & Press Officer role in order to concentrate on it for the rest of the year until our next Convention. I will still be involved in PR aspects but it will be a more collaborative effort amongst a number of people in light of not having a specific PRO for the time being.

I am looking forward to the National Matchplay weekend and hopefully some of the features that we are planning that will hopefully move a few things forward. Articles for consideration can always be sent to me and I welcome anyone who sends something that they would like to see published.

Happy reading for this edition and we'll be back again in a month's time.

Jason O'Connor

Pitch & Putt Ireland

Honorary Secretary

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Message from our President Mark Keohane



It is my pleasure to write this message for the first of our monthly Backspin newsletters. We hope the new format will be a success and I would like to thank everyone who contributes in the months ahead. At this stage we have held the Provincial Scotch Foursomes and look forward to the Provincial Matchplay next weekend. This in turn leads us into the June weekend and the traditional staging of the National Matchplay in St Bridget's. I would like to wish all host clubs and all the qualifiers for both Championships the very best of luck.

As everyone is aware Jason O Connor has taken up the Hon Secretary's role fulltime and I for one am very grateful. This still leaves us looking for a Communications Officer and a Munster Co-ordinator in order to fill all positions on the NEC. Work continues on changing us over to a CLG and the recruitment process for the new position of CEO is well underway. We will also be recruiting a part time office assistant in the next few weeks. All in all it is a very exciting and challenging time in the game and it is important to stay positive and focus on the good in our game. Negativity serves no purpose and whilst not everything we do works out, it is important to find solutions as we go forward.

May the rest of the season bring good weather, great playing and deliver memorable Championships.

Mark Keohane

President Pitch and Putt Ireland

2023 National Executive Committee

Following a very successful Annual Convention the below are the elected National Executive Committee (NEC) for 2023.

President:	Mark Keohane (Rocklodge)
Vice President:	Myles McMorrow (Lakeside)
Hon Secretary:	Jason O'Connor (Deerpark)
Hon. Treasurer:	Breda Brophy (Ryston)
National Competition Coordinator:	Davy Reddin (Custume)
Communications & Press Officer:	Open
Youth Officer:	Liam Leahy (Lakeside)
Leinster/Ulster Competition Coordinators:	Michael Vaughan (Inniskeen)
Munster Competition Coordinators:	Open
Coaching Officer:	Stephen Enneguess (Kilmichael)



Irelands #1 ranked players recognised at Annual Convention



Chrissie Sheedy (Ryston) retained her Number 1 ranking in 2022 after another outstanding year on the championship scene. Chrissie claimed the National Senior Strokeplay title, Leinster Senior Strokeplay and Matchplay titles and Kildare Senior Strokeplay title in 2022 and ended the year with team success claiming the National Ladies Intercounty title with Kildare. This was Chrissie's 9th time to receive the Number 1 ladies ranking title in her career.

Sean Goggin (MacBride) claimed the Number 1 ranking in the gents' game for the first time in 2022. Similar to Chrissie, Sean had an exceptional year in at the National and Provincial championships winning the National Senior Strokeplay and Leinster Senior Strokeplay and Matchplay titles, all for the first time. Added to these titles were multiple wins in scratch cups across the country.



Thank you Michael Murphy

Having served on the National Executive Committee over the last two decades Michael Murphy stepped down from his role as Honorary Secretary at Annual Convention and will retire from his role in the office from June. Pictured below is Michael receiving a gift from his fellow NEC officers in recognition for his outstanding work and contribution to our game. We wish Michael a happy and healthy retirement.



Ladies Social Day



The Ladies Social Day kicked off the Pitch and Putt Ireland calendar of events this year on the first weekend in April. The Munster ladies day was held in Fermoy while the Leinster ladies event took place in Rochfordbridge. The cool weather on the day did not



deter the ladies from taking to the tee and a very enjoyable event was had by all. Below is a selection of photos from both venues and prizewinners on the day. The NEC hopes to run further ladies social days and we encourage more ladies to come along and take part in these very social and enjoyable events.



Provincial Scotch Foursomes Championship Results

The provincial non mixed and mixed scotch foursome championships were played in the excellently presented Kilbeggan and Bruff courses in Westmeath and Limerick respectively in May. Below are the results from the very successful weekend of play in both provinces. Scotch foursomes focus will now move to the National championship to be held in Royal Meath in July.

Leinster @ Kilbeggan

Non Mixed

Winners: Mark Kirwan & James Kirwan (St Patricks) 99pts

Runners-Up: Sean Dinnegan & Dean Dinnegan (Lough Owel) 97pts

Best Gross: Gerry Breen Snr & Gerry Breen Jnr Seapoint 92pts (B6)

1st 18: Darren O'Reilly & Christian O'Reilly Lucan 48pts (B9)

2nd 18: Raymond Fay & Benny Fay (Collinstown) 49pts

Mixed

Winners: Claire Curtin and Gary Pyke Tullamore 98pts

Runner up: Kathleen Carton and John Carton Kilbeggan 96 pts

Best Gross: Amy Galvin and Anthony Galvin Tullamore 86 pts

1st 18: Mairead O'Toole and Tony Barry St Bridgets 50 pts

2nd 18: Catherine Dillon and Ian Dillon 47 pts



Munster @ Bruff

Non Mixed

Winners: Martin Keohane & Patsy Farrell (Bruff) 94 points (B18)

Runners-Up: James Ryan & Mark Ryan (Bruff) 94 points

Gross: Kieran Earls & Tommy Hanley (Bruff) 92 points

First 18: JJ Quirke & JJ O'Connor (Fermoy) 45 points

Second 18: Aidan O'Sullivan & Peadar McCarthy (Bruff) 51 points

Mixed

Winners: John Fitzgerald & Lorraine Creed (Hillview) 91pts (B9)

Runner Up: Jason & Bernadette O Regan (Tralee) 91pts

Best Gross: Michael Brennan & Breda White (Tipperary Hills) 83pts

1st 18: Adrian & Veronica Anglim (Hillview) 47pts

2nd 18: Thomas Roberts & Bridget Shelly (Lakeside) 46pts (B9)



WPPT Catalonia



The opening event of the 2023 World Pitch and Putt Tour (WPPT Catalonia) took place from April 28 -30 at P&P Lleida, a fine course situated some 160 kilometres north west of Barcelona.

Ten Irish players contested the tournament and there were some standout performances by our representatives. A brilliant nine under par final round of 45 gave Kieran Earls (Bruff) a one stroke win. Earls signed for

an overall 54-hole aggregate of 140 (-22), having birdied the final hole to deny a couple of Catalans. Alejandro Esmatges tied on 141 with Catalan colleague Joel Girbau, Esmatges getting runners-up slot courtesy of his Sunday 47. Many congratulations to Kieran who had scored 48 and 47 in the earlier rounds to be a single stroke behind Girbau heading into the final round. Kieran was tied at that stage with his club-mate Tommy Hanley. Tommy eventually claimed a highly creditable fourth spot on 19 under (after a final round of 48) ahead of Catalans Albert Girones and Oriol Mas (the man who had won his third Catalan Open in succession a few weeks previously at HCP 1). Girones and Mas finished 17. Originally playing out of the Parteen club, Kieran Earls was Irish Matchplay champion in 2020. He has been Munster Matchplay and Strokeplay champion and is a multiple winner of the Limerick Strokeplay and Matchplay titles. Former World Strokeplay champion John Walsh (Collins) tied seventh with -14 at Lleida while Castletown's Evan Carry (who scored 151), Rob O'Donoghue of Douglas (152), Irish internationals Eamon Gibney (Castletown) and Frank Dineen (St Annes) who each carded 154 and Bruff's John Farrell (155) all grabbed Top 20 finishes.

The World Pitch and Putt Tour now moves on to tournaments in Slovenia and in Ireland before the WPPT final in Catalonia in November.

Catalan Open

No fewer than 40 Pitch & Putt Ireland registered players teed-up at the 2023 Catalan Open, which was played from April 15/16 at HCP1. Oriol Mas (Catalonia) claimed his third Catalan Open title in succession as he fired a brilliant final round of 46 for an eighteen under par 54-hole total of 144. That secured a three stroke victory over Fermoy's David Sexton who was round in 49 on Sunday for his 147 total. Josep Miralpeix scored 50 in the final round to clinch third position on 148, three ahead of fellow Catalans Xavi Ponsdemench and Barry Coomber. Current Cork Strokeplay champion Sexton remained in contention right through the weekend even though Oriol Mas hopes of three in-a-row were still very much alive on Saturday evening. 2014 champion Jordi Saborit (Catalonia) posted an opening 47 to lead on 47 after the first round at HCP1. Saborit held a single stroke advantage over fellow Catalan Carlos Lorenzana and Irishman David Sexton who both scored 48. In a hugely impressive performance by the Fermoy man, Sexton fired a 48 second round to share the overnight lead with Catalan Josep

Iglesias and Oriol Mas. Multiple Irish champion John Ross Crangle (Loughlinstown) finished Tied 8th at HCP 1 with rounds of 50, 52 and 53 while Castletown Masters winner Evan Ganly (Trim) was Tied 20th on 157. It was another international Senior Open win for the always impressive Amador Rodriguez (Catalonia). Amador signed for a 52 final round, a ten under par aggregate of 152 and a three shot margin over fellow Catalan's Josep Perez and Fernando Cano, Perez claiming runners-up position on the countback following his fine 49 final round. Shandon's Dennis Monaghan was Ireland's top performer in this category with 164 (56, 57, 51). Esther de Schiffart (Netherlands) played very steadily on Sunday for a one over par round of 55 and a 164 aggregate. That secured a four stroke ladies open victory over holder Encarnacion Robledo (Catalonia) who had herself led by four overnight. Catalan Angels Taulats jumped up into third place on 170, courtesy of her Sunday 55. Ailish Sexton (Fermoy) claimed a Top 10 Catalan Ladies Open finish on 183.



National Secondary Schools Finals

Tomorrow in Athgarvan sees the 2023 National Secondary Schools Finals take place. Jason O'Connor takes a look through some of the teams taking part tomorrow.

Athgarvan in Kildare are the hosts for tomorrow's National Secondary Schools finals as the first national champion in any Pitch & Putt Ireland event will be crowned for the year. The



National U16 Strokeplay finals were held here in 2020 as the players that were first and second that day are part of the field. Jack Mullins will be on the Mercy Secondary School Kilbeggan A team after his National success here in 2020 as Fintan Martin who finished behind him in second plays for the St. Brendan's Killarney A side. Fintan is part of the team that are defending champions this year

including Robbie Harnett and Cillian Courtney as all of the Munster schools taking part tomorrow are either from Kerry or Cork. St Brendan's have three teams amongst the field as St Michaels Listowel make it four in total from the Kingdom. Colaiste an Chroabhin were the school that finished as runners-up last year as St Colman's Fermoy and St Francis College Rochestown are also involved on Friday. Millstreet Community School are also involved after entering the competition for the first time at provincial level this year. Midelton CBS enter as the Munster winners from Hillview two weeks ago. Ardscoil Ciaran Naofa of Clara were the Leinster winners in Rochfortbridge recently as the school were the third place finishers in the nationals last year ahead of Castlepollard Community College who also return this year for the finals. The other Leinster Schools amongst the field are Athlone Community College, Presentation Secondary School, Patrician Secondary School and St Kevins Dunlavin. Three schools, St Brendans, Ard Scoil Ciaran Naofa, Mercy Secondary School have more than one

team taking part tomorrow as this is one of the tougher formats in the game with all three players scores to count towards the school's final total. It favours steady scoring as opposed to individual brilliance as it will be interesting to see how the players cope with the tricky Athgarvan track.

Best of luck to all teams taking part tomorrow as there will be updates available on the Pitch & Putt Ireland website.

Pictured are the team from Ard Scoil Ciaran Naofa who will be hoping to add the National Schools title to their Leinster win only two weeks ago.



National Intermediate & Junior Matchplay Championships -

A Brief History

As a form of a National Intermediate and Junior Mens Matchplay returns this year with the winners of both grades in both provinces being brought to St Bridget's on the Monday for a national decider. John Manning looks back on their short history from the early 1990's here.



A Leinster Council motion to the 1988 Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland National Convention at the Salthill Hotel in Galway proposed the introduction of graded National Matchplay Championships. The idea was enthusiastically embraced and plans were put in place to make the change in time for the 1990 Championships in Tullamore. 887 players entered the 1990 Gents Matchplay, an increase of 290 (49%) over the 1989 figure of 597. The historic 1990 Intermediate Matchplay final pitted together two stylish youngsters who gripped the club left under right. Gum chewing Ciaran Feeley (Stackallen) faced the pride of St. Anne's, Frank Dineen, who at a tender age had already formed his own company. Given to meditation between matches, the Corkman had survived an exciting semi-final joust with Alan McCormack (Kilbeggan), son of Jack, who contested the same day's senior final. Dineen arrived at the 59 metre 36th one down. Having holed an eight-footer for a two to square, he jumped high in the air with delight to celebrate, and secured his place in the final at another two at the 37th. Feeley was not to be denied in the final, however and, boosted by a hole-in-one at the 18th, he scored an impressive nine under par in winning by 2&1.

In the last four, Ciaran had defeated Jim Judge (Cement) by 2&1. Wielding a replica of the putter Jack Nicklaus used to win the 1986 Masters, Liam O'Donovan (Bruff) won six holes in-a-row from the 15th in the inaugural Junior final against John Kelly (RGSC). Putting woes

haunted the Dublin man and although he fired successive holes in one at the 42m. 12th and 38 metre 13th the second time round, he succumbed at the 33rd. Liam O'Donovan, another left under right exponent, was four under par in winning by 4&3. Earlier, Liam O'Donovan ended the hopes of Waterford's Peter O'Neill (St. Otterans) by 4&3 in their semi-final encounter while John Kelly was a 4&3 winner over Cement's John Donnelly. The beautiful Tullamore Midlands layout provided an ideal setting for the Matchplay finals. The course, with its great variety of tee-shots and subtly shaped greens, presented a thorough examination of the capabilities of the finalists. Local club Cement were always going to have a strong hand in the battle for the 1991 Intermediate and Junior titles. 1990 Junior champions in Strokeplay and Matchplay respectively, Tony Walsh (Ashgrove) and Liam O'Donovan (Bruff) were expected to go well but both made surprising First Round Intermediate exits.

Another fancy, Jason O'Regan (Tralee), the Kerryman with the hurling grip, made steady progress through the field to make the semi-finals where he faced Tommy Lynch (Cement), conqueror of O'Donovan. Troubled by an occasional unmentionable shot that rhymes with J. Arthur Rank, Lynch lost the semi-final by two holes. Charlie McGrath (Cement) hadn't been beyond the 33rd green in any match before his semi-final with Pat McDonnell (Cloghogue). The last remaining Northern Ireland competitor gave an excellent account of himself, only losing by the minimum margin.

What followed was a close Intermediate final between two excellent young players. Jason O'Regan was two under par early on and three up. Charlie McGrath won three in a row to square and they were still level after eighteen. A penalty shot at the 23rd dropped Jason back into a tie again. Matters remained even until a superb chip-in from the back of the 11th green gave Charlie the lead. A weak chip by Jason on the 14th cost him a bogey. Two up! A half in threes at the 15th was followed by a brilliant Jason putt for a two on 16. One up! However, Jason's unfortunate socket off the 17th tee proved the turning point. He chipped to the edge of the green, sportingly conceded Charlie's short putt for a par and lipped-out with a heroic effort to stay alive. Gripping stuff and a credit to both players! Chris Cleary (Carrigaline) stood between the Cement club and total domination of the Junior event. Earlier, he had disposed of the fancied Robert Brannigan (Royal Meath).

His semi-final with Cement's Jason Gorman produced play of stunning quality. Gorman didn't have a four in winning by 4&3. Informed local opinion was that 12-handicapper Eugene Smith was the outsider of the three Cement semi-finalists. However, this young man with a wonderfully refreshing attitude to the game shrugged off the odd wild pitch to deny club-mate Sean Hoey by 3&2. Defying all predictions, Eugene was two up with nine to play in the final before holing a big putt across the 10th green to move three ahead. Jason missed a short putt on the next to fall four behind. The 12th was halved after Eugene's putt took a trip around the circumference of the hole before falling in. A topped tee-shot by Jason at the next seemed to plunge him into more trouble but a superb chip rescued a par and a half. It was dormie four after a tie in pars at the 14th. Gorman took the 33rd in three to stay alive. Both were bunkered at the 16th. Jason came out short and his brave effort for a three with his putter stayed above ground. Eugene recovered long but laid the next one stone dead for a four. 3&2 for Smith to his obvious delight! All in all it was a great weekend for Cement on the playing and organisational fronts. Despite the exciting action detailed above, there were concerns that the Championships were being diluted and that the concentration of the Junior and

Intermediate finalists was being affected by spectators clamouring for vantage points to view the senior final.

A Dublin County Board motion to the 1991 National Convention at Hayes Hotel called for the graded National Matchplay championships to be abandoned and for a return to the previous format of 64 Gents qualifiers and 32 Ladies qualifiers. This was carried.

National Championships at St. Bridget's

John Manning looks back on the previous National Championships that have taken place in St Bridgets in the following piece.

1993

St. Bridget's first venture into National championship hosting was the 1993 Juvenile weekend. Cork (David Maher 96, John O'Mahony 97, Killian McCarthy 98, Mark O'Keeffe 101, Brian Jackson 101) posted 40 under as a target for the rest in the Inter-County championship.



As tradition demanded, holders Dublin played at the rear of the field with hosts Kildare. Kildare's Paul Lennon carded a first round 53 but eked 10 birdies out of this tough track to post an inspirational 44. Oliver Lambe supported well with a 47 and Kildare (Oliver Lambe 95, Paul Lennon 97, Noel Hensey 102, Ian Dillon 103, Mark Sexton 104) clinched third place.

Yet again, it was down to the wire between the oldest of rivals, Cork and Dublin. It was still touch and go as John Rogers walked to the 15th tee. He was five under for the round and -13 overall. His John Letters wedge kept setting up the chances and he birdied each of the last four holes, sinking a six-footer at the 18th to clinch a two shot Dublin (John Rogers 91, James Mulready 96, Gavin Irwin 98, Pierce Whelehan 105, Paul Smith 108) win.

The following day, Paul Lennon (Poulaphouca) repeated his Saturday second eighteen heroics with another 44 to tie pace-setter Martin Sherkle (Old County) on 95 for the regulation 36 holes in the Boys' Strokeplay. After chipping in at the 2nd, Paul led the nine-hole play-off by three strokes after three and held on to prevail by two. Glenville's Ian Ingram carded a couple of 48s to miss the extra holes by a single shot.

The Kildare double was completed by 12-year old Bernadette Coffey. Bernadette fired 103 to clinch the first of her three Girls' Strokeplay titles by two from Grainne Gill (Irish Ropes). Grainne's clubmate Orla Egan claimed third spot on 110.

2001

38 pairs contested the Brophy Bros. Builders Blessington National Mixed Foursomes final at the excellently prepared St. Bridget's course on Sunday September 30th.

Westmeath Inter-County players, Paul Bray, the 2000 National Strokeplay championship runner-up and Liz Quinn, both of Collinstown, shot a superb total of +15 for the 36 holes versus par to win by one from Ray Murphy of Templebreedy and his wife Linda, playing out of Collins. Paul Bray and Liz Quinn were 5 up after 18 to lie two shots off the halfway pace but a brilliant nine birdie round of +10 for the second 18, including four birdies in a row from the eleventh, gave the Collinstown duo the Sean Coyne Memorial Trophy.

It was hard luck on the Murphys', who fired a phenomenal ten under par gross 11 up score for the second round, after turning +3. Another Cork pairing Eleanor Walsh (the 1988 National Matchplay champion) and Joe Flood of Fermoy took the Best Gross with +9 - Eleanor Walsh winning the Best Gross in the National Mixed for an unprecedented fourth time. She and Joe previously won the Best Gross at Lakeside in 1995. Special Age Category (55 and Over) Award went to first round leaders, Rita Culligan and Ben Culligan (IGB) on +13.

Paul Bray and Liz Quinn were three under par for their opening eleven holes and four up. Two bogeys in three holes were a blow but they birdied 16 and 17 before parring the last with a shot for their five up first round tally. Three birdies in a row from the second in Round 2 and another at the 64 metre 8th hole got them out in +5 nett. Then came those four consecutive twos before Paul fashioned a fine finishing pitch in the strong right to left wind. The ball pulled up just two feet away and Liz Quinn coolly converted for birdie and that vital one shot win. The Collinstown pair were the first Co. Westmeath winners since Jack and Rose McCormack (Kilbeggan) in 1990.

Ray and Linda Murphy dropped just two shots all day. Ray missed a two footer for par on the sloping fifth green first time while Linda pitched well short of the 57 metre 18th. Their second round was absolutely flawless - a gross 44. Six up after nine, Linda canned a lengthy birdie putt on 10 while Ray pitched dead at the 12th. Further birdies followed at 14 and 17 before Ray pitched to within four feet at the home hole. Linda made the birdie putt to post the clubhouse target of +14.

Joe Flood aced the final hole to put the seal on a final nine of 21 gross that saw the Fermoy pair recover from a slow start to race to the Best Gross award.

2004

One of the all-time greats of Pitch and Putt reached a new milestone at St. Bridget's. In cool blustery showery conditions, the Portmarnock legend Geraldine Ward retained her National Strokeplay title and moved up to a total of ten national individual titles - seven Matchplays and three Strokeplays. Ger was tied for the 36-hole lead with Cork's Siobhan Scannell (Collins), one of only two Munster player to make the top twelve. A superb final round of 49 gave Geraldine a one shot winning margin in a nail biting finish. She finished just the minimum margin ahead of the Byrne sisters of the host club - 2003 National Matchplay champion Chrissie and reigning Irish Matchplay queen Marian. For a moment, it looked as if the sisters would play-off with Geraldine Ward for the title. Marian and Chrissie finished in successive groups, just ahead of the new champion.

Marian had almost aced the fifteenth and holed a four-footer on 17 to move to -16. She narrowly missed with a birdie try from the back of the home green. A couple of minutes later, Chrissie Byrne, who had holed-in-one at the seventeenth to move 16 under, had a glorious chance to post a clubhouse target of 145 but a short putt for a two on 18 drifted wide. At that point Ger Ward was 16 under with two to play. Ger then pitched to within two feet at the 51 metre 17th and a two putt par at the difficult last clinched her tenth title. Chrissie Byrne, who was beaten in a play-off by Geraldine Ward for the Strokeplay title at Lakewood in 2003 took second place from her sister on the back six tiebreaker (-4 to -2).

Marian Byrne, who was seeking a quick double, rued a superb chip from behind the fourteenth that rimmed the cup. Joint 36-hole leader Siobhan Scannell bogeyed the final hole to fall out of a tie for fourth place, which was claimed by Peggy Campbell (RIP) of Glenville.

Cork lefthander Linda O'Donovan (E.S.B.) made history at St. Bridget's. Until then nobody had ever retained the National Intermediate Ladies Strokeplay. Linda won at Lakewood in 2003 and there was to be no denying the ex-Douglas player in 2004 either. Two over after eighteen to lie two strokes behind first round leader Una Foy, Linda was level par second time.

Then a superb 23 outward half in the third round saw her spreadeagle the field and finish with nine shots to spare over final round playing partner Moira Nugent (Collinstown). Moira Nugent recovered from a shaky start to the final round to add a 58 to her 112 opener and clinch the silver medal. Patricia Murphy of the Ranges placed third. Unlucky player of the championship was undoubtedly Pauline Balfe (Shandon).

After a birdie on the fifteenth in the last round, she was +3 for the round, +8 for the championship and challenging for second place. She bogeyed 16 and 17 and then ran up a quadruple bogey on the last after visiting the stream fronting the green.

Donna Cockwell (Cunnigar) dominated the Junior Championship. This stylish swinger with the baseball grip carded morning rounds of 56 and 52 for an even par 36-hole aggregate. Four ahead at that stage of Crosshaven's Caitriona Minihane, Donna's carefully played final eighteen of 58 gave her the title by a six shot margin. Caitriona Minihane suffered a nightmare first nine of the final round, running up three double bogeys and a triple in a 36. She fought back well to come home in 27 after birdies at 12 and 15. Her 175 gave her third slot - three behind Bridge Logan of the host club. Bridge fired a fine 54 second round to lie on 115 after 36 holes and then carded two birdies and five bogeys in a best of the final round 57 for a 172 aggregate.

2006

The Inter-County Championships were played at St. Bridget's, on September 9th and 10th. Kildare (Chrissie Byrne 98, Marian Byrne 100, Tara Dillon 100, Margaret Byrne 105, Rose Kelly 116) scored a team total of 403 to beat Dublin (Phil Condron 101, Geraldine Ward 103, Mairead O'Brien 103, Sheelagh Elmes 105, Stella Sheridan 105) by nine shots. Cork (Siobhan Scannell 98, Linda Murphy 104, Claire O'Flynn 104, Vera McCarthy 110, Ann Daly 112) were third on 416.

Cork Gents (Ray Murphy 87, John Cahill 92, Chris Scannell 94, John Walsh 97, Paudie O'Sullivan 102) were in unstoppable form. The Leaside tally of 370 ended 14 clear of runners-up Meath (Sean Downes 91, Patrick McBride 96, Wally Sheridan 98, Ian Farrelly 99, James Carroll 101). Louth (Declan Byrne 94, Ian Donnelly 96, Pat Greene 99, Jim Judge 102, George Beardsley 103) carded 391 in third position.

2009

St. Bridget's, jointly hosted the National Scramble Final with Ryston on 9-10 May. The winners were Riverdale (Con Clear, Billy Boyle, PJ Ryan) on 158.33. 160.33 secured second spot for Kilbeggan (Mary Coffey, Pdraig Coffey, Shane Coffey) with Deerpark (Paul Cronin, Gerry O'Sullivan, John Clifton) third on 161.33.

2012

The National Juvenile weekend returned to St. Bridget's, on Saturday/Sunday 18th/19th August 2012. Shane Redmond (Channonrock) regained the Boys' Strokeplay title he previously won in 2010, as rounds of 50 and 44 gave the Co. Louth player a 14 under par aggregate of 94 and a one stroke win over Luke Heeney (Bellewstown), who led after the first round on 44.

Roy O'Neill (Bagenalstown) scored 98 and claimed third on the second 18 from Shane Livesey (Pfizer). Amy Galvin (Tullamore) won the first of her two Girls' championships when rounds of 51 and 53 gave the Co. Offaly teenager a two stroke margin over holder Claire Keatinge (Old County). Una Brosnan (Claycastle) finished third on 115.

396 won the National Juvenile Inter-County Championship for Kerry (St. John Kelliher & Creagh Courtney 49, Jason O'Brien & Jason Brosnan 52, Jason O'Sullivan & Conor McCarthy 52, St. John Kelliher 48, Creagh Courtney 52, Jason O'Brien 46, Jason Brosnan 50, Jason O'Sullivan 55, Conor McCarthy 47).

Cork (David Howard & Shane Livesey 53, Edward Walsh & Fionn Murphy 50, Charlie Morrissey & Ryan Sexton 51, David Howard 51, Shane Livesey 49, Edward Walsh 47, Charlie Morrissey 51, Ryan Sexton 48) were runners-up on 399.

Louth (Brendan Lawlor & Mark Linehan 51, Daryl McDonagh & Aaron McDonagh 53, Shane Redmond & Keelan Evans 52, Brendan Lawlor 47, Mark Linehan 54, Daryl McDonagh 54, Aaron McDonagh 54, Shane Redmond 50, Keelan Evans 53) were next on 414.

St. Mary's Diocesan (Darren Heeney 98, Peter Reilly 99, Luke Heeney 103) captured the All Ireland Schools' Competition at St. Bridget's on 26 October. The Drogheda school totalled 300 to finish twelve strokes clear of St. Joseph's Rochfortbridge (Jonathan Daly 104, Liam Metcalfe 104, Martin White 104). De La Salle College, Bagenalstown (Roy O'Neill 100, Patrick Robinson 106, Thomas Maher 113) placed third seven strokes further back.

2016

The National Gents Inter-Clubs Finals were played at St. Bridget's on 15th October. Fermoy beat St. Anne's 6-3 in the final to take the Gents senior crown. Fermoy had defeated Bruff 7-2 in the semi-final while St. Annes overcame Deerpark 8-1. The Inter/Junior Final resulted in a 6.5 to 2.5 win for Parteen over Deerpark. Defeated semi-finalists were Cement and Tipperary Hills.

2019:

The National Ladies Strokeplay Championships were played at St. Bridget's on June 29th/30th. Martha O'Brien (Lakeside) won the senior championship in a play-off with Chrissie Byrne (Ryston). Both players scored 23 over nine holes before Martha claimed the title on the first sudden death extra hole. Martha posted 152 (53, 51, 48) to reach the play-off having made up a three stroke deficit as Chrissie Byrne, who led after 36 holes on 101, signed for 51 in the final regulation round. Tara Dillon (Ryston) recorded 155 (52, 53, 50) to finish third for the second successive year. Shandon's Maree O'Toole captured the newly created Nett award on 96 while Marian Courtney (Ryston) celebrated the 20th anniversary of her National Strokeplay championship win by taking the Final 18 prize on 51.

Bridget Shelley (Lakeside) became the second player in at that stage to win the National Ladies Intermediate Grade Strokeplay championship title on two occasions. Bridget posted an 54-hole aggregate of 169 for a one stroke win over Patsy O'Donovan (Collins) Three strokes behind on 115 with a round to play, an impressive last eighteen of 54 enabled Bridget to overhaul Patsy, who led into the final round following opening rounds of 54 and 58. After shooting 58, 56 and 57, Margaret Forde (Riverdale) was just another shot back to finish third in the championship for the second successive year. Audrey Donnelly (McBride) captured the inter 36 Nett on 87. 2012 National Ladies Junior Strokeplay champion Ailish Sexton continued her consistent National Ladies Intermediate Strokeplay championship record with a Best Final 18 58.

Adeline Revins (Kilbeggan) won the National Ladies Junior Strokeplay Championship, building on her one stroke (on 122) 36-hole advantage to post 184 and triumph by four. With a joint best final round of 62, Anne Sweeney (St. Bridget's) claimed runners-up spot on the final eighteen from Fermoy's Mary Ann Byrne's (59, 64, 65). Gemma Coyle (Glenville) was awarded Best 36 Nett for her 90 tally. Liz Forde's 63 saw the Riverdale lady annex the final 18 prize.

Upcoming Championships & Entry Closing Dates

Upcoming Championships

Provincial Matchplay (May 20 – 21)

Leinster @ St Patricks & Bagnelstown

Munster @ Tralee & Listowel

National Ladies & Gents Matchplay (May 20 – 21)

Finals @ St. Bridgets

County Strokeplay (17 – 18 June)

National Mixed & Non Mixed Foursomes (24 – 25 June)

Finals @ Royal Meath

Upcoming Entry Closing Dates

National Mixed & Non Mixed Foursomes

Closing Date 31st May

National PJ & Catherine Bell Seniors Strokeplay

Closing Date 7th June

County Strokeplay

Determined by each County Boards

MISSED OUT ON QUALIFYING?

WHY NOT COME ALONG TO THESE GREAT CHAMPIONSHIPS TO SUPPORT YOUR CLUB AND COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES. ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE OPEN TO PLAYERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND AND GIVE YOUR SUPPORT.

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