

SEPTEMBER 2021

The Swan



County Cavan Golf Club
Newsletter

All-Ireland Jimmy Bruen Winners Boys in Blue bring home the Shield



All-Ireland Winners

Pictured following the presentation of medals and Pennant in Shandon Park GC, Belfast the winning Jimmy Bruen panel.

Back row left to right: Barry McDermott, Robert Kane, Kevin Brady, Pat Hayes, Edward Kellett, Luke Fortune, Conor O'Reilly, Damien Johnston, Fergal Dunne, Johnny Cawley, Dermot Gallagher, Matty Reilly and Shane McDermott (Team advisor)

Front row left to right: Liam Bouchier (Club Captain), Edward O'Hanlon (Co- team captain), Sean Johnston (Co- team captain) and John Sweeney
Missing from picture: Ciaran Flynn, Noel Johnston and Kevin Bouchier

Co Cavan Golf Club made history on September 9 when an 18-man panel claimed the coveted Jimmy Bruen All-Ireland title for the first time in the club's 127-year history.

The Cavan heroes defeated Gowran Park from Kilkenny in the final at Shandon Park GC, Belfast, having come through eight previous rounds in an arduous campaign.

The Jimmy Bruen is a foursomes event made up of five pairs of players with a minimum combined handicap of 14 and no player with a handicap of less than 3.5 and is regarded as one of the most entertaining events on the Golf Ireland schedule. It draws a huge entry from the 32 counties.

In the Ulster South section, Co Cavan beat Scrabo, Blackwood and Mahee, Co Armagh, Lurgan, Belvoir Park and Warrenpoint in the provincial campaign to qualify for the All-Ireland series.

The clubmen saw off Dublin's Beech Park in the quarter-final and Strabane from Tyrone at the penultimate stage, with Conor O'Reilly and county footballer Luke Fortune securing the winning point in the final against Gowran Park.

The Co Cavan team was jointly-captained by Ed O'Hanlon and former Cavan footballer, Seanie Johnston.

Commenting following the win, O'Hanlon said, "In the hierarchy of club team golf, it's one of the more prestigious events.

At the very highest level there is the Senior Cup and Barton Shield competitions for elite golfers with plus handicaps.

However, there are a limited number of clubs which can compete in those competitions. On the other hand almost every club in the country can field a Jimmy Bruen team, consequently this is an extremely competitive event".

Ed has been playing in the competition since his teens and along with his friend Seanie, offered their services for the joint captaincy this year.

The club previously won the Ulster title in 1998 and again in 2008 (O'Hanlon was a member of the latter side) but had never before reached the All-Ireland decider.

"We assembled a big panel of about 35 together at the start of the year, more or less everyone who was eligible in the category. Over the course of a few weeks, having organised a few golf outings we determined our final panel of 18 players."

"Throughout the summer there was huge competition amongst the 18 panel members to make the team of 10 for each match. We tried to have a systematic approach

to picking the team and based the selection on current form; for some matches, we might have nine picked and couldn't decide on the last one so we would send two lads out to play a match and whoever won it got picked.

"The entire panel made a huge effort, which was justly rewarded"

The captains adopted a meticulous approach as they juggled their line-up throughout the campaign.

"You have to think about matching personalities and also matching the handicaps. We matched those who got on well with each other. The team changed every round with selection based on current form.

Toughest

The panel really came of age in the Ulster semi-final against Belvoir Park, a very prestigious Belfast club with over 1400 playing members. "That was the toughest match we had and the toughest I've ever had in the Jimmy Bruen," recalled Ed.

"For that round we had three matches away and two at home, beforehand we were hoping to win the home matches and sneak one away win but, extraordinarily, having lost the two home matches, we managed to win all three away games."

"The away team got word with about four holes to go that the home matches had been lost, after 14 holes, the three away matches were pretty level. "Luke Fortune had just come into the team in that round and sank a 15-foot putt on the 18th which he thought was to win the match only for his opponent to follow him in with a 12-footer. The match then went down the 19th, which on this course was a short 290 yard par4 and Luke stood up and drove the green to win the match.

Miracle of Belvoir Park!

"Seanie and myself then came up the 18th level and made a good par to win our match by the narrowest of margins. So, then it was all down to our last pair made up of Pat Hayes and Kevin Brady. A big crowd ran down to catch the end of that match and the lads performed brilliantly to win 16&17 and send us into the final. We jokingly have described the match since as the miracle of Belvoir Park!"

The All-Ireland quarter-final was relatively comfortable but halfway through the semi, it looked, said Ed, "as if we were goosed".

"It was incredibly tight against Strabane. In the end, we won it 3-2. It all came down to the 18th hole where we managed to hold our nerve to get over the line. That was a very competitive match - it could have gone either way.

"In the final it was a bit more comfortable; we won our first three matches". Our second and third matches won well.



Co- team captains Seanie Johnston and Ed O'Hanlon presenting Club Captain Liam Bouchier with the first All-Ireland pennant in the clubs 127 year history.

“But if we had lost the first match in the final, it could have been a lot different. The first pair was Johnny Cawley and John Sweeney and the match was all square after 18 holes.

Their opponents hit it in to six feet for birdie on the 19th and John Sweeney responded with a brilliant approach to about 12 feet.

They went on to half the hole with birdies which showed outrageous character. They went up the

20th hole, one of the toughest holes on the course, and made another birdie to win the match. The second pairing of Fergal Dunne (a member of the 1998 Jimmy Bruen Ulster winning team) and Ed Kellett played very solid golf to win the second match.

The golf the lads played was incredible and gave us just the start we needed on the day,” concluded O’Hanlon.

Successful Annual Club Classic Fundraiser

The Annual Club Classic Fundraiser played in wonderful golfing conditions earlier this month proved hugely successful - again! Net proceeds will exceed €16,000 when all sponsorship has been collected. The proceeds will be used to replace the greens mower which has served us well for the past 13 years!

RESULTS

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1. Shaun Smith, Barry Mc Dermott, Thomas Duffy, Noel Mooney

 2. Barry Gardiner, Mattie Reilly, David Connolly, Brendan Mc Clare

 3. Noel Johnston, Francis Johnston, Martin Cahill, Patrick Wall

 4. Valerie Hanley, Ashling Hanley, Anna Hogan, Orla Daly

 5. Damien Johnston, Noel Johnston, Caoimhe Johnston, Dermot Johnston

 6. Austin Smith, Andrew Smith, Pat Denning, Stuart Taffe

 7. Owen Smith, Ryan Smith, Brien Gaffney, John Sweeney

 8. Bernard Johnston, Brendan Young, Joey Browne, Des Lambert

 9. Claire Thomas, Carmel Mc Intyre, Mary Mulvey, Margaret Sheridan

 10. Padraigh Mc Entee, Brian Mc Entee, Paul Sheridan, James Morris

 11. Maura Dunne, Anne Lee, Martha Adams, Evelyn Hannigan
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Nearest Pin 10th Hole; Seanie Johnston

Longest Drive Ladies; Cathy O Hanlon

Longest Drive Men; Robbie Kane

Non GUI Winners; Denis Brady, Phelim King, Brian Rahill, Jimmy O Donoghue

Lucky Dip; 1st Carmel Gavin, Finola Smith, Cathy O Hanlon, Imelda Shiels

2nd Dereck White, Paddy O Flaherty, John Lynch, Richard Mc Evoy.

Sponsors

The club is indebted to the following main and associated sponsors;

Applegreen – Virginia-Bailieboro and Lifford (Damien and Aoibhinn Johnston);

Shades Restaurant, Cavan,

Imperial Bar, Cavan.

Cavan Crystal Hotel,

Scanlon's Jewellers, Cavan, **Harte Peat**, Clones, **Supaklene**, Cavan, **The Backyard**,

Cavan, **Klass Clearers**, Cavan, **Seamus Bennett**, **Casoria**, **McMahon's Bar and**

Café, Cavan, **Felix Gormley**, **Used Metal**, Crossdoney, **Johnny O'Hanlon**, **JOD Signs**,

Ian O'Reilly, Physiotherapist, Cavan, **Cian Murtagh**, **Pharmacy**, Cavan, **Raymond**

Smith Properties, Cavan, **Ford Auto Park**, Cavan, **Kadona**, **Ruddens Costcutters**,

Cavan, **Matthey Keaney School of Motoring**, **Amber School of Motoring**, **Padraig**

McEntee, Fruit and Vegetables, **Arva and Empire Recruitment**, Cavan, **Wood**

Innovations, **Tormey Construction**, **Slieve Rossa**, Cavan, **Flannagan Timber**,

Provincial Floor Coverings, **Oakroom**, Cavan, **Kyte**, Cavan.

Club members are urged to support our sponsors and all those who sponsored teams. Congratulations to Vice Captain Paddy Marron and his hard working fund raising committee for their dedication and hard work.



Lady Captain's Prize winners

Ladies Section

Lady Captain Dolores enjoyed a very successful Captain's Day." I would like to thank my committee for their hard work and support and all the ladies and gents for their good wishes and kindness shown to me. Our ladies had an enjoyable afternoon with refreshments brought by our members. Congratulations to all prize winners", commented Dolores.

Lady Captain's prize to the men was held on Sat 25th and Sunday 26th a great turnout on both days, congratulations to the prize winners.

The regional finals of NCBI Granard Cup held at our club was a great success. Westport were the winners. Helen Ryan from NCBI was most

appreciative to the club for hosting this event and for the hospitality extended. Thank you to the ladies who helped on the day. Our Get into Golf programme has been a great success with 14 participants taking up membership and enjoying their golf. Congratulations to Sinead Brady and Siobhan Tierney with Finola Smith on winning the Lady Captain's scramble.

Details for Autumn League on notice board. Congratulations to Leona Maguire our Honorary Member on her wonderful achievement in playing her part in winning the Solheim Cup for Europe.

Welcome back to Breffni Blues Special Olympics golfers on Saturdays.

• **Membership continues to grow**

Some very encouraging news on Club membership which currently stands at 565 across all categories, by comparison the same figure just 3 years ago was just over 400. Of particular relevance is the growth of under 35 membership which stands at 110 members. Our junior membership is also increasing. The future of the club is looking bright.

• **Junior Club**

Staying with the membership theme, club member and former club captain Brendan Young has volunteered for the role of Junior Convenor. Brendan is currently recruiting his team and Garda Vetting is underway. Junior lessons started last week and 47 presented for the first session and were split up into 3 sessions of 45 minute durations. Those interested in participating please sign up in the Pro-shop.

• **Under 35 sub-committee**

Following a motion at the Parent AGM last February a sub-committee has been established to examine the transition of the Under 35 membership category into full membership and will meet in the coming weeks.

The sub-committee consists of Convenor; David Shiels, Seamus McIntyre, Tom Downes, Miriam Griffin, Ed O'Hanlon some Under 35 members will also be co-opted onto this committee. A recommendation will be put to the next AGM of the Parent Club.

• **Parent Committee**

There are currently 3 vacancies on the Parent committee. Anybody interested in being co-opted onto the committee are requested to contact Hon. Secretary David Shiels or any committee member.

• **Mast update**

A planning decision on the application to erect a telecommunications mast adjacent to the 12th

hole is due from Cavan County Council on 6th October. Two objections to this development were lodged and the date for receipt of objections has passed.

• **Open Week review**

Following the steady decline in recent years in the numbers competing in our Open Week a review of this event is currently being undertaken by the men's and ladies golf committees. It is expected that a recommendation will be put to the forthcoming annual general meetings.

• **Driving Bay**

While the absence of cladding leaves an unfinished look, delighted to report that the new driving bay is fully operational and is equipped with the latest teaching technology. Pete Duignan advises that he is upgrading from Trackman 3 to 4 which offers even more information and has an application for both chipping and putting lessons. There is growing interest in his lessons and booking is essential through the pro-shop.

• **Pro Shop**

Pete also advises that his Autumn/Winter Stock will start arriving from next week. Winter shop opening hours will reduce slightly, the shop will be closed on Mondays. Brian will be on duty from Tuesday to Friday while Ryan will cover Saturday and Sunday. Pete will in attendance on Tuesday afternoon, all day Thursday and Saturday afternoon.

• **Driving Range**

Sincerest thanks to the following volunteers who are on ball collecting duties in the driving range; John Costello, Seamus Mc Intyre, Ollie O Connor, Sean Donohoe, Frank O'Brien, Paddy Malone, Noel Smith, Frank Harten, Ray Carolan, Brendan Crowe, Liam Bouchier, Paul Cooney, Dave Shiels, Pauraic Caffrey, Gerry Cooney, Martin Duffy, Paul Flynn.

Did you know.....!

1. **Your ideal 4 ball (must include)**
 - (1) Politician
 - (2) Pop/rock star
 - (3) Sports star
2. **Your go to club in the bag.**
3. **On the course which annoys you the most?**
 - (1) Slow play
 - (2) Chatty playing partner
 - (3) Mobile phones
 - (4) Been offered advice following a bad shot
4. **Your favorite par 3?**
5. **Stableford or Stroke?**
6. **Irish Golfing Hero?**
7. **Links or Parkland?**
8. **Reasons for taking up golf?**
 - (1) To get away from herself/himself,
 - (2) To skive off work,
 - (3) To meet, socialize and make friends,
 - (4) Too old for other sports,
9. **In your opinion (apart from yourself) who is the best all round golfer in the club?**
10. **Best part of your game?**
 - (1) Long game
 - (2) Short game
 - (3) Putting,

Carmel gavin

Bill Clinton
Alice Cooper
Shane Lowry

5 Wood
Slow Play

Old 8th Hole in Co Cavan
Left of the 7th Green

Stableford

Shane Lowry

Links

Meet socialize and
make friends

Majella Brady

Long Game



**The Photo was taken on Friday 3rd
September and included 3
generations of the Dolan Clan**

Left to right - PJ, Philip and Peter
(Grandchildren) and son Peadar.

Contact us

Contact us with your news items for The Swan at: theswan@cavangolf.ie