

SAINT PATRICK'S WORD

Official Newsletter of Saint Patrick's Golf Club, Downpatrick.

December 2016 Vol 1 No 4



Happy
Christmas!



Happy New Year

From the Club Captain, Gerry Killen.

I can't believe that the golfing season is over and that I am more than halfway through my year as captain.. As the saying goes time flies when you are enjoying yourself. The year has been brilliant to date with the highlight obviously being Captains week. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the winners and to thank everyone who helped to make the week a tremendous success. In particular I would like to thank Council for their support in preparing for captain's week, especially Phil Posnett, Greens Convenor and Emmett and his team for having the course in pristine condition, to Gerry Reilly, Bar & House Convenor for ensuring the excellent service particularly on captains guest night and captains night and finally to Lawrence Craig Competitions Convenor and his team for the efficient manner in which all the events of the week were organised.



I also want to thank all members and friends who sent cards, gifts and good wishes. I was totally overwhelmed by the generosity shown and support given to me not just during captains week but throughout the year to date.

On the golfing front it was left up to the Juniors and the Senior Cowdy team to battle it out for some silverware. I would like to congratulate the Juniors on reaching the final of the Johnny Dickson trophy where they were narrowly beaten by Rockmount. A new star was unearthed in Caitlin Burke who unfortunately missed the second leg of the final due to injury. The Juniors also reached the final of the Norman Drew for the second year in a row and narrowly lost to Belvoir park in the final in Kirkistown on the 25th September. The Senior Cowdy team led by Paul Fitzsimons also reached the final for the second year in a row and again battled back brilliantly from a heavy away leg defeat to be narrowly beaten at home.

I would like to thank everyone who supported my charity day on the 9th September. In spite of atrocious weather conditions in the afternoon 60 people played. A total of £2,000 was raised for my chosen charity, Mid Down MS Support Group.

Thanks to all the sponsors and everyone who made donations or bought tickets.

I am delighted to welcome Martin Rafferty as our new catering franchisee and would encourage all members to support him and his team.

The lady captain and I are planning to end our year with a gala ball which will be held on 25th February.. Further details including tickets will be issued in the next few weeks

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New year.



Slieve Russell Hotel
Golf & Country Club

The LADIES WEEK-END AWAY 2016



A group of ladies from St Patricks Golf Club enjoying an away weekend at the Slieve Russell Hotel.

A great time was had by all.

Included in the photograph is Club President Geraldine Gray (front left), Lady Vice Captain Anne Roden (second left front row) and Lady Captain Assunta Morgan (second from right front row)

BAR and HOUSE REPORT

Gerry Reilly (Convenor)

NEW CATERER STARTS

Our new caterer Martin Rafferty opened for business at the beginning of November and I'm glad to report that his menus have met with the approval of those members who have availed of them . Martin sources all his ingredients locally and on a weekly basis . If you have not been to the club to eat recently why don't you come along in the New Year and try the food on offer. If we are to retain catering in the club it is essential that all members avail of the service at some time particularly during January , February and March when things are usually quiet for the caterer.

Our bar continues to be used less by our members than in previous years but this is a trend in many other golf clubs . We do have members who use our facilities on a weekly basis and to them a big thank you . It would be nice to see members coming into the club after their round to have a beer , coffee or soft drink .

During the last couple of months we had a quiz and a film night but the number of members attending was disappointing to say the least . Hopefully the Christmas Party Night and Santa Sunday will be well supported .

The Captain and Lady Captain are planning to have a Gala Ball on 25th February 2017 so put the date in your diary .

We are presently negotiating to have the chair lift installed . Hopefully it will come to fruition in the New Year.

We are planning to refurbish the main lounge if and when funding can be found using voluntary labour from within the membership . So if you have any particular skills which could be used please give me a call. Already some ten people have indicated they will help.

Thanks to all of the B&H Committee for their help and assistance
Wishing all members a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year

Gerry Reilly



DRESS CODE on and OFF The COURSE



At a recent visit to another club this poster re dress code was spotted. It is fairly standard and the council would commend this to you and ask for your co-operation in adhering to the same.

PGA in the NORTH of IRELAND
CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

Presented by:-



ST Patrick's Golf Club Hosts PGA in the North of Ireland Championship for 2016

Day one:- LOCAL MANS LEADS AFTER ROUND ONE

It was home town success on the opening day of the Scullion Management Consulting PGA in the North of Ireland Championship, at St Patrick's, as Robbie Hutton stormed to the top of the leaderboard with a three-under-par round of 66, **writes Tony McGee.** Ardglass man Hutton, the St Patrick's Club professional, made full use of local knowledge as he pencilled in 15 pars and three birdies in a steady round, to be one shot clear of second-placed David Leathem.

At the long third hole, the overnight leader wedged to just three inches for birdie, for an outward run of 34. On his return trip he carded two birdie twos, the first at the 15th hole where he rifled a seven iron to 15 feet and rolled in the putt and the second at the last. There he steered his trusty seven iron to 10 feet and holed for 32 home.

Leathem had three birdies, as well, but one bogey which will haunt him as it prevented him from tying the lead. The slip-up was on the fifth green where he three-putted for bogey five, wiping out a two-putt, 30-foot birdie on the second surface, after driving the green. Another birdie three flew in from three feet at the seventh, after a drive and seven iron and his third three was carded at par four 15. This time a six iron approach to six feet set up the one-under. That gave Leathem halves of 34 and 33.

Also breaking par 69 were Paul Stevenson (Portadown) and Chris Carvill (Belvoir Pk) who shared 68.

Defending champion is Simon Thornton who had to pull out of Wednesday's pro-am tournament because of illness. He did play yesterday, despite still feeling unwell, and posted a three-over-par 72 to be in a group at joint 11th.



Hutton drives from first tee on his way to the half way lead

RJ&SE Scullion Management Consulting PGA in North Championship at St Patrick's

66 (-3) – R Hutton (St Patrick's).

67 – D Leathem (American Golf).

68 – P Stevenson (Portadown), C Carvill (Belvoir Pk).

69 – C Crangle (Fortwilliam), S Donnelly (Castle Hume), C Lyttle (Ballyclare).

70 – D Mooney (Nevada Bobs Belfast), B McElhinney (North West).

71 – J Murray (Royal Co Down).

72 – A Kerr (Co Armagh), G Wardlow (Spa), S Thornton (Unattached), P Collins (Galgorm Castle), A McDiarmid (Galgorm Castle).

PGA in the NORTH of IRELAND
CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

Presented by:-



MOONEY TAKES SECOND TITLE IN THREE YEARS at St PATRICKS

Day two:- MOONEY RACES THROUGH FIELD TO TAKE TITLE

Damian Mooney strode away from the rest of the field, at St Patrick's yesterday, to reclaim the Scullion Management Consulting PGA in the North of Ireland Championship, for the second time in three years.

Mooney (Nevada Bobs Belfast) fired a sizzling 62 for a six-under-par aggregate of 132 and a comfortable five shots win over joint second placed local pro Robbie Hutton and David Leathem (American Golf).

Yesterday's was a remarkable round by the winner. He pencilled in nine birdies with his two bogeys being, unusually, at short holes four and eight with a three-stab and missing the green being the problems. He didn't have a five on his card and made eight fours and eight threes, finishing with four threes in a row.

A sand iron to one foot gave Mooney his first birdie at the long third hole and the second flew in from 10 feet at the fifth for a three. Again, a drive and gap wedge to eight feet set up birdie three at seven and a sand-wedge to two inches at the ninth gave him another birdie three and an outward run of three-under-33.

Mooney's fourth birdie three nested in the 10th cup as he rolled home a 15-footer, and at long 12, he got down from 10 feet, after a drive and three wood to the green. Further birdie threes followed at 13, 16 and 17.

At 13, his sand-wedge approach finished just four feet from the flag, while the same approach to 16 left him with 25 feet to the hole but he calmly rolled that putt in, too. Damian's seventh birdie three was made when he drove just one foot short of the green and chipped to two feet at 17.

Simon Thornton took the title from Mooney last year but the defending champion finished in joint eighth position yesterday, after being unwell during both rounds.

Shaun Donnelly (Castle Hume) and Colin Lyttle (Ballyclare) must have set some sort of record in the championship. They played together in both rounds and they both carded 69 in both rounds to finish joint fourth.

RJ&SE Scullion Management Consulting PGA in North of Ireland Championship at St Patrick's

132 (-6) – D Mooney (Nevada Bobs Belfast) 70,62.

137 – R Hutton (St Patrick's) 66,71; D Leathem (American Golf) 67,70.

138 – S Donnelly (Castle Hume) 69,69; C Lyttle (Ballyclare) 69,69.

140 – B McElhinney (North West) 70,70.

141 – S Thornton (Unattached) 72,69; P Stevenson (Portadown) 68,73.

143 – C Crangle (Fortwilliam) 69,74; C Carvill (Belvoir Pk) 68,75.



Mooney watches the flight of his tee shot on the Par 3 final hole at St Patrick's GC, on his way to a back nine of 29 and a final round of 62.

Captain's Charity Day 2016 in aid of the Mid Down MS Support Group. Friday 9th September 2016



The winners of the Captains Charity Day 2016.

Included is Mary Killen (Captain's wife) (*Right of front row*) who is representing the charity along with Stephen Savage (*Right standing*) who is chair of the Mid Down MS Support Group.

A fantastic sum of over £2000 was raised for this worthy cause and a big thank you to all who helped, played in and supported the event.

Gerry.



READY GOLF

St Patrick's Golf Club has adopted **READY GOLF** philosophy.



ACTIONS YOU NEED TO ADOPT:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>No honour (except in match play) the first player ready plays</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>If you are ready to play and its safe, then play</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Walk swiftly between shots</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Think about your next shot as you walk towards your ball, be ready to play sooner</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Play your own ball before helping to look for a lost ball</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Clear the green as quickly as possible</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Leave your clubs at the side of the green nearest the next tee</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>If it is your turn to tee off do so before writing your score card</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>If you are consistently holding up the group behind and have fallen more than a hole behind the group in front then PLEASE LET THE GROUP BEHIND THROUGH</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Going forward we will be recording the time taken by each group to complete a round of competitive golf. The current average time is a respectable 3hrs 45min for a 4 Ball (Singles format). Our target with your cooperation will be to knock this average down by 5 to 10 minutes. Groups identified as being regularly outside the current average time will be monitored and where applicable asked to speed up their play. Failure to comply may ultimately result in that group being made to play at the end of the field until there is a noticeable improvement.

While the vast majority of players play golf at an acceptable pace, there is always scope to improve. The READY GOLF initiative is being adopted by many clubs including St Patrick's in order to reduce the time of play and to make golf a more enjoyable experience for all involved. We are not asking players to run round the course but simply to PLAY SMART and be READY TO PLAY.

FOR THIS INITIATIVE TO SUCCEED WE NEED THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL PLAYERS.

SPOT THE BALL !!!!!



A photo from Eileen Mullen “of where my ball ended up after my tee shot at the 17th”. If anyone else has any other interesting shots to play, photo them and let the rest of us join in the fun !!!!!

The 2018 Saint Patricks Golf Club Calendar.

You all have, I’m sure heard of the ‘Countryfile’ Calendar, well you don’t need to buy it next year we will be doing the St PGC version.

We need you to send me in any pictures you may have of the course, teams and or events that you have seen on the course or in the clubhouse. We will be producing a calendar for 2018 with the proceeds going to club funds and pictures like this are just what we need. So between now and June of next year don’t go on the course without a camera/ phone and if you get anything send it to me with the circumstances and we will see what we can produce My e-mail address is :- philposnett@hotmail.com



GREENS REPORT

(December) 2016

Phil Posnett (Convenor)

As many of you will have seen we have set out frost greens for the holes that are included in the clubs frost policy. In the case of heavy frost the following holes will be in play 1st to 3rd then a shortened 12th to 18th making 10 holes in all. It is the policy of the greens committee that the members of Saint Patrick's Golf Club deserve better than the old frost greens that were just cut on the fairway and no thought given to them. We have made permanent frost greens which will remain in situ all year round and will be tended by the staff to make them much more playable when we have to use them. They will still be in position during the summer season so after a year or so they will be much better and will be more playable and enjoyable when we have to use them. As many of these are sited in areas of rough they will take a little longer to perfect so we ask the members to be patient and I'm sure you will agree the wait will be worth it when in the winter of 2017/18 and we have to use them they will be much more fun to play.

Many of you have noticed the yellow spots on trees out on the course, this signifies that this tree will be removed. It is the policy of the committee to remove many of the trees on our course that are not in play and if you look closely you will see many of these trees surround the lovely native trees that we have. With the removal of these trees the natural trees will flourish and will provide many better hazards on the course over a period of time. We have also decided the revenue raised from the sale of the wood will be used to plant more trees on the course. First of all they will be sited on the left of the 18th and when they grow they will then be moved out on the course. These trees will be deciduous and much more in keeping with the course.

Over the winter months some of our tees will be levelled and with good weather and a little luck will be back in play in ample time for the new season.

May I take this opportunity to wish all the members a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, I would also like to thank Emmitt, Joe (Snr), Joe (Jr), John, Alan and Willie (summer months only) for the great work they do daily on our course, to my committee Liam, Lawrence, David, Ernie and Elizabeth many thanks for your help, support and great input to the set up of our course.



Club Prize Night 2016 (Men)



Winter Sweep Golfer of the Year - **Gerry Reilly**

Mick O'Reilly Trophy - **Barry McAteer**

Ulster Bank Open - **Gabriel Carlin**

Martin Vance Memorial - **Connor McMenemin**

Murphy Jewellers - **Barry Toner**

Gerry Carson Memorial - **Ethan Press**

Eamon Kearney Memorial - **Connor Tumelty**

Ford in Golf - **Stephen McQuoid**

Danny Morgan Memorial - **Ethan Press**

Locke Cup - **Joe Deegan**

Thomas McClean Memorial - **Conan George**

Pat Morgan Memorial - **Danny McGreevy**

Fiat Trophy - **Robert Connolly**

Rover Trophy - **Damien Smith**

Junior Cup Replica - **Gregory Douglas**

Polly Trophy - **Michael O'Donnell**

Lecale Cup - **Michael O'Reilly**

Rev. Donnelly Memorial - **David McMullen**

RJ&SE Scullion LLP Open - **Charlie Hutton**

Club Matchplay Winners

Saul Cup - **Barrie Reynolds**

Quoile Trophy - **James McKinney**

Reas Mixed Trophy - **Marty Miley & Elizabeth Mageean**

Magee 4 Ball Trophy - **Liam Magee & Gerard Trainor**

October Cup 2016

League 1 (10 & Under) - **Stephen McAneney**

League 2 (11 to 16) - **Andrew Redmond**

League 3 (17 & Over) - **Jonathan Rice**

Overall Winner - **Stephen McAneney**

Overall 2nd - **Jonathan Rice**

Overall 3rd - **Gary C Murray**

Golfer of the year (The Colin Minnis Trophy)

Winner - **Darragh Cotter**

Runner Up - **Mark Carson**

Club Championship 2016

Winner - **Dale Baker** - 4th Tie Hole

Runner Up - **Barry Fitzsimons.**



Club Prize Night 2016 (Ladies)



Ladies Cup Winners 2016

Downe Trophy
Nancy Dickson
Locke Cup
Ardmore Cup
Ollard & Westcombe
Roisin McCann Memorial
Molly Malone
Inglenook Cup
Challenge Cup
Summer Ringer
Golfer of the Year
Order of Merit
Silver Spoon
Bronze Medal
I.L.G.U Silver Medal

Patricia Mc Cormick
Twyla Gibson
Elizabeth Mageean
Eileen Mullen
Geraldine Magill
Geraldine Magill
Pearl Gick
Alison Rooney
Moya Cannon
Brenda Forster
Twyla Gibson
Eileen Mullen
Geraldine Magill
Geraldine Magill
Twyla Gibson

From the Pro'Shop:-



The Norman Drew team who were narrowly beat in the Final.
From left to right they are
Josh Kearney, Jack Hazard,
Ryan McCoubrey, (back) Matthew Burns &
Charlie Hutton

Josh getting a hug from
Robbie on the 18th green to
win his match & put us in the
final. We lost the final 3/2 to
Knock GC



Some old friends at the Irish
Open





SANTA COMES TO St PATRICK'S





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Introduce a new member and receive 5% off your annual subscription. There is no limit to the number of members you can introduce, therefore, you can benefit every time you introduce a new member.

Qualification for discount is restricted to current **Full Male Members** and **Lady Associate Members** referring applications for Full Male Members and Lady Associate Members. You must also be named as *Referee 1* on the Membership Application Form. For more information, please visit the membership section of the website.



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