



Ballybunion

Golf Club

an illustrated centenary history
1893 - 1993

John Redmond

Ballybunion

Ballybunion Golf Club is situated:

108 Kilometres from Shannon Airport.

56 Kilometres from Kerry (Farranfore) Airport.

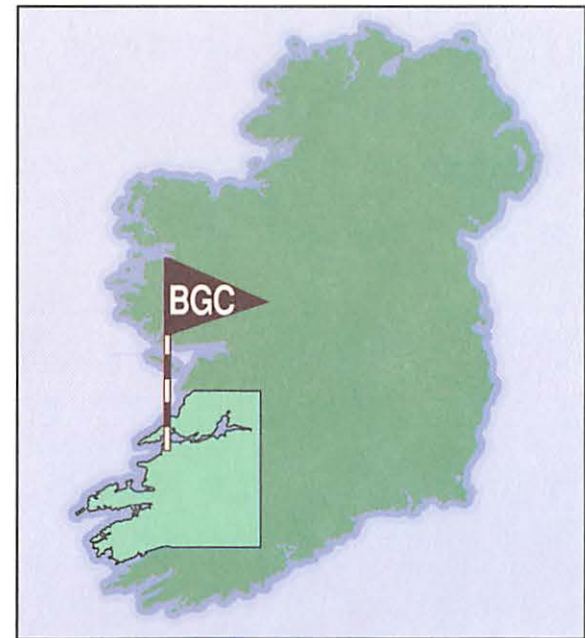
83 Kilometres from Limerick.

73 Kilometres from Killarney.

14 Kilometres from Listowel.

26 Kilometres from Killimer - Tarbert Car Ferry.

89 Kilometres from Dingle.



Ballybunion...

a holiday town with many amenities

Ballybunion, the Town of the Saplings, derives its name from an individual, some steward or land agent named Buinnean or Bunyan.

It is a lively holiday town by the Atlantic sea-shore, whose population of 1,200 increases many fold in the summer season. It has many amenities, notably a golden beach, towering cliffs, intriguing caves – and a world renowned golf club.

Ballybunion is rich in history with associations to Mesolithic times. Early iron age pins and Roman coins have been found, as well as stone lined long cists with skeletons. It is also steeped in a Norman tradition and was the scene of the faction fighting phenomenon in the early 19th century.

Bunyan was in all likelihood an Anglo Norman settler, who came in the wake of the early Geraldines.

When the descendants of the Norman leader, Maurice Fitzgerald, who died in 1176, began to

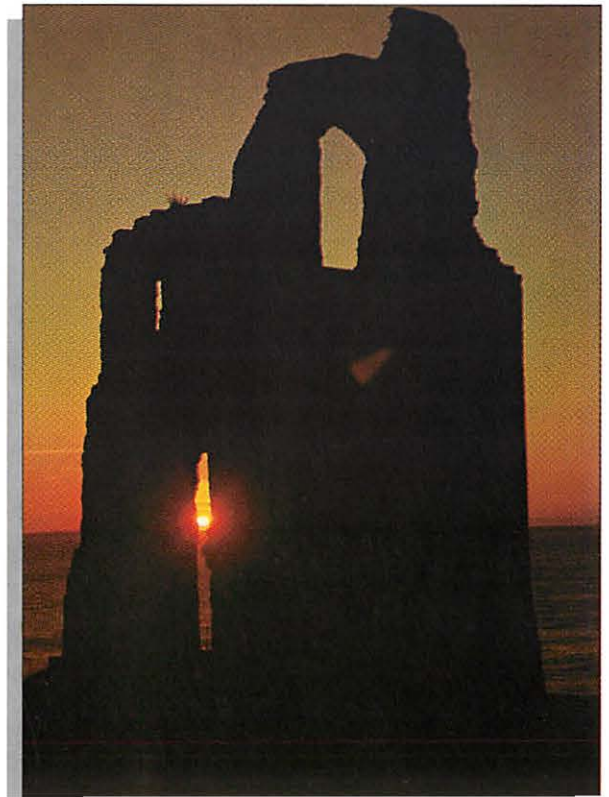
penetrate south along the coast from Limerick, shortly after 1200, they consolidated their gains by means of solid castles and the one at Ballybunion was another in their line of defence.

It is thought by some that the headland on which the Castle was built had been formally occupied by what is known to Irish archaeologists as a promontory fort.

In Tudor times, the castle in Ballybunion was controlled by the Fitzmaurices. Patrick Fitzmaurice, the Chieftain of the clan, and the 16th Lord Kerry (1541-1600), had joined the Desmond rebellion in 1580 and to prevent the Castle from falling into enemy hands, local legend is that he wrecked it.

On Ballybunion's magnificent beach took place a famous faction fight in 1834 in which 3,000 people were involved. Faction fighting was a curious form of sport that developed in the early 19th century. The death toll was such that the Government, decided to put down with a firm hand further incidents of fighting.

In 1957, when the local golf club considered that club colours and emblem be adopted, it was decided to have a wine colour flag, bearing a silhouette of Ballybunion Castle with the letters B.G.C. emblazoned underneath.



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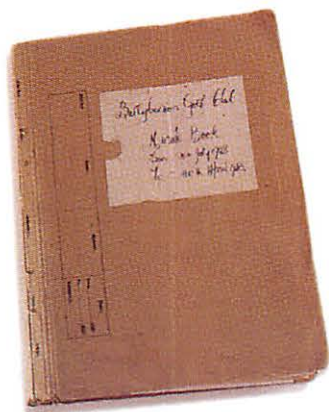
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BALLYBUNION GOLF CLUB - AN ILLUSTRATED CENTENARY HISTORY 1893 - 1993



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FOREWORD



ADDRESS BY LADY PRESIDENT

I am very honoured to be Lady President in Centenary Year.

There have been several notable lady golfers associated with the club over the years and I would like to pay tribute to Betty Latchford, Wanda Wilson and Chris Allen, whose family was so closely connected with Ballybunion golf club.

There has been a lot of hard work put into the club by management and committees in times past and, as we enter our second century, I hope we will maintain the same high standard.

Peggy Walsh

Peggy Walsh



ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT

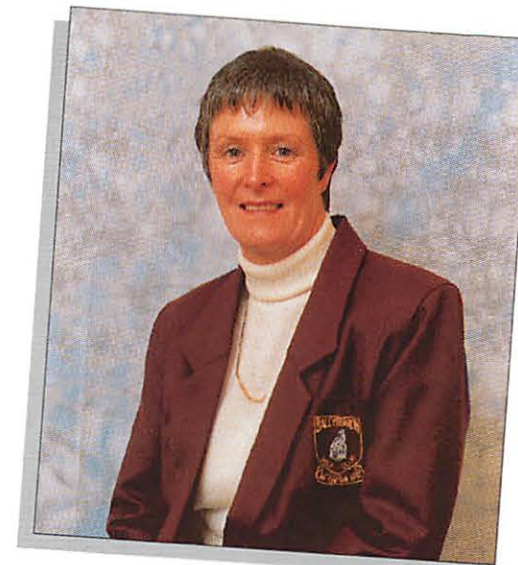
In Centenary Year, my feeling is of gratitude. We are truly fortunate to have been blessed with one of the World's most superb tracts of golfing terrain.

Successive generations of members have advanced our club to its present position. Ballybunion has helped to make Irish golf what it now is - the sparkling jewel of Irish tourism.

My hope is that our club continues to stride the road of progress and that our 100th year will prove to be a successful launching pad for a second century of success.

John Molyneaux

John Molyneaux



ADDRESS BY LADY CAPTAIN

It is a special honour to be Lady Captain in Centenary Year.

I feel humbled as I reflect on those illustrious Lady Captains who have preceded me and who have contributed so magnificently to the development of the club.

There has been a sense of expectant pride as we wait the completion of our new clubhouse. It will stand as a monument to the courage and perseverance of the officers who conceived the idea.

Go raibh rath De ar an obair agus ar aghaidh le Baile an Bhunnanaigh.

Nuala Lynch

Nuala Lynch

Captain's Foreword

It is my privilege to be Captain of Ballybunion Golf Club in this our Centenary Year and I wish to sincerely thank the members for conferring this honour on me. During this very important year for the Club, it is my utmost wish that all our members will participate in the many organised events and represent the Club at the various levels of competitions.

Likewise, I hope that those not participating will lend their support to our Club teams.

Over the years, the Club has produced very fine golfers who have brought honours to Ballybunion. With our present policy of promoting youth golf, I am sure we can look forward to many more glory days in the future.

Ballybunion has had its fair share of trauma over the years, particularly our on-going battle with the Atlantic Ocean. But thankfully our current coastal protection scheme is keeping us one step ahead in our fight.

In the past two decades Ballybunion has become an internationally famed Club, ranked in the top 10 in the world by the golfing experts and annually attracting thousands of overseas visitors.

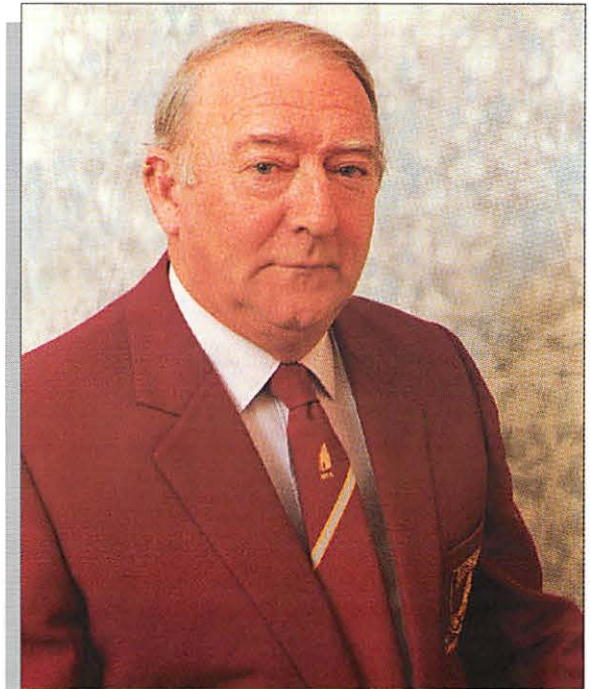
Much of this success is due to our association with Tom Watson, who arrived here in 1981 and has been a regular visitor to the Club ever since.

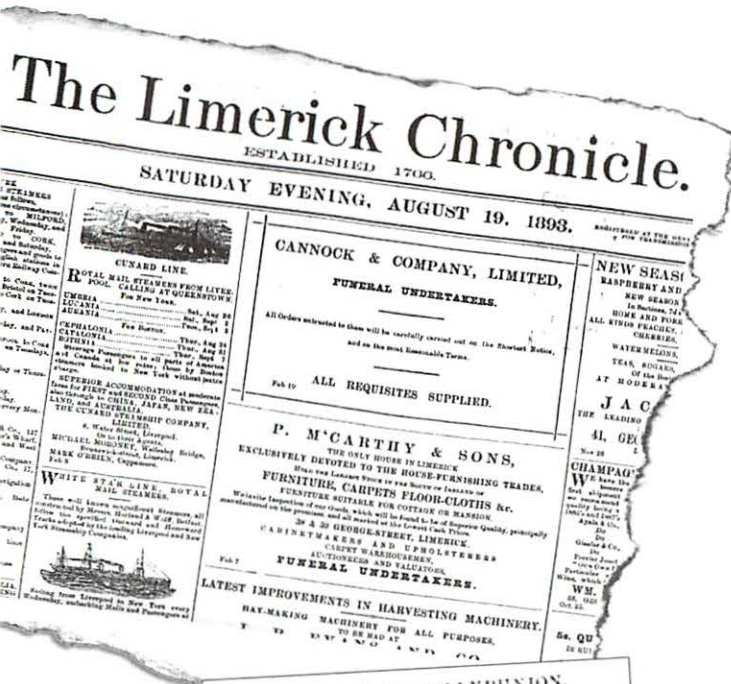
I am particularly pleased that Centenary Year also marks the opening of our new clubhouse. A debt of gratitude is due to both our Committee and Members for their efforts through the years in putting the Club where it is today.

Finally, I would like to extend a welcome to all our visitors and guests who will join us in celebrating what will hopefully be a memorable year.



Sean Walsh
Centenary Captain 1993





Creation of a golfing Mecca

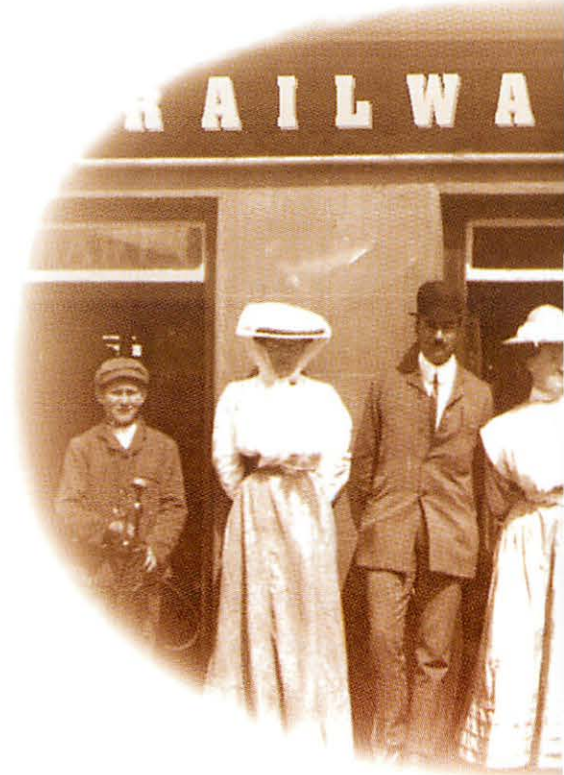
The faded and fraying pages of that noble newspaper, *The Limerick Chronicle*, preserved for antiquity, outline in understated simplicity the birth of the Ballybunion golf club. The edition of August 19th, 1893, without deferment from its characteristic quaint and demure design, and under the unornate heading: *Golf Club at Ballybunion*, reads:

charming watering place, easily reached, where they will be most comfortably lodged by Mrs.

GOLF CLUB AT BALLYBUNION.

The opening meeting of the Ballybunion Golf Club was held on the 18th inst. at the Castle Hotel, when it was decided to request Lord Listowel to allow himself to be nominated President, while Mr. Curling, of Newcastle West, and Mr. Creagh, of Listowel, were elected Vice-Presidents. Mr. Moran, of Ennismore, and Mr. D'Arcy, of Ballybunion, were chosen Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, respectively. A vote of thanks was then passed to Mr. Hewson, who very generously permits the use of the links to the club rent free. This announcement will excite much interest among the increasing numbers of the votaries of this fine game, since at Ballybunion they will find advantages that are rarely obtainable. A first rate ground—a charming watering place, easily reached, where they will be most comfortably lodged by Mrs. Kangley at the Castle, or at any other of the numerous hotels in the town. Twelve greens have been laid out upon the links, a number of which may be increased to the standard eighteen, should the members so wish. The greens all lie among the sand hills, the turf is of the springiest, and the course offers every variety of golfing incident. Persons wishing to join the club are requested to communicate with the honorary treasurer, Mr. D'Arcy, Ballybunion.

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The said Mr. Nicholas Upton D'Arcy was of a distinguished law family, who had followed in

his father's footsteps, as a lawyer, but who had departed his native Newcastle West (28 miles from Ballybunion) under a cloud in the early 1880s.

It seems he was unwise enough to buy land at Cooltomin, near Rathkeale, fell foul of the Land League, was boycotted, and retired to Ballybunion a chastened man.

The valiant D'arcy took up residence at "Sea Cliff", overlooking the strand, and was all of 72 years when he was instrumental in establishing the Ballybunion club.

D'Arcy's love for his adopted village and the golf club he helped to create, was poignantly underlined when he passed away in September, 1909, with the dying wish that he should be buried in Killahenny Cemetery, adjacent to the golf links. His grave-stone, which was visible up to some decades ago, has, disappeared under the overgrowth of the sinewy grass, so characteristic of the rough on the golf club links.

Being in Ballybunion meant that D'arcy entertained his friends to the "health giving

ambience of the location", as he would say, and it was in pursuit of such outlet that he invited on summer holiday the aforementioned club Vice-President Richbell Curling, to whose first

cousin, Rosaleen Jane he was married.

Curling had also accompanied fellow socialite Dick O'Grady, later to become Lord Guillamore, on such visits to Ballybunion, and both these central characters and their ladies, frequented the Railway Hotel, from where they used walk, with caddies, down the main street to the links.

The enthusiasm to establish a golf club would also have been sparked by momentous events of 14 months previously, when the Golfing Union of Ireland was formed.

In the official history of the G.U.I., written by *William A. Menton*, it is acknowledged that the Ballybunion club was instituted in 1893, but that it took time for the formation of the remote Kerry club to become known outside the immediate area is evidenced by the fact that it was not until 12th July, 1895 that the publication, *Golfing* stated that: "Golf Links have been recently started at Ballybunion..." *The Golfing Annual*, Vol. X 1896-'97, consolidating its existence in the Club Directory, stated: "The course of nine holes is over a rabbit warren, but is not particularly well catered for. It might be made an excellent one."

(There seems to have existed some breakdown in communications regarding the number of holes, as *The Golfing Annual*, Vol. XI, 1897, gives as a description: "The course of 18 holes, in circuit about three and a half miles, stretches along the shore of the Atlantic, within five minutes walk of the town, where there are excellent hotels with special terms for golfers.)



Left: Golfers and socialites – some founder members of the Ballybunion club, with caddie in attendance, include Richard Curling; members of the O'Grady family; Nicholas Upton and Rosaleen Jane D'Arcy, departing the Railway Hotel for golf.



CREATION

That the spirited pioneer founder members had moved to enhance standards was outlined in an advertisement taken out in *The Limerick Chronicle*, 7th March, 1896:

"Ladies and gentlemen wishing to join the Ballybunion golf club are requested to send their name to the Hon. Secretary." As an inducement, it went on to say: "The Waterford and Limerick Railway Co. and the Ballybunion and Listowel Railway will issue first class return tickets to members of the golf club only, at the following rates –

From Limerick to Ballybunion ... 4/-
From Rathkeale, Newcastle and Tralee ... 3/6

These tickets will be available for one week. Terms of subscription on application to C. Mark Montserrat. Hon. Secretary. Athea, Co. Limerick."

By now, at 75 years of age, Nicholas D'arcy, who had undertaken the initial recruitment drive as Hon. Treasurer, had handed over the running of the Ballybunion Club to the Committee, of James. D. Crosbie, Capt. F.T. Verschoyle, Ralph Mansfield, C. Mark Montserrat, F. Creagh.

It is significant, in the momentum gathering at this stage in Ireland for golf, that Crosbie and Creagh were noted sports enthusiasts. Francis Creagh was a racehorse owner and rider and James Dayrolles Crosbie, agent to the 3rd Earl of Listowel, was well disposed towards the Earl

making a sportsfield available to the towns people. This accounts for the strong connection of Listowel and Gaelic games, i.e. Listowel Emmets Gaelic Football Club.

The perceptive nature of this Committee is underlined in the Minute Book, which has been preserved and is in the possession of the club, detailing that at its Committee Meeting, held on March 4th, 1896 -

"Letter read from Capt. Verschoyle, making following suggestions. That the club can manage without cottage or pavilion 'till it sees how it gets on as regards members...

"That a ground man be got to keep greens in order and "That the annual subscription be for Gentlemen 15/- and 7/6 for Ladies.

"The Committee thought that the subscription should be £1 for Gentlemen, 10/- for Ladies ...

"It was proposed that Mr. George Hewson, Ennismore, be asked to act as President of the club.

"Letter read from Mr. George Hewson offering to let the ground for golfing purposes at £10 per annum for 10 years, said rent to be abated to £1 per annum for the first three years."

From a meeting of the Committee on Friday, 20th March, 1896, extracts read:

"That P. Murphy be employed to look after the ground at 9/- per week.

"Caddies to be paid 6d per round.

"That the President of the club and his family be members without subscription.

**The Listowel and
Ballybunion Railway**



A.T. Newham

**Locomotion Papers Number
Thirty-Three**

Published by The Oakwood Press
Price 9s. 6d.



Influence of the Lartigue

"The queerest railway in the World"

*"Of railways let anyone speak,
of the Grand Trunk on Western Union,
sure there isn't one like the Lartigue,
that runs into famed Ballybunion."
– The song of Lartigue.*

Even an era like the existing one, that takes accessibility for granted, will be moved by the enterprise of the Parish Priest of Ballybunion and the conception of a Frenchman. They combined to help spread the golfing gospel.

On September 14th, 1883, the Rev. Fr. Mortimer O'Connor, with an influential deputation of local residents, anxious that Ballybunion should be made more accessible to the public, appeared before the Listowel Board of Guardians seeking their co-operation in providing a tramway between the two places.

The following resolution, recorded in *The Listowel and Ballybunion Railway*, by A.T. Newham, was unanimously passed: "that this meeting, fully endorses every statement made and pledges all co-operation in their power towards the construction of the tramway."



Opposite page: Scene at Ballybunion Station, circa 1888.

Left: Play in progress, as Lartigue draws sand.

It was envisaged that concurrent with the opening, a Building Society would be established in Ballybunion to provide small houses and villas, thus, in the course, of time, fostering a sizeable residential traffic.

It should be remembered that in those days, Ballybunion comprised one street, a hotel, a

number of licensed houses, a post office and, probably a police station.

After some teething troubles in having the idea implemented, ensuing goodwill towards the project was reflected in that most of the local farmers had reached agreement with the promoters regarding the acquisition of land for the railway, including that of

the principal local landlord, George Hewson. He owned the sandhills and foreshore where the golf links were to be laid some years later.

Meanwhile, it was brought to the attention of the Munster Tramways project that the invention of a Frenchman (although there is conjecture that he might actually have been

born in Spain), by the melodious name of Charles Francois Marie-Therese Lartigue would be best suited. It was felt that his monorail invention could be provided at much less cost than orthodox railway systems and was, therefore, particularly suitable for districts of low population density, or where the terrain was of a difficult nature.

Lartigue had patented his peculiar looking principle in more than a half dozen European countries, as well as the U.S.A. and Brazil. Apart from a short demonstration line at Tothill Fields, Westminster, London; the Listowel and Ballybunion railway was the only public railway of its type to be built in the then British Isles. Odd, indeed, was the appearance of the steam powered, apparently wheel-less locomotive, with the carriages straddled either side of a single, centre rail from an axle on which was mounted a flanged centre and hidden wheel.

It is said in J. Anthony Gaughan's book *Listowel and its vicinity* that "it's appearance gave the impression of two hampers of turf strung across a donkey's back."

Formerly opened amid great local ceremony on Leap Year Day, February, 1888, it is recorded that the novel rail concept left Listowel for Ballybunion, comprising eight coaches and 100 passengers. The line that was to create a new

awareness of Ballybunion and its facilities, i.e., golf from 1893, had been made and equipped at a cost of £30,000, or roughly £3,000 per mile, including rolling stock.

The time taken on the inaugural run from Listowel to Ballybunion was 40 minutes, travelling at less than 15 m.p.h., and with passenger weight balanced on either side of the

same train. The solution arrived at was to counter balance with two calves! For the return journey, one calf was placed on either side.

A telling statement of the initial success of the venture (36,193 passengers travelled on the line in 1899) described by the writer *Bryan McMahon*, as "the queerest railway in the world," was that when the working of the line came under the



Golfers at Limerick Junction, en route to Ballybunion.

management of Mr. Patrick McCarthy (by happy coincidence also the golf club honorary secretary, another founder member, William Shortis was the Station Master at Ballybunion) the goodwill of the railway to the golf club is recorded in the minutes of the Ballybunion club, for March 4th, 1896, when a letter was read on behalf of the railway company, saying they –

rail. Indeed, there were to follow numerous stories of eccentricities, mainly centred on the balancing problems.

One lady wanted a piano delivered to Ballybunion, causing consternation in that there was unlikely to be a second piano on the

"Would issue first class return tickets from Limerick, available for one week at the following rates

- Limerick to Ballybunion four shillings;
- Rathkeale, Newcastle and Tralee to Ballybunion, three shillings and six pence."

LARTIGUE

The appreciation of the golf club, at the same meeting, is outlined in the notes, thus: "The Listowel and Ballybunion Railway Company have given the club great help by getting down a professional to lay out the ground at their own expense."

Considering the influence of the Lartigue line on the village of Ballybunion and, in this instance, its golfing facility (the floor of the



first clubhouse was laid with railway sleepers and its present owner, Tess Kissane says that traces of stud marks are still in evidence), it was a shame that circumstances of these troubled times combined to bring about its closure.

By 1916, the running of the Railway had passed to Government control but on the conclusion of that control in 1921, circumstances were pretty hopeless. The disturbed political times of that period and the 1922-23 Civil War took a toll. In September, 1920, the 4.48p.m. train out of Ballybunion, no doubt including returning

golfers, was held up by masked men. Two years later, the Ballybunion Station was blown up. Mail robberies and disruption became so bad that services were suspended.

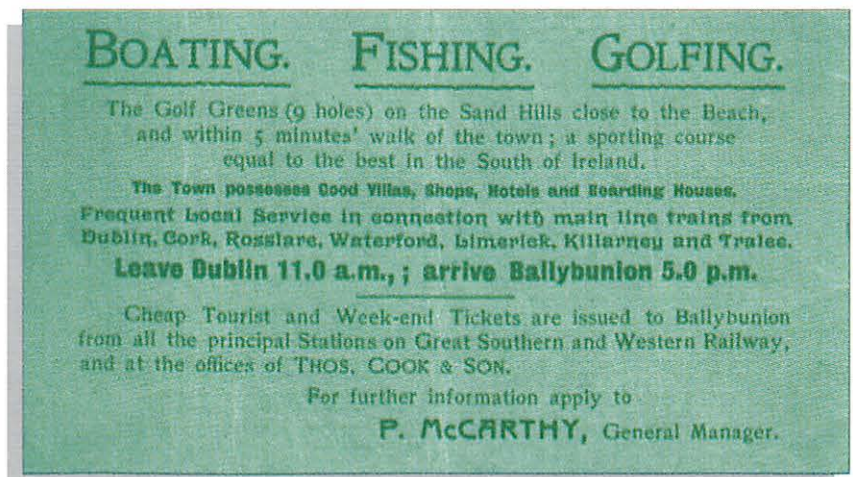
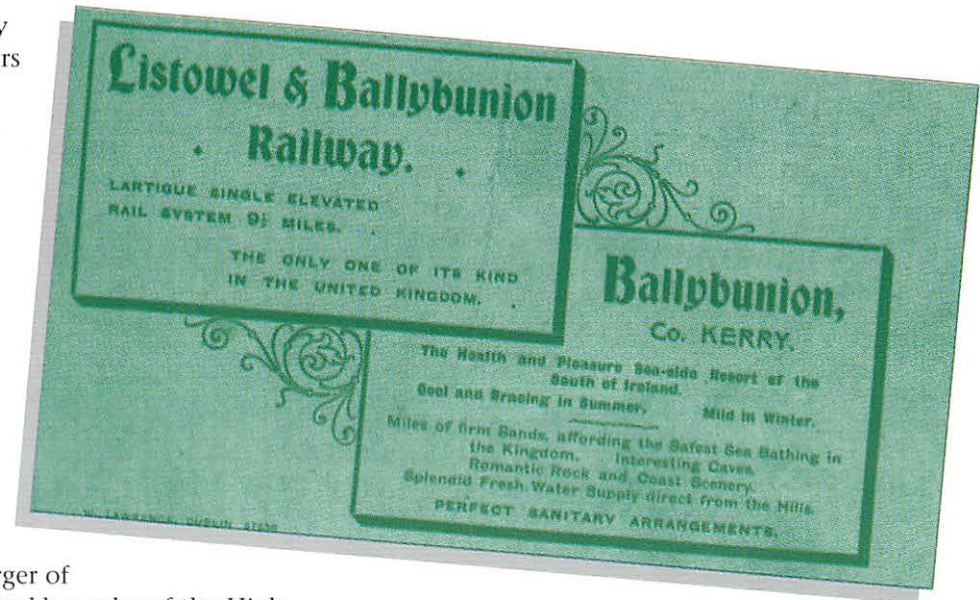
Owing to lack of funding, carriages could not be repaired and when unsuccessful efforts were then made to get the line included in the Great Southern Railway merger of 1924, the line was closed by order of the High Court of Dublin.

It was a sad ending, as the extraordinary Lartigue monorail had played a telling role in fostering the efforts to help establish golf at Ballybunion.

Top left: A 'load' of golfers from the Lartigue.

Top right: Promotional literature issued by the Listowel and Ballybunion Railway Company which helped to popularise golf.

Right: Ballybunion's varied attractions.





Old Course – the product of many skilled hands

A profound contention on the creation of a golf course, says that if God did not design it, then the good architect will make it such as if He did.

Ballybunion is a classic case in point, the Old Course being the product of many a perceptively skilled hand. The club Minutes of March 4th, 1896 pay respects to the "Listowel and Ballybunion Railway Company (who) have given the club great help, by getting down a professional to lay out the ground at their own expense." This work was carried out, circa 1892-3, in

association with the drive to engender passenger business for the Lartigue railway line between Listowel and Ballybunion and which was inaugurated in 1888.

The identity of the professional in question can not be factually ascertained. The indications point to the ambitious James McKenna, the first professional at Lahinch golf club and who travelled widely in similar pursuit. He is also associated with pioneering work at Waterville. Along with the theory on McKenna, the possibility that Old Tom Morris of St.

Andrews (and who is also associated with the early years at Lahinch) did the work, is not out of the question. It is raised in the *Limerick Chronicle* newspaper of March 18th, 1897.

In a letter signed P. McCarthy, General Manager, Listowel and Ballybunion Railway, he responds to criticism featured in an article headed, Golf Links of Kerry, March 6th, 1897, *Irish Times*, that Ballybunion "would be a most sporting course were it not for the rabbit burrows and bent grass" by retorting –

OLD COURSE

Opposite page: Tom Simpson and Molly Gourlay, unique architectural team, set against background of Gourlay in action.

Right: Old Tom Morris, may have had a hand in early design, and Tom jnr.

Far right: Scoring effort from 1914.

Bottom right: Venerable, James Braid, employed by Messrs. Carter and Sons to work on the course?



Ballybunion Date *18 July 1914*

COMPETITOR'S NAME *C. M. Boylan* COMPETITION *Stroke*

BOGEY						BOGEY					
No.	Yards	Woods	Score	+ -	o	No.	Yards	Woods	Score	+ -	o
1	267	4	13	4		10	267	4	7	4	
2	170	4	4	4		11	170	4	7	4	
3	118	3	5	3		12	118	3	5	3	
4	450	5	10	6		13	450	5	10	8	
5	265	4	10	6		14	265	4	6	4	
6	403	5	8	5		15	403	3	9	5	
7	430	5	8	7		16	430	4	17	6	
8	268	4	7	6		17	268	5	6	6	
9	390	5	8	5		18	390	5	8	6	
GRAND TOTAL	2761	39					2761	39			
Total 73						Total 75					
Medal						Bogey					
39						39					
MARKER'S SIGNATURE						W. Sheehan					

"I desire to say that these two defects have been remedied and the course (which, by the way, is an 18 and not as the article says, a nine hole one) with its natural sand bunkers is now, I venture to say, one of the best in Ireland. It was laid out last year by the professional who laid out the links at Lahinch (McKenna or Tom Morris?) ..."

It is probably less likely that Morris was involved, as considering his status (winner of the British Open Belt four times between 1816 and 1867), there should hardly exist ambiguity about his involvement.

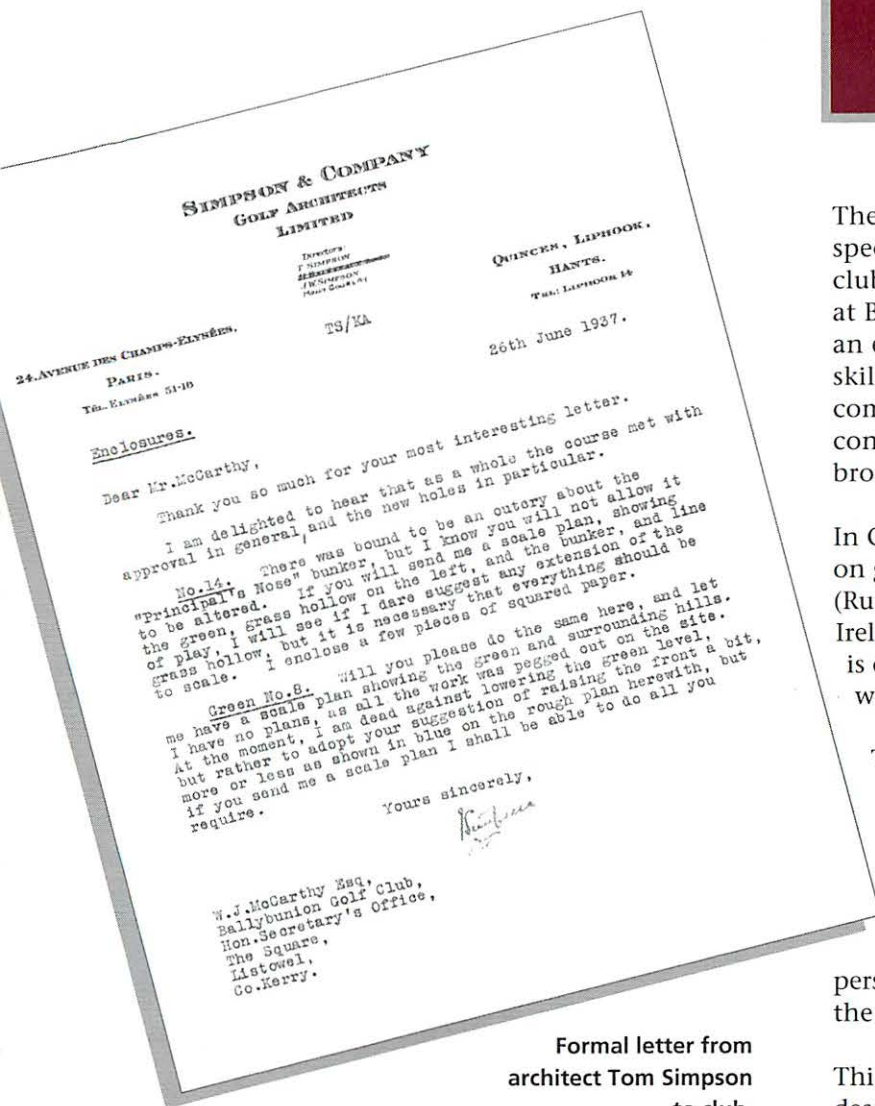
Interestingly, there is also a link with Ballybunion and James Braid, five times British Open champion (1901-1910) after Capt. Lionel Hewson shared in the momentum that saw a

refurbishment of the Ballybunion links in 1906 by "bringing to life" an unkempt "rabbit warren" with a flourishing upgraded nine hole lay out.

[Capt. Lionel Lloyd Hewson, born 1874, educated in Perthshire and the United Services College, Westward Ho. He was most probably related to the original landlord George Hewson and was in Ballybunion on leave from the Army (Lord Longford's Irish Horse squadron leader, South Irish Horse, Royal Munster Fusiliers). Considering his knowledge of the land and of golf – he was to become first Editor of *Irish Life* and golf correspondent for several newspapers – he was invited by the Ballybunion committee (1906) of Col. Bartholomew, a retired Army officer; B.J. Johnstone of the Bank of Ireland, Listowel; Patrick McCarthy, Hon. Secretary and John Macaulay of Listowel, to advise on the restoration of the course.]



OLD COURSE



Formal letter from
architect Tom Simpson
to club.

The mention of Braid, he of the original Triumvirate with Taylor and Vardon, comes about when a decision was taken to restore the links to its original full 18 holes. The Committee entrusted the work to Messrs. Carter and Sons, of Raynes Park, London.

They were the well known sports grounds specialists of the time and William McCarthy, club secretary, later wrote in *The Story of Golf at Ballybunion* – that Messrs. Carter "provided an experienced golf course architect and a skilled head foreman, who planned and completed, with all local workmen, the construction of the 18-hole links, which were brought into play in 1927."

In Geoffrey Cornish's and Ron Whitten's opus on golf course architecture, *The Golf Course* (Rutledge Press), Braid, who was later to work in Ireland at Tullamore and Mullingar golf clubs, is credited with having overseen this extension work.

The inference is that Braid was employed by Messrs. Carter and Sons in this regard, although, as in the case of Old Tom Morris, it hardly seems credible that the knowledgeable Hon. Secretary of the Ballybunion club would not be aware of the presence of such an eminent personality, albeit Braid was considered when the Old Course was being extended in 1936.

This upgrading of the links was in a period described by Lionel Hewson as "the Ballybunion Push", as there followed quite a few alterations. Much of the work would have been performed under the direction of men such as Hewson himself, McCarthy; John Scanlon, better known as Jackie. He was born on the Sandhill Road which runs parallel to the existing fourth and fifth fairways, and he worked through the 1920s and up to 1931 on the course (though he

also gave lessons!). Then came Maurice "Moses" O'Neill, who replaced Scanlon when the latter moved to Tralee golf club in a club professional capacity, and who as the club's first bona fide full professional, also had a say in architectural alterations.

Changes made are referred to in the Annual Report of 1929 – "A completely new second green has been constructed on modern lines for it was felt that the approach to the old green, which was of the old fashioned type, was unsatisfactory. The result has been to provide a first class hole which was merited the highest approval of prominent players ... your



Shoeless caddie
at work.

OLD COURSE



Left: Huge 'bunker' half a century ago, where now stands the fourth fairway. (N.B. Marconi transmitter masts in background).

Right: Letter from Co. Louth seeking information on architect Simpson.

arrival of Tom Simpson and Molly Gourlay, who, your author is satisfied, were to have the single most profound influence on the Old Course, as you see it today!

Club minutes show that, on July 3rd, 1936, the Hon. Secretary

"drew the attention of the Committee to the discussion which took place at the Annual General Meeting (May 22nd, 1936) as to the advisability of lengthening the course for the purpose of the Irish Men's Close championship, which was to be played over the links in the year of 1937.

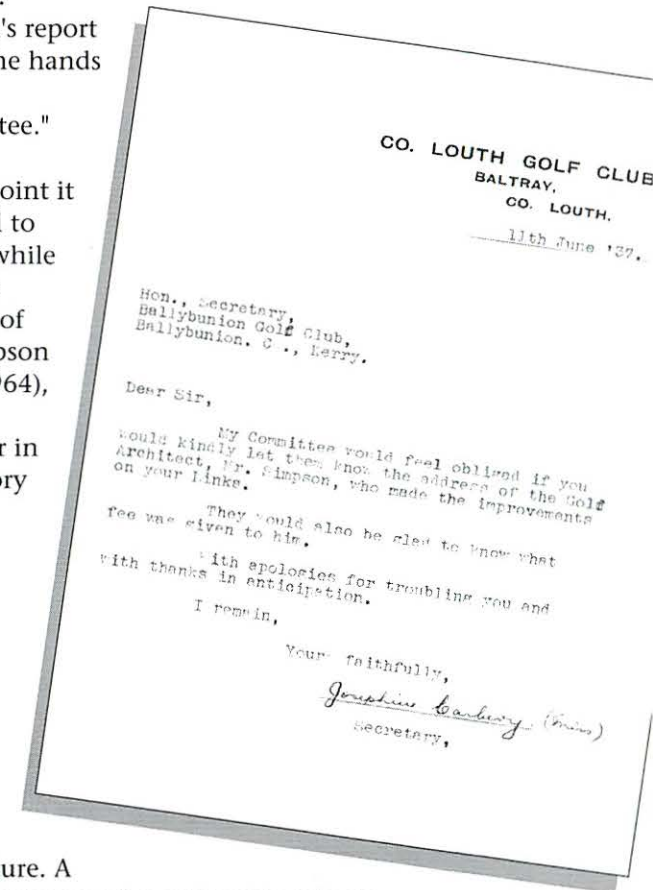
"He stated that since the Annual Meeting, he had been in correspondence with the three best known golf course architects, namely, Mr. James Braid; Messrs. Colt, Allison and Morrison and Messrs. T. Simpson and Co. and he submitted to the meeting this correspondence and the literature sent to him by the various architects."

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on August 19th, 1936 took the proposal a critical stage further: "It was resolved that the Hon. Secretary be instructed to write to Mr. T.

Simpson requesting him to visit the course as early as possible at the inclusive fee of £45-0-0 but that no decision be taken as to whether any alterations would be carried out to the course until Mr. Simpson's report was in the hands of the Committee."

At this point it is as well to dwell a while and take account of Mr. Simpson (1877-1964), a rare character in the history of golf course

architecture. A flamboyant man of considerable private means, Simpson spurned a career in law (he studied at Trinity College, Cambridge and was called to the Bar in 1905), so that he could indulge his passion for golf course design. This



Committee feel, however, that much work has yet to be done on the course, for, it has become apparent, as a result of recent competitions, that the course is too short for modern requirements and, if the Club is to achieve its ambition of possessing a really first-class modern golf course, additional length must be obtained."

Major adjustments to the course continued; for example, by April 1933, Hewson and O'Neill had moved the first green "which was carried out at a very small cost and makes a great improvement to your Course. An endeavour was made to construct a new 11th green but it was decided that the alteration would not be value for the amount to be expended."

Finance, or more precisely, the lack of it, was also central to the next and perhaps most significant architectural milestone. It led to the

OLD COURSE

he certainly did in the grand manner, travelling everywhere in a chauffeur driven Rolls Royce. An eccentric character, most times seen in dark glasses and wearing a beret, he was a collector of fine wines, walking sticks, Persian rugs and cigars!

It was Simpson's philosophy that a proper understanding of the principles of course design could only be achieved by a detailed study of the Old Course at St. Andrews and as regards construction, his view was that no two greens should ever be alike and that a course should appear as natural as possible.

Co-author of *The Architectural Side of Golf* (Longmans, Green and Co., 1929) with Herbert Newton Wethered, Simpson's most famous works, along with Ballybunion, (either original or re-design) take account of Cruden Bay and Muirfield in Scotland; Co. Louth and Carlow in Ireland; Royal Porthcawl in Wales; Sunningdale in England; Chantilly in France and Royal Antwerp in Belgium.

Considering his eccentricity, it was hardly surprising that he was also noted for breaking new ground by the appointment of Molly Gourlay as

Left: Prize voucher to Dr. W. O'Sullivan, Clarke Cup winner, 1936.

his assistant. Born in Basingstoke, Hampshire, she is believed to be the first female golf course architect on this side of the world. (A woman named May Dunn, of the famous Dunns of Musselburgh, designed courses in the American West prior to the First World War). Ms. Gourlay relied heavily on her experience as a top player, twice English ladies' champion (1926 and 29), a Curtis Cup player (1932 and 34) and before her death in 1990, at 91 years of age, she confirmed to the noted American freelance writer and golf historian, Ronald S. Crowley, that she had assisted Simpson at Ballybunion and, indeed, in his other Irish projects.

It is interesting to note that Gourlay's sentiments on course design were complementary to Simpson, as she contended: "... short holes give me more interest and amusement than any on the course ... they give me endless scope for entertainment and ingenuity: I have often thought that a course stands or falls by its short holes." (N.B. the fact that the Ballybunion Old Course contains five Par 3 holes!)

At once, the team of Simpson and Gourlay were smitten by what they encountered at Ballybunion. In his report, dated 14th September, 1936, Simpson notes: "the beauty of the terrain surpasses that of any golf course we know, not excepting Pine Valley in America.

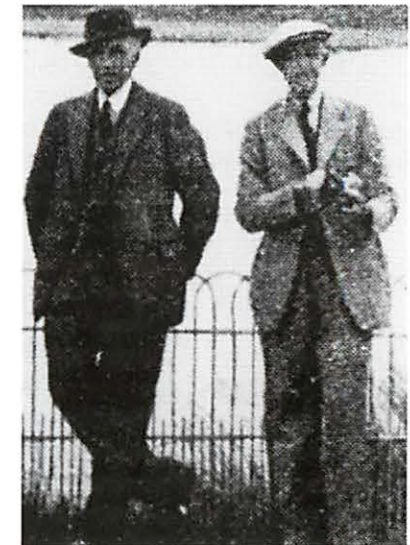
"... never for one moment did we imagine, or expect to find, such a really great course or such a glorious piece of golfing ground. While we have very little fault to find with the skeleton

Estimate (A)		
Embodying all our recommendations.		
No. 1	£4	No. 10.....£135
No. 2	£113	No. 11.....£200
No. 3	£4	No. 12.....£25
No. 4	£101	No. 13.....£2
No. 5	£7	No. 14.....£35
No. 6	£13	No. 15.....£6
No. 7.....£Nil		No. 16.....£30
No. 8	£113	No. 17.....£Nil
No. 9	£8	No. 18.....£12
	£363	£445

Estimate (B)	
The alterations that we consider essential, in order of priority.	
No. 14.....	£35
No. 1	£4
No. 2.....	£113
No. 4.....	£101
No. 5.....	£7
No. 8.....	£113
No. 9.....	£8
No. 18.....	£12
No. 16.....	£30
No. 15.....	£6
No. 12.....	£25
No. 13.....	£2
No. 3.....	£4
	£460

Above:
Estimates presented to the club by Simpson and Gourlay.

Right:
Influential architects, Tom Simpson left, with Lionel Hewson.



OLD COURSE

Right: Card of the Old Course.

Bottom: Course equipment used, circa 1930.

plan and general lay-out, many of the holes, indeed most to them, lack – as it were – a finishing touch, and it is to these finishing touches that we are going to direct our attention and bring to your notice."

The comprehensive report, added: "we understand very well the financial position of the club and we shall be careful to advise only what, in our opinion, is absolutely necessary in order to give the course that character that is essential if it is to take the place it deserves among the great classic courses of the world."

"What are the essential features of a great course?" Simpson challenged the Committee "... that it shall provide an interesting and searching test for the Tigers and a fair and pleasant form of recreation for the moderate player and the long handicap man, each class of golfer having their problem to solve, having regard to their respective capacities" he told them.

Simpson and Gourlay then proceeded to outline two Estimates (see accompanying material) : (A), at £1,093-0-0 and (B), at £650-0-0.

At a club committee meeting on September 17th, 1936, the Minutes state: "It was unanimously agreed that Estimate (A) was quite beyond the financial resources of the club and that Estimate (B) be taken in consideration. Mr. John Macaulay, President, expressed the opinion that the

maintenance and improvement of the course should be the first consideration of the Committee and that any available monies should be spent in this direction. He then proposed that Estimate (B) be adopted. This proposition was not seconded.

"Dr. J. McGuire proposed an amendment that the work recommended in Estimate (B) be carried out with the deletion from of the proposed alterations at the 16th and either the 2nd or 8th Holes and that not more than £500 be expended on the whole work. This amendment was seconded by Mr. John Macauley, and, on a show of hands, Mr. E.C. Faley and the Secretary voted for the amendment which was declared carried."

Club records do not include details of the full submission made by Simpson and Gourlay. Instead, the Story of Golf at Ballybunion, by William J. McCarthy (Hon. Secretary from 1928 to 1952) merely relates:

"Mr. Simpson was so delighted with the course that he recommended only three changes – namely altering the sites for the second (7th), fourth (9th) and eighth (13th) greens and some minor changes, one of which was the placing of a mid-fairway bunker at the 14th (1st). This bunker became known as Mrs. Simpsons and though opinions about it differ widely, it at least has the merit of providing a topic for much animated discussion."



COMPETITION										PLAYER B		H/CAP	
MEN													
No.	Blue	White	Green	Par	Inx	A	B	+	-	LADIES			
1	392	366	329	4	11					Red	Par	Inx	Stroke
2	445	394	385	4	1					267	4	14	out
3	220	211	185	3	9					363	5	4	In
4	520	504	490	5	17					184	3	16	Tot
5	524	496	481	5	15					483	5	6	Hcap
6	364	344	324	4	5					411	5	6	Nett
7	423	400	386	4	7					281	4	8	
8	153	137	125	3	13					351	4	12	
9	454	430	411	4	3					118	3	2	
Out	3495	3282	3116	36						396	5	18	
										2824	38	10	

10	359	336	312	4	10					266	4	9	v Par
11	453	400	384	4	2					346	4	1	Won
12	192	179	166	3	8					165	3	13	Lost
13	484	466	466	5	16					396	5	5	Res
14	131	118	118	3	18					118	3	15	
15	216	197	197	3	4					186	4	17	
16	499	475	475	5	14					390	5	11	
17	385	362	362	4	6					319	4	7	Sford
18	379	360	360	4	12					306	4	3	1st 9
In	3098	2959	2840	35						2494	36	In	2nd 9
Tot	6593	6241	5956	71						5318	74	Tot	Tot
SS	72	70	68							73	SS		

PLAYER'S SIGNATURE _____

MARKER'S SIGNATURE _____

ALL MEASUREMENTS IN YARDS

RESULT

Doubts are,

Doubts are, therefore, cast on the oft-repeated tale of how Simpson and Gourlay were so taken that they suggested only minor changes. On the contrary, they submitted far-ranging alterations and while financial restrictions ruled out their immediate implementation, signs are that in subsequent changes made, direction came from the report by Simpson and Gourlay, which was in the hands of the club!

For example, in 1960, under the guidance of Matt O'Sullivan, Ballybunion club stalwart and reigning Captain, a hill was removed at the third and ninth holes and a blind tee shot was eliminated at the 11th, much as Simpson had recommended.

To attribute credit to any one architectural firm for the Old Course would of course be invalid. The links have evolved through the hard work of its conscientious sequence of Committees and members, as well as the skilled touch of many professional architects, but most especially for what you see today, to the inspiration of Tom Simpson and Molly Gourlay.

OLD COURSE



OLD COURSE



Opposite page:
Magnificent dunes
and sea, viewed from
the back of the 16th
green.

Left: Welcome to
Ballybunion's Old
Course.

Right: Unique setting.



Above: Miss Latchford - Irish Lady Champion, 1932.

Right: Mr. J. Clarke, Captain, presenting Miss. Betty Latchford with her cup. Included - Left to Right - Mrs. Cuthell, President, I.L.G.U., Mrs. Smith, hon. sec., I.L.G.U., Mr. John A. Macaulay, club President, and Mr. W. McCarthy, hon. secretary.

LADIES

Ladies

at the heart of the club since foundation

Ladies have been playing golf at Ballybunion since the club was founded. The original lady members were of the socialite Curling and O'Grady families, the principals in establishing the club during summer holidays from Newcastle West as guests of the resident golf enthusiasts and co-founder members, Nicholas Upton and Rosaleen Jane D'Arcy.

Picture evidence shows the families, with accompanying caddies and clubs, preparing to depart the Railway Hotel to play golf. Julia O'Grady is identified as a particular devotee.

The announcement of the formation of the club, in the *Limerick Chronicle*, 19th August, 1893, outlining that "persons wishing to join the club" should communicate with the Hon.



LADIES

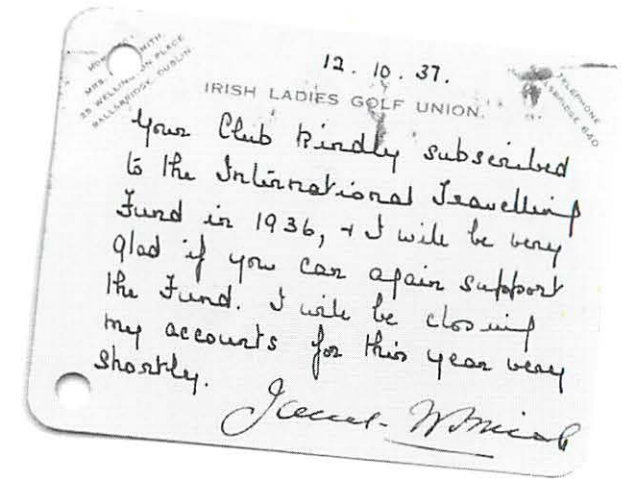


Left: Mrs. Rosalie Venn (nee Shortis), Club's first Lady Captain, in striking pose. Inset – her daughter Angela Gilmore-Shortis, Lady Captain, 1971.



Right: Acknowledgement from Irish Ladies Golf Union, 1937.

Bottom left: Close finalists, 1936 – Clarrie Tiernan, right, winner and Sybil Moore.



Meeting on September 2nd, 1932, reading: "on the suggestion of Dr. J. McGuire, it was resolved that the Committee place on record an expression of their appreciation of the generosity of Mr. James Clarke, the club Captain, in presenting a handsome silver cup for a Ladies' Annual Strokes competition."

Full membership status elections are registered up to April 26th, 1940 (Miss. J. O'Donoghue, Bank of Ireland, Listowel, being elected at the same meeting as six men full members), but, subsequent Committee meetings, in June and November of that year, show Election of Members as Full and Associate.



Treasurer, Mr. N. D'Arcy, and a subsequent advertisement placed by the club in the same newspaper on March 7th, 1896, reading: "Ladies and gentlemen wishing to join the Ballybunion club are requested to send their name to the Hon. Secretary," clearly illustrates the critical role that the ladies played.

It is also noted from the surviving Minute Book, at a Committee Meeting on March 4th, 1896, that: "The Committee thought that the subscription should be . . . 10/- (shillings)



for ladies; 15/- for 2 ladies; 17/6 for 3 and £1 for 4 ladies."

Furthermore, ladies joined the men members with the shared status of Ordinary, or Full, as indicated in the Annual Report for year ending 30th April, 1929, showing:-

Men:	Full Members - 32
	Country Members - 49
Women:	Full Members - 22
	Country Members - 18

The term Ordinary members is used in the Annual Report of 30th April, 1932, showing:-

Men:	Ordinary - 37
	Country - 89
Women:	Ordinary - 24
	Country - 31

That the ladies were on a strong footing, is also evidenced by the record at a Committee

LADIES



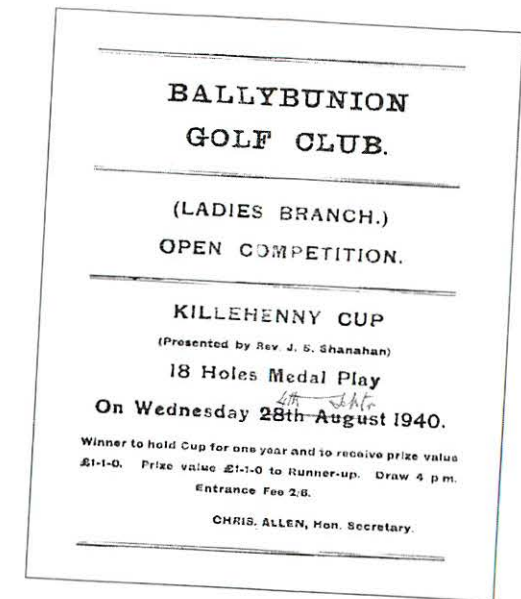
Left: Congratulations: Pat Quinlan, left, Lady Captain 1958, presents her prize to Carmel O'Grady.

Bottom: Lady golfers gather outside the first clubhouse prior to a game.

Hon. Secretary should notify all Lady Full Members accordingly."

(N.B. The option of full membership status for ladies was restored in 1992).

Mrs. Rosalie Venn (nee Shortis) was duly elected first Captain and the inaugural Captain's Prize was held on September 8th, 1941, by match play format, for eight entries, the winner was



Miss Morrison. The same player also won the Guards Cup on September 17th with a net 72, off 11 handicap and she also won the following competition, by 4 and 3 over Miss Galvin.

The Committee Meeting of Friday, 6th June, 1941 then outlines the formal establishment of a Ladies' Branch. The Minutes read: "As it appeared to the Committee that certain dissatisfaction was felt amongst the Lady Members at the absence of a properly constituted Ladies' Committee, it was decided that a general meeting of Lady Full Members of the club should be convened for Monday, the 16th of June at the Dance Pavilion, Ballybunion, at the hour of 3p.m., for the purpose of electing a Committee and Captain and Hon. Secretary, and that the



LADIES

Another pioneering landmark in the club history was that Ballybunion staged its first major event, The Irish Ladies' Close championship in June, 1932. *Irish Golf* magazine described the historic occasion, thus: "The experiment of holding the meeting at Ballybunion proved a huge success. Everyone was delighted with the place, the many Ulster competitors almost more so than the others. Mrs. Cuthell, President of the I.L.G.U. stated: "I have never enjoyed a Championship more and I consider the course one of the best tests of ladies' championship golf that I have ever seen.

"Ballybunion must in due course receive championship recognition from the G.U.I. The men usually follow the good example set by the ladies."

In preparing for the big event, it was stated at a Committee meeting on March 4th, 1932 that "Mr. R. A. Macaulay had been in communication with Miss McAuliffe, Abbeyfeale, owner of the lodge known as The Towers on the Sandhill Road on the 18th green, and that Miss McAuliffe was prepared to let the whole of this furnished house (except sleeping accommodation for herself and a girl of hers) to the club to be used as a Ladies' clubhouse during the championship for the sum of £12-10-0."

In the Hon. Secretary's Annual Report for year ending 30th April, 1933, William McCarthy, Hon. Secretary,

stated: "Very appropriately the event was won by one of our own members, Miss B. Latchford of Tralee, to whom your Committee offer their heartiest congratulations."

Miss Latchford caused an upset by defeating Miss Daisy Ferguson (Royal Co. Down) in the



36 holes final by 7 and 5. Miss Latchford subsequently emigrated to South Africa and in a letter, dated October 6th, 1992, the 91 year-old wrote: "I remember the golf links with great affection and one or two Ballybunion personalities of those days - namely Moses (O'Neill), the pro. who helped me to sort out my swing before the Championship and Chrissie Allen, who so nearly beat me in the second round." Miss Latchford was entered from Tralee and Miss Allen, sister of the club Steward, Tom; was the only player entered from Ballybunion in the championship.

When the Ladies' Close returned to Ballybunion by popular demand in 1936, Miss Allen lost to Miss F. Blake (Hermitage) by 5 and 4, having lost six of the first eight holes to the Irish international. That championship heralded the breakthrough of Miss Clarrie Tiernan (later Mrs. Reddan), at 20 years of age. She lost only five holes in the 36 holes final as she defeated Miss Sybil Moore (Milltown) by 7 and 6.

The noted Ballybunion member, Wanda Wilson, with a 71, finished high up the handicap sweepstake of the qualifying

**Ladies' Section stalwart, Mrs.
Wanda Wilson.**

LADIES



Ladies Day, 1958: Included, back row, Bernie O'Reilly, Joan O'Connor, Mrs. O'Callaghan, Gertie Mulcahy, Mrs. Ryan, Margaret Donnellan, Helen Daly, Mary Nash, Josephine Walsh. Centre: Norma O'Sullivan, Sue McKenna, Madge O'Connor, Loretto Nash. Front row: Nancy Kennedy, Marie Perry, Carmel O'Grady, Pat Quinlan, Mrs. Carey.

Leitrim Cup when she represented the club in the 1948 Irish championship at Rosslare and where she lost in the second round to Miss K. Smye (later Mrs. MacCann) (Tullamore) by 4 and 2. Miss Smye lost in the final, to Philomena Garvey.

An indication that numbers and standards strengthened in the Ladies' Branch of the club was that Ballybunion reached the finals of the Irish Senior Cup in 1950. The team of Mrs. B. Brice, Mrs. W. Wilson, Miss M. O'Brien, Miss. N. O'Connell and Mrs. M. Casey lost to Milltown by $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in the semi finals.

The competition for the ladies' Captain's Prize (presented by Mrs. James Clarke) was won by Mrs. Venn with a score of 70 nett off a handicap of 29. Miss Mollie O'Sullivan, Ballylongford (handicap 33) was second with a nett score of 75.

Therefore, when the Irish championship returned for a third time to Ballybunion in June, 1951, there was lots of local interest, although the occasion was, inevitably, dominated by Philomena Garvey. She won her fifth title in six years without even being taken past the 15th hole. Miss Garvey, it was said: "Thrilled the large galleries as her tee shots and long game generally followed a heartbreakingly true line and her chipping and putting were in keeping."

Ms. Garvey's ruthless performance showed a nice arithmetical progression, as her winning margins were 4 and 3, 6 and 5, 7 and 6, 9 and 8, and 12 and 10.

In the preliminary Leitrim Cup, Garvey shot 77 but Ballybunion's Mrs. Wilson struck a blow for the club with an 80. In the first round, club members, Maureen O'Brien went out to Bridget Jackson, who had come from England to play and Ballybunion's Madeline Casey lost the last two holes to Audrey Bell (Galway). But those defeats were off-set when Mrs. Wilson defeated



Winning team: Back row, Margaret Harnett, Mary Maguire, Annie Corridan, Mary Harnett. Front row: Betty Brice, Mary O'Hanlon, Beryl O'Hanrahan, Munster Branch, Eileen Noonan.

the formidable Clarrie Mears (Milltown) by 4 and 2 and Noreen O'Connell defeated Miss E. Fitzgerald (Sutton), also by 4 and 2. However, home hopes then faded.

The club had reason to join in Woodbrook's celebration at Ballybunion, of their first ever Irish Senior Cup title win in 1969. It preceded the Irish Championship, won by 20 years old Mary McKenna (Donabate) who beat Catherine Hickey (Milltown) by 3 and 2, as the winning point was provided by Miss Harriett Kissane. She was also a member of Ballybunion as she had learned much of her golf on the links while holidaying with her parents. They had bought, and still own, the original clubhouse on the Sandhill Road, from Chrissie Allen.

CANDIDATE	
Name	Address
Mrs K. R. Keane	25, Sandhill Rd, Ballybunion
Mrs J. Gussen	Mount River, Listown
Mrs H. J. Nash	Newcastle W
Miss Lucy Nash	Newcastle W
Mrs W. G. McCormack	Dun Laoghaire

19.6.40.

LADIES

In the 1969 Championship, when the Old Course was described by Phil Garvey as "a really tough course on which 80 is a good score", club members Annie Corridan and Eileen Noonan lost in the early rounds.

That first Irish championship win by Mary McKenna, heralding the start of a great career, was described by Edmund Van Esbeck, in the *Irish Times*, thus: "A tranquil blue sky, warm sunshine, heart-stopping golf and at the end of a perfect week, a new champion crowned - a fitting finale to a week of intense competition at lovely Ballybunion."

Intense was also the appropriate word to describe the next hosting of the Ladies', in 1977. It was won, again, by Mary McKenna,

who defeated Rhona Heggarty (Bandon). The occasion, however, was embellished more by a first round match! None of the enthralled gallery of that day will ever forget the meeting of Leitrim Cup winner and leading qualifier McKenna and 13 years old Killarney phenomenon, Bridget Gleeson.

Little Miss Gleeson, a prodigy of renown, became the youngest player ever to qualify for

the match play stages of the Championship, with rounds of 88 and 95, against 71 and 81 by her well established, three times Irish champion and four times capped Curtis Cup team opponent. Miss McKenna was twice the age and the size of a lass who had played truant from school to compete. But McKenna was as much in awe as was the galley at the astonishing feats of the Killarney girl, who reached the turn in 42 to 44, to be two up, having had only 13 putts on the front nine!

It was a bizarre episode in the history of the championship to see the 13 years old use her woods three and four times to reach the green. She was not in the least disconcerted by her audacious performance, as putt after putt went in and it was a very relieved Miss McKenna who finally survived on the 18th green. That was one of the most famous matches in the annals of Ballybunion and the Irish Ladies' Championship.

A measure of the popularity of Ballybunion as a venue for the Ladies' Close, was that it returned, for a sixth time, in 1991 and the boast that the links entertains nothing less than the best pedigree of player was duly preserved when Claire Hourihane (Woodbrook) and Eileen Rose McDaid (Skibbereen), two Irish internationals and former winners, reached a final, won by Hourihane by a two holes margin.



Mary McKenna, twice crowned Irish champion at Ballybunion.

ION GOLF CLUB.

LECTION AS LADY ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

Proposer:	Second:
E. J. McCarthy.	D. A. O'Mahony.
R. A. Macaulay.	J. McGuire.
W. O'Carroll.	W. J. McCarthy.
W. O'Carroll.	W. J. McCarthy.
W. J. McCarthy.	D. A. O'Mahony.

Signed *W. J. McCarthy*
Hon. Secretary.

Irish Ladies' Golf Union.

HONORARY TREASURER'S NOTICE.

Ballybunion Golf Club.

Your Subscription for the current year, due 1st December, 1936, should be forwarded to

Mrs. Rentoul.

29 Deramore Drive,

Belfast.

SCALE OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

Under 50 Members	£1 1 0
Over 50	£2 2 0
Over 100	£2 12 6
Over 200	£3 3 0

WATSON



Love affair for Tom Watson and many others

It was en route from Shannon, crossing on the car ferry to Tarbert on July 8th, 1981, that Tom Watson realised something was astir. He had been inveigled to travel to his defence of the British Open championship at Royal St. George's, Sandwich, by stopping off in Ireland to play Ballybunion's Old Courses.

His long time friend, Frank D. (Sandy) Tatum Jr., a San Francisco attorney, a three handicap player and a former U.S. Golf Association President, had "discovered" Ballybunion in 1979 and wanted Tom to come see for himself!



Ballybunion Golf Club														
MEN'S CARD										COMPETITION				
										DATE 08/07/81 TIME				
PLAYER A										Handicap				
PLAYER B										Strokes from Par				
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Yards	358	392	198	481	465	333	407	138	416	328	405	168	643	126
Yards	337	367	196	459	453	312	404	135	384	304	361	166	441	123
Yards	299	339	168	449	435	294	351	114	367	276	349	151	438	113
Par	4	4	3	5	5	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	5	3
Strokes	9	1	11	15	13	7	5	17	3	10	2	16	8	18
Score														
Out	31/3	30/47	28/16	36										
Marker's Signature										Total				
Player's Signature										Holes won				
To convert metres into yards divide metres by ten and add to original figure. e.g. 368 - 10 = 358 + 365 = 394 yards										Holes lost				
										Result				
										Handicap				
										Nett Score				

Above: Scorecard returned by Tom Watson on his first visit to the club, July 8th, 1981.

Bottom: Welcome – Tom Watson meets Tanaiste, Dick Spring T.D., and Sean Walsh.

Devised optimistically, as a private visit for a public performer, who three months previously had won the U.S. Masters for a second time, to add to three British Open titles; Watson, Tatum, Harry Easterly (senior Executive Director of the U.S. Golf Association), and their wives, having just flown the Atlantic from New York; were to realise on that ferry crossing that "there is no such thing as a secret in Ireland".

Every other car, Tatum later wrote, "was full of people on the way to Ballybunion to watch Watson play golf!"

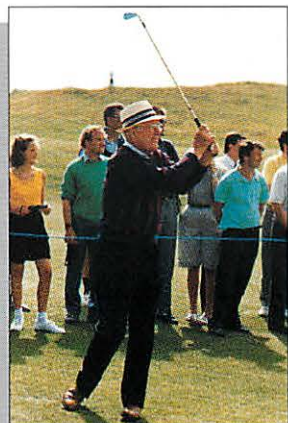
It is conservatively estimated that 1,000 eager spectators turned up, and Tatum was to describe the scene: "As Tom responded to the feel and the flavour of those God-given links and to the ebullient enthusiasm of the crowd,

WATSON

any vestige of weariness dissolved. He took one quick practice swing, and with the driver practically scraping noses on the backswing, he hit an absolutely marvellous tee shot, well clear of the cemetery that haunts the visage of that first shot. I suppose his approach to the 72nd green at Turnberry at the British Open in 1977 elicited a louder crowd response, but I can not believe that any shot he has ever hit anywhere, has been greeted with more enthusiastic appreciation."

The game was on. Ballybunion and Watson were a perfect match. And it was to arouse a passionate romance that continues to burn in the heart of the great man.

Considering his lack of sleep, Watson played it wonderfully well, in level par 71, without holing anything of consequence, evoking all sorts of expressions of appreciation from the gallery, as he hit one beautiful shot after another. Perhaps the highlight, after a stop at the 14th green when all the party imbibed in a



restorative Irish whiskey, came on the 15th tee.

"How far is it?" Tom enquired of the Par 3 hole.

"It's 228 yards" he was informed, whereupon he replied: "Watch me blister a one-iron."

He duly did and if there was anyone in that crowd, who had not yet reached the adulation stage, that shot did it.

Later, Dr. Maurice Fahy, club captain, making presentations of Waterford Glass to the visitors caught the occasion perfectly when he said: "There are certain milestones in the existence of every club and the visit of Tom Watson is certainly one of the biggest milestones in the history of Ballybunion golf club."

An enchanted Watson, whose infatuation was such that he went back out to play 13 holes later that evening, was effusive in his praise. In a glowing introductory tribute to the Old Course he agreed to write in the club's ParSaver booklet, he surely aroused the passion of all golfers everywhere, when he wrote: "After playing Ballybunion for the first time, a man would think that the game of golf originated here. There is a wild look to the place, the long grass covering the dunes that

Left: Distinguished visitors Tip O'Neill, far left, Byron Nelson.

Top Right: Slainte ... Harry Easterly, left, Tom Watson, Sandy Tatum and Sean Walsh, take refreshments during their round.

Right: Letter of thanks to club from Tom Watson.



pitch and roll throughout the course making it very intimidating.

"The contours, on the fairways and on the greens, are what make it a great course. You must play accurate iron shots into the greens, usually to a small target with not a lot of room to miss right or left.

"Playing Ballybunion is similar in many respects to playing Cypress Point in America, and I like that style of golf.

"It is all this that causes Ballybunion

TOM WATSON
GOLF PROFESSIONAL
911 MAIN
1313 COMMERCIAL TOWER
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64105
TELEX 910-771-0545

August, 1984

Sean Walsh
Ballybunion Golf Club
Ballybunion, Co. Kerry
Ireland

Dear Sean:

I would like to thank you and all the wonderful people at Ballybunion Golf Club for treating my friends and me so graciously. Your warm hospitality and great comradery will never be forgotten.

...seeing again for our quick exit and very much

to offer some of the finest and most demanding shots into the green of any course I've played in the world. Combine this with the winds that are prevalent here and you have a magnificent challenge.

"It is not a course that favours one particular style of play over another, but one that simply rewards good play and good shots. For example, the eighth is only 155 yards and plays almost straight downhill, yet you must hit your shots within a 10- to 12-yard area or face bogey . . . or double-bogey. In a wind, it's one of the most demanding shots I've ever faced. And that's the character of the course. The 11th, a 446 yards par 4 perched right on the seaside cliffs, is one of the toughest holes in the world.

"Yet, it is a course you will always enjoy and never tire of playing. I know I never will. In short, Ballybunion is a course on which many golf architects should live and play before they build golf courses. I consider it a true test of golf."

In the crowded schedule of one of the world's greatest players, who (to January 1st, 1993) has gone on to win two more British Opens and a U.S. Open; Watson has become synonymous with Ballybunion and continues to create the time to make regular pilgrimages to his "favourite" links.

Nobody who visits the place has failed to be touched by the experience. It's international profile can be traced to the 1960s and the Public Relations value of declarations from eminent golf writers, Pat Ward-Thomas and Herbert Warren Wind. In *Country Life*, September, 1963, Ward-Thomas, of *The Guardian*, wrote: "The name of Ballybunion may not strike a chord in the minds of most golfers beyond the shores of Ireland . . . but the course is a rare asset to the tourist industry and a unique part of the country's golfing heritage . . . making for excitement and challenge that can have few peers in all the world of seaside golf."

Warren Wind's account of his visit in 1967 further teased the curiosity when in the influential *New Yorker*, he boldly declared: "I found Ballybunion to be nothing less than the finest seaside course I have ever seen."

The experts continued to eulogise. Peter Dobereiner, another distinguished golf writer, said in the *Sunday Observer*: "If sheer pleasure is the yardstick, then Ballybunion gets my vote as the best course in the world."

No golf venue in Ireland, perhaps the world, has been accorded a better set of references.

As early as 1934, the Ballybunion image had been boosted, courtesy of Viscount Castlerosse. Writing in his *Londoner's Log* Column in the *Sunday Express* of April, 15th that year, he penned his experience, thus: "Never have I been more surprised. Ballybunion is the best golf course I have ever played on. It is far better than St. George's or Prince's or Rye. I except St. Andrews, but that is not a golf course. It is a miracle. Ballybunion is rather like St. George's. The holes have something of the same majestic touch. There are vast sandhills but the course is not blind."

Henry Longhurst, for so long the golf writer in *The Sunday Times* and a legend also for his contribution as a commentator for *B.B.C.*, wrote: ". . . just a tiny town, a mighty wind off the Atlantic and the



Jack Nicklaus.

certainty that if your slice carries far enough there is nothing to stop it pitching on Long Island, U.S.A. Ballybunion is natural golf. It's simple, elemental quality sweeps away the cobwebs of golfing theory and brings home to you once more the original fact that golf is a business not of pivots, hip turns, wrist formation and the rest but of grasping an implement firmly in two hands and banging the ball with it . . ."

Ireland's own renowned amateur player, Joe Carr added his praise when he said: "I've played on countless courses in my career but in my experience I just can't remember one like Ballybunion, I rate it as one of the toughest tests in existence for any golfer in the world."

Our own Christy O'Connor snr., after beating the 1968 U.S. Masters champion Bob Goalby in the *Shell Wonderful World of Golf* t.v. series, in 1970, with 72 against 74 in a storm, came out with the gem, that: "anyone who breaks 70 here is playing better than he is able to play."

Jack Nicklaus stirred the excited anticipation of his first visit to the Old Course by arriving in a helicopter, close to the first tee on July 12th, 1989. The Golden Bear arrived an hour after Watson had finished nine holes (he had played 18 holes in 67 shots the previous evening) in the company of 77 years old Byron Nelson, another to carve a niche in the game, because of his 'one piece' golf swing and unparalleled success on the U.S. Tour from 1944 to 1946.

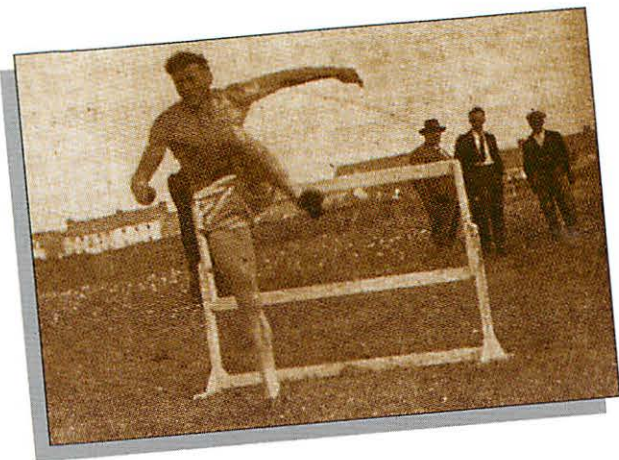
Nicklaus then 49 years of age, said he had always wanted to play Ballybunion (then ranked eighth in the World). Watched by a gallery of around 1,500, he played in a fourball with the Ballybunion professional Ted Higgins, his son Gary and his Ohio State University friend, Chris Smith. It was a casual affair, with Nicklaus stopping occasionally to talk to his partners and the crowd, and while he dropped three shots on the first nine, he shot three birdies on the back, in an approximate round of 72. As if conscious of what Watson had done on his first visit, Nicklaus also hit a one-iron at the 15th to within seven feet of the hole!

It was uncannily apt, therefore, that club captain, John Croghan later presented Nicklaus with a watercolour painting of this green, the work of local artist, Anne O'Hara.

Nicklaus departed, telling the crowd that: "I like it and I will be back for more . . . there are a lot of concepts about the course that I might use in my future golf course architectural plans."

The five times British Open champion, Peter Thomson of Australia; the U.S. Open winners, Ken Venturi and Jerry Pate; the dramatic 1987 U.S. Masters winner, Larry Mize and Deane Beman, former star amateur and professional player, and now U.S. Tour Commissioner, as well as the U.S. Walker Cup team heading to Portmarnock in 1991 (and featuring the noted left-hander Phil Mickelson) have also stopped by, to make the Ballybunion pilgrimage.





OLYMPICS

Ballybunion helps to make Olympic history



The greatest occasion in the history of Irish athletics stands imperishably as the Olympic Games held at Los Angeles in 1932. Within the space of just 10 minutes, Ireland won two gold medals, when Bob Tisdall won the 400 metres hurdles and was followed by Dr. Pat O'Callaghan, who won his second gold medal (his previous triumph was in Amsterdam, 1928) in most dramatic circumstances in the Hammer final, with a sixth and final winning throw of 176 feet 11¹/₂ inches.

An acknowledged contributing factor in the making of this notable piece of sporting history was the part played by the Ballybunion golf club!

Prior to their departure to the Games, the Irish Track and Field team of four, also including Michael Murphy, in the steeplechase and Eamonn Fitzgerald, a native of Kerry, who finished fourth with a personal best jump of 49 feet in the Hop, Step and Jump, had spent a fortnight preparing on the golf course, specifically with Los Angeles in mind.

Tisdall, who had hurdles erected on the 18th fairway (now 5th) and did all his practice there, used say that "the springiness of the turf added substantially to my speed," while O'Callaghan believed that Ballybunion "was the ideal spot, calm and peaceful."

It is also interesting that prior to his visit to Ballybunion, Tisdall took very little interest in golf but that during his sojourn he got very keen on the game and in 1933 he was appointed as Secretary of a new golf club, near Southampton, England.

According to sports journalist and Historian, *David Guiney*, the decision to select Ballybunion was, as Dr. O'Callaghan outlined to him "inspired either by Eamonn Fitzgerald or General Eoin O'Duffy", President of the Irish Olympic Council. Fitzgerald was a native of Kerry and had, at that time, already won All Ireland senior football medals with Kerry in the four-in-a-row run which began in 1929. In June, 1932, he had given up football to train for the Olympic Games and it is, therefore, possible that he may have recommended Ballybunion.

Left: Olympic champion, Bob Tisdall in training at Ballybunion.

Above: Ireland's 1932 Track and Field team seen with James Clarke, Club Captain, extreme right.

In *Seventy Years of Irish Athletics*, by P.D. Mehigan, published 1945, it is stated that the team "trained in the salt breezes of Ballybunion beside the residence of Mr. James Clarke, well known Irish sportsman, a sound judge, of horse, man and greyhound, who had them constantly as guests." The versatile Mr. Clarke also knew a bit about golf, as he was Captain of the club in that year.

At this time, the Kerry football team, with three successive All Ireland wins behind it, was in training for the Munster final and it is known that Bob Stack and several other members of the team, paid daily visits to the golf club to join the Olympic athletes in their training. Significantly, Kerry also went on to win the All Ireland title.

Distinguished family contributions

The family strain in Irish sport runs deep. There is no greater personification than in the case of Ballybunion golf club, where family involvement has been at the heart and soul of its history. The McCarthy and the Macaulay clans classically illustrate the point.

Since the very formation of the club, their names have been synonymous and the present generation of members readily and respectfully acknowledge their contributions.

From the outset, the McCarthys made their mark. It was the guiding influence of Patrick McCarthy, born in Lixnaw, April 1862, which saw the club through its critical embryonic years of consolidation.

The enthusiasm of the General Manager of the Listowel to Ballybunion Lartigue railway line, (he held the post for 27 years from 1890 to 1917 when ill-health obliged him to retire), was duly recognised by the perceptive committee in January, 1897 when they

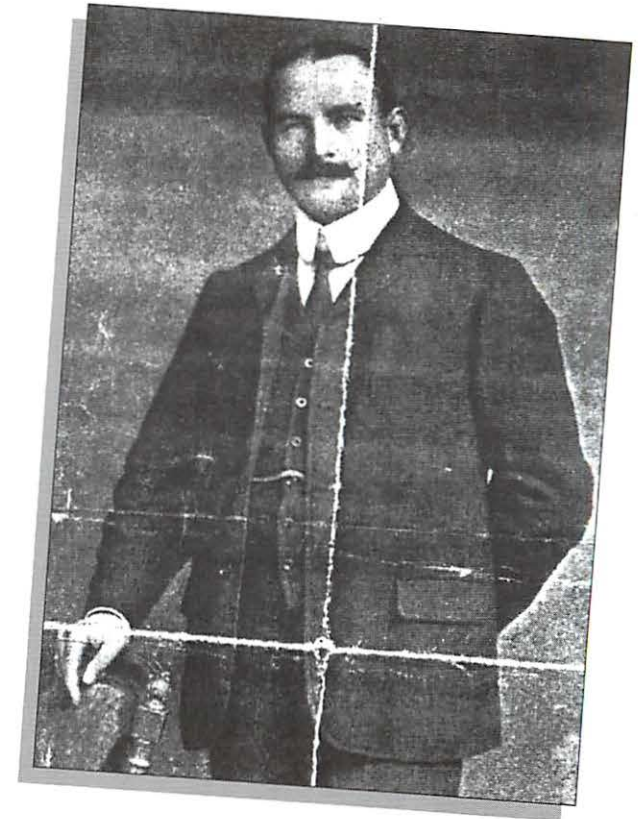
invited him to "undertake the secretaryship of the golf club."

Considering the influence of the railway in helping to popularise golf facilities at Ballybunion, the dual role held by McCarthy as club Hon. Secretary and Railway company manager, was suitably complementary.

Significant, too, was that when Patrick McCarthy's son, William J. took over the same post in 1928 (the father had died in 1918), he too, was to be a powerful influence. Indeed, the Listowel based solicitor was to command that position until 1952 when he stepped down and became a Trustee.

He remained in that esteemed position to his death in June, 1973 having made a handsome contribution. For countless years, golf club meetings were conducted at his practice in Listowel and in his capacity as a leading solicitor, his expertise was to prove invaluable to the club and its development.

William's brother, Paddy similarly gave unselfishly to a cause for which both had a shared passion.



Mr. Patrick McCarthy, inspiring club stalwart, whose family contributed so much to the history of the club.

FAMILIES



Paddy, who died unexpectedly in October, 1963, was a particularly popular local character.

He was proprietor of the Central Hotel to 1955 and as a director of the Ballybunion Development Committee and Trustee of the club, his obituary in *The Kerryman* newspaper, records that he had been "associated with every progressive movement in the resort."

It is with heart-felt emotion that an older generation also remember John Macaulay as "The Grand Old Man" of the club.

He died on the 29th August, 1957 in his 92nd year, revered in rugby football circles as he was in golf. By any standards, he was an extraordinary character as sportsman and administrator.

Born in Limerick in 1866, Macaulay made his first sporting mark as a rugby player - in most unusual circumstances!

Employed as a manager of the Flour Millers and Grain Merchants in Limerick City, Macaulay worked for a very Christian, strict man, who claimed he could not, consciously, put sport before business in any

circumstances. He considered the game of rugby to be too dangerous and he contended that if his employee Macaulay got hurt, he would be morally responsible. In those circumstances, he forbade his manager to play!

The bould Macaulay did, of course, play, for the Garryowen club, albeit under a series of assumed names. These make-up names used appear in italics in the local newspapers, often inspiring the tongue in cheek comment from his employer: "I see, John, Garryowen have another new player!"

Known as "the Lion of Garryowen" (with whom he won nine Munster Cup medals), the enterprising Macaulay won two international caps for Ireland in 1887. And in most unusual circumstances.

As he had taken his annual holidays and since his boss was not inclined to facilitate him for rugby, the only way he could get time off was to get married.

So, he brought forward his scheduled wedding day and became the first married man to play rugby for Ireland. His only two appearances for his country were against England and Scotland and as a member of the pack on his debut versus England he was on the first winning team over the "Auld Enemy" after 12 unsuccessful bids, 11 defeats and a draw.

Some of his records that endure are that he was President of the Irish Rugby Football

Union in 1894, at 28 years of age, the youngest ever to hold the office and he was appointed Honorary Treasurer of the Munster Branch for life in 1890. It stands as the only life appointment ever made.

At Ballybunion golf club, succeeding generations remember him as patriarchal, a man of great dignity; in appearance, tall, bearded and upright.

Captain of the club in 1896, he was Hon. Secretary for a time after the death of Patrick McCarthy and a full measure of the lofty regard in which he was acknowledged, was that he held the office as President from 1916 to his death in 1957.

His sons, Robert A, up to his death in 1947 and John W., who died in 1952, were also noted personalities of the club, maintaining the proud family tradition and each rising to the office of club captain.



Top left: "The Lion of Garryowen".

Right: John A. Macaulay, club President, 1916 to '57.



Left: Two old-timers pictured in 1961: J.J. McKenna, left, a member of the Committee in 1906 and Tom Allen, club steward for more than half a century.

Bottom: "Young" Tom Allen, left, members and caddies.

The Allens

He later expanded his duties to include the "sale of balls, golf clubs and other requisites" and at the annual meeting of the club on May 22nd, 1944, his wages were increased by 10 shillings per week "having regard to the loss on the fall off in sales", caused by World War II rationing.

"I grew up with the club" he said on the occasion of a presentation to him to mark his Golden Jubilee. "I have seen the little nine-hole course I loved so well, growing under skillful and careful management, to one of the most famous golf courses in the world".

For much of his association with Ballybunion, Tom took charge of a mare he named Nancy,

who wandered the links when not required to pull machinery. Nancy lived until she was 36, foretelling the weather on lines similar to the legend later created by the goats at Lahinch, in that her approach to the clubhouse invariably meant rain!

Tom Allen's daughter Evelyn provided secretarial assistance in the office, while Chrissie Allen, Tom's sister, was one of the best lady golfers produced in the village. Chrissie subsequently acquired the original clubhouse in part exchange for land donated by her to permit a men's locker room extension, at a sale price of £225, as recorded in the Minutes for September 15th, 1952.

There was also Tom's brother Paddy, the local schoolteacher and one time club Captain and Trustee. Paddy loved to reminisce about the early days of the club and boasted proudly that "as a five years old in 1906 I saw the nine hole course being re-created by Lionel Hewson and when the 18-hole course came along in 1926, I had the distinction of hitting the first ball off the first tee in the first competition!"

To the countless numbers who have been associated with the Ballybunion club, either member or visitor, there hardly seemed a time when they were not conscious of the name Allen.

The local-born family is synonymous with the club, dating back to 1911, when Tom was appointed steward. He held that position for fully 56 years, having first been appointed caretaker on a weekly wage of three shillings, for the peak summer weeks.



Below: Eamonn Allen and, bottom, Reggie Allen.

Far right: Celebration – Sean Walsh, left, and Bill Harnett, two of the club's leading players. Centre: J.S. O'Reilly, former club Captain and President.



Another Allen dynasty link with the club was by Eamonn, a nephew of Tom and whose attachment lasted from 1949 to his unexpected death on St. Patrick's Day, 1985. In fact, he succeeded Tom Allen Jnr. who had acted as foreman for three/four years.

Indeed Tom Jnr. and

Evelyn Allen still reside in Ballybunion.

Eamonn was foreman-greenkeeper (and a formidable four handicap player, who represented the club in many competitions) and a lasting tribute to him was the acknowledgement from club secretary-manager, Sean Walsh that: "Eamonn was instrumental in building the New Course as the right hand man to Robert Trent Jones". Eamonn took special pride also in the World



FAMILIES

recognition accorded to his beloved Old Course, that he always knew it deserved.

The Allen family strain survives, as one time boy champion Reggie Allen is a son of Eamonn. Reggie was the first formal championship winner from the Club when he won the

Munster Boys' title in 1967 and the equally accomplished Kieran is an England-based son of Paddy. A scratch status golfer for many years, Kieran is a past winner of the Lincolnshire County Championship title. His brother, Vincent is also prominently associated with Ballybunion.

Sean Walsh – held in high esteem

In modern times, no person is more synonymous or has contributed as much, to the golf club as has Sean Walsh. Proof positive of the esteem in which he is held was his nomination as club Centenary Year Captain.

A member since 1953, elected to the Committee in 1957, made Captain in 1959, Honorary Secretary in 1960, appointed full time Secretary-Manager in 1971, a telling statistic that reflects his role through a critical period of the club, was that Walsh's first Balance Sheet as Administrator showed visitor-green fee income of £5,600 ... and it read £620,000 when he retired 21 years later, in 1992.

"They ought to have put a preservation order on him as a unique example of an endangered species" was the glowing tribute from the distinguished golf writer, Peter Dobereiner.

These heart-felt sentiments truly echo those of the countless thousands who have made the pilgrimage to Ballybunion and had the experience enhanced by a greeting from Irish club golf's most lovable P.R. man.

Sean built a special relationship with Tom Watson and his hospitable welcome extended to the Majors champion since 1981 is central to the enduring love affair being indulged in by the American with the Ballybunion club.

Considering he has been in the shop-window of affairs at the club for so long, there are countless landmarks with which Sean is



FAMILIES

associated. He lists as his priorities, not necessarily in order, as:- Club member Pat Mulcare's selection on the British and Irish Walker Cup team in 1975; Being a member of the winning Ballybunion All Ireland Jimmy Bruen Shield team in 1979; The launch of the Save Ballybunion Links Coastal Erosion Fund in 1977; The first visit by Tom Watson in 1981; The victory by Tom Corridan as the first Ballybunion club player in the Irish men's close championship at Killarney in 1983; The promotional tour by club delegates to the U.S.A. in 1986, when Sean declares: ... "Ballybunion golf club found out the esteem in which the club is held."

Professionally, Michael Hanrahan, in 1968, had become the club's first paid secretary, on a part-time basis. The first paid Secretary-Manager was Comdt. T. Brick, serving from 1968 to 1970. During the National Bank dispute in 1970, club member Dermot O'Grady became acting paid Secretary for a six month period, leading to the arrival of Sean Walsh.

Eamonn Allen and Robert Trent Jones, back to camera, lead Jackie Hourigan, Florence O'Connor and Michael Barrett around new course.





Erosion - the battle against the Atlantic



Noted links being eaten away by the sea

One of the south of Ireland's most famous golf links maybe reduced to nine holes unless there is prompt government action.

Mr. Sean Walsh, secretary of Ballybunion (Co. Kerry) Golf Club said yesterday that the authorities have been sitting on a report since June 1976 regarding coastal erosion of the golf course, while in the meantime the sea has been eating away large portions of the course.

Mr. Walsh added that a Board of Works engineer carried out and submitted a report on the erosion, but meanwhile 15 months later, nothing has happened. "The very existence of the seventh hole is being threatened at present", he added. The club, which has 400 members and caters for some 10,000 visitors annually, has launched a "Save the Links" campaign which has now reached £25,000, but £75,000 more is needed.

Meanwhile the club has embarked on various schemes to raise money, such as life membership of the club at £300 and a fund-raising £10 a head dance in the Burlington Hotel in Dublin on October 28. "Many clubs are also helping us out", Mr. Walsh said.



Dermot O'Grady, Sean Walsh and Jackie Hourigan view sea-gabions installation.

It is a measure of the standing and status of the club that when Ballybunion launched an appeal on Tuesday, May 10th, 1977, its impact was manifested far beyond the confines of Kerry and Ireland.

The notion that the Old Course had become an endangered species, due to coastal erosion, had such a deep rooted and far reaching emotional reaction, that financial assistance was forthcoming from around the world.



The target set by the passionate Jackie Hourigan, Captain at the troubled time, was £100,000. Yet, the response to the "Save Ballybunion Golf Links Fund" yielded £176,000, all of which was used to bolster the shoreline against the destructive ravages of the unremitting Atlantic Ocean.

The protective work was carried out by means of sea-gabions, a brand new word at the time to the vocabulary of most golfers. Gabions take the form of rectangular baskets made of hexagonal steel wire mesh and carefully filled with layers of stones.

They are laid along the sea shore, at varying heights, the idea being that the force of the intruding water is met and defused by the stone

EROSION

linings. The inherent flexibility of the gabions enables them to conform to physical changes in the beach and so they promote accretion, instead of depletion, of the sand.

Ireland's very geographical situation lends itself to damage from the sea and every winter-time around the exposed coast it is a harrowing tale of the destruction done to some of our famous golfing strips.

At a Committee Meeting of the club on November 30th, 1932, the issue of erosion and the "order made by the Minister for Industry and Commerce under the Harbours Act of 1814 prohibiting the removal of any materials from the foreshore at Ballybunion" was given lengthy and impassioned debate.

The removal of stones and sand by builders and farmers from the foreshore continued to be a vexed issue as far as the members of the club were concerned. The problem became serious during the post-World War II building boom when some 50 lorries a day were oftentimes seen carting off stones from the beach for hardcore.

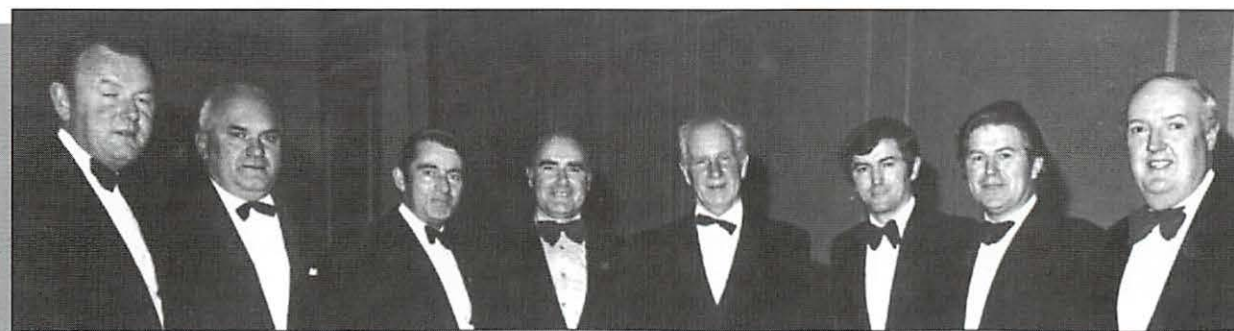
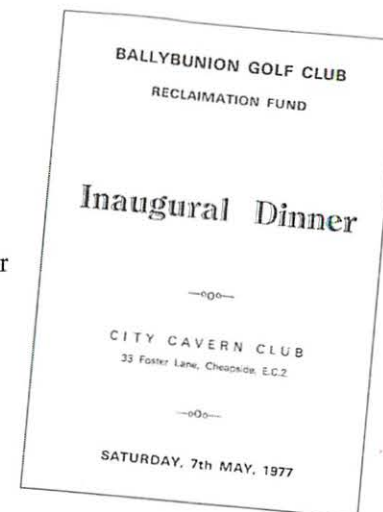
With that protective layer removed, the Ballybunion cliff face was vulnerable to tide, wind and rain erosion.

Club records show that in February, 1973 "Eighteen thousand square feet of land, cliff and rough and fairway went into the sea in one night."

As the battle waged to bolster the shore with gabions - members voluntarily helping with the labour - there was an important breakthrough in 1975 when the club obtained an order forbidding the removal of stones from the foot of the cliff, upon which the course is partly set.

It is also relevant that a Government Grant of £36,000 was forthcoming.

The Government was also supportive by way of



Pictured at the "Save Ballybunion Golf Links Fund" Dance at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin on October 28th, 1977 (left to right): - Mr. Joe Quinlan (Munster Branch G.U.I.), Mr. Dick Barry (Munster Branch G.U.I.), Mr. Pat Foley (President, G.U.I.), Mr. Tom Rogers (President-Elect, G.U.I.), Mr. Shay O'Reilly (President Ballybunion G.C.), Mr. Jackie Hourigan (Captain, Ballybunion G.C.), Mr. John McNerney (Chairman, Munster Branch G.U.I.), Mr. Dermot O'Grady (Vice-Captain Ballybunion G.C.)



the Youth Employment Scheme, which also had the effect of providing local employment. In this matter, Jackie Hourigan, and Sean Walsh, the driving forces behind the Erosion Movement, acknowledged the support by Government official, Padraig O'hUiginn, Secretary to the Department of An Taoiseach.

"Ballybunion belongs to the Nation, not merely to the members" the President of the Golfing Union of Ireland, Dr. Gerry Owens declared in May, 1972, at a time when the club was fighting to re-structure its sea-side seventh tee. That the National Union was concerned the battle for survival should have their imprimatur when the winters of 1975 and '77 wreaked further havoc in

the areas of the 11th, 17th and 18th, was outlined by the 1977 G.U.I. President, Pat Foley.

He publicly stated: "Although it is normal that every club looks after its own interests, we feel that the Ballybunion problem is a very special one and, therefore, we in the G.U.I. are giving it our full backing."

The emotional response was that virtually every golf club in Ireland ran a competition or other fund raising scheme. The Woodbrook and Limerick clubs were especially to the forefront, poignantly in the case of Woodbrook, subsequently to experience its own coastal erosion difficulties.

The Bank of Ireland opened the fund raising appeal with a donation of £1,000. Another initial fillip was £1,000 raised by Friends of Ballybunion in London, headed by Bert Griffin, Chairman of the Kerryman's Golfing Society, Pat Hartnett, Conor McGrath, Paudie Costello and Dr. Michael Brosnan.

Among the varied fund raising schemes was the offer of Full Life Membership for £300; overseas Life and Country Life Membership, £200; Lady Associate Life Membership, £150, as well as a £5 coupon offer enabling the purchaser to play five rounds of golf on the Old Course, golf lovers refused to let die!

Above: Gabions in position!

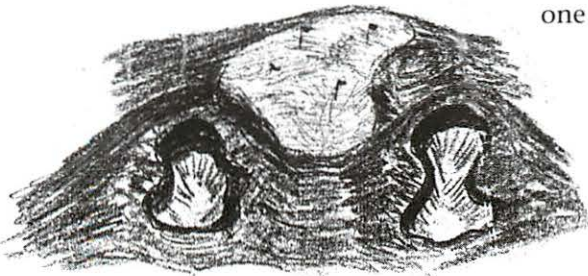
Opposite Page: Finished product!

New Course



The list is provided in alphabetical order. But the inner most feelings of the venerable Mr. Jones are outlined in *Golf's Magnificent Challenge* (Robert Trent Jones), where he writes:-

"When I was hired to build a new
course to complement
one of the
world's
finest



The land of which Jones so enthused, had been purchased from the Finnucane Family in 1968 for £12,000. And if Denis

It came to pass that on February 22nd, 1980, Trent Jones made his final aerial inspection by helicopter of the rugged 174-acre site and presented the club with three designs of the course he would like to build.

[illegible]

NEW COURSE



As the preparations were being made to put the project to the members, with the month of May scheduled for the commencement of work, it was revealing to hear the amiable architect, then 74 years of age, explain why, in this instance, he was dispensing with his stock in trade use of water hazards, by declaring:- "we will not require this type of obstacle as the topography prevailing makes for a wonderfully natural links, that will offer great variety."

As with almost every other golf course designer, who ever lived, Jones's creations have often drawn fire when they were first unveiled. Ballybunion New was no exception! Construction had suffered initially because of two unusually dry, hot summers and exceedingly excessive wind-tossed winters. In the first year, seed costing £7,500 was blown away! Yet the spirit of the New Course project was not broken, thanks to the determined Chairmanship of Jackie Hourigan and Eamon Allen as Site Foreman.

In his Foreword to *Golf's Magnificent Challenge*, Peter Dobereiner writes: "(Trent) had decided Ballybunion New would be his monument, the ultimate statement of his golfing philosophy ...

"Controversy raged from the moment play was permitted. Some people enthused, none more vigorously than I. Others branded it an unplayable monster, the epithet that has dogged Trent from the earliest days.

"The course, I should add, was far from ready

and it is still not finished by any means. Trent planned a multiplicity of tees for every hole, as many as five in some cases to create maximum flexibility and accommodate the changing conditions. Some of the comments about playing 580 yards uphill hole into the prevailing wind are best not repeated, proof of the old saying that you should never show something half finished to fools or children.

"Gradually the sheer excellence of the course and the exhilaration of playing through an Andes of dunes, will win over the critics, or most of them. Today, the people who know it best, the members, rate it better than the Old Ballybunion by a considerable majority. And that means, quite simply, that is the greatest links course in the world."

Ted Higgins, the resident professional for 13 years, up to January 1st, 1993; wrote in the club ParSaver booklet: "although in certain respects it may be too early to tell, I have a strong gut feeling that the New Course here at Ballybunion may just possibly turn out to be one of the most magnificent links that the world has ever seen."

Deserving of his share of such high praise can be the late and much loved course foreman, Eamonn Allen. The close personal relationship he built up with the architect was at the core of the creation.

In the light of criticisms, the club Committee has responded with course modifications, under the direction of head greenkeeper, Dan Blake and

Ted Higgins, working on the instructions of Trent Jones. A new first green and third hole have been constructed, as well as other changes at various locations to alleviate some severe carries, tight fairways and extremely small greens.

Ballybunion New has received a Top 30 best placing in Britain and Ireland by the distinguished magazine, *Golf World*. Time is proving that Trent Jones was right.

"When I first saw the piece of land chosen for the new course at Ballybunion I was thrilled beyond words. I said that it was the finest piece of links land that I had ever seen, and perhaps the finest piece of links land in the world. This God-given piece of land, with its tumbling undulating free flowing rhythm of line is beauty beyond description - a piece of land with the ocean on one side of it, river on the other. The boldness and variation of this terrain made it not an easy piece of land upon which to route a golf course. But, it was done, and you will play eighteen spectacular holes, each with its own beauty and challenge. There is no similarity on any holes on the course. There are no weak holes on the course. Each is a spectacular gem."

– Robert Trent Jones

The Marconi transmitter at Ballybunion – projecting across the Atlantic for the first time.

Hello, hello

...this is Ballybunion calling!

An image of Ballybunion golf club associated with history, illustrates a view of the golf course dominated by towering masts. The explanation has its roots in a quite sensational occurrence, when the voice of a man speaking in Ballybunion was projected across the Atlantic for the first time!

"Hello Canada. Hello Canada! This is the Marconi valve transmitter at Ballybunion, Ireland calling on a wavelength of 3,800 metres. Can you hear me? Please report on signals!" were the first clearly audible words projected from East to West.

The speaker was Mr. W. T. Ditcham, an engineer with the Marconi Wireless Telegraphy Company, and he made the notable step forward in the history of communications from the Marconi station beside the golf links in the building that is now the Irish Language College.

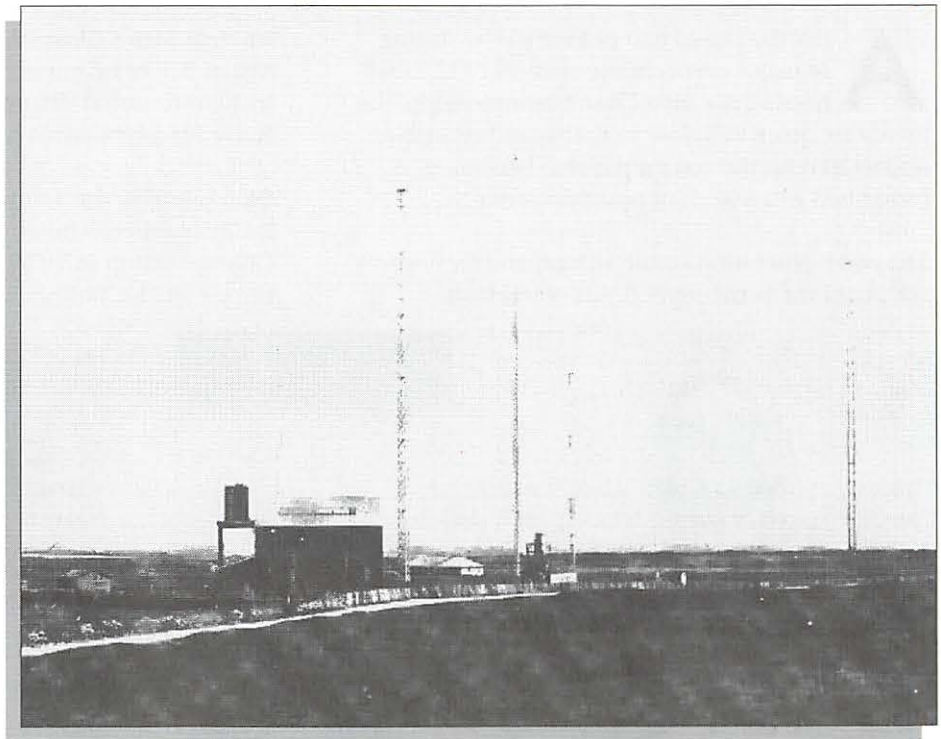
The station had been built at Ballybunion in 1912 at a cost of £250,000. It had a 500 foot mast, surrounded by six masts of three hundred feet high.

Mr. Ditcham was sent to Ballybunion by his company for the express purpose of bridging the Atlantic by voice.

The first sod of the station was turned on Ash Wednesday, 1912. The night the 500 foot steel mast was completed it collapsed. But there was nobody around at the time and no damage was caused to life or limb save for some temporary damage to one of the golf course fairways.

The generating engine in the station was a huge affair. The base alone weighed fourteen tons. It took a team of men and a Lartigue steam engine three weeks to

bring it from Listowel to Ballybunion - a distance of nine miles. A team of eighteen horses was unable to budge the load!



Great events

and occasions, down through the years

After the Ladies had pioneered the staging of major events at the club, in 1932, when hosting the Irish Close Championship, the men were quick to follow suit. They did so with an impact that set the seal on the club becoming recognised as a true championship venue.

The older generation in the village, and far beyond, still recall the benchmark deeds of the Irish

amateur Men's Close Championship in 1937, the first of five to be hosted at the club, and of the Irish Professional Championship in 1957 when Harry Bradshaw made history with a 10th title win.

Jimmy Bruen, the young man who lit the flame for Irish golfers when he won the British Boys Championship in 1936, aged just 16 years and three months, holds a unique place in the history

Below: Left to right – Kevin O'Connor (Elm Park), Harry Bradshaw (Kilcrone), David Higgins (Little Island), Pat O'Connor (Woodbrook), Sam Bacon (Knock), Ernie Jones (Carlow), Jimmy Kinsella (Castle), Bob Mollen, Secretary, I.P.G.A., Christy Kane (Royal Dublin), Captain of club, J. McNamara, Willie Holley (Castle), I.P.G.A. official, Danny O'Brien (Laytown and Bettystown), Norman Drew (Bangor), John McGonigle (Co. Sligo), Andy Murphy (Royal Dublin), Wattie Sullivan (Athlone), Paddy Skerritt (Nenagh), John McKenna (Douglas), Christy O'Connor (Bundoran).

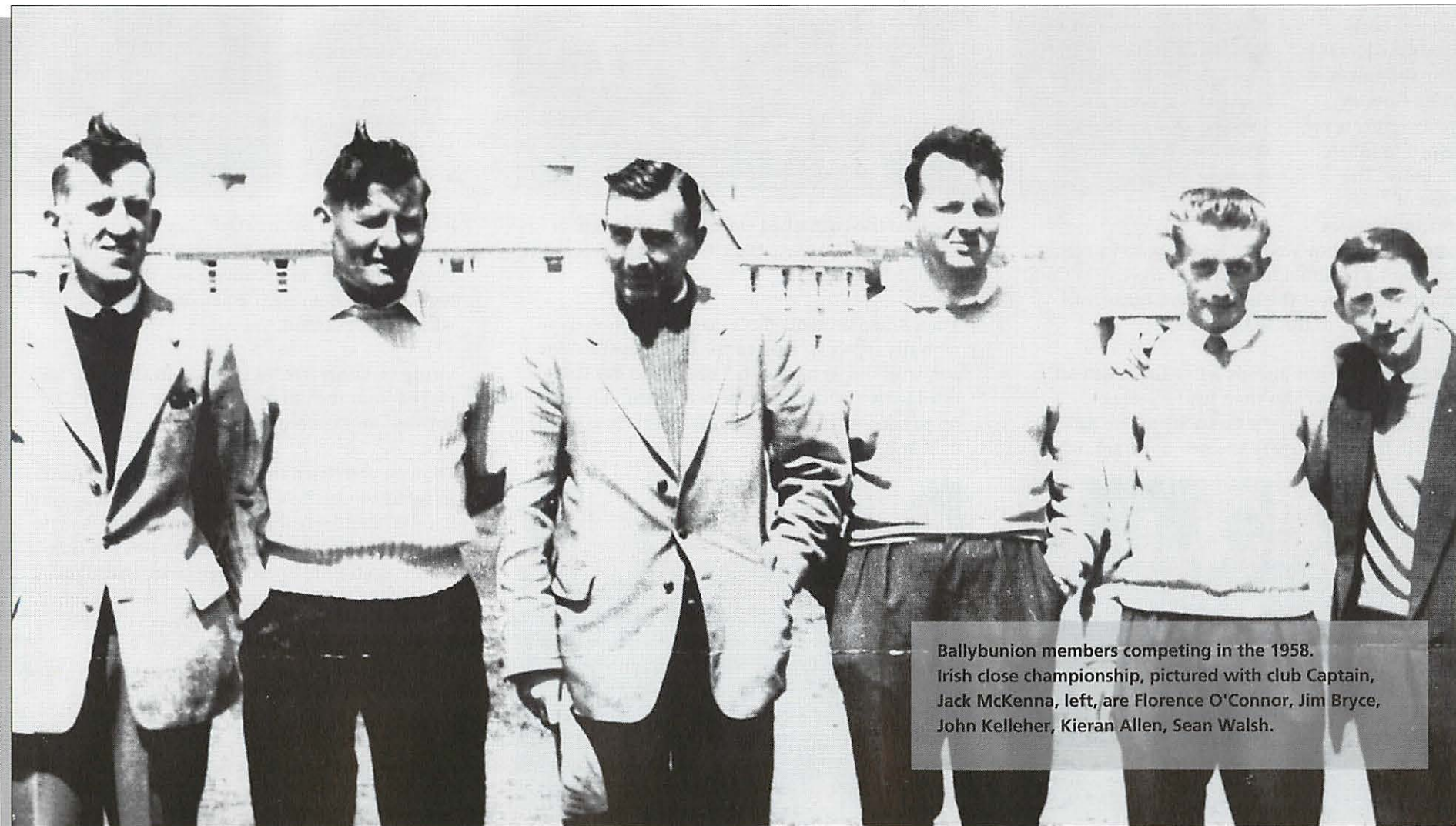
of Irish amateur golf. It is also a consensus that the manner of his victory in the first ever Irish men's Championship at Ballybunion, in 1937, served both to underline his uncanny skill for one so young and at the same time to bring the links into the forefront of Irish golf affairs.

A record entry of 86, in itself, was remarkable, given the travel and economic difficulties of the



Left: Victory speech in 1957 from Harry Bradshaw.





Ballybunion members competing in the 1958. Irish close championship, pictured with club Captain, Jack McKenna, left, are Florence O'Connor, Jim Bryce, John Kelleher, Kieran Allen, Sean Walsh.

time. No doubt, curiosity about the growing reputation of the Old Course, which had just been refurbished by the Tom Simpson and Molly Gourlay architectural team, helped to inflate the entry. The sense of anticipation was maintained as boy wonder Bruen, born in Belfast but who had learned his golf at Muskerry, in Cork, progressed to meet the holder John Burke, of Lahinch fame, in the 36 holes final.

Considering he was already a five times winner and was 20 years older than his 17 years old opponent, Burke was the favourite to win again. Instead, it was victory to the heir apparent, who



Pictured at the historic Irish professional championship in 1957 ... far right: J. Kinsella (Skerries) and D. Higgins (Little Island); right: Christy O'Connor (Bundoran), Bob Mollan (Irish Professional Golfers Association), W.J. Clarke (Lisburn), S. Sammon (I.P.G.A., referee); Bottom Left: Ladies Committee. Bottom right: Club Committee – Seated, left to right, Rev. A.J. Hawney, M. Jones (Vice Captain), J. McNamara (Captain), C.J. Stone (Hon. Sec.), Standing – P.A. McCarthy, M. O'Sullivan, J.S. O'Reilly, M. Hanrahan, M. Lynch.



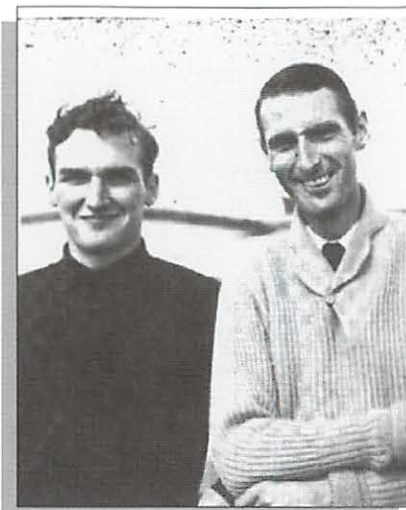
stunned the enthralled crowds with the skill of his short game. The tense match had been level at the 18 hole lunch break.

Then Bruen unleashed his magic as he holed out with his approach shot to the first (now 6th) for par, won the second with a birdie and the short third with a birdie two. The boy champion went on to become the youngest ever Irish close winner by 3 and 2.



OCCASIONS

By a peculiar twist, the winning age level was in the extreme when the Close returned in 1958. This time, the excitement and standard of play was no less, as Cecil Ewing, aged 48, defeated Greg Young by 4 and 3.



It was described by *Irish Golf*, July, 1958 as "in every respect the best Close meeting for many years". The only shortcoming was the absence of Joe Carr, the dominant amateur of the time and who did not defend.

Ewing certainly left his mark, as in the final, he played from the old seventh to the 10th in 10 strokes - an extraordinary feat.

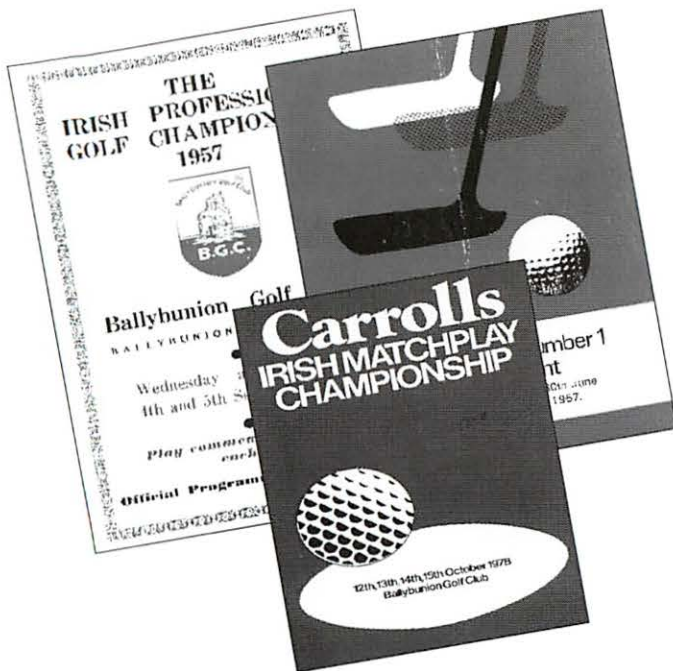
Thirteen years later, the club was again nominated to stage the top amateur occasion in Ireland. Raymond Kane (Malahide) beat Martin O'Brien (New Ross) to climax another memorable week. It was the same success story in 1979, although Jackie Harrington (Adare Manor) had to survive some awful weather and the pace setting Mark Gannon (Co. Louth), in the final, before winning on the 18th.

In August, 1991, the club watched a battle of two emerging young talents as Gary McNeill (Warrenpoint) beat Niall Goulding (Portmarnock) by 2 and 1, after local hope Tom Corridan had progressed nicely to the third round only to be defeated as he tried valiantly to

Jimmy Bruen makes his acceptance speech after winning the Irish Men's Close Championship, 1937.

Inset: Bruen in play.





repeat on his home course what he had achieved at Killarney in 1983.

The major professional tournaments staged, were Bradshaw's Irish Native 72 holes championship of 1957, the Carrolls No. 1 tournament, won by Jimmy Kinsella in 1967, and the Irish match play championship, also sponsored by Carrolls, in 1978 and won by Arnold O'Connor.

The win in '57 by the lovable 'Brad', endures as one of the highlights, given that the first three places were filled by Irish golf's great Triumvirate of Bradshaw, Christy O'Connor and Fred Daly.

Played in the first week of September, over two days, with 36 holes each day, Bradshaw won his 10th title (later to be equalled by O'Connor snr.), with a total of 286, 74, 70, 73, 69. The course Bogey was 76 and that gave him a clear lead of four strokes from O'Connor, with 72, 72, 72, 74,

OCCASIONS

while Daly, precisely a decade after becoming Ireland's only British Open winner, was third following 79, 69, 70, 73.

A bonus for O'Connor was that his performance clinched him a place, in partnership with Bradshaw, on Ireland's Canada (World) Cup team of that year.

The historic occasion was, in the opinion of the Editor of *Irish Golf*, September, 1957, that: "Ballybunion was a great venue for the championship. There is now plenty of support for the claim that it is the greatest course we have: finer than Portmarnock, Newcastle and Portrush."

A new record score of 65 highlighted Kinsella's Carrolls No. 1 Tournament win on June 30th - July 15th, 1967. The Par of the course was now 71 (34-37) and 28 years old Kinsella (Castle) took the £300 first prize in the £1,000 tournament with 71, 65, 72, 75. He beat Paddy Skerrett (71, 68, 73, 72) and the Irish champion Hugh Boyle (70, 68, 72, 73) by a shot. They each received £125.

Kinsella grasped his winning chance with a front nine of (starting on the present 6th) 343, 433, 342 - 29 in his second round 65, a feat still fondly recalled.



Left – Souvenir programmes recalling major events at Ballybunion.

Above: Spectators enjoying the action.

Bottom: Arnold O'Connor, winner of the Carrolls Irish Match Play title, 1978.



The Sahara on the 18th hole

Lying across the 18th fairway of the Old Course is a notorious stretch of sand, some 250 yards from the tee, known locally as The Sahara. It is not easily forgotten by golfers, who have the misfortune to visit it! The bunker consists of a curious mixture of sand, shell, ashes, stones and bones, the source of which could date to the late Iron Age, around fourth/fifth century A.D.

This is the opinion of archaeologists in the

National Museum's Irish antiquities section, who visited the club in July, 1979. The National Museum had been summoned when children, playing among the sand hills in the area of the New Course, removed a flat rock and unearthed the site of an ancient grave and a skeleton.

When the 13th green of the New Course was subsequently being constructed, five human skeletons in carefully constructed slab-lined graves were also discovered. On the advice of

the Museum, it was decided not to disturb the remains and the green was built over them at a higher level than originally intended.

These early peoples lived mainly on the abundant local supplies of shellfish. Their Kitchen Middens - cooking places dot both courses, as at the 18th fairway.

These consist of discarded heaps of shells, burnt stones, charcoal and animal bones.



Our Professionals

On January 1st, 1979, the Ryder Cup player Eamonn Darcy signed a two-years agreement to represent the club. Dermot O'Grady, outgoing Captain, said at a reception: "while we feel our club is well known internationally, nevertheless with Eamonn full time on the tournament circuit, the image of Ballybunion and Irish tourism will be enhanced by our association with one of the bright young stars in world golf."

At 26 years of age, Darcy had played on the previous two Ryder Cup teams and was also a former World Under 25s champion. The association with a high profile professional highlighted the effort by the club to have professional services available to the members, stretching back to the 1920s.

The Minute Book outlines that the club's first resident, bona-fide professional was Maurice

"Moses" O'Neill. He arrived on the glowing recommendation of Willie Nolan, professional at Portmarnock and whose advice the club sought when, at the annual meeting on May 15th, 1931 it was pointed out that "as the club's greenkeeper Jack Scanlon had left the club's employment and gone to Tralee, the club had not now any person for the purpose of giving lessons and tuition to members and visitors."

(Balls, clubs, and tees were always available, either through the club steward, Tom Allen and/or greenkeeping staff, as in the case of Scanlon, whose industry was such that he was

Left: Eamonn Darcy

Right: First tee preparations - William McCarthy, left, and Tom Allen, seated.



PROFESSIONALS

referred to as "the pro". His son Michael and grandson Gary are prominent playing members of the club).

O'Neill, whose Christian name was Maurice, was known as Moses, the name of his father; had been Irish Professional Champion in 1923,



'24 and '25 and was employed for the summer season only, but later extended.

He was re-engaged for 1932 and '33, during which time he made valuable contributions to the club by way of golf course design changes. For example, he was involved in the construction of a complete new first green.

The Committee, in turn, arranged to send him to the Irish Open Championship at Malone in 1933 and the captain, Mr. E.C. Faley agreed to make a collection among the members to defray O'Neill's expenses.

The professional was eagerly sought by the members and visitors for lessons and a special tribute paid to him was by member, Betty Latchford when she won the Irish ladies' championship, hosted by the club in 1932. In her acceptance of the trophy, she acknowledged how "the pro helped to sort out my swing."

It should be noted that while residing in Kerry, O'Neill's son Jimmy was born. He went on to become a noted professional soccer player with Everton and was capped 17 times between 1950 and '60 as a goalkeeper for the Republic of Ireland. "I learned to walk on the Ballybunion links," he writes from his home near Liverpool.

Professionals were subsequently hired only on a seasonal basis and when O'Neill departed to return to Dublin, where he was to establish a centre-city Teaching Academy in Abbey Street, he was followed by Daniel Murray, from Newcastle; Denis Cassidy, native of Waterford

in 1936 and '37 before he moved to Castletroy; Gerry Brown from Waterford in 1938 and John Doran, who came from Clontarf golf club for the summer of 1939 and '40.

In June 1941, Timothy McElligott of Ballybunion was appointed for the months of July and August at a weekly wage of 30/-, shillings. He remained on a casual basis through to 1945.

Collins, O'Sullivan, Higgins and Finnegan filled the role at various intervals up to 1967 when Brendan Houlihan, a most popular character, was appointed.

Houlihan carried out duties up to 1978 when Brian O'Brien, aged 33, who had been a star boy prodigy at Lahinch golf club, then took over briefly and after his tragic early death, the resident professional's role, then regarded as one of the plum jobs in the country, went to the former Irish amateur international, Ted Higgins. He joined the club in 1980 and resigned in January, 1993, and contributed richly in all regards, especially by way of playing to a high standard with most of the visiting dignitaries.



Left: Moses O'Neill, right, pictured with Sir Stanley Cochrane, founder of Woodbrook golf club.

Top: Popular Brendan Houlihan.



Left: Players assemble outside original clubhouse prior to playing, while, bottom, Tess Kissane, former Lady Captain, and son Don Roe, pictured outside modernised original clubhouse which they use as holiday home.

Clubhouses

The new clubhouse, officially opened in Centenary Year, at a cost exceeding £2 million, is the fourth in the history of the club. The present structure is a far cry from the days when the club was founded and the Minute Book records: "that Club can manage without cottage or pavilion 'till it sees how it gets on as regards members."

It was not until 1905 that a formal clubhouse, a tin-roofed, wooden structure of two rooms on the opposite side of the Sandhill Road, running parallel to the course, and opposite the present fifth green, was utilised.

When the Lartigue railway line, which ran between Listowel and Ballybunion, closed in 1924, the club was invited to tender for a plot of land containing 50 feet frontage adjoining their "pavilion". Financial restraints ruled out the purchase.

In order to cater for the additional demands of staging the Irish Ladies' Close Championship in 1932 and the corresponding Men's Championship in 1937, accommodation on the Sandhill Road was rented.

There were also extensions added to the pavilion.

Formal moves to build a new clubhouse, within the golf course boundaries, are noted in the Minutes of 15th November, 1945 but lack of finance and many lengthy Committee discussions, and hard bargaining with builders, meant that the cherished new clubhouse, designed by Desmond Staehli, Architect, Limerick, did not come to fruition until June 1951.

The site chosen, for the single story building, the costs of which were not to exceed £4,000 by order of the Committee and in accordance with a bank loan, was between the old first and fourth tees, where it still stands.

The official opening was marked by an exhibition match in which the Douglas club professional, John McKenna and Dr. Wm. O'Sullivan (Killarney) finished all square after 36 holes, against the Portmarnock professional, Harry Bradshaw and Joe Carr (Sutton).

CLUBHOUSES

The suggestion of a next move came in 1964, during the Captaincy of Sean Treacy, and it was fulfilled in May, 1971, at the cost of £75,000. It was on a brand new site, by the old 13th green (present 18th). This meant a re-numbering of the sequences of holes. The 14th became the first and the old first became the sixth hole.

The driving force behind the move was Michael Barrett. He also has the honour of being the only person to perform the role of Captain in two successive years. His term in 1970 was highlighted by the introduction of a new watering system to all 18 holes and he was so involved in the organisation of the new clubhouse at the time that he was voted into office again in 1971.

When the decision was taken to build a fourth clubhouse, on the same site as prevailed, the club used the novel means of deciding the architect and the contract by open competition.



Above: Playing in the shadow of club's second clubhouse.

Right: The third clubhouse, now replaced.



Golf by flying boat

The Golden Age in the development of the airplane, recalls the majesty and grace of an era when the flying-boat played a hand in popularising Ballybunion and the golf club.

During the romantic period of the 1920s and 30s, when daring pilots amazed the world with feats of flying skill and endurance, the Yankee Clipper, the Catallina and the Carribou, sea-planes of Pan-Am and Imperial Airways, regularly criss-crossed the North Atlantic, from Foynes.

There is a museum there now, remembering these misty-eyed times and appropriately the official opening ceremony was conducted by the Irish-born film star, Maureen O'Hara. Her late husband, Capt. Charles Blair was one of the pioneering flying-boat pilots.

The association of Foynes and flying led to the establishment, in 1939, of an airport at Rineanna, the townland upon which Shannon International Airport was to emerge and play such a role in bringing large numbers of tourists to Ballybunion.



Beware ... the phenomenon of Killahean

Among the rarest sights through the haze of the shimmering Atlantic that can be seen from any golf links, is the phenomenon of Killahean (or Killsthaheen), as it is sometimes called.

It takes the form of a spectacle which, on a rare calm day appears in the sea off the cliff top coastline of the Ballybunion links, near the long Clare peninsula, not far from Loop Head. The peninsula forms the western arm enclosing the mouth of the River Shannon.

Local people, who have witnessed this amazing vision, say it consists of a large Arch, or Bridge, with people walking about, as if at a Fair, while

in one place, close to the Arch can be seen an old woman sitting by a cart or table. The beshawled lady is evidently selling her wares to those passing by.

This extraordinary sight traditionally lasts from 10 to 15 minutes before, mysteriously, it fades into nothingness, leaving the sea clear and blank as it was before.

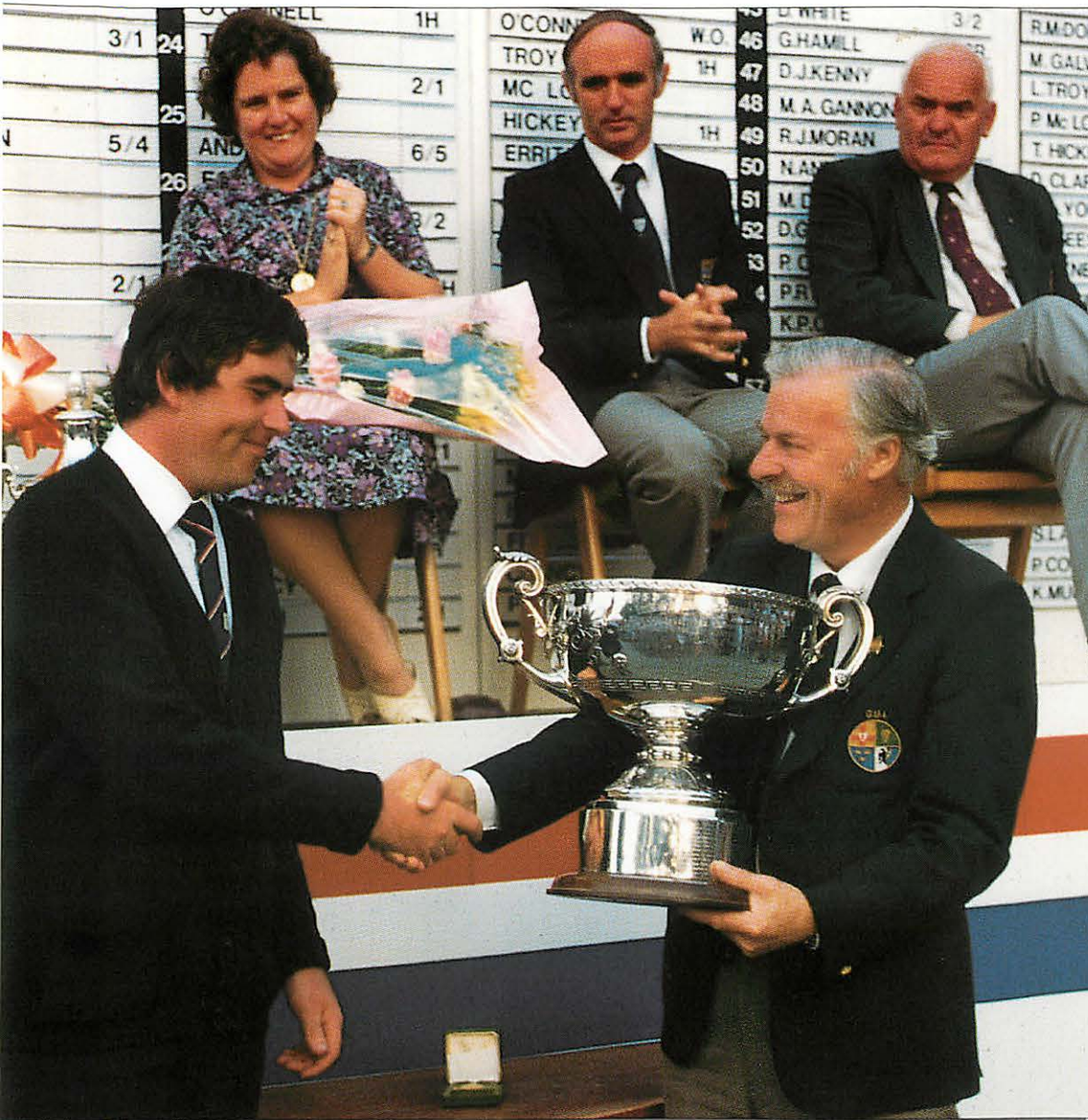
Beware! While it is a unique privilege to see this vision, it is not altogether a welcome one, as tradition holds that those who witness the phenomenon, will die within seven years.

However, you may relax! There is no need for

undue alarm, as there are a few people who have had the privilege, still hale and hearty, many times seven years after their experience.

What causes this Ballybunion golf links phenomenon?

The shape and general appearance of the Arch suggests that it is a mirage, silhouetting the site of the Spanish Arch in Galway City, which is situated due north of Ballybunion and which may be reflected in the sky at certain phases of the light and cloud formation over the sea. This is the most probable explanation, as it has been known to appear upside down on occasions!



Achievements

In terms of achievements, by its members, the club has a proud boast. Ballybunion's star individual products are Pat Mulcare and Tom Corridan, while, collectively, the club has won three All Ireland team titles.

Born and reared in the village, Mulcare was of sufficient quality to attain Walker Cup team status. Appropriately, his appearance for Britain and Ireland in 1975 was at St. Andrews and the supportive club members who travelled to Scotland are renowned as "Mulcare's Mob".

America won by $15\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$ and the 30 years old, plus one handicap Mulcare contributed a vital first day singles point when he came up the famous 18th hole all square with Dick Siderowf and holed a 14 foot putt for a winning birdie three.

On day two, the Ballybunion man helped to contribute another point, partnering Ian Hutcheon to a one hole win over Jerry Pate and Siderowf but in the afternoon he lost by 4 and 3 to Curtis Strange, who turned professional and went on to win the U.S. Open championship on two occasions.

Tom Corridan receives the Irish Men's Close Championship trophy from Michael Fitzpatrick, President, Golfing Union of Ireland, at Killarney, 1983.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Above: "Mulcare's Mob" at St. Andrews... proud group of members pictured at the Home of Golf in support of Pat Mulcare, centre.

Below: Notification to Pat Mulcare of his Walker Cup selection.

TELEGRAMS: "ANCIENT"
TELEPHONE NOS 212 & 213
CODE: BENTLEY'S
SECRETARY
K. R. T. MACKENZIE, M.C.
DEPUTY SECRETARY
W. N. B. LOUGDON



ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB
OF ST ANDREWS, FIFE
KY16 9JD

REF: TT/8/75

15 November 1974

P. Mulcare Esq.
31 Rathfarham Road
Terenure
DUBLIN 6
IRELAND

Dear Sir,

THE WALKER CUP MATCH 1975

I am delighted that you have been selected to represent Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup Match next year, to be played over the Old Course St. Andrews on 28/29 May. I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating you on your selection.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1973 Pierce Purcell winning team: Back row, left to right – Dick Geaney, Dan Murphy, Michael Nagle, Francis Bennett, David O'Sullivan (captain), Michael O'Hanlon, Harry Barrett, Michael Fitzgerald. Front row, left to right: Michael O'Shea, Paddy Byrne, Paddy Taylor, John Harmon, Michael Noonan.

Mulcare, whose Walker Cup appearance was a singular success with two points from a possible three, played for Ireland between 1968 and 1980 and he brought further glory to the club by winning Ireland's only 72 holes strokes championship, the East of Ireland, in 1971, '72 and '73. He also won the South of Ireland match play championship in 1971.

Tom Corridan is another local product and is the only Ballybunion member to win the Irish Amateur Close Championship, succeeding at nearby Killarney in 1983. He is also a distinguished Irish team player. First capped in 1983, he played again in '84 and restored his position in 1991, to help Ireland win the Raymond Trophy in the 'home' internationals at Co. Sligo, Rosses Point. His early prowess was such that Connacht was the only one of the four provincial boys' titles to elude him.

It was another local born player, Jack Beasley, who first brought distinction to the club. He played for Munster and became the first player to be capped at representative level in the interprovincial championship at Portmarnock in 1938. The occasion was marked by Munster winning the title.

The first championship title won by a club member was by Reggie Allen in the Munster Boys' Championship, 1967.



ACHIEVEMENTS



Above: Mary Harnett, played for Ireland 1978.

Right: Pierce-Purcell winning team 1975 Portrush. Back l-r: Sean Walsh, Jackie Hourigan, Des Burke, Michael Noonan, Michael Nagle, Didgie O'Connor, Niall O'Brien, Dermot O'Grady. Seated: Sean McCarthy, Tom O'Keeffe, Paddy Taylor, Dan Murphy (capt.), Paudie Kindelan, Connor Stack.



In inter-club competition, a piece of club history was established in 1973. The first ever All-Ireland title was achieved in the Pierce Purcell inter-club championship for players with a minimum handicap of 12. That title was regained two years later and was added to in 1979 in the Jimmy Bruen Shield (handicaps 6 to 11).

Of special merit is that Michael Nagle, known locally as the Bachelor, was a member of all three winning teams. In point of fact, the 1975 success was actually achieved in March, 1976 as the finals at Royal Portrush were delayed, owing to political unrest in Northern Ireland.

Another landmark for the club was in 1985 at Royal Dublin. In the preliminary pro-am to the Carrolls Irish Open (won by Seve Ballesteros), the Ballybunion club team of Bill Harnett (7), club Captain Tom O'Keeffe (11) and John Sexton (18) accompanied the Spanish Ryder Cup professional, Jose Rivero, to overall victory.

Records

Open Strokes Competition, played prior to Irish Amateur Open Championship (now defunct)

1953 - Killarney: Net winner, Rev. Fr. Tim O'Sullivan on tie from R.M. Craigan (Malone), W. Gill (Portmarnock).

Irish Amateur Close Championship

1983 - Killarney: T. Corridan bt. E. Power (Tramore) 2 holes.

Players Capped in Home Internationals

T. Corridan	1983, 84, 91, 92	Played 32, won 19, halved 6, lost 7.
P. Mulcare	1968, 69, 70, 71,	Played 44, won 11, halved 6, lost 27.
	72, 74, 75, 78, 79, 80.	

Interprovincial Senior Championship

1938	Portmarnock	- J. Beasley 77 - 87
1939	Portmarnock	- J. Beasley 83.
1977-92:	T. Corridan	Played 78, won 38, halved 1, lost 39.
1968-80:	P. Mulcare	Played 72, won 38, halved 6, lost 28.

Boys' Home Internationals

1990 S. Quinlivan

Boys' Internationals

1975	W. J. Buckley
1974 - 76	T. Corridan

British and Irish Boys v. Continent of Europe

1992 S. Quinlivan

Irish Youths' Amateur Open Championship

1978 T. Corridan

Leinster Boys' Open Championship

1976 T. Corridan

Munster Boys' Open Championship

1967	R. Allen
1974	T. Corridan
1990	S. Quinlivan

Ulster Boys' Open Championship

1976 T. Corridan

Midland Boys' Open Championship

1976	T. Corridan
1991	M. Murphy



ACHIEVEMENTS

South of Ireland Championship

1971 Lahinch - P. Mulcare bt. E. Higgins (Cork) 1 hole.

East of Ireland Championship

Played at Co. Louth, Baltray.

1971	P. Mulcare	281
1972	P. Mulcare	292
1973	P. Mulcare	291

European Amateur Youths' Championship

1977 - 79 T. Corridan

Team Awards (All Ireland)

1973 - **Pierce Purcell Shield**: Captain - D. O'Sullivan; F. Bennett, P. J. Byrne, R. Geaney, D. Gorman, M. Fitzgerald, J. Harman, D. Murphy, M. Noonan, F. O'Carroll, M. O'Shea.

1975 - **Pierce Purcell Shield**: Captain - D. Murphy (playing); D. Burke, P. Kinlan, S. McCarthy, M. Nagle, N. O'Brien, T. O'Keeffe, C. Stack, P. Taylor, M. Noonan, J. Hourigan.

1979 - **Jimmy Bruen Shield**: Captain - F. O'Connor; M. Clarke, M. Coote, M. Fahy, J. Galvin, J. Griffin, M. Heneghan, J. Molyneaux, M. Nagle, R. O'Mahony, S. Walsh, R. Dwyer, D. Gorman. Managers: B. Harnett, D. Lovett.

Pro-Am Tournament

Irish Open Championship

1985 - Royal Dublin: B. Harnett (7), T. O'Keeffe (11), J. Sexton (18), with professional, J. Rivero (Spain).

Irish Club Secretaries - Professionals - Greenkeepers

1986/7 - Co. Louth: S. Walsh, T. Higgins, D. Blake.

Connacht Youths' Open Championship

1992 S. Quinlivan

Girls' Home Internationals

1978 M. Harnett

European Amateur Team Championship

1975, 1979 P. Mulcare

British and Irish v. Continent of Europe

1972 P. Mulcare

Quadrangular Continental Tournament

1972, 78, 80 P. Mulcare

Continent of Europe v. South America

1978 P. Mulcare

Tom Montgomery Award

(presented for most consistent performances in boys championships)

1990 S. Quinlivan

All-Ireland Professional - Captain

1986 - T. Higgins, J. O'Sullivan

1991 - T. Higgins, D. Lynch.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Jimmy Bruen Shield team winners, 1979.
Standing left to right: Robert O'Mahony, Don Gorman, Joe Griffin, Ryle Dwyer, Michael Coote, Gerry Galvin, Michael Nagle, Maurice Fahy.
Seated: Sean Walsh, Michael Hennigan, Florence O'Connor, Club Captain, Maurice Clarke, team Captain, John Molyneaux.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Ransome Tournament
participants at Pine Valley,
1991 – Standing: Pat Lynch,
Willie Joe Buckley, Didgie
O'Connor, Tom O'Keeffe, Tim
Beary, Barry O'Leary, John
Croghan, Dan O'Sullivan,
Michael O'Connell.
Sitting: Owen McMahon,
John Molyneaux, Michael
Barrett (Club President), Jim
Maher (Club Captain),
Dominick Lynch, Toddy
Enright.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Irish Open Champions –
Winning Ballybunion team in
the Pro-Am preceding the
Carrolls Irish Open
Championship at Royal
Dublin, 1985. From left, John
Sexton, club captain, Tom
O'Keeffe, professional, Jose
Rinero and Bill Harnett.



DATES

Ballybunion Golf Club *Hole in One*

Playing at Ballybunion on the evening of the 11th instant, the Rev. John O'Connor, Adm., Waterford, holed his tee-shot at the 9th hole (156 yards). This is the first time this hole has been done in one.

Memorable Dates

April, 1928: For the first time in the history of the club, a dance was organised: net profit to club, £38-2-0.

April, 1930: It is pleasant to record that your club were the winners with a score of 12 strokes less than Tralee of the County Kerry Shield.

March, 1931: The membership of your club is Men (Ordinary) 33, Ladies (Ordinary) 17, Men (Country) 62, Ladies (Country) 26 . . . total 138.



The Committee need hardly point out that this total is far from satisfactory and it is to be hoped that every Member will do his/her utmost to induce some friend to become a member and thus do a good turn for such friend and for the club.

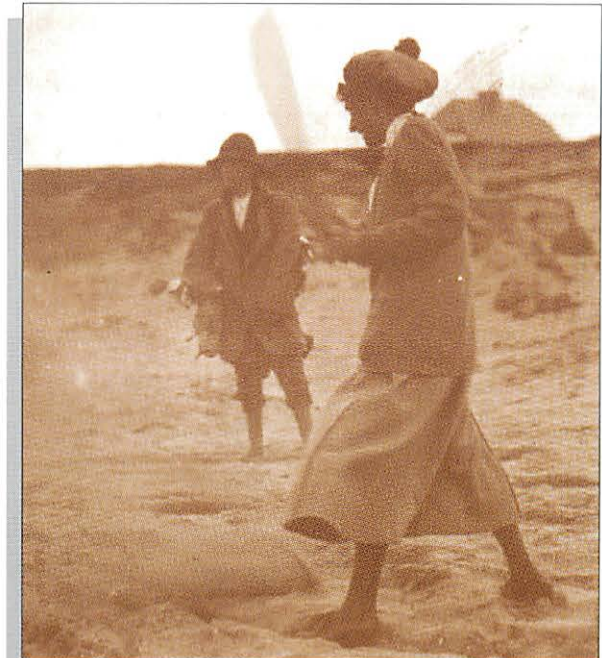
July, 1932: It was resolved that in future the Captain's Prize should take the form of a permanent souvenir to be selected by the winner.

September, 1932: Inter-Club match: It was decided to invite the Limerick golf club to send a team of 12 to play a match with Ballybunion at Ballybunion.

April, 1933: For the past year the club's receipts from visitors' green fees amount to the splendid total of £35-7-6. It shows remarkable progress against 1931 (£238) and 1932 (£260).

May, 1934: Mr. R. A. Macaulay referred to the item of £3-2-6 shown as receipts from camp rents and stated this revenue did not compensate for nuisance and inconvenience caused by pitching of camps.

Left and Below: Action from times long past.





Left: George Hewson and family with Crosbie Cup, 1910.

Above: Prestige medal, awarded to Crosbie Cup winner, W. O'Carroll, August, 1912.

DATES

November, 1934: It was unanimously resolved that His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. M. O'Brien, Bishop of Kerry, be elected an Hon. Life Member of the club.

May, 1935: The Hon. Secretary informed the meeting that he had placed advertisements applying for a suitable second hand horse mower, but that no satisfactory reply had been received.

May, 1936: The Hon. Secretary drew attention to the decision of the Munster Branch, Golfing Union of Ireland recommending the Ballybunion links as venue for the Men's Close Championship of 1937.

July, 1938: It was decided to hold the club's annual dance at Ballybunion Dance Pavilion on 12th August, dancing hours to be 9.30p.m. to 4a.m., admission charges 5/-, including Tax.

May, 1939: It was resolved that in the case of players deciding to continue play at the end of 18 holes, the caddies should be paid at the rate of one penny per hole for each additional hole, the minimum for such extra holes to be three pence.

April, 1941: Within the past couple of months, there has been three resignations from full memberships and 13 Country, and it is feared that more Country members will be obliged to resign owing to the scarcity of petrol.

April, 1942: The figures for Membership are Men 93 and 36 Lady members.

March, 1943: The shortage of golf balls presents an acute problem. All clubs are rationed to 20 per cent supply of the previous year and since August, 1942 no new balls have been supplied to any club. It is most important that members should try to hand in old balls for remoulding by the Dunlop Rubber Company.

September, 1944: It was decided to accept the offer of Mr. W. O'Sullivan, Ballybunion, of £3-0-0 for a licence to trap rabbits on the club's property for the season ending 1st April, 1945.

December, 1945: The Meeting was called to discuss the provision of prizes for the Christmas Hamper competitions as follows (fourball. V. Bogey) - 1st pair - 1 turkey, bottle whiskey, bottle wine, to each partner; 2nd pair - 1 ham, 1 bottle whiskey to each pair.

June, 1946: It was resolved to permit Maurice Carroll to conduct the sale of minerals from a place adjacent to the 13th tee.

March, 1947: It was decided to offer to sell to Mrs. Wilson of the Sandhill Cottage, a building site containing eight feet frontage, immediately on the North side of the passage bounding the plot sold to John Gorman, for the sum of £120 and to offer to make a con-acre letting to Mrs. Wilson of one acre of ground adjoining the plot

TENNETT'S LAGER.				TENNETT'S MUNICH.			
	Length. Yards.	Bogey Score.	No. of Strokes.		Length. Yards.	Bogey Score.	No. of Strokes.
Hole No. 1	267	4	6	Hole No. 10	267	4	.....
2	170	4	7	11	170	4	.....
3	115	3	4	12	115	3	.....
4	450	5	9	13	450	5	.....
5	265	4	8	14	265	4	.....
6	403	5	9	15	403	5	.....
7	430	5	9	16	430	5	.....
8	268	4	6	17	268	4	.....
9	390	5	9	18	390	5	.....
TOTAL (Out),	2761	39		Total (In),	2761	39	
Mr. <i>Denis Cussen</i>				Total (Out),			
Checked by <i>M. C. C. C.</i>				TOTAL, ...	...	...	...
Date, <i>14. 8. 13</i>				Less Handicap, ...	...	...	...
				NET SCORE, ...	...	...	...

Defiant effort by Denis Cussen, 1913.

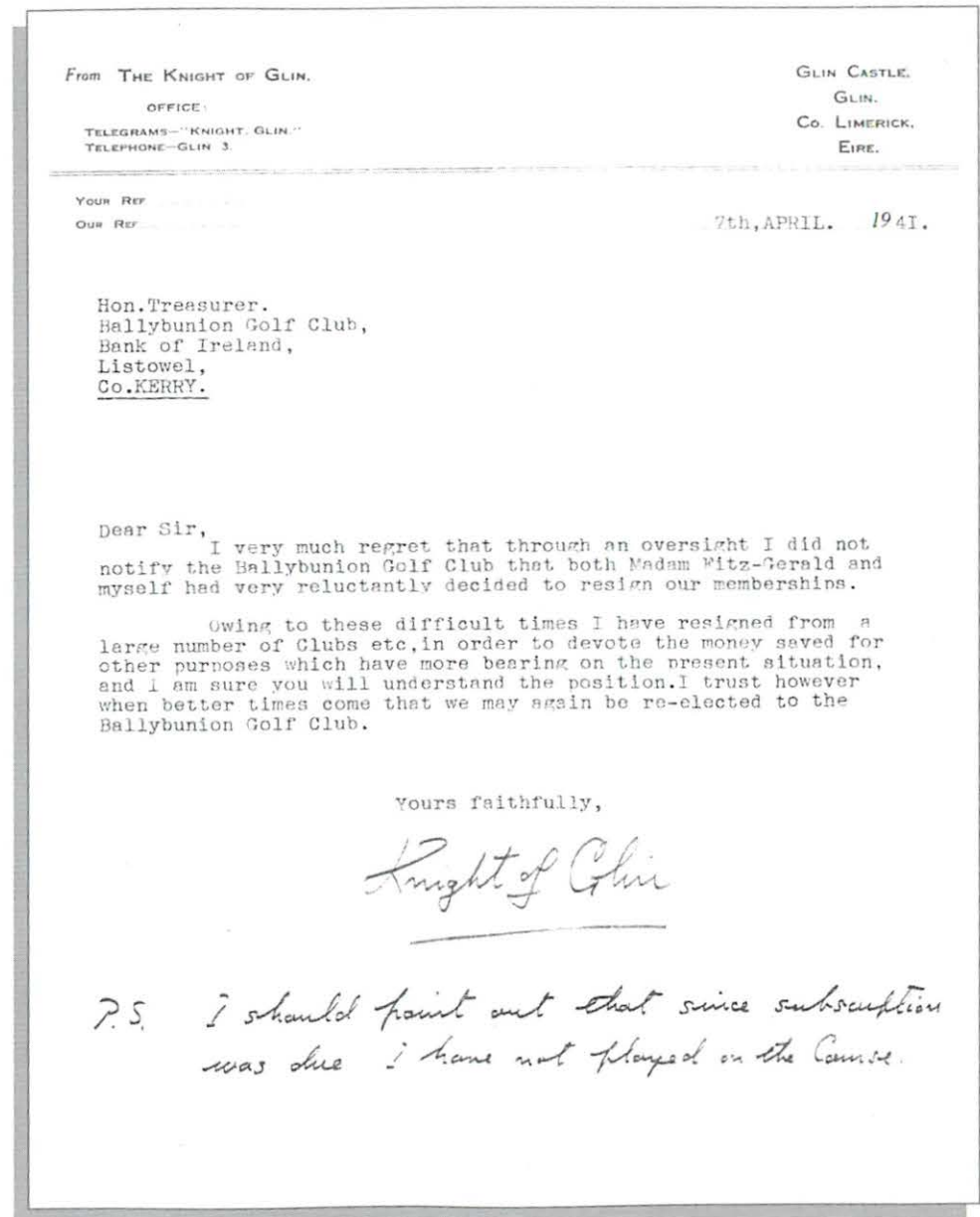
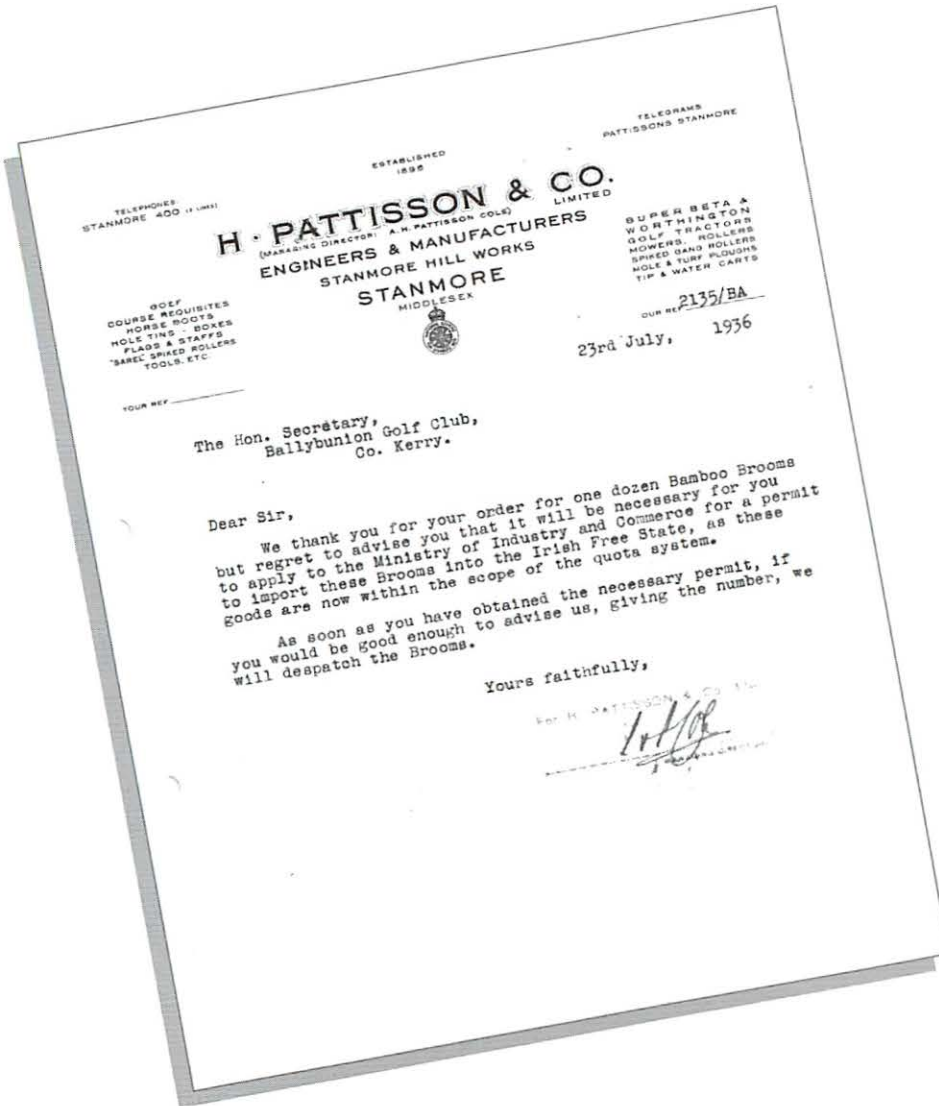
proposed to be sold to her for the sum of £10 for the season.

April, 1947: It was resolved that the following new scale of members subscriptions and visitors green fees be submitted for approval at the a.g.m. - Men Full Members £4-4-0; Lady Associates £2-2-0 . . . Green fees from April 1st to October 1st - 4/- per day, 20/- per week, 30/- per fortnight, £2-0-0 per month.

May, 1949: The Hon. Secretary was instructed to make a fresh application to the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs pressing for the installation of a telephone in the clubhouse.

April, 1959: That a suitable tractor be purchased for the mowing of the links, as it is believed these

DATES



DATES

works could be more economically carried out by means of a tractor than by horse.

April 1, 1951: On the proposition of Mr. C. A. Andrews, seconded by Mr. D.A. O'Mahony, it was decided that the Committee should consider the selection of some suitable colours to be known as the Ballybunion golf club colours.

[**April 1, 1957:** Mr. P. A. McCarthy proposed and Mr. Mce. Jones seconded that a club flag be adopted and that the following sub-committee consider design and colour - Mr. J. McNamara, Capt: Mr. C. J. Stone, Mr. Mce. Jones, Mr. P. A. McCarthy and Mr. J. S. O'Reilly

May, 1957: It was decided to have a wine colour flag bearing a black silhouette of Ballybunion Castle with the letters B.G.C. in gold underneath. The castle to be backed with white to throw out the silhouette.]

July, 1951: It was reported to the meeting that the following gifts had been made to the club - Mr. J. Moriarty, Listowel - 1 electric clock, value £3-9-0; Rev. H. Hanley and others - 3 tables and 4 chairs, value £25.

September, 1951: It was unanimously resolved that a Bridge Club should be formed under the auspices of the golf club.

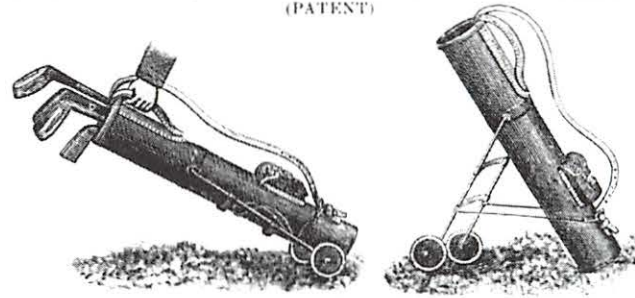
March, 1952: A valuable tea-set was presented by the Ladies' Branch of the club.

April, 1953: A letter was read from the Lady Associates' Hon. Secretary requesting permission

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11, Victoria Street, London, W. 1. (In the City of London).

Below: Shortis family business
... on the main street ... a long
association with the
Ballybunion Club.



DATES

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TELEPHONE:
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D. L. DALY.
R. C. FLANNAGAN.
H. E. GUINNESS.
H. L. KENWARD.
B. J. O'DONNELL.
D. TELFORD, F.C.A.

REF. D. 54.

REGISTERED OFFICES:

DUNLOP HOUSE,
LOWER ABBEY STREET,
DUBLIN, C.8.

7th May, 1942.

The Secretary,
Ballybunion Golf Club,
Ballybunion,
CO. KERRY.

Dear Sir,

As an emergency war measure and in order to preserve the game, we have decided to re-cover old golf balls of all makes. The ball will be marked R.M. (as an abbreviation for the word remould) and will be numbered 1-6.

We shall be pleased to receive from you old golf balls for re-covering which should be sent to The Irish Dunlop Co. Ltd., Marine Works, Cork, carriage paid, in lots of not less than 6 dozen. Your name should appear on the outside of the package and the quantities of balls given on a slip inside the package.

Balls not suitable for remoulding will be scrapped and you will be advised of the number put in hand for remoulding. Of this number a small percentage may fail in the manufacturing process and the total delivery to you of re-covered balls will be reduced accordingly.

The trade price for re-covering will be 12/- per dozen and the balls will be returned to you, carriage paid.

We hope that this service will be of assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,
FOR THE IRISH DUNLOP CO. LTD.,



CO. LOUTH GOLF CLUB,
BALTRAY,
CO. LOUTH.

1st November, 1937.

W. J. McCarthy, Esq.,
Hon. Sec., Ballybunion Golf Club,
Ballybunion, Co., Kerry.

Dear Mr. McCarthy,

Could you please let me have a sample of the powdered Peat used by Mr. Simpson, Golf Architect, in the re-construction of your Links.

Mr. Simpson is about to reconstruct our Links here, and he is anxious to obtain the same grade of Peat as was used at Ballybunion. I would feel very grateful for an early reply, and I hope I am not causing you too much inconvenience.

I hope you are keeping very fit, and that your game is as good as ever.

Yours sincerely,

Josephine Barber
Secy

DATES

to hold an Open Mixed Foursomes competition on some Sunday in May, the ladies to put up the prizes and all entry fees to go to the club.

July, 1953: Mr. P. J. Allen asked what was to be done with regard to the lady and gentleman who brought their dog through the course twice a day to collect lost golf balls. Mr. W. J. McCarthy said that a decision had been given in court that golf balls found on a golf course were the property of the golf club and that the action of these people was equivalent to "larceny by finding".

June, 1954: Mr. McCarthy suggested that two caddies be employed to sweep the greens each morning . . . to be paid 5/- each.

December, 1955: Mr. J. S. O'Reilly suggested we hold a Captain's Dinner and invite the Captain and Hon. Secretary of the Newcastle West, Killarney and Tralee golf club as guests.

January, 1957: The Captain informed the meeting that Mrs. Wilson, Ladies Captain, was

Ladies' Championship, 1937: Standing: Clarrie Tiernan, winner, and Sybil Moore, runner up. Seated: Eithne Pentony (Hermitage) semi finalist, Miss C.L. Smith, Hon. Secretary, Irish Ladies Golf Union, J.H. Todd (Kilkenny), semi finalist.



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DATES

HON. SECRETARY:
ALAN B. KIDD,
14, DAWSON STREET,
DUBLIN.
TELEGRAMS: "SAFEGUARD DUBLIN"
TELEPHONE: 43271 DUBLIN.



HON. TREASURER:
C. S. HARDEN
ARDSCOOMBE,
NEW FORGE LANE,
BELFAST.

7th June, 1937.

W. J. McCarthy, Esq.,
Hon. Sec., Ballybunion Golf Club,
The Square,
Listowel,
Co. Kerry.

Re: Close Championship.

Dear Mr. McCarthy,

I have great pleasure in informing you that I have completed 86 entries for the Close Championship at Ballybunion which is a record entry since the Championship was started 44 years ago. I will send you further details as soon as possible.

When making out the draw I notice that you are a competitor and therefore you cannot act on the Championship Committee which merely exists in the event of a dispute arising on any point. Will you be good enough, therefore, to wire me another name instead of your own, in case I may have time to put the names on the programme.

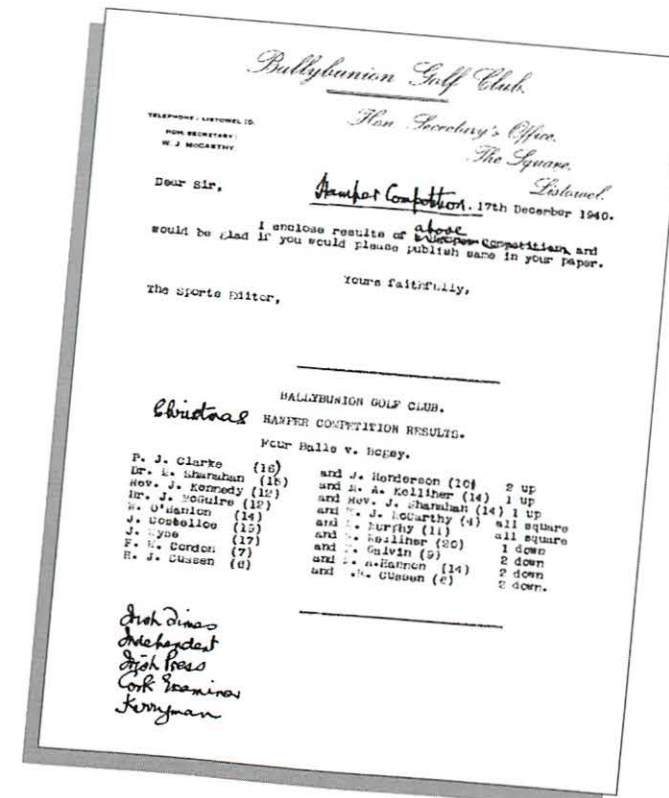
Yours sincerely,

Alan Kidd

prepared to put up a Ladies' Scratch Cup and £5-0-0 to be played for during Open Week. It was decided to accept.

September, 1957: Mr. Mce Jones said that Mr. Matt O'Sullivan approached him about arranging an amateur cum professional fixture. He suggested 72 holes stroke, invitation and said he was prepared to put up £2 to every £1 produced by the club to a maximum of £600.

April, 1958: It was decided to let the grazing of the field below Guard Nagle's house to Mr. Mce Jones for 11 months, for £5-0-0.



DATES

PHONE 16
TELEGRAMS
LEONARD'S STORES, NEWCASTLE WEST.

BRIDGE HOUSE,
NEWCASTLE WEST.

John Leonard Limited.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MEAL AND FLOUR STORES.
GROCERY, WINE AND SPIRIT WAREHOUSE.

GRAMOPHONE AND WIRELESS DEPT. — MOTOR DELIVERIES —

30th June, 1942,

Agenda for:

PHILCO.

H.M.V.

PILOT.

WIRELESS AND
GRAMOPHONES.

ALL OTHER

MAKES

STOCKED.

BATTERIES

CHARGED

REPAIRS

EXECUTED

PROMPTLY.

W. H. McCarthy, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary, Ballybunion Golf Club,
The Square,
Listowel.

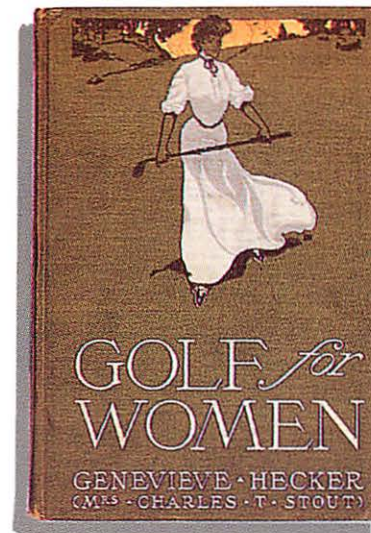
Dear Willie,

With regards to the Ballybunion Golf Club my wife and I have decided to let our membership lapse until means of travel become more convenient as we find we have no way of visiting Ballybunion under present conditions.

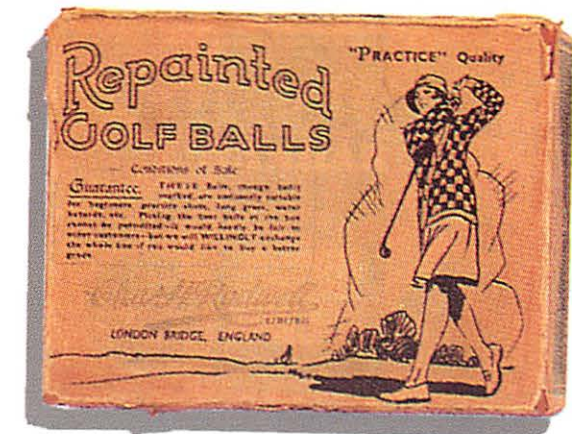
Hoping you are keeping fit and are playing as well as ever.

Yours sincerely,

John Leonard



BALLYBUNION GOLF CLUB			
Sunday Competitions (BONNET) August 1st.			
J. Rossley	Scr.	1 up	
W. Staapcoole	10.	All square.	
Afternoon FOUR BALL (BONNET)			
P. McCarthy and J. Kelleher		8 up	
M. Hamon and M. Galvin		6 up	
M. Hamilton and M. O'Connell		4 up	
P. Hall and J. Purcell		3 up	
P. Stafford and W. Staapcoole		3 up	
P. Hanlon and P. O'Shea		3 up	
M. Jackson and J. Condon		2 up	
J. Mulreeman and J. Lynch		2 up	
J. Rossley and P. Allen		1 up	
M. A. Macaulay and G. Minchey		1 up	
BALLYBUNION CUP (STROKE) August 2nd			
M. Galvin	(10)	71	
J. Kelleher	(14)	72	
W. Staapcoole	(10)	73	
M. Hamilton	(3)	74	BEST GROSS
J. Mulreeman	(10)	74	
V. Hanlon	(10)	74	
P. Lynch	(10)	76	
A. Hogg	(10)	76	
Monday Afternoon FOUR-BALL August 2nd.			
J. Troy and A. Troy		4 up	
J. Lynch and M. O'Shea		4 up	
P. Murphy and W. Murphy		3 up	
J. Kelleher and P. McCarthy		3 up	
Dr. McGuire and Capt. McKenna		3 up	
P. Hall and J. Purcell		3 up	
M. Jackson and J. Condon		3 up	
J. Brasse and J. Pitt		3 up	



February, 1959: The Secretary was instructed to send £2-2-0 to the G.U.I. towards the presentation to H. Bradshaw and C. O'Connor, winners of the Canada (World) Cup.

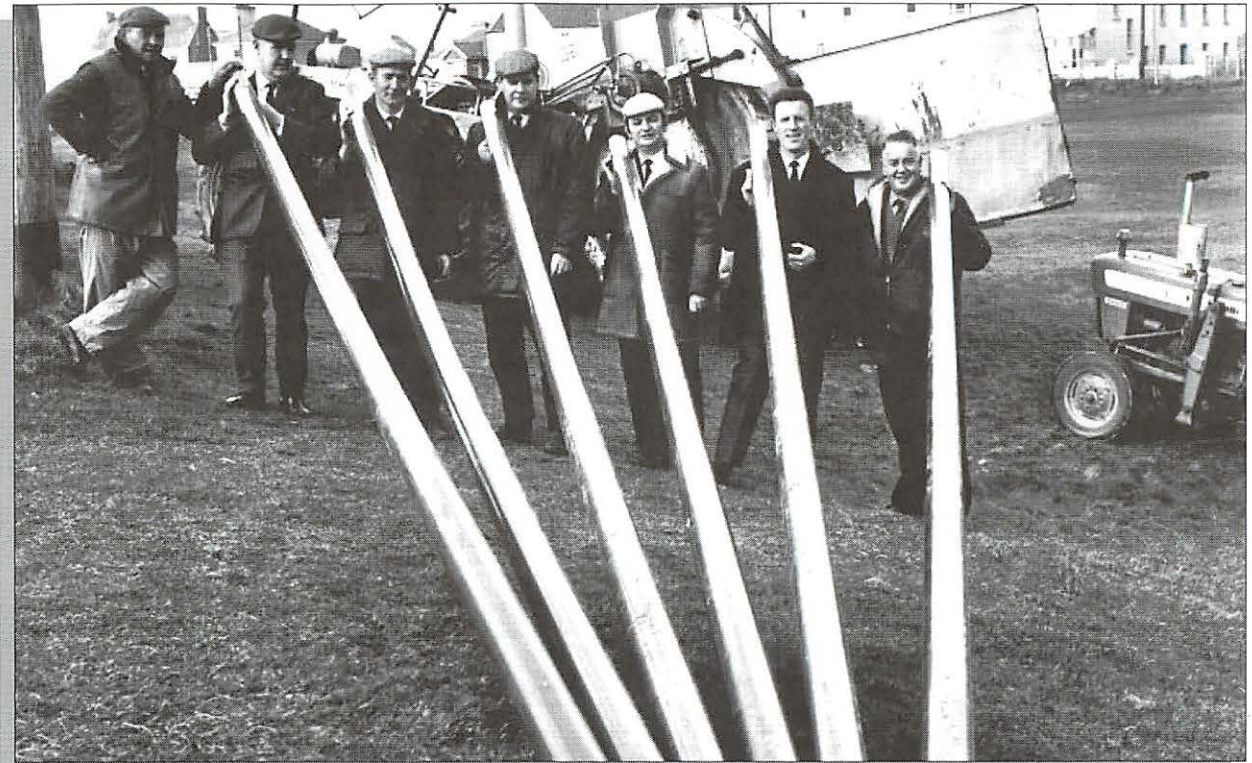
December, 1960: Mr. J. G. McKenna gave the estimated requirements and approximate cost of laying water to eight greens. The cost of materials would be between £200 and £225.

September, 1963: Committee recorded appreciation of article written in *Country Life* by Pat Ward Thomas, outlining Old Course "Had few peers in all the world of seaside golf".

June, 1968: Permission granted for Shell Wonderful World of Golf t.v., match between Christy O'Connor and Bob Goalby to be played on the links at a later date.

DATES

Right: Laying the pipes for the installation of the watering system. left to right, Eamonn Allen, Des O'Grady, Sean Walsh, Gerald Stack, Michael Herrigan, Michael Barrett and Comdt. T. Brick.



July, 1968: Comdt. T. Brick appointed as club's first Secretary-Manager.

March, 1971: Mrs. Angela Gilmore assumed office as Lady Captain, being daughter of Mrs. Rosalie Venn (nee Shortis), club's first Lady Captain in 1941.

May, 1975: Dan Murphy, Captain, led group to St. Andrews, Scotland in support of Pat Mulcare,

THAT WONDERFUL WHISKEY
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 Phone—Portmarnock 20.

London Office—
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 45 Fenchurch St., E.C.3.

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Vol. 8. No. 85

THE IRISH PRES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1988

The Truth in the News

Golf buff buried at Ballybunion course

An American golfing fanatic thought so much of Ballybunion golf course that he ordered his body to be flown from Los Angeles for burial beside the famous international course. And on New Year's Eve, the remains of 43-year-old Martin McDermott were interred at Killakenny Cemetery, close to the first tee at Ballybunion. Mr. Sean Walsh, secretary of

Ballybunion golf course, said yesterday that the first most of the local golfers knew of the interment was "when it was all over. But I really was not all that surprised; it is the kind of thing the Americans might do. They hold this course in very high esteem and come back year after year to play it. This man came back for good." The dead man had played

Ballybunion only twice, in 1984 and 1986, but was so taken with the place that he wished to be buried close by, according to his wife, Vickki, who had the body flown the 6,000 miles across the Atlantic. "It was the one wish he had left," she said after the burial at which local parish priest, Fr. Michael Galvin, officiated.

member of British and Irish team in Walker Cup International.

July, 1979: Visit by Sandy Tatum, President of U.S. Golf Association and Walker Cup selector, who was to recommend Ballybunion to his friend Tom Watson.

August, 1983: Staging of World Golf Writers' International, Britain and Ireland defeating America. All participating golf journalists made Overseas Life Members.

September, 1982: First competition played on New Course, won by Sean Moran.





Above: On the tee... Back row (left to right), M.P. Lynch, J. Moriarty, J. McNamara, J.S. O'Reilly, Seamus Walsh, M. Jones, Mce. O'Sullivan. Front row (left to right), P.A. McCarthy, Sean Walsh, Matt O'Sullivan, B Kelly, Fr. Moynihan, M. Hanrahan.

Ballybunion Golf Club

RESULTS
of 'The Clarke Cup' (Bogey)
played on July 8th.

SCORES.		Total	H/Gap	Net
				Total
1	O'W. O'SULLIVAN			
2	J. Mc GENNITY	scr.	4 up	
3	L. BANNON	5	3 up	
4	J. BEASLEY	7	2 up	
5	J. MACAULAY	1	all square	
6		12	"	
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

DATES

July, 1985: Visit to club of Dr. P. J. Hillery, President of Ireland.

September, 1985: Promotional trip to the U.S.A. by Tom O'Keeffe (captain), Ml. O'Connell, S. Walsh.

February, 1986: Archaeology - a letter was read from the Department of Archaeology, U.C.C. asking for permission for excavation work commencing around April 2nd on two sites, The Sahara and Shell Valley.

July, 1986: Congressman, Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives, presented with membership in the Speakers Office, Capitol Hill, Washington.

March, 1987: Unanimous agreement to postpone further discussion on proposal to introduce electric cars, as tarmac roads would be required for the venture.

November, 1987: Meeting held to discuss possible renovations and/or additions to the clubhouse, built in 1971.

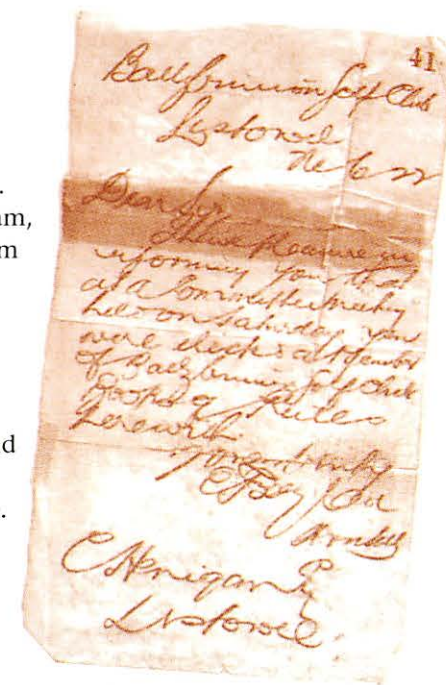
January, 1989: Numbers of members of club listed as: 380 Overseas Life; 387 Full Life; 291 Ordinary members; 78 Associate ladies; 88 Associate life members; 67 students: - 1,291.

October, 1989: Letter from John Lindsay, Executive Director P.G.A., stating a list of seven requirements for any club wishing to hold Ryder Cup and asking our response. It was decided to reply stating that a fuller reply will follow and to give it to the Centenary Year Committee to draft a response.

August, 1990: Captain, Owen McMahon accompanied five times British Open champion, Peter Thomson in a game on the Old Course.

August, 1991: Visit of the U.S. Walker Cup team, captained by Jim Gabrielson.

January, 1992: Government recognition of the need to fund the protection of the coastline. Ballybunion golf club will forever be indebted to Padraig O'hUiginn, Secretary to the Department of the Taoiseach for the generosity of his time and his commitment in support of the club's Coastal Protection Programme.



There was also Cricket



Above: Welcome confirmation in 1922 for Chas Henigan of his club membership.

Left: Friendly rivalry, 1924.... A stoppage in play during the annual cricket match played on the fairways between a Ballybunion-Listowel selection against other towns and villages throughout the counties of Kerry and Limerick.

Presidential visit



Proud moment, the visit by the President of Ireland, Dr. P.J. Hillery, May 1980. Pictured, from left: Pat Stack, Maurice Fahy, Denis O'Sullivan, Club Captain, the President of Ireland, Dr. Hillery, David O'Sullivan, Club President, Tony Devine, Club Hon. Secretary, Bill Harnett.

DATES



Left: Committee, 1964: Back row, l to r: D. O'Sullivan, Dr. J.P. Walsh, Vice Captain, M. O'Sullivan, G. Stack, Dr. T. Walshe, S.J.D. O'Mahony, S. Walsh, J.S. O'Reilly.
Seated: l to r: P. Allen, S. Treacy (Captain), M. Galvin (President), B. Kelly, P. Fitzmaurice, L. Wolfe.

Right: Committee, 1969: Back row, l to r: E. Hanrahan, Comdt. T. Brick, Dr. J.P. Walsh, T.G. Stack (Captain), M.F. Barrett, J.S. O'Reilly, M. O'Sullivan.
Seated: l to r: B. Kelly, J.G. McKenna (President), M. Henigan, S. Walsh, D. McSweeney.



Ballybunion Senior Cup Team
1970. Left to Right: Reggie
Allen, Denis Nagle, Maurice
Clarke, Michael Barrett (Capt.),
Eamon Allen, Jack Lynch.



DATES

Ballybunion Past Captains 1986. Back row: Tom O'Keeffe, Michael O'Connell, Dan Murphy, Jackie Hourigan, Denis O'Sullivan, Gerard Stack, John Molyneaux, Tom McKeon, Maurice Fahey. Sitting: Sean Walsh, David O'Sullivan, Didgie O'Connor, Michael Barrett, Michael Henigan, Pat Stack, Pat O'Connell.



Roll of Honour

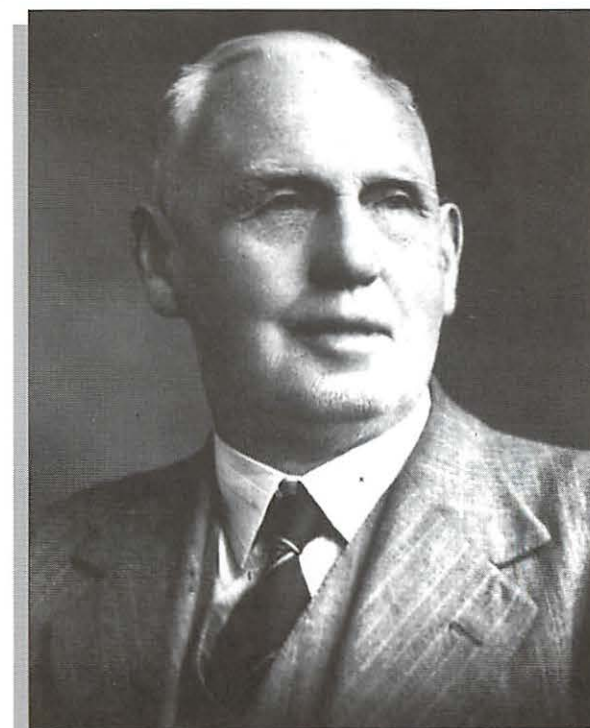
PRESIDENTS

1892 - Lord Listowel
 1896 - G. Hewson
 1916 - '57 J. Macauley
 1958 - '63 J. Clarke
 1964 - '65 M. Galvin
 1966 - '67 B. Kelly
 1968 - '69 J. McKenna
 1970 - '71 J. H. Walsh
 1972 - '73 Mce. O'Sullivan
 1974 - '75 D. F. McSweeney
 1976 - '77 J. G. O'Reilly
 1978 - '79 Ver. Rev. T. O'Sullivan
 1980 - '81 D. B. O'Sullivan
 1982 - '83 P. J. Stack
 1984 - '85 W. Harnett
 1986 - '87 M. Henigan
 1988 - '89 G. Stack
 1992 - '93 J. Molyneaux

CAPTAINS

1928 - Very Rev. Canon R. A. Adderly
 1929 - Rev. M. J. McDonnell
 1930 - Rev. J. S. Shanahan
 1931 - D. J. McGuire

1932 - J. Clarke
 1933 - E. C. Faley
 1934 - P. J. Allen
 1935 - J. W. Macauley
 1936 - T. G. Clarke
 1937 - M. Galvin
 1938 - M. Hannon
 1939 - Dr. J. Hannon
 1940 - M. E. O'Hanlon
 1941 - T. O'Sullivan
 1942 - D. O'Mahony
 1943 - P. J. Clarke
 1944 - R. A. Macauley
 1945 - W. O'Carroll
 1946 - M. O'Connell
 1947 - W. H. Venn
 1948 - P. A. O'Carroll
 1949 - Rev. J. Hanley
 1950 - Rev. T. O'Sullivan
 1951 - Dr. C. P. O'Connell
 1952 - J. Moriarty
 1953 - B. Carroll
 1954 - J. S. O'Reilly
 1955 - Rev. A. H. Hawney
 1956 - M. O'Sullivan
 1957 - J. McNamara



James J. Clarke, Club President 1958 - 1963.

ROLL OF HONOUR

1958 - J. G. McKenna
 1959 - Sean. Walsh
 1960 - J. H. Daly
 1961 - M. Sullivan
 1962 - B. Kelly
 1963 - Dr. T. Walsh
 1964 - S. Treacy
 1965 - Dr. J. P. Walsh
 1966 - S. J. D. O'Mahony
 1967 - Seamus. Walsh
 1968 - G. Stack
 1969 - Ml. Henigan
 1970 - M. F. Barrett
 1971 - M. F. Barrett
 1972 - J. Molyneaux
 1973 - D. B. O'Sullivan
 1974 - L. Woulfe
 1975 - D. Murphy
 1976 - D. Lovett
 1977 - J. Hourigan
 1978 - W. D. O'Grady
 1979 - F. D. O'Connor
 1980 - D. O'Sullivan
 1981 - Dr. McFahy
 1982 - T. McKeown
 1983 - T. Beary
 1984 - Ml. O'Connell
 1985 - T. O'Keeffe
 1986 - D. O'Connor
 1987 - J. O'Sullivan
 1988 - J. Daly
 1989 - J. Croghan
 1990 - O. McMahon
 1991 - J. Maher
 1992 - D. Lynch
 1993 - Sean Walsh

LADY CAPTAINS

1941 - Mrs. R. Venn
 1942 - Mrs. Clarke
 1943 - Miss N. Galvin
 1947 - Mrs. W. Wilson
 1948 - Mrs. E. C. Faley
 1949 - Miss O'Brien
 1950 - Miss C. Allen
 1951 - Mrs. Andrews
 1952 - Miss N. Galvin
 1953 - Mrs. Perry
 1954 - Mrs. J. Mulcahy
 1955 - Mrs. M. Galvin
 1956 - Mrs. M. G. W. Wilson
 1957 - Mrs. S. Casey
 1958 - Miss P. Quinlan
 1959 - Mrs. R. J. Nash
 1960 - Mrs. D. Shanahan
 1961 - Mrs. H. Daly
 1962 - Miss E. Moloney
 1963 - Mrs. H. Lysaght
 1964 - Mrs. D. C. O'Connell
 1965 - Mrs. B. Daly
 1966 - Mrs. T. Kissane
 1967 - Mrs. B. Brice
 1968 - Mrs. A. Sheehan
 1969 - Mrs. N. O'Sullivan
 1970 - Mrs. J. Walsh
 1971 - Mrs. A. Gilmore -Shortis
 1972 - Mrs. A. Corridan
 1973 - Mrs. E. Hanrahan
 1974 - Mrs. D. O'Grady
 1975 - Mrs. S. Henigan
 1976 - Mrs. P. O'Connor
 1977 - Miss. J. Stack
 1978 - Miss. M. O'Hanlon

1979 - Mrs. M. Stack
 1980 - Mrs. P. Beary
 1981 - Mrs. A. O'Brien
 1982 - Mrs. J. Bouchier-Hayes
 1983 - Mrs. D. Kenny
 1984 - Ms. S. Buckley
 1986 - Mrs. T. McAuliffe
 1988 - Mrs. N. McKeon
 1989 - Mrs. H. McNerney
 1990 - Mrs. M. Reid
 1991 - Mrs. E. Kearns
 1992 - Mrs. A. Fahy
 1993 - Mrs. N. Lynch

Members

Adams, M.	Condon, G.	Doherty, N.	Fitzgerald, T.	Hartnett, P.	Kennelly, E.
Adams, M.	Conway, J.	Doherty, P.	Fitzgerald, Sir J.	Hartney, M.	Kennelly, J.
Ahern, J.	Conway, M.	Dolan, J.	Fitzmaurice, E.	Hartnett, P.	Kennelly, M.
Ahern, P.C.	Costello, A.	Donegan, M.	Fitzmaurice, M.	Hayes, N.	Kennelly, S.
Allen, M.	Costello, D.	Donovan, J.	Fitzmaurice, T.	Healy, I.	Kiely, T.
Barrett, I.	Costello, E.	Donovan, K.	Fitzpatrick, J.	Healy, V.	Kiely, T.F.
Barrett, M.	Costello, J.	Doolan, J.	Flynn, F.	Hickie, J.	Kirby, M.
Barrett, T.	Costello, M.	Dooley, M.	Foley, Dr. D.	Hill, B.	Lawlor, Fr. J.
Barry, J.G.	Costello, P.	Dore, F.	Fox, John	Hitchen, P.	Lawlor, J.F.
Barry, K.	Coughlan, P.	Dore, J.	Frost, K.	Hogan, D.	Leahy, B.
Barry, M.	Courcy, C. de	Downes, J.	Gallagher, A.	Hogan, J.	Leahy, M.
Bourke, M.	Cox, Joe	Dundon, G.	Gallagher, L.	Hogan, S.	Leahy, T.
Boyle, T.	Cronin, D.	Dwyer, E.	Galvin, D.	Hogan, T.	Lewis, C.T.
Braddish, S.	Crowe, S.	Eastwood, S.T.	Geary, J.J.	Houlihan, T.	Lovett, G.
Breathnach, D.	Crowley, G.	Elliott, Fr. A.	Geary, T.	Howard, Fr. P.	Linnane, V.
Breen, B.	Culhane, J.	Enright, J.	Griffin, D.	Jones, J.	Liston, E.
Brock, S.	Curtin, P.	Enright, P.	Griffin, T.	Jones, T.	Liston, P.
Brooks, R.J.	Curtin, T.	Enright, T.	Grimes, E.	Judge, A.	Lucid, P.
Brosnan, D.	Daly, F.	Falvey, J.	Guiney, J.	Julian, M.	Lynch, D.
Brosnan, Fr. J.	Daly, J.V.	Farrell, J.	Halpin, M.	Julian, W.	Lyons, J.
Buckley, N.	Danagher, M.J.	Finn, D.	Halpin, N.	Keane, O.	Lyons, P.
Byrne, G.J.	Danagher, S.	Finnerty, S.	Hanley, P.	Keane, M.	Madigan, Fr.
Cagney, M.	Dee, J.	Finucane, M.	Hanley, T.	Keane-Stack, S.	Madigan, Fr. M.
Canty, J.	Demirjian, J.G.	Fitzgerald, J.	Hannafin, Fr. S.	Keaveney, M.	Maguire, J.
Carter, W.	Denihan, C.	Fitzgerald, K.	Harnett, W.	Kelly, N.	Maher, J.
Casey, P.	Dilger, G.	Fitzgerald, L.	Harte, P.	Kelly, P.	Marren, D.
Collery, T.	Dillane, Fr. E.	Fitzgerald, M.	Hartnett, G.	Kennedy, P.	Marren, E.

MEMBERS

Mawe, F.
 McAulliffe, M.
 McAuliffe, John
 McCabe, P.
 McCarthy, D.
 McCarthy, G.
 McCarthy, J.
 McCarthy, P.
 McDarby, T.
 McDwyer, J.
 McGivern, J.
 McGivern, F.
 McGovern, A.
 McKenna, J.
 McLoughlin, P.
 McMahan, J.
 McMahan, M.
 McNamara, T.
 McSweeney, D.F.
 Meaney, T.
 Moloney, D.
 Moloney, J.
 Molyneaux, D.
 Molyneaux, J.J.
 Moran, S.
 Moriarty, D.
 Moroney, S.
 Moylan, E.
 Mulcare, D.
 Mullins, W.
 Murphy, D.
 Murphy, J.
 Murphy, L.
 Murphy, Fr. M.
 Murphy, M.
 Murphy, S.
 Nash, J.J.

Neenan, J.
 Nestor, J.
 Neville, P.
 Neville, T.M.
 Neylon, F.
 Nolan, T.
 Noonan, D.
 Nugent, I.
 O'Brien, D.
 O'Brien, R.
 O'Callaghan, M.
 O'Carroll, L.
 O'Connell, M.
 O'Connell, S.
 O'Connell, T.
 O'Connor, Dr. B.
 O'Connor, H.
 O'Connor, T.J.
 O'Connor, T.
 O'Donovan, K.
 O'Donnell, D.
 O'Donoghue, C.
 O'Donoghue, P.J.
 O'Donovan, K.
 O'Driscoll, J.
 O'Gorman, W.
 O'Grady, D.
 O'Grady, G.
 O'Halloran, J.
 O'Halloran, M.
 O'Halloran, T.
 O'Keeffe, J.
 O'Kelly, V.
 O'Leary, Fr. F.R.
 O'Leary, Fr.
 O'Mahony, E.
 O'Mahony, P.

O'Neill, J.
 O'Neill, O.
 O'Neill, P.
 O'Rourke, J.
 O'Rourke, P.
 O'Shaughnessy, E.
 O'Sullivan, D.
 O'Sullivan, J.
 O'Sullivan, M.
 O'Sullivan, P.
 O'Sullivan, S.
 O'Sullivan, N.
 Orr, Hamilton
 Patterson, B.
 Phelan, D.
 Quaid, D.
 Quane, M.
 Quinlan, J.
 Queally, M.
 Quirke, J.
 Rabitzki, J.
 Raleigh, O.
 Reidy, H.
 Reidy, P.
 Reidy, S.
 Rice, P.
 Roberts, N.
 Roberts, N.J.
 Rohan, T.
 Rothwell, H.
 Ryan, J.
 Scanlon, J.
 Scanlon, M.
 Scanlon, M.
 Shanahan, M.
 Sheehan, F.
 Sheehan, H.

Sheehan, J.
 Sheehy, C.
 Sheehy, M.
 Sherry, J.
 Shine, D.
 Sinnott, N.
 Stack, B.
 Stack, E.
 Stack, E.J.
 Stack, S.
 Sugrue, P.
 Swan, R.
 Tackaberry, J.
 Taylor, P.
 Thornton, F.
 Thornton, S.
 Wallace, J.
 Wally, P.
 Walsh, A.
 Walsh, B.
 Walsh, D.
 Walsh, G.
 Walsh, P.J.
 Walsh, T.
 Walsh, Fr. W.
 Weadick, T.
 Whelan, F.
 Whelan, J.
 Whelan, P.
 White, V.
 Williams, T.
 Yallop, S.

MEN LIFE MEMBERS

Adams, G.
 Adams, S.
 Ahern, Nelius
 Allen, Finbar
 Allen, V.R.
 Ambrose, J.
 Barrett, Dr. K.
 Barrett, M.
 Barrett, M.F.
 Barrett, R.
 Barron, E.
 Barry, J.
 Bateman, J.F.
 Beary, J.
 Beary, T.
 Beasley, M.
 Begley, B.
 Begley, N.
 Bennett, F.
 Blake, D.
 Bluett, Fr. G.
 Boucher-Hayes, P.P.
 Bowler, J.
 Bowen, Fr. P.
 Boyle, M.
 Brasil, D.
 Brasil, M.
 Brennan, L.
 Brick, J.
 Bridgeman, T.
 Briscoe, K.
 Broderick, J.
 Broderick, R.F.
 Broderick, V.

Brosnan, B.
 Brosnan, J.
 Brosnan, J.G.
 Brosnan, Dr. M.
 Brosnan, M.
 Brosnan, R.
 Brosnan, S.
 Browne, B.
 Browne, B.
 Browne, D.
 Browne, E.
 Browne, J.
 Browne, L.
 Browne, Noel
 Browne, P.
 Browne, S.
 Browne, T.
 Buckley, B.
 Buckley, Dr. J.
 Buckley, J.
 Buckley, W.J.
 Buckley, D.
 Burke, D.
 Burke, G.
 Callaghan, J.
 Carew, J.C.
 Carey, G.
 Carmody, P.J.
 Carney, B.
 Carroll, B.J.
 Carroll, J.
 Casey, A.
 Casey, L.W.
 Casey, M.
 Chute, M.
 Chute, A.
 Chute, C.

MEMBERS

Chute, J.A.	Daly, J.	Fitzmaurice, J.	Harnett, T.F.	Keating, Fr. J.	Lynch, M.
Chute, R.	Daly, J.C.	Fitzmaurice, Fr.P.	Harty, K.	Kelleher, T.	Lynch, M.
Clancy, R.	Daly, M.	Fitzmaurice, T.	Harty, T.	Kelliher, B.	Lynch, Noel
Clancy, T.	Daly, V.	Fitzmaurice, Fr. W.	Hayes, C.	Kelliher, D.	Lyons, M.
Clarke, B.	Daly, W.	Foley, D.	Hayes, W.	Kelly, J.	Lyons, W.M.
Clarke, M.	Dawson, H.J.	Galvin, J.	Healy, F.	Kelly, Fr. L.	Magnier, J.
Collins, Fr. C.	DeCourcy, Cyril	Galvin, John	Heffernan, J.	Kelly, T.P.	Maguire, T.
Collins, P.	Deenihan, J.	Galvin, M.F.	Heffernan, W.	Kennelly, B.	Maher, P.J.
Collins, T.	Dempsey, J.	Geaney, C.	Hellard, C.	Kenny, K.	Malone, P.
Collison, D.	Dennehy, D.	Geary, Dr. D.	Henigan, C.	Kenny, P.	Maloney, N.
Condon, R.	Dineen, D.	Gibbons, M.	Henigan, M.	Kiely, B.	Martin, W.
Connellan, Fr. J.B.	Doherty, Fr. M.	Gillooly, R.	Hennebery, M.	Kiely, T.	May, P.
Cooney, J.	Dolan, F.	Gleeson, J.F.	Herlihy, P.B.	Killeen, J.	McAuliffe, A.
Corcoran, S.	Donovan, Dr. D.	Gorman, D.	Hickey, M.	Kindlan, P.	McAuliffe, R.
Corridan, J.	Dooley, P.	Grace, A.	Hickey, M.P.	King, B.	McAuliffe, X.
Corridan, T.	Dooley, T.	Griffin, B.	Higginbotham, G.	Laide, J.	McCarthy, B.
Costello, D.	Dowling, P.	Griffin, C.	Higginbotham, J.	Laide, S.	McCarthy, C.
Costello, J.	Duffy, P.G.	Griffin, G.	Higginbotham, P.	Lane, Fr. M.	McCarthy, S.
Costello, Fr. J.	Duggan, T.	Griffin, J.	Hogan, G.	Lavery, J.	McCarthy, S.P.
Costello, M.	Duggan, T.	Griffin, T.	Hogan, P.	Lawlor, D.	McCoy, Dr. T.
Costello, M.	Egan, J.	Groarke, J.	Holmes, M.J.	Lawlor, G.	McDonagh, W.
Costello, P.	Enright, J.	Guerin, J.	Horgan, M.	Lawlor, J.	McDonnell, G.
Cotter, M.	Enright, P.	Guerin, S.	Horgan, T.	Lawlor, P.	McElligott, E.
Courtney, D.A.	Fahy, Dr. M.	Guerin, T.	Hourigan, J.	Leahy, Dr. J.	McElligott, M.
Crean, P.	Farrell, B.	Gunn, Fr. T.	Hourigan, J.F.	Leahy, S.	McElligott, P.
Cremin, M.	Farrell, M.	Hanley, P.	Irwin, Fr. J.	Lempriere, D.J.	McElistrim, M.
Croghan, J.	Fenn, D.P.	Hannon, D.	Ivers, A.	Leonard, J.	McGann, B. J.
Cronin, C.	Fenn, F.	Hannon, D.A.	Jones, M.	Leonard, R.	McGerailt, S.
Crowley, D.D.	Fenn, J.	Hannon, G.	Kane, D.	Leonard, R.	McGillicuddy, J.
Cummins, M.	Fenn, T.	Hannon, J.	Keane, B.	Liston, D.	McGowan, J.
Cummins, P.	Fitzgerald, B.J.	Hannon, T.	Keane, D.	Liston, E.	McInerney, J.P.
Cunningham, B.	Fitzgerald, J.	Hanrahan, D.	Keane, G.	Long, P.	McKeon, T.
Cussen, J.	Fitzgerald, John	Harman, J.	Keane, J.	Lovett, D.	McMahon, D.
Cussen, R.	Fitzgerald, M.	Harman, J.C.	Kearney, A.	Lucey, Dr. M.H.	McMahon, G.
Daly, Dr. A.	Fitzgerald, T.	Harnett, B.	Kearney, J.	Lynch, B.M.	McMahon, J.C.
Daly, B.	Fitzmaurice, D.	Harnett, P.	Kearns, D.	Lynch, J.V.	McMahon, M.
Daly, B.A.	Fitzmaurice, E.	Harnett, T.	Kearns, O.	Lynch, Dr. L.	McMahon, O.

MEMBERS

McMahon, Fr. T.	Mulvihill, N.	O'Connor, A.	O'Leary, W.	Ryan, E.	Wall, P.
McManus, J.P.	Mulvihill, P.	O'Connor, B.	O'Mahony, R.	Ryan, T.	Walsh, B.
Moriarty, T.	Mulcare, J.	O'Connor, D.G.	O'Malley, T.	Scanlon, J.	Walsh, J.
McNamara, G.	Mulcare, M.	O'Connor, D.	O'Neill, B.	Scannell, F.	Walsh, P.C.
McNamara, J.	Murphy, B.	O'Connor, F.D.	O'Neill, J.J.	Sexton, J.	Walsh, S.
McNerney, F.	Murphy, D.	O'Connor, James	O'Neill, P.	Sexton, J.	Ward, J.
McSweeney, D.	Murphy, D.	O'Connor, J.	O'Neill, S.	Sexton, W.	Whelan, C.
McSweeney, E.	Murphy, J.	O'Connor, J. M.	O'Reilly, P.	Sheehy, M.	Whelehan, J.
Meade, L.	Murphy, J.	O'Connor, J.P.	O'Riordan, M.	Sheehy, T.	Williams, P.
Mehigan, R.	Murphy, M.A.	O'Connor, S.	O'Shea, E.	Sheridan, E.	Williams, R.
Mills, R.	Murphy, M.P.	O'Connor, T.	O'Shea, J.	Sinnott, H.	Woodards, K.
Mockler, M.	Murphy, P.	O'Connor, W.	O'Shea, M.	Smiddy, Dr. T.	Woulfe, J.
Moloney, D.	Murphy, T.A.	O'Connell, M.	O'Sullivan, J.	Smith, B.V.	Woulfe, K.
Moloney, V.	Murphy, P.	O'Donnell, M.	O'Sullivan, John	Smith, C.	
Molyneaux, D.	Nagle, M.	O'Donnell, T.	O'Sullivan, A.	Smith, N.	
Molyneaux, D.	Nash, M.	O'Donoghue, D.	O'Sullivan, B.	Spillane, M.V.	
Molyneaux, H.	Niash, R.	O'Donoghue, S.	O'Sullivan, D.B.	Spring, Dr. A.	
Molyneaux, J.	Naughton, B.	O'Dowd, M.	O'Sullivan, D.	Spring, A.	
Moloney, N.	Naughton, M.	O'Farrell, M.	O'Sullivan, Fr. L.	Spring, D.	
Moran, J.	Naughton, P.	O'Farrell, M.P.	O'Sullivan, R.	Spring, G.	
Moran, M.	Neville, Fr.	O'Farrell, M.P.	O'Sullivan, T.	Stack, J.	
Moran, O.	Nolan, J.	O'Flaherty, B.	O'Sullivan, G.	Stack, J.K.	
Moriarty, F.	Noonan, M.	O'Flynn, C.	O'Toole, T.P.	Stack, P.	
Moriarty, J.	Noonan, Fr. M.	O'Flynn, C.	Park, J.	Stack, P.B.	
Moriarty, J. A.	O'Brien, D.	O'Flynn, J.	Power, J.	Stack, T.G.	
Moriarty, M.	O'Brien, J.C.	O'Grady, W.D.	Quaid, M.	Stanley, Fr. M.	
Moriarty, P.	O'Brien, M.	O'Halloran, B.	Quinlan, Fr.	Stephenson, F.	
Moriarty, T.	O'Callaghan, B.	O'Halloran, C.B.	Quinlan, D.	Sweeney, B.	
Morkan, N.	O'Callaghan, Fr. B.	O'Hanlon, D.	Quinlan, J.	Sweeney, T.	
Morkan, N.	O'Callaghan, J.	O'Hanlon, M.	Quinlan, L.	Sweeney, W.	
Morkan, P.	O'Callaghan, K.	O'Hara, N.	Quirke, N.	Tarrant, P.	
Morris, D.W.	O'Callaghan, P.	O'Keefe, D.	Redmond, J.	Taylor, S.	
Morris, I.	O'Callaghan, T.	O'Keefe, F.	Reen, D.	Tobin, P.	
Mountaine, N.C.	O'Carroll, F.	O'Keefe, G.	Roche, K.	Treacy, S.	
Mulcare, P.	O'Connell, D.	O'Keefe, J.	Rogers, E.	Twoomey, J.A.	
Mulqueen, C.	O'Connell, L.	O'Keefe, T.	Rodgers, T.	Wall, F.	
Mulvihill, C.	O'Connell, M.	O'Leary, J.	Rohan, M.	Wall, J.	

LADY ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBER

Adams, Mrs. M.
Adams, Mrs. N.
Barrett, Mrs. M.
Beary, Mrs. P.
Boucher-Hayes, Mrs. J.
Byle, Mrs. P.
Brennan, Mrs. M.
Browne, Ms. J.
Browne, Mrs. M.
Buckley, Mrs.
Buckley, Ms. C.
Buckley, Miss S.
Burke, Ms. U.
Buckley, Mrs. K.
Chute, Mrs. N.
Corcoran, Ms. M.
Corridan, Mrs. A.T.

MEMBERS

Costello, Mrs. B.
 Cummins, Miss D.
 Cunningham, Mrs. A.
 Dalton, Mrs. E.
 Dolan, Mrs. K.
 Dunne, Mrs. M.
 Fahy, Mrs. A.
 Fitzmaurice, Mrs. M.
 Geaney, Ms. M.
 Gilmore, Mrs. A.
 Gilmore, Miss J.
 Guiney, Mrs. M.
 Harnett, Mrs. M.
 Hartnett, Mrs. B.
 Healy, Mrs. L.
 Henigan, Mrs. S.
 Hourigan, Mrs. D.
 Jones, Mrs. C.
 Kearns, Mrs. E.
 Kennedy, Mrs. M.
 Kenny, Mrs. D.
 Kenny, Mrs. M.
 Kenny, Mrs. E.
 Leonard, Mrs. A.
 Liston, Mrs. J.
 Lucey, Miss H.
 Lynch, Mrs. L.
 Lynch, Mrs. N.
 Mackey, Mrs. M.
 McCarthy, Mrs. C.
 McElligott, Ms. P.
 McEnry, Mrs. M.
 McKeon, Mrs. N.
 Moloney, Miss M.
 Moore, Miss M.
 Moran, Mrs. M.
 Murphy, Ms. A.

Murphy, Mrs. M.
 Murray, Mrs. N.
 Neville, Miss E.
 Noonan, Mrs. E.
 Noonan, Mrs. R.
 Noonan, Ms. V.
 O'Brien, Mrs. A.
 O'Brien, Mrs. M.R.
 O'Connell, Mrs. M.
 O'Connor, Miss A.
 O'Connor, Mrs. P.
 O'Donnell, Mrs. J.
 O'Donnell, Mrs. M.
 O'Farrell, Mrs. M.
 O'Hanlon, Ms. M.
 O'Hanlon, Mrs. M.
 O'Keefe, Mrs. A.
 O'Mahony, Mrs. S.
 O'Sullivan, Mrs. E.
 O'Sullivan, Mrs. N.
 O'Connor, Mrs. J.
 Patterson, Mrs. B.
 Perryman, Ms. K.
 Pierce, Mrs. M.
 Quaid, Ms. B.
 Quilter, Mrs. T.
 Relihan, Mrs. M.
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CENTENARY COMMITTEE



Left: Ballybunion Golf Committee 1993 Centenary Year.

Back row (left to right), Maurice Fahey, Michael Henigan (Trustee), Dan O'Sullivan, Tom O'Keeffe, John Croghan (Hon. Sec.), Brendan O'Sullivan, Tim Beary (Treasurer), Jim Maher, Didgie O'Connor, Donal Liston.

Front row (left to right), John Moriarty (Trustee), John Fox (Vice Captain), Sean Walsh (Captain), John Molyneaux (President), Dominic Lynch, Michael O'Connell (Vice President), Bob O'Sullivan.

Right: Centenary Committee.

Back row (left to right), Denis O'Sullivan, Didgie O'Connor, Michael Barrett, Declan Lovett, Dan Murphy, Gerald Stack.

Front row (left to right), Jackie Hourigan (Centenary Chairman), Martina Reid, Sean Walsh (Centenary Captain), Dominic Lynch, Angela Fahey, John Fox (Vice Captain).



The Future . . .

A mountain of superlatives have been fairly indulged in when it comes to describing golf at Ballybunion in its first 100 years.

Caring and conscientious members are also aware that a mountain will have to be climbed in order to ensure the consolidation of Ballybunion's reputation, heading into a second century.

Such is the renown of the place that it is, quite rightly, revered as a golfing heritage to be lovingly preserved.

To this end, the club is likely to continue as a centrepiece of tourism, not alone in Kerry, but in a National context.

As well as the prized golfing complex of 36 of the finest links holes you will encounter, Ballybunion is a thriving seaside resort. It offers four golden beaches, hot sea weed baths, the longest day light hours of Europe, places of historical and archeological interest: in short, a holiday playground and your archetypal family resort.

A measure of its popularity now is that the club annual finances record the milestone of £1 million turnover in 1991 and in excess of that figure the following year. From the club's humble beginning to these heady mathematics, three generations of the Fitzmaurice family from The Square, Listowel have supervised the finances originally by founder member David, then by his son Paudie from the 1950s, who in turn passed on the books to his son, David!

In terms of golf alone, the demands to play the long established Old and marvellously maturing New courses are such that the village and the club continue to work in productive liaison.

Already, the club's central involvement in the co-operative, also embracing Tralee, Lahinch, Killarney and Waterville, designed to woo more visitors to the South West corner of Ireland; has seen, much as it has always been at Ballybunion, a complementary factor between club and village.

The progression is that the graph-line of the club, traced since those explorative and hesitant days of the 1890s and its formation, will continue on an upward trend.

Already there is talk of a major professional tournament being staged.

Club records outline how moves have already been made to investigate the possibility of housing the Ryder Cup International and/or the Irish Open Championship.

When tenders were invited for the staging of the 1993 match between Europe and the U.S.A., the P.G.A., at its headquarter at The Belfry, acknowledged the enquiry on behalf of the Ballybunion club.

It sent a delegation to visit the club, much at the same time as representatives of the Carrolls Irish Open also visited Ballybunion on a similar reconnaissance.

With the facility of 36 holes, the indications must also be that Ballybunion would present

an ideal location for the staging of the World Cup tournament.

Of course, there is little doubt, judging by the popularity of the place and the success of past events, Men's and Ladies; that Ballybunion will continue to play host to all of the leading amateur championships, as well as continuing to be a mecca for all discerning golfers wanting to make the pilgrimage.

All the while, a war must be waged with the destructive ravages of the Atlantic. Ballybunion, as much as any of the necklace of golf courses encircling the coast of Ireland, is bedevilled by the threat of coastal erosion.

Every winter-time the concerned membership holds its collective breath in fearful anticipation of the potential damage that can be caused by unremitting, troubled seas, eroding the shoreline of the links and its famed sand dunes.

Since its pioneering days at the turn of the century, Ballybunion has been made to run the gauntlet of the sea. That it has defiantly battled against the odds underlines the spirit of the club and the commitment its membership carries into a second century in order to ensure that Ballybunion golf club endures proudly as the golfing wonder for which it is renowned.



