

PITCH & PUTT IRELAND



National Strokeplay Finals 2026

Senior Ladies

August 16th

Senior Ladies Official Venue

Cunnigar Pitch and Putt

Championship Preview by John Manning

Ladies Senior Preview

Four of the top five from the one previous staging of the National Ladies Strokeplay championship at Cunnigar are in the 2026 field at the excellent Dungarvan venue.

Geraldine Ward (Portmarnock) was a runaway winner at Cunnigar in 2010 with a brilliant 50, 48, 49 salvo, which clinched a ten stroke victory.

Ger seeks a record-extending 13th success in the championship at Cunnigar this year, having claimed the title five more times following that 2010 triumph.

Holder Chrissie Sheedy has also won the championship five times since 2010 and six times in all, tying the Ryston lady with Clare Keating in all-time second place on the Roll of Honour. Chrissie finished fifth at Cunnigar in 2010.

Tullamore's Margaret Hogan finished third on 158 at Cunnigar sixteen years ago. Five times champion Margaret last won in 2012 at Ierne.

Surprisingly, Eleanor Walsh (Fermoy), who claimed fourth spot at Cunnigar in 2010, has never won the National Ladies Strokeplay championship although the 1988 National Matchplay champion was twice Irish Girls Strokeplay champion, in 1978 and in 1982. Eleanor was 2013 Munster Strokeplay runner-up at Cunnigar.

Other former All-Ireland Under-16 winners to feature at Cunnigar will be Amy Galvin (Tullamore), Molly O'Toole (McDonagh) and Sarah Byrne (Fermoy) while Eileen McCarthy (Deerpark) claimed a silver medal in the 1999 National Girls Strokeplay championship.

2024 National Matchplay champion Amy Galvin's fellow competitor for the day will be reigning Leinster Strokeplay champion Glenda Hoey (Lucan), who was National Strokeplay runner-up at Fermoy four years ago.

Eileen McCarthy partners the lone host club player in the field, Lorraine Troy, who was declared Best Nett winner in the 2021 championship at Tullamore. Lorraine claimed the Munster Junior Strokeplay title at this weekend's venue in 2013.

To the winner of the Nett category in the 2020 championship, Helen Greagsbey (Ierne), will fall the privilege of setting the championship in motion at 10.00am on Sunday.

2023 Munster Senior Strokeplay champion (and 2013 Munster Intermediate Strokeplay winner at Cunnigar) Sarah Byrne will accompany Helen in the opening twoball.

This group will be swiftly followed by current National Intermediate Matchplay champion Molly O'Toole and 2007 National Strokeplay runner-up Siobhan Scannell (Collins).

Dublin Inter-County team colleagues Louise Grace (R.G.S.C.) and Lucan's Tracey Smith are next up.

Two players who have won both the Junior and Intermediate championships, Margaret Hennessy (Riverdale) and Sarah O'Neill (Collins) feature in successive matches.

2024 Munster Intermediate Matchplay champion at Cunnigar, Margaret Hennessy accompanies Geraldine Ward while 2023 Munster Senior Matchplay queen Sarah O'Neill (a semi-finalist in the

2024 Senior provincial Matchplay at Cunnigar) is with two-time Dublin Matchplay champion Siobhan Keely (Lucan), the 2012 Leinster Matchplay runner-up.

A pair of former National Matchplay champions, Mary Murray (Rocklodge) and Liz Quinn (Collinstown), line-up in the 10:42 group. Liz claimed the 2020 Strokeplay title at Kilbeggan while Mary captured silver medals in 2023 and 2024. Mary reached the 2024 Munster Matchplay final at Cunnigar, where she was also a provincial intermediate Strokeplay bronze medallist in 2013.

1997 and 2000 National Strokeplay champion Marina O'Rourke (Cloghogue) is drawn alongside 2015 All-Ireland Over-55s senior grade Strokeplay winner Ger Holland (R.G.S.C.).

Reigning Munster Strokeplay champion Breda White (Tipperary Hills) seeks the All-Ireland Matchplay/Strokeplay double and is arguably in the form of her life, following her masterclass around Deerpark to claim the latest in her long list of provincial titles. Breda would love to add to her haul of two (1987 and 2016) National Strokeplay crowns, and is well-placed to do so, on a course where she won the 2013 Munster Strokeplay and the 2024 provincial Matchplay championships.

1995 champion Sheelagh Elmes (Portmarnock) is back in the National Strokeplay field (at a venue where she made the 2010 play-off) and is confronted by another All-Ireland Strokeplay specialist (former Junior winner and intermediate runner-up), Ailish Sexton (Fermoy).

The cut fell at 105 in the 2010 championship at Cunnigar.