Focus on Major winners

DANNY & DUSTIN

INSIDE: Get into the swing at Leopardstown Golf Centre
Irish Agent for Honma:
Kieran O'Connor,
Director,
Shank Agencies
T: 00353 87 3895154
E: info@shankagencies.ie
W: www.shankagencies.ie

Personal fittings in the UK & Europe for the world's most desirable golf equipment. Call +44 (0)1226 781000 or email andy@hiseman.com.
EDITOR’S COMMENT...

All set for golf’s return to Olympics

The countdown to the 2016 Olympics in Rio was in full swing as this issue of BACKSPIN went to press prior to The Open Championship in July.

Golf will be played at the Games for the first time since the 1904 Summer Olympics in St. Louis.

Golf’s return to the Olympic Games, after an absence of 112 years, promises to be a wonderful celebration of the sport despite several high profile withdrawals.

Confirmed withdrawals at time of going to press included the top-4 players in the men’s World Rankings…Jason Day, Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy.

Nevertheless, the show goes on and it’s all systems go for the men’s and women’s competitions to be played on the Olympic golf course at Reserva de Marapendi in Rio.

The men’s competition will take place from August 11th-14th followed by the women’s event from August 17th-20th.

Both competitions will feature sixty participants. They will compete in a 72-holes individual stroke play format for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

With Rory McIlroy, Shane Lowry and Graeme McDowell opting out of the Games, Ireland will be represented by Padraig Harrington and Seamus Power in the men’s competition.

Three-time major winner Harrington will be hoping to add an Olympic medal to his two Claret Jugs and Wanamaker Trophy.

Power, from Co. Waterford, won the Irish Youths title three times and competes on the Web.com Tour in America.

Leona Maguire, the No.2 ranked lady amateur in the world, will be our sole participant in the women’s Olympic competition (unless reserve Stephanie Meadow is called-up due to withdrawals).

The Olympic golf events will have a potential global audience of 3.6 billion people. This creates a great opportunity to showcase and grow the sport, particularly amongst the younger generation across all the continents.

Yours in Golf,

DECLAN O’DONOGHUE, Publisher / Editor
BRING YOUR IRONS UP TO SPEED.

LONGER AT ITS COR.
Engineered with revolutionary COR-Eye™ technology, the G™ iron sets a new standard in iron design. By delivering that elusive combination of distance, accuracy and control, it helps you hit more greens and hold them, too. With increased ball speed across the entire face, shots launch higher, fly further and land softer.

Visit a PING Fitting Specialist or ping.com today.

Performance Engineered.
A concealed custom tuning port connects to the sole, positioning the CG low/back to increase the MOI for unmatched forgiveness in the mid-sized head.

High-Speed Face.
Specialised heat-treating improves the material strength by 40%, allowing for a thinner, more flexible face that creates faster ball speeds and higher-launching results.
FASTER. MORE FORGIVING. BY FAR.

INTRODUCING DRAGONFLY TECHNOLOGY.
Inspired by the wings of a dragonfly, PING engineers created our most forgiving and consistent driver ever. Vortec™ technology makes the G™ driver even faster, helping increase clubhead and ball speeds for more distance. There’s a G for every golfer. Get fit today or visit ping.com.

More Forgiving. Naturally. Ultra-thin crown saves weight to position the CG low/back and raise the MOI to new levels for more forgiveness and consistency.

Advanced Aerodynamics. Vortec™ technology and crown turbulators improve aerodynamics for higher clubhead and ball speeds.

Fit Your Game. Available in Standard, SF Tec (Straight Flight) or LS Tec (Low Spin).
A wonderful action study of 2016 Masters champion Danny Willett taken by Reuters/Action Images.

Below: Danny celebrates his Masters victory at Augusta in April.

He made his first appearance in Europe as Masters champion at the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open hosted by The Rory Foundation at the K Club in May.

Photo courtesy of European Tour Communications

The sky’s the limit for Danny
Danny Willett served notice early in his career that he is an exceptional talent and he has backed that up with impressive progress each year since he turned professional in 2008.

He has soared up the World Rankings in the last two years and following his heroic victory in the Masters at Augusta in April, the sky is the limit for this gifted 28-year-old son of a vicar from Sheffield.
Lee Westwood must have felt that he was finally about to crack the code in the majors when he chipped-in for an eagle at the par-5 15th hole to get within one shot of the lead in the final round of this year’s Masters at Augusta.

Competing in his 72nd major championship, Westwood was in familiar territory contending for the title, and he had form at Augusta with five previous top-10 finishes there.

His playing partner and ISM stablemate, Danny Willett, had other ideas and captured his first major title with a spectacular finish.

A two-shot swing at the short 16th - which Westwood bogeyed and Willett birdied - was significant.

Westwood’s major breakthrough will surely come, but the 80th Masters was all about Willett’s composure and magnificence in the final round and defending champion Jordan Spieth’s catastrophic meltdown over the closing stretch.

Willett’s victory at Augusta may have taken many by surprise. It was only his second Masters appearance and he had recorded just one top-10 finish previously in the majors, at last year’s Open at St. Andrews. But it has been clear from early in his career that he is an exceptional talent.

Close observers of the amateur game first took notice of this rising star when he won the 2007 English Amateur Championship. And later that season he was a member of the GB&Ireland team - along with Rory McIlroy - that was narrowly defeated in the Walker Cup match at Royal Co. Down.

Danny rose through the ranks to become the top ranked amateur golfer in the world for twelve weeks prior to turning pro in May 2008.

Shortly before he joined the paid ranks he crowned a glittering amateur career by winning the Australian Amateur Open Stroke Play title and Spanish Amateur Open trophy, and he fired an 8-under-par 64 in the third round of the European Tour’s Spanish Open at Real Club de Sevilla on his way to a top-10 finish.

That performance provided Danny with a huge confidence surge as he prepared to set out on a career in professional golf.

The first obstacle for aspiring tour players is the dreaded end of season Tour School, which can serve as a serious reality check for even the richest of talents. Danny came through the three Q School stages, involving 14 highly pressurised rounds, with flying colours to earn his European Tour card for 2009.

Eight top-10s in his first full season on the European Tour, and a further four in the first half of 2010, confirmed that he was well equipped to make the grade.

Danny has a fantastic high tempo swing and plays with a confident swagger. He’s also a real crowd pleaser with his extrovert and engaging personality.
It’s his ability to shoot low numbers that gives Willett a vital edge on tour.

He teed-up his maiden Tour win in the 2012 BMW International Open with an opening 65...produced a 65+66 finish to capture the Nedbank Golf Challenge at the end of 2014...and reeled-off rounds of 65+62+71+65 to claim his third Tour win in last year’s Omega European Masters at Crans-sur-Sierre.

Danny sizzled again in the WGC HSBC Champions event in China at the end of 2015 with opening and closing rounds of 65 and 62 earning him a tie for third place.

More low numbers (a superb pair of 65s in the middle two rounds) catapulted him to his fourth Tour victory in this year’s Omega Dubai Desert Classic.

And, of course, he produced a masterclass in the final round of the Masters in April with a bogey-free 67 sweeping him to a three-shot victory over Lee Westwood and Jordan Spieth.

Spieth recorded four birdies in a row from the 6th hole to reach the turn with a five shot lead and looked set to follow Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo and Tiger Woods in winning back-to-back titles at Augusta.

Willett took full advantage of Spieth’s incredible collapse on the back nine. He carded birdies on the 13th, 14th and 16th holes to produce an epic Masters finale.

Afterwards, as he waited for the Green Jacket ceremony in the Butler Cabin, Danny remarked: “It was a very surreal day when you look back at the ebbs and flows.”

Riding a wave of emotions, alongside his caddie Jonathan Smart, he added: “My wife was born, in ten minutes time, twenty-eight years ago, and my son was due today and he came early to let me come and play, so you talk about fate and everything else that goes with it.

It has been a crazy, crazy week,” said the new Masters champion.

Get used to it Danny...the sky’s the limit and the world is your oyster.

DANNY WILLETT FACTFILE

Name: Daniel John Willett
Nationality: English
Born: 3rd October 1987, Sheffield, Yorkshire
Height / Weight: 6ft, 12st 6lbs
Interests: Music, football, pool

Amateur Record (Individual):
2007: Won English Amateur Championship
2008: Won Australian Amateur Open Stroke Play Championship and Spanish Amateur Open Championship, No. 1 in World Amateur Rankings for 12 weeks

Amateur Record (Team):
2005: Jacques Leglise Trophy
2007: Walker Cup (recorded two half points in four matches at Royal Co. Down)
2008: Bonallack Trophy (winners)

Professional Career:
Turned pro: 2008
Pro Debut: 2008 Celtic Manor Wales Open

Professional Wins:
2012 - BMW International Open
2014 - Nedbank Golf Challenge
2015 - Omega European Masters
2016 - Omega Dubai Desert Classic
2016 - Masters Tournament (Augusta)

Best finishes in the Majors:
1st - The Masters (2016)
6th - The Open Championship (2015)

Rankings (as at start of July 2016):
Race to Dubai (European Tour): 1st
Official World Golf Ranking: 9th
In the countdown to the 145th Open Championship at Royal Troon in mid-July, US Open champion Dustin Johnson was hot property and golf’s dashing new poster boy.

He may exude the air of a guy who just goes with the flow, but he has forged a reputation as a fearless and powerful athlete with bags of talent, attitude and ambition.

Sensational back-to-back victories in the US Open at Oakmont and WGC Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone have established him as the man to beat in this year’s two remaining majors at Royal Troon (The Open, July 14-17) and Baltusrol (USPGA Championship, July 28-31).

DJ has been on fire over the last eighteen months and a high level of consistency has taken his game to a new level.

Last year he recorded eleven top-10 finishes in 21 starts on the PGA Tour, including a win in the WGC Cadillac Championship.

This year, prior to The Open Championship in July, he registered ten top-10 finishes in fifteen starts on the PGA Tour, including his first Major victory and third WGC win.

Dustin kickstarted the 2016 PGA Tour season in impressive fashion with top-5 finishes in three events—the WGC HSBC Champions, Northern Trust Open and WGC Dell Matchplay.

He moved-up a gear in April with top-4 finishes in the Shell Houston Open and the Masters at Augusta National.

He closed to within two shots of the lead with a birdie on 15 in the final round of the Masters, but a double bogey at 17 dashed his hopes.
Winning major titles is all about temperament and getting the intensity levels spot on, and it all came together for Dustin in a magical run from the start of June.

A third place finish in The Memorial and tie for 5th in the FedEx St. Jude Classic preceded his Major breakthrough at Oakmont.

In his 29th Major appearance, and following a number of close calls, the 32-year-old finally joined golf’s top table with a performance that showcased his abundance of skills and soaring confidence.

And the good times continue to roll for Dustin. He climbed to 2nd in the World Rankings with his follow-up win in the WGC Bridgestone event at Firestone in early July.

Rock on DJ...your time has arrived.

Dustin’s twelve top-10’s in Majors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Masters</th>
<th>The Open</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 - T6th</td>
<td>2011 - T2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 - T4th</td>
<td>2012 - T9th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US Open</th>
<th>USPGA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 - T8th</td>
<td>2009 - T10th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 - T4th</td>
<td>2010 - T5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 - T2nd</td>
<td>2013 - T8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 - 1st</td>
<td>2015 - T7th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
So much for the luck of the Irish. If Christy O'Connor had enjoyed even a modicum of the famous elixir at crucial moments in the past he could have won The Open Championship on at least two occasions. It would have been cold comfort to Christy that many of his peers shared the view that he fully deserved to win the Open. Peter Thomson, the teak tough Australian who won The Open Championship five times, denied O'Connor on two occasions just as he reached out to touch the Claret Jug.

Christy finished just one shot behind eventual winner Thomson at Royal Lytham & St. Anne's in 1958, and further heartache followed when he came agonisingly close to catching Thomson again at Royal Birkdale in 1965.

In the intervening years Christy scored four top-6 finishes in The British Open. He chased Gary Player all the way at Muirfield in 1959 and gave Arnold Palmer a great run at Royal Birkdale in 1961, despite firing a 77 in the second round. Christy's impact on the Open is emphasised by the fact that, between 1955 and 1974, he recorded ten top-10 finishes and finished in the top-20 on fourteen occasions. This was a remarkable level of consistency during a period when his contemporaries included many of the greatest names in golf.

A Major title eluded the gifted Irishman, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.

Here we salute a true golfing legend. A Major title eluded Christy O'Connor Snr, but he achieved so much besides during a glittering golfing career. And, of course, he commanded the respect of his peers for his wonderful shotmaking skills, competitive nature and durability.
“From observation and experience it was possible to assert with confidence that for some shots, notably the driver from a tight fairway lie, nobody on earth plays this shot as well as Christy O’Connor.”

– PETER DOBEREINER

speaking at the Legends Golf Society’s special tribute to Christy in 1993.
Most ordinary mortals can only dream of playing like the top players but the beauty of golf is that we can all look the part on and off the golf course. And if looking good makes you feel good that's a perfect way to start every round.

On these pages we provide a flavour of the latest men's golf fashions from PING, a brand synonymous with innovation in golf equipment and a trendsetter in the world of golfing apparel.

PING’s Spring/Summer 2016 apparel collection incorporates COOLMAX® ALL SEASON fabric technology and other intelligent fabrics.

Engineered to play through the brand's Sensor technology platform, the latest collection from PING again reflects an unwavering commitment to performance innovation and the continued search to identify the finest performance driven fabrics and technologies to enhance the comfort and performance of the golfer in all playing conditions.

The Sensor platform from PING is an innovative technological system designed to ensure that every garment worn is specifically engineered to respond to the body's requirements and the demands of the game, whatever the playing conditions.
At the heart of the new polo shirt collection and within the Sensor Cool category, PING has introduced the state of the art COOLMAX® ALL SEASON fabric technology. This intelligent, dual function fabric complements the body’s natural thermoregulation capabilities through Channel and Hollow Fiber Technology, offering the perfect solution for the varying conditions experienced during a golf round.

This intelligent fabric contains fibres with a channelled surface to move moisture away from the body to keep the wearer cool and dry in warm conditions and fibres with a hollow core to provide insulation for added comfort on cold days.

The collection’s Atlas and Radar polo shirts combine the quick drying, natural feel, lightweight and breathable functionality of COOLMAX® ALL SEASON fabric with a tailored fit and attention to detail in the form of hidden, button down collars.

As with all COOLMAX® fabrics, long lasting performance is achieved through permanent advanced moisture moving properties which are inherent in the fabric. A fabric containing a LYCRA® fibre also delivers excellent bi-directional stretch along with long lasting shape retention and comfort.

“We are particularly excited about the introduction of COOLMAX® fabric technology into the 2016 apparel range, and believe it has enabled us to take garment engineering to the next level, while maintaining exceptional quality and refined visual appearance.”

– ANDY SOLHEIM, Executive Vice President, PING

To view the complete range of PING clothing, equipment, bags and accessories visit www.ping.com
There are locations for golf which are absolutely perfect in every sense and Powerscourt Golf Club is blessed with a truly inspirational setting. The views, ambience and landscaping are simply spectacular. Little wonder this famous 1,000 acre estate has been chosen as a location for so many Hollywood films and named amongst the leading Estate Gardens in the world.

Powerscourt Estate serves as a dramatic backdrop and setting for one of Europe’s finest 36-hole golf resorts. The resort is superbly situated at the gateway to County Wicklow. The two impeccably presented golf courses - simply styled The East and West - blend beautifully into the magnificent surroundings, and dedicated buggy paths transform a round into an exhilarating experience.

The courses are complemented by a spacious state-of-the-art clubhouse that serves as an inspired venue for golfing, business and social events.

Powerscourt Golf Club has a reputation for offering a top quality experience at affordable rates. Golfing packages can be tailored to suit any requirements, and delectable cuisine and courteous professional service are par for the course.

Visiting golfers are welcome seven days a week, with a choice of tee times, and the fact that full greens are in play all year round is an appealing feature.
The Heritage Golf Resort, Co. Laois

An imposing bronze statue of golfing icon Seve Ballesteros greets visitors at the entrance to the 5-star Heritage Resort and sets the tone for a wonderful experience.

First impressions are so important and in that regard the exhilarating Ballesteros championship course at the Heritage Resort has passed every test with flying colours since it was unveiled to rave reviews in 2004.

In a short space of time this luxurious resort in the heart of lovely Co. Laois has become firmly established as one of Ireland’s premier golf and leisure retreats.

The lay-out, with an emphasis on an exciting risk and reward approach, reflects the legendary Spaniard’s dynamic personality and dashing style of play.

The Ballesteros Course is presented in immaculate condition. It is a pleasure to play at any time as the limestone land provides great drainage. This creates a lovely playing surface all year round.

The Heritage Resort has served as a superb host venue for several prestigious events, including the 2007 Seve Trophy.

Major champions Nick Faldo, Vijay Singh, John Daly and Padraig Harrington have all experienced the stunning Seve Ballesteros/Jeff Howes designed jewel.

The multi-faceted Heritage Resort is nestled at the foot of the Slieve Bloom mountains and conveniently located within an hour of Dublin off the main Dublin-Cork M7 motorway.

The Ballesteros Championship Course is complemented by superb practice and tuition facilities.

The state-of-the-art 38,000 sq ft clubhouse includes an impressive new restaurant and fully stocked PGA pro shop, featuring all the top equipment and clothing brands.

The resort’s hotel – complete with opulent spa – offers luxurious accommodation and wonderful recreational amenities.

All the facilities marry perfectly to create an outstanding venue for golf outings, invigorating breaks, conferences, private business meetings, product launches and special family occasions.

The resort prides itself on offering a top class experience.

Golf Operations Manager, Dean Redmond, a fully qualified PGA professional, spearheads a dynamic team committed to delivering the highest standards of customer service to members, guests, societies and corporate groups.

For more information email dredmond@heritageresort.ie and visit www.heritageresort.ie

See the resort’s adverts on page 18

The Ballesteros Championship Course reflects Seve’s dynamic personality and dashing style of play.

Powerscourt

Corporate groups and societies can also avail of the services of Powerscourt Golf Club’s resident PGA Professional Paul Thompson, a highly experienced tutor who was elevated from "Advanced Professional" to "Fellow Professional" by the PGA in recognition of his coaching work at all levels of the game. Paul also holds a UK CC Level 3 coaching qualification.

There are a number of attractive membership options available at Powerscourt. Enquiries should be addressed to the Golf Manager at gavin.hunt@powerscourt.net or telephone Gavin on 01-204 6033.

For more details on the Club’s offers visit www.powerscourtgolfclub.com

See Powerscourt’s advert on page 18
Killarney in Co. Kerry has long been established as a truly magnificent golfing destination for visitors and golfers alike.

With its breathtaking scenery, abundance of luxury accommodation and lively bars and restaurants, the picturesque town is an ideal base from which to explore Kerry and its golfing gems.

**Killarney Golf and Fishing Club** boasts two superb championship courses; the renowned 7,250 yard Killeen course, which is a four-time European Tour Irish Open venue, and the timeless traditional layout of Mahony’s Point.

The courses have enjoyed notable improvement in conditioning and consistency in recent times and benefit from an unwavering commitment to the highest standards of presentation.

The club has extensive practice facilities and its team of PGA Professionals offer top quality tuition for individuals and groups of all abilities.

The recent addition of Trackman, a premier coaching and fitting system, has positioned the club at the forefront of golf tuition and technology.

The Pro shop at Killarney Golf & Fishing Club is one of the biggest and best stocked in the country. The shop stocks a fantastic selection of 2016 season clothing, accessories and equipment from brands such as Nike, Adidas, Glenmuir, Galvin Green, Cutter & Buck, Callaway, Titleist and Ping.

Killarney Golf & Fishing Club is the perfect venue for your society outing or corporate day, and packages can be tailor-made to suit all budgets. The club offers excellent rates and can provide a number of dining options for your outing, as well as services such as golf clinics, on-course competitions, club hire etc.

For exclusive green fee offers and updates, follow the club on Facebook & Twitter or visit www.killarneygolfclub.ie

---

**Druids Glen**

Co. Wicklow

**Druids Glen Resort**, which embraces the Druids Glen and Druids Heath courses, enjoys a picture postcard setting in the Garden of Ireland. Glorious natural surroundings create an ideal backdrop for total relaxation and a very pleasurable experience.

The style, imagery and atmosphere one associates with world class golf and leisure destinations is present in abundance at Druids Glen Resort.

The resort echoes class. It offers two magnificent championship courses, excellent clubhouse amenities, top quality teaching and practice facilities, along with the 5-star Druids Glen hotel.

Druids Glen’s splendour has a captivating effect on visitors, and the facilities are matched by a superior level of service.

The resort has gained many accolades in its short and illustrious history including three prestigious awards from the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO).
The original Druids Glen course, designed by Pat Ruddy and the late Tom Craddock in the 1990s, gained instant international recognition and acclaim when it hosted the Irish Open from 1996 to 1999 and the prestigious Seve Trophy in 2002. The contrasting Druids Heath course, another outstanding Pat Ruddy design, has also gained many admirers.

European Ryder Cup legends Seve Ballesteros, Colin Montgomerie and Sergio Garcia are just three top players who have graced the resort’s fairways. The Druids Glen experience can be enjoyed in various ways. You can simply plan a round of golf with friends followed by lunch or dinner...or arrange a group outing and play either or both courses...or treat yourself to the total experience by availing of great golf, luxury accommodation, fine hospitality and excellent leisure facilities at the resort’s hotel. Visit www.druidsglenresort.com
OPEN WEEK
Monday 25th July - Singles, Ladies & Gents Prizes, €30pp
Tuesday 26th July - Open Fourball, €30pp
Wednesday 27th July - 4 person Team event – Green Tees, €30pp
Thursday 28th July - Champagne Scramble, €30pp
Friday 29th July - Singles, Ladies & Gents Prizes, €30pp
Saturday 30th July - 4 person Team event, €30pp
Monday 1st August - Junior, Intermediate & Minor Scratch Cups, €30pp

SENIOR SCRATCH CUP
Over 54 holes on Friday 26th & Saturday 27th Aug – €60pp Entry Fee

For bookings and enquiries call 01 204 6033
POWERSCOURT GOLF CLUB
ENNISKERRY, COUNTY WICKLOW.
Email: golf@powerscourt.net
WWW.POWERSCOURTGOLFCLUB.COM

THE BALLESTEROS COURSE

THE HERITAGE GOLF RESORT
Killenard, Co. Laois | Tel: 057-8642321
Email: dredmond@heritageresort.ie | www.heritageresort.ie

Just some of a Member’s Privileges

- 7-Day Full Membership at the 5* Heritage Golf Resort, Laois
- Co-designed by Seve Ballesteros and Jeff Howes
- Just 1 hour from Dublin City
- Ranked as one of Ireland’s Top-10 Parkland Courses by Backspin
- Reciprocal playing rights agreement with 6 of Ireland’s top golf courses (reduced fees)
- Full use of all short game and practice areas at The Eddie Doyle Golf School.
- Full playing rights on the 9 hole Par 3 Leix Course
- Use of the onsite Tennis Court
- Complimentary Membership of the 5km Walking Track and Trim Trail

Contact – Dean Redmond, Golf Operations Manager
dredmond@heritageresort.ie
Headfort Golf Club’s soaring reputation has received another significant boost with its highly rated New course retaining its position amongst Ireland’s top-6 parkland jewels in BACKSPIN’s 2016 Irish Golf Course Rankings poll.

With two magnificent 18-hole courses in a great setting, this progressive club in the heart of lovely Co. Meath richly deserves the lavish praise and excellent reviews it attracts on a regular basis.

Quality, variety and keen value, combined with the warmest of welcomes, are very appealing features and they are offered in abundance at Headfort Golf Club.

The club is situated near the heritage town of Kells and easily accessible via Exit 10 off the M3 motorway.

Location is a key factor and enhances Headfort’s appeal to visitors and groups from surrounding counties and Northern Ireland.

Visiting golfers are spoiled for choice. The Old Course is always a joy to play in a lovely mature setting, while the New Course, designed by the late and much loved Ryder Cup legend Christy O’Connor Jnr and opened in 2000, is a spectacular lay-out with Headfort House (built in 1780), the River Blackwater and splendid scenery creating a beautiful backdrop.

Visitors can avail of attractive midweek, early bird and twilight rates, while Tuesday Opens and other open events also attract a lot of interest.

Excellent hospitality is provided in the beautiful chalet-style clubhouse, while popular resident PGA professional Brendan McGovern and his team are on hand to fulfil any need for tuition, equipment, buggy or electric trolley hire.

Headfort is a great option for an overnight or midweek break, with the Headfort Arms Hotel nearby serving as a perfect base for golf groups.

Facilities at this popular family-run hotel include the award-winning Vanilla Pod Restaurant, Spa Rooms offering Golfer’s Tonic Massage, the Kelltic Gastro Pub and the lovely Headfort Lounge with its open fires.

Headfort offers great golf and wonderful hospitality

“Two of the finest golf courses in Ireland”
- Dermot Gilleece, Golf Corp. Sunday Independent.

“A fantastic mature 36 hole golfing complex”

Only 30 minutes from Dublin and 90 minutes from Belfast
Enjoy a golf course, setting and society outing second to none at Leinster’s hidden gem

WOODENBRIDGE GOLF CLUB

Societies most welcome every day including weekends

NOW TAKING SOCIETY BOOKINGS FOR 2017
Very competitive rates!

A PERFECT VENUE FOR YOUR CAPTAIN’S AWAY DAY IN 2017

Vale of Avoca, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.
Tel: 0402.35202
Email: reception@woodenbridge.ie
www.woodenbridge.ie

Woodenbridge Golf Club is, quite simply, heaven on earth.
Time seems to stand still in this glorious setting, which the legendary Joe Carr once described as “Ireland’s Augusta and probably the most scenic golf course in Ireland.”

Whether you are visiting for the first time or enjoying this delightful experience for the umpteenth time, Woodenbridge always has a captivating effect.

The stunning golf course, which dates back to 1884, is surrounded by rivers and mature forest. The Avoca & Aughrim rivers come into play on ten holes.

It is a course that provides lots of thrills and spills.
Woodenbridge is one of Ireland’s most spectacular settings for golf and, significantly, it has featured amongst the country’s finest parkland courses in the five biennial parkland polls conducted by BACKSPIN magazine since 2008.

These polls reflect the views of 75 experienced golfers who share a strong appreciation of the Irish golfing landscape.

Bunclody Golf & Fishing Club
Co. Wexford

In the short space of time since it was unveiled in 2009, Bunclody Golf & Fishing Club on the Carlow-Wexford border has prospered and created a strong impression amongst visiting golfers and course ranking panellists.

The resort is situated in 300 acres of lovely parklands in the former Hall-Dare estate on the Carlow-Wexford border.

The splendid Jeff Howes designed 18-hole course has gained many admirers. It is set out on the banks of the river Slaney and provides an exhilarating challenge.

A novel feature is a lift that transports golfers to the 18th tee!

The clubhouse, complete with distinctive reed thatched roof, offers a very welcoming ambience and dining facilities for up to 80 people. Modern architecture is blended with the rural charm of Bunclody.

The resort’s golf academy incorporates a floodlit driving range, putting green and chipping area.

PGA professional Gary McLean provides expert tuition.
It is a very appealing venue for golf outings. Attractive stay and play packages are offered in conjunction with the adjacent Millrace Hotel. Also check-out the resort’s website for a busy programme of open competitions during the year.
The off-course facilities are equally impressive with the charming clubhouse providing an inviting sanctuary for après golf dining and relaxation. Woodenbridge is an excellent venue for groups and there’s the option of planning an overnight stay with a hotel situated at the entrance to the club.
Woodbrook is a glorious golfing venue. It is part of the fabric of Irish golf, a club steeped in history and renowned for its welcoming and hospitable embrace.

For members, old and new, there is the privilege of being part of a vibrant club with a celebrated past and ambitious outlook, while visiting golfers and societies return time and time again to enjoy the club’s hospitality and magnificent facilities.

Woodbrook is, of course, synonymous with top class international golf down the years. A round of golf on this captivating clifftop course provides an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of many great champions, and for those familiar with the club down the years each visit serves as a delightful trip down memory lane.

Golfers of a certain vintage will retain very fond memories of many thrilling events at Woodbrook in the 1960s and early 1970s. Spectator interest in golf exploded during that period with the Carrolls International drawing massive crowds to Woodbrook on ten occasions between 1963 and 1974.

It was, of course, a happy hunting ground for Christy O’Connor Snr. He produced many epic performances at Woodbrook, including his pulsating play-off victory over the legendary Roberto De Vicenzo in the Carrolls International in 1964.

The Carrolls Tournament and the revived Irish Open in 1975 - won by Christy O’Connor Jnr - attracted many golfing legends to Woodbrook. Ten British Open champions have played in professional tournaments at Woodbrook over the years...Fred Daly, Bobby Locke, Max Faulkner, Kel Nagle, Peter Thomson, Bob Charles, Roberto De Vicenzo, Gary Player, Tony Jacklin and Tom Watson.

Much has changed in the golfing world since those halcyon days, yet Woodbrook retains the charm and character of its glorious past and it has embraced change seamlessly in more recent times.

The club has invested heavily in a course and clubhouse refurbishment programme. The transformation is remarkable. It has earned Woodbrook many new admirers and enhanced its appeal to event organisers.

**Follow in famous footsteps at Woodbrook**

Course and clubhouse photographs courtesy of Woodbrook Golf Club

---

Woodbrook is one of the most iconic venues in Irish golf. It is also one of the most charming and welcoming, with a delightful fusion of the past, present and future creating a very special golfing ambience.
Bringing the noted British course designer Peter McEvoy on board in the 1990s to revamp the course was an inspired decision.

McEvoy has brought the experiences gained from a top flight amateur career to his design work. He has enhanced the course in so many ways and introduced greater definition to a wonderful golfing canvas.

The beautiful north Wicklow course features 18 sand-based, bent grass greens built to USGA specifications and offers spectacular sea and mountain views.

McEvoy returns on a regular basis to cast his eye over the course and delights in the transformation. He explains, “The course can have two personalities. It can be set-up as tough as necessary to challenge the very best players. However, played off forward tees on a gentle summer evening, it can be a very benign place to play a few holes.”

“There is just something about Woodbrook,” he says, adding, “Great golf clubs are about more than just a fine course, beautiful buildings and efficient service. They have an almost tangible personality and this sense of character is reflected in many aspects and facets of a club. In this regard, in my opinion, Woodbrook Golf Club scores very highly.”

A thrilling championship course that’s easy on the legs and so pleasing to the eye, impressive new clubhouse facilities, and keen green fee rates combine to create a very appealing package for event organisers and green fee visitors.

It is a very popular venue for casual fourballs, golf days and group outings, while a busy calendar of open events provides plenty of other opportunities for visiting golfers to savour the club’s delights.

In addition to group outings, it is also an excellent venue for special events, functions and family celebrations. Woodbrook’s legendary hospitality is matched by excellent catering services.

Full details regarding club membership, society outings, open events and functions can be obtained by contacting the club secretary’s office on 01-2824799 or visit [www.woodbrook.ie](http://www.woodbrook.ie)
The popularity and success enjoyed by the Leopardstown Golf Centre over the years has been based on an unswerving commitment to the highest standards across all facets of the operation.

Launched by the legendary John Jacobs in the mid 1960s, it was the first facility to provide Irish golfers with the opportunity to practice day or night on synthetic surfaces in a floodlit driving range.

The concept has gone from strength to strength over the years, and today the Centre functions as a thriving golf, business and social hub that attracts thousands of golfing enthusiasts every week.

Over the last decade the owners and promoters, Horse Racing Ireland, have made a substantial investment in totally transforming Leopardstown Golf Centre into a state-of-the-art facility that is geared to fulfil the expectations and needs of golfers on all levels.

Paradise for game improvers

Resident PGA professional Michael Allan

Top class tuition...

Top class range facilities...

Full tour experience...

TaylorMade technicians at work
The centre is a thriving golf, business and social hub

TOP CLASS PRACTICE FACILITIES
Time devoted to practice is time well spent at Leopardstown Golf Centre. You can practice from morning to evening in the fully automated 74-bay floodlit driving range, with attractive bay dividers offering greater privacy as you work on improving your game.

The newly installed Range Servant ball dispensing system allows golfers to concentrate on hitting ball after ball, and grooving their swing, without having to re-grip or bend down.

Its ergonomic design allows golfers to adjust the tee to the perfect height at the touch of a button.

You can also avail of the centre’s floodlit tour-spec all-weather short game practice facility. It is great value at €5 for 45-mins or €100 for annual membership.

TOP CLASS TUITION...
The team of Pure Golf Leopardstown PGA professionals - Michael Allan, Michael Kavanagh, John Langan and Donal Scott - provide a top class tuition service to golfers of all levels, from beginners to high performance players.

Visit www.puregolfireland.com to find out more about their group and individual tuition programmes and complete range of Academy services.

There are two fully equipped Academy rooms at the Centre offering the latest tuition technology...and you can introduce a real cutting edge to your short game and make some intriguing discoveries by booking a course of lessons in the Centre’s dedicated Putting Studio.

BUSINESS & SOCIAL HUB
The Golf Centre is also a thriving business and social hub with McGuirks Golf, Golfino, financial services provider TierOne and the busy 100-seater Wooden Spoon Café enhancing the ‘Leopardstown experience’ for patrons.

McGuirks Golf, established at the adjacent racecourse complex for many years, also has a strong presence at the Golf Centre, offering a wide range of equipment, clothing, bags, headwear and accessories for lady golfers.

Golfino, a brand name synonymous with classic style and comfort in ladies leisure and casual wear, is also strongly represented. Marita Klinkenberg and her staff take great pride in providing a superior level of service.

And if you require financial advice TierOne Prudential boss Kevin Coghlan and partners Frank Conway and Donal O’Brien are on hand at the Golf Centre to provide focused financial and investment solutions.

Leopardstown Golf Centre is a multi-faceted facility on a par with the finest game improvement centres in Europe.

The whole emphasis is on providing the total golf experience in a welcoming family environment.

Golfers of all ages, aspirations and skill levels have access to the finest driving range and short game practice facilities, along with a complete suite of game improvement services and facilities provided by a dynamic team of resident PGA professionals.

Leopardstown patrons also enjoy opportunities to test the latest equipment on the market with leading equipment manufacturers regularly hosting demo days and other events.

The facility is a hive of activity seven days a week. In addition to a huge footfall of game improvers, the centre is ‘home’ to a large community of lady society golfers and continues to fulfil an important role in the growth of Irish golf by making the game accessible and attractive to boys and girls of all ages.

Summer camps and other junior events during the year are organised by the Golf Centre’s resident PGA professionals.

GREEN FEE RATES (18 Holes)

| Adults | €15 |
| Students & Seniors | €12 |
| Juniors (aged 10-16 yrs) | €10 |
| Twilight Rate (after 7pm) | €10 |

DRIVING RANGE
Special Offer - Large Basket €6.50
(Special Offer only available from 8am-4pm Mon-Fri, incl Bank Holiday Mondays)
Loyalty Card (top-up as you wish)

ALL-WEATHER PRACTICE FACILITY
Short game practice (45 mins) €5
Annual Membership Card €100

DEDICATED PUTTING STUDIO
Make great discoveries about the art of putting with a course of lessons from a resident Pure Golf Leopardstown PGA professional in the centre’s dedicated putting studio.

JUNIOR GOLF
Contact reception for details of tuition programmes for boys and girls.

LADIES MEMBERSHIP
Contact reception to enquire about joining one of the centre’s 26 ladies societies.

GOLF CENTRE OPENING HOURS:
Monday to Friday
8am-10pm
Weekends & Bank Holiday (Mon)
8am - 7pm

Tel: 01-2895341
www.leopardstowngolfcentre.com
Golf at Waterville is a mystical experience. The sheer beauty of the classic links terrain, surrounded by the sea, is truly captivating and the elements invariably play a key role in shaping a round on this majestic course.

It’s an enthralling experience that every golfer should savour and visitors tend to be pleasantly surprised to discover that it’s a very affordable treat with winter green fee rates (Nov-March) set at €60pp and a two round package on consecutive days between April and October priced at €220 (weekday) and €250 (Sat & Sun), subject to availability.

Waterville Golf Club has a fascinating history. The earliest structured golf at Waterville has been traced back to 1889 when it came under the umbrella of the extremely active Waterville Athletic Club. It was a formalised part of the life of the village by 1900, when Waterville became affiliated to the GUI.

A modest nine-hole links sustained local golf enthusiasts for the best part of fifty years. Following a period during the 1960s when the links lay dormant, the incredible vision and commitment of Irish born American John A. Mulcahy has gradually transformed Waterville into one of the finest links courses in the world.

Mulcahy initially enlisted Irish course designer Eddie Hackett and his close friend, Claude Harmon, a past Masters champion, to fulfil his vision for Waterville. Their combined efforts came to fruition when the magnificent new links and clubhouse were opened in 1973.

Since then Waterville has hosted several prestigious events and welcomed and impressed many of the world’s top golfers. Waterville’s charms and reputation have been further enhanced by The Fazio Renovation Project, carried out by renowned course designer Tom Fazio and his team.

The magic of this links classic in Co. Kerry has to be experienced to be fully appreciated.
Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links was acquired by global real estate investment and services company Kennedy Wilson in June 2014. Their vision for the resort is taking shape in impressive fashion.

The recently completed one million euro investment in the golf course at Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links has already started to pay dividends with a strong response to a limited membership offer and a healthy increase in green fee revenue.

The work on the golf course marks the first phase in an initial multi-million investment in both the golf course and the hotel.

The investment in the golf course has included the creation of a wonderful new short game area, a new natural grass path between greens and tees, and the refurbishment of many of the riveted bunkers which are a feature of the course. The investment has also included the solution of a new irrigation system.

Speaking about the golf course, Barry O’Connor, Director at PHGL, said that they have had tremendous feedback both from members and green fee users. He remarked: “This is just the first steps of a planned ongoing programme aimed at ensuring that the course will continue to be ranked as one of the true great links courses on the east coast of Ireland.”

The golf course development was completed in advance of a multi-million euro redevelopment of the hotel. This programme was completed in July and entailed the refurbishment of 90 bedrooms, new meeting / conference rooms, the creation of a new Spa and Gym, a new Seaview Lounge, the extension of the main restaurant and a new entrance and car park.

For enquiries / bookings
Telephone: 01-846 0611
Email: info@portmarnock.com
Visit: www.portmarnock.com
Professional golfer turned NBC celebrity golf analyst David Feherty attended a media lunch at One Pico restaurant in Dublin the day after the Irish Open in May to launch GolfNow’s ‘Golf for Life’ campaign.

As the face of GolfNow’s current TV adverts, which have served to introduce the brand to golfers across the UK and Ireland, Feherty is an enthusiastic ambassador for GolfNow’s new campaign.

Brian Smith, Vice President of International Sales for GolfNow, announced: “We are delighted to launch our national ‘Golf for Life’ sweepstakes this month on GolfNow.com and Teeofftimes.co.uk.”

“I’m proud to say that we supported 22.5m rounds booked in the UK and Ireland last year, almost one every second,” he added.

Now, in a bid to reward loyal customers and attract new ones, the company is set to open up a world of golf for one lucky golfer and his or her friends with a unique prize.

It was announced that, until midnight on August 30, 2016, visitors to GolfNow’s website will have a chance to win a free fourball every month for the next 30 years.

GolfNow is owned by the Golf Channel. The online golf booking provider, founded in 2001, operates in more than 16 countries providing tee-time access to over 9,000 courses.

Happy days for Thongchai

Thongchai Jaidee enhanced his reputation with an impressive victory in this year’s Open de France, his eighth European Tour win.

The 46-year-old Thai pro is one of golf footwear brand ECCO’s Tour ambassadors and strode to victory in France wearing their timeless ECCO World Class design.

Jesper Thuen, Head of Asia-Pacific and responsible for sponsorship at ECCO Golf, said: “We’re thrilled that he continues to choose to put his trust in our footwear as he competes at the top of the men’s game on both the European and PGA Tours.”

David Feherty launches GolfNow’s ‘Golf for Life’ campaign

Email your news items and hi-resolution jpeg photos to golfbiz@eircom.net
Despite being one of the premier tourist destinations in the world with nearly 50 million foreign tourists visiting each year, until relatively recently little was known about Italy’s golfing infrastructure.

Well, all that has changed in dramatic circumstances in recent times.

A successful bid to host the 2022 Ryder Cup creates a glorious opportunity to showcase the country’s golfing charms to a global audience.

Italy has over 400 golf courses and a major new ‘Italy Golf & More’ marketing campaign, geared to attract British and Irish golfers, was launched at this year’s BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth and at the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open the following week at the K Club.

Franco Chimenti, President of the Italian Golf Federation, explains: “The Italian Golf Federation is completely convinced that the range of golf on offer in Italy, together with the thousands of tourist attractions here, is one of the trump cards for Italian tourism to firmly focus on.”

The Federation has enthusiastically lent its full support to the ‘Italy Golf & More’ project, which will generate huge product awareness in the countdown to the 44th Ryder Cup Matches in Rome in 2022.

Exciting times for golf in Italy as the Ryder Cup will be staged on the Continent of Europe for just the third time.


More immediately, the European Senior Tour will return to Italy after a six year absence when the 2016 Italian Senior Open takes place at Golf Club Udine in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region from October 21st -23rd with a €350,000 prizefund.

Marco Simone resort...

Marco Simone Golf & Country Club has been unveiled as the latest European Tour Destination.

David MacLaren, Head of European Tour Properties, said: “We are very pleased that Marco Simone is the latest addition to European Tour Properties, becoming the 22nd member of our network of outstanding golf venues and resorts in Europe, Middle-East, Africa and South-East Asia.

The Marco Simone championship course is set to be remodelled ahead of the 2022 Ryder Cup. The course is set against the backdrop of a stunning 11th-century castle and offers views of the dome of St Peter’s Basilica in the Eternal City.

Main photograph:
Marco Simone Golf & Country Club

For information regarding golf in Italy visit...
www.italygolfandmore.com

Left: GolfNow Ambassador David Feherty at the launch of the online golf booking company’s ‘Golf for Life’ campaign. The former Ryder Cup player is seen with GolfNow’s Chris Knipe and Dan Higgins.

www.GolfNow.com
Stars support Team Europe

With the 2016 Ryder Cup looming large on the horizon, some of the biggest stars in sport and entertainment have pledged their allegiance to Team Europe, encouraging fans to show their support ahead of September’s match at Hazeltine National.

Tennis hero Andy Murray, Olympic gold medallist Jessica Ennis-Hill and One Direction star Niall Horan are among those who have sent a personal message of support to Darren Clarke and the European team.

A dedicated website – pledge.rydercupeurope.com allows fans from across Europe to make their own pledge and write a motivational message to inspire Team Europe.

The best of the messages will be hand delivered to Europe’s players in Hazeltine.

In his message, golf fan Niall Horan said: “We’re all behind you. I can’t wait to be there to roar you on. C’mon Europe!”

Heritage success

A gala dinner and charity auction in aid of The Seve Ballesteros Foundation raised €10,000 during this year’s Heritage Pro-Am, which was sponsored by Albert Crowley of Fountains & Decor Ltd and LED Light Tech Ltd.

The Pro-Am, won by Colm Moriarty (pictured below) boasted a €50,000 prizefund and attracted a huge field of 55 professionals and 165 amateurs to the Seve Ballesteros designed course.

Brian Keogh wins prestigious AGW trophy

Brian Keogh ensured the prestigious Michael Williams Hogget remains in Irish hands for at least another year in winning his first Association of Golf Writers (AGW) title on the O’Meara course at Carton House.

Brian, playing off a handicap of 10, posted 34 points to edge out trophy holder Denis Kirwan.

Brian had just nine clubs and an umbrella in his bag and quipped, “A little bit of course knowledge certainly helped while leaving five of my clubs at home made for easier club selection.

He is seen, above right, receiving the trophy from Francis Howley, Director of Golf, Carton House.

In other news, long-time AGW member Patricia Davies and her sister Maureen Madill have launched an exciting new golf-dedicated website... www.madillgolf.com
Enjoy traditional links golf at

**ST. ANNE’S GOLF CLUB**

Bull Island Nature Reserve, Dollymount, Dublin 5

Play golf on your own private island on a famous links course which offers delightful panoramic views of Howth Head and across Dublin Bay to the Wicklow mountains.

* St. Anne's is a natural links course in a tranquil setting that represents an excellent test of golf
* Unrivalled location just 5 miles from Dublin city centre and convenient to Dublin Airport
* Enjoy a warm welcome and spectacular state-of-the-art clubhouse

Visit www.stanneslinksgolf.com or telephone 01-8336471

---

**The Gourmet Golf Classic**

*Experience Three Great Days of Golf & Gourmet Cuisine in this Unique Irish Golfing Classic*

5th – 7th September 2016

- 2 Nights B&B in Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford
- 3 Rounds of Tournament Golf (Team of 4)
- Rosslare Golf Club
- Wexford Golf Club
- Enniscorthy Golf Club
- 2 Evening Meals in Local Award Winning Restaurants
- Return Coach Transfers to Restaurants
- Presentation Dinner in Clayton Whites Hotel
- Daily & Overall Prizes

€245 pps*

To book phone 01 801 1490

To book, phone 01 801 1490 or e-mail info@clubchoiceireland.com

www.clubchoiceireland.com/events

*Terms & Conditions Apply. See website for full details.

---

**WATERVILLE HOUSE & GOLF LINKS**

Visitors and Societies Welcome

For Tee Times and Accommodation please contact:

Tel: 066-9474102
Fax: 066-9474482

WATERVILLE, COUNTY KERRY

Email: info@watervillegolflinks.ie

www.watervillegolflinks.ie
In the New Year issue of BACKSPIN we mourned the untimely passing of Christy O’Connor Jnr, who died suddenly while on a family holiday in Tenerife in January.

It has been a sad period for Irish golf with Christy Jnr’s death followed a few months later by the passing of both Links Golf Society supremo Cecil Whelan and Ryder Cup legend Christy O’Connor Snr.

Elsewhere in this issue we pay a special tribute to Christy Snr and celebrate his remarkable career.

His great friend Cecil Whelan enjoyed a lifelong love affair with golf and made a huge contribution to Irish life in his role as honorary secretary of the famous Links Golf Society.

Over a period of forty-five years, from 1966 to 2011, the Links society raised an extraordinary amount of money for charity through a programme of high profile events that attracted many of the biggest names in the world of sport, commerce, politics and showbusiness.

At the society’s 45th anniversary farewell event at the K Club in August 2011, the focus was on thanking everyone who had come together over the years to make the ‘Links’ a truly outstanding golfing and fundraising organisation.

Of course, Cecil was the heartbeat of the society. He was passionate about his role and a tireless charity campaigner for almost fifty years, superbly supported by dedicated committee members.

From a purely golfing perspective, he was particularly proud of the fact that successive generations of young Irish professionals cut their teeth with the Links society before going on to enjoy great success on the world stage.

On a personal level, Cecil will be fondly remembered as a charming personality, always impeccably attired, and always wonderful company as he recalled a lifetime of magical golfing memories.
ETIQUUS

THE GOLFERS CHOICE

CLASSIC TOUR COLLECTION
SPORT PRO IONIC COLLECTION
SPORT TOUR COLLECTION
SPORT PRO COLLECTION
SPORT LADY COLLECTION

A range of unique timepieces created exclusively for golfers - discover more at: ETIQUUS.CO.UK
A glove connects you to your club so, at FJ, we obsess over leather, fuss over fit, inspect and test, evaluate and assess. That’s why FJ is the glove worn by more Tour Pros and more golfers than all the other brands.

That’s why FJ is the #1 glove in golf. www.footjoy.ie