

SPORT

By B Colvert

Championship Golf at Tullamore



Tullamore Club House

The 15th annual IPA Golf Championship at Tullamore on the 30/08/2007 was an outstanding success. Sixty three competitors, who enjoyed good sport in the sunshine, discovered that Tullamore did not mean *amore* on the greens; this was serious business. Played for the second year at Tullamore, familiarity did not breed contempt; many of the greens had been re-appointed and so it was a new challenge. One competitor suggested that the course had been tilted by several degrees. Never-the-less everyone, without exception, declared that this was a most enjoyable tournament. The central parkland golf course lured competitors from Donegal to Cork, from Galway to Dublin.

TEAM

Offaly 1
College 1.
College 2.
College 3
College 4
Galway West
Clare
Kilkenny
Region 10
Claremorris
Sligo
Meath
Tipperary South
Roscommon
Louth
Region 1
Cork North
Donegal
Offaly 2
Limerick

John Hopkins, Michael Gillespie, Michael Dalton
John Burke, Gerard Glavin, John Green.
Cormac Moylan, Pascal Moore, Martin King
Dave Errity, Paul Warren, Liam O'Connell
Shane King, Ronan McKenna, Dave Browne.
Frank Larkin, Séamus Burke, Gerry Dillon.
Michael Kelly Michael Lydon, Eamonn Connaire.
John Martin, Albert Bolger, Patrick Starr.
Con Donovan, Pat Davey, Ray Casey.
Con Nolan, Michael Prendergast, Michael Conway.
Ciaran O'Brien, Mike O'Toole, Mick Barrett.
Peter Mulryan, Phil O'Callaghan, Louis Moran.
Kevin Corry, Donal Ryan, Mick Mullane.
Paddy Colleran, Michael Cronin, Noel Finneran.
Brendan Keane, Brendan Duffy, John McCormack.
Martin Hogan, Liam Lynam, Pat Beere.
John Liston, P J O'Sullivan, Owen Boyle.
Séamus Patton, Phelim Moran, John Gallagher.
Willie O'Grady, J J Heneghan, Andy Ginty.
John Reilly, Liam Sheehan, Ted O'Donovan.



President Billy Saunderson addressing the assembly

After an excellent dinner Billy Saunderson, President of IPA, was invited to address the assembly. He welcomed all to Tullamore and paid tribute to Willie O'Grady, John Hopkins, Mick Gillespie & Mick Dalton, the IPA local members who arranged the venue. He said that the annual Golf Competition involved the widest participants in IPA from students to the most senior. He welcomed our guests from Region 2, British Section and finally paid tribute to Ciaran Cassidy, CASSIDY PUBLISHING, PRINT & PACKAGING, the main sponsor, saying that Ciaran regretted that he could not be present and that he wished the event every success.

President Saunderson awarded all the prizes in ten categories.



Array of prizes



Séamus Egan, Captain of Tullamore Golf Club

Séamus Egan, Captain of Tullamore Golf Club, was invited to speak. He said that he was very pleased to welcome the IPA to Tullamore and went on to describe his admiration and that of the local population for the Garda Síochána. He described the Trojan work of so many Gardaí for the betterment of Tullamore Golf Club and how in the recent past Tullamore Town was host to 230,000 visitors at Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann. He praised the Gardaí for their patience and good humour, even at flash points and resolved the issues with smiles all round. His final salutation was 'Remember it's not easy out there.'



Vice President, Denis Dunne, describing the Laura Fund

Vice President, Denis Dunne, described the history and purpose of the Laura Fund. He thanked the contributors who took part in a lottery to support the fund and later he

supervised the drawing of numbers for the lottery prizes.

The Golf Prizes in ten categories were awarded by President Saunderson in each case and finally the 'Tipperary Glass Perpetual Trophy' was awarded to John O'Reilly, Captain of the Limerick team. In response John said we left last year with our tails between our legs and this year we had a complete change of fortune. He praised the superb course and the changes that had been made which was a real challenge for drive, chip and putting. He thanked the staff, the other teams for sporting endeavour and the caterers for excellent fare. He promised to strive to return next year.



Mark Kernohan beside President Saunderson with his team of T Hutton & Ian McCullion, who attended from the British Section



Donal Ryan, Clonmel receives a prize for 'nearest pin'



The winning Limerick team comprised of John Reilly, Liam Sheehan & Ted O'Donovan with President Billy Saunderson



John Gallagher, Donegal, receives prize for 'longest drive'



Presentation of Tipperary Glass Perpetual Trophy



John Reilly making his victory speech

By B Colvert

IPA Soccer Championship 2007

The climax of the IPA sport's year is the 5-Aside Soccer Finals; in 2007 the championship was decided just 20 days after IPA Golf finals. The venue was once again in Longford, however this time instead of the inside arena the matches took place on two Astro turf pitches, thus two contests could take place simultaneously with the added advantage that the pitches are identical to those used in the international matches in Riccione, Italy. The much improved sports complex in Longford also provides a swimming pool and a keep fit gymnasium. All the athletes were generous in praise of the location.

The 5-Aside Finals took place on the 20th of September between teams from Cork, Sligo, Ennis, Mayo, Garda College, Tullamore, Cavan, Raheny and Tipperary. From a spectators viewpoint all the matches were exciting, played skilfully in good spirit and it is fair comment to say that the standard has improved over the years. Apparently all of the teams were well prepared and had devoted considerable time in training and preparation and why not? The prize is an all expenses paid trip for the winning team to Riccione in Italy for the World IPA Championship.

Refereeing is a serious business, one had to admire the run of play with fairness provided by referees Brendan Cruise and Paddy Nolan. As usual Vincent Forde was present to offer 1st aid though on this occasion all the ministrations were performed by Niamh



Champions-Tullamore. Front: Eoin Fox, Pat O'Connell & Patrick Mulvihill (Captain). Liam Naughten, Mark Kenny, Mark Sherlock & Denis Glennon

Mulhern from Garda College.

Four Grade 5 balls were supplied/donated by Cork Tie & Ball Company, Penrose Quay, Cork; a very generous donation as each ball retails at €40-00 The balls and prizes were brought from Cork by Supplies Secretary, Pat Nunan; each team competed for the Tom O'Keeffe Memorial Cup and the various individual's prizes of Cork crystal, ceramics and pewter.

In all of the excitement and bonhomie the occasion was tinged with sadness; those who have attended this festival down through the years were aware of the cheery presence of the late Sharon Coughlin on the staff at the Market Bar Restaurant, the venue for the after match dining. Unfortunately she was the victim of a vicious crime and it was a small consolation that the perpetrator of this callous act was apprehended on the day of the competition. In sympathy with the victim's family a collection was held and a donation of €500-00 was given to the family for the benefit of her children. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dhilis.

It was a great pleasure to meet John O'Connor of St Paul's Garda

Credit Union, which has always been generous in supporting IPA enterprises and many sporting endeavours in An Garda Síochána. John, stationed at Togher Garda Station in Cork, will provide very useful information to this magazine and I look forward to liaising with him. The introduction was provided by Vice President Paul Mangan who resides in Togher.

Just prior to prize-giving Social Secretary, Donal Sweeney, addressed the assembly, he spoke in praise of the Sports Complex and the co-operation he had received, he thanked the Organisers, the Referees, the 1st Aid Officers and all of the teams that participated. He praised the runners-up from Cork who have been very worthy ambassadors for Section Ireland and congratulated Tullamore on a splendid victory, reminding them that the main prize is a trip to Riccione in Italy in May 2008. He then introduced President Billy Saunderson.

President Saunderson endorsed all the references in Donal Sweeney's speech and continued by saying that the standard of play has improved so we may expect greater achievements in May 2008 in the international IPA 5-a-side competition in Riccione Italy. He continued to stress that this competition is naturally for the younger members of IPA and in offering commiserations to Cork he was warm in his praise for the team from Tullamore who battled through six matches, each getting tougher, to eventually claim the crown of victory. He then completed the prize giving ceremony starting from the lower prizes and building up to a climax with the conferring of the perpetual trophy.

In response to accepting the Tom O'Keeffe Memorial Cup the Captain of the Tullamore Team, Patrick Mulvihill, paid tribute to the Cork team for the sporting manner in which they played; he went on to say that they had been worthy champions and he hoped his team could emulate the success they had enjoyed in Italy.



President awards a prize for 'Goal of the Tournament' to Ian Cahalane, Cork



Player of the Tournament, Dennis Glennon, Tullamore receiving trophy from President



Flanking the President were referees Brendan Cruise & Paddy Nolan



Captain of Cork team receives runner-up prize



Captain of Tullamore accepting the Tom O'Keeffe Memorial Cup



Organising Committee: Pat Nunan, Donal Sweeney, President Billy Saunderson, Willie Maye, Paul Mangan & John Gillard