

Newsletter October 2009

National Championships

We had our National Championships at the PGA National in Palmerstown House Estate, Johnstown, near Naas on Sunday 16th August.

We had a full timesheet with over 90 members participating. While this is a fine golf course, we did not find it at its best. This was because of hollowtining that had taken place about 2 weeks before our tournament, also the wet weather in July and early August took its toll. Preferred lies were the order of the day.

We had three trophies up for grabs, The Bob Charles Trophy for the Gross, the National Trophy for the Best Nett and the Martin Quinlan Trophy for the Best Senior.

The **Bob Charles Trophy** was won for the 4th time in a row by **Martin Darcy** from Tullamore, he had 3 points to spare over **Sean Alley** who finished on 32 pts. All the other gross prizes were won with 29 pts.

The **National Trophy** was won by **Paschal Connolly** from Kilkenny who finished on **38 pts** winning on the breakdown from **Richard Maher** from Mountrath. Those finishing on 37 pts and 36 pts picked up the remainder of the prizes in the Nett Category.

The **Martin Quinlan Trophy** was won by **Norman Farragher** a new member from Naas who finished on 41 pts.

The **Visitors Prize** was won by **Kevin Hudson** from Corrstown who finished on an incredible **43 pts**.

These results differ slightly from those announced on the day. This was due to an error on my part.

All things considered the National went really well, slow play was a problem. Just as well we did not have a strokeplay competition.

Many new members joined us just prior to the National, we would hope to see them at other outings between now and the next National at the same time next year.

Thanks to Martin Quinlan for again sponsoring our Senior Prize. We are considering returning to the PGA National next year. More about that, at a later date.

The full list of prize winners was as follows:

Gross:

1 st	Martin Darcy	(3)	Tullamore	35 pts
2 nd	Sean Alley	(3)	Co Tipperary	32 pts
3 rd	John Harte	(6)	Portumna	29 pts
4 th	Michael Moloney	(8)	Co Tipperary	29 pts
5 th	Pat Butler	(7)	Kilkenny	29 pts

Best Senior Nett

Norman Farragher	(13)	Naas	41 pts
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Nett:

1 st	Paschal Connolly	(12)	Kilkenny	38 pts
2 nd	Richard Maher	(22)	Mountrath	38 pts
3 rd	Dave Lavelle	(14)		37 pts
4 th	Declan Costello	(11)	Grange Castle	37 pts
5 th	Hugh Maher	(17)	Nenagh	37 pts
6 th	Noel Hensey	(16)	Curragh	37 pts
7 th	Carthage Larkin	(14)	Tullamore	36 pts
8 th	Philip Harte	(13)	Portumna	36 pts
9 th	Tommy Buckley	(14)	Corrstown	36 pts

Slow Play

Slow play has become a problem. All I would ask is that members would keep up with the game in front. If on looking behind you see 3/4 groups on the tee, the chances are you are slow! Playing in 3 balls, in a Stableford Competition, should not take 4 ½ hours.

Prizegiving

Those who attend our outings will know that we endeavour to have the prizegiving immediately after the end of play, once the score cards are checked. There is simply no way a prizegiving can take place before all the cards are in and checked.

In fact in Bunclody the prize giving took place so quickly the scores of the last fourball were not taken into consideration. Mea culpa.

The patience of those players, who finish early and wait for the prizegiving, is much appreciated. If at any stage those who finish early want to assist with the score cards, your help would be most welcome.