



Aug 20th 2025

# Baltray Weekly Newsletter

## Mens & Ladies Competitions

- Sunday gave us the opportunity to play for the Crimmins Trophy on the full championship course. The overall winner was Michael Redmond with 66. Shane Smyth won the Gross with 72. Division 1 was won by Richard Murray with 71, Division 2 by Ray Campbell with 72 and Division 3 by Paul Lambe.
- The Masters (70+) gold tee competition was won by Mahon Ronan with 77.
- The Ladies had a very enjoyable day on Thursday last at the Sheila Walsh Trophy hosted this year by Laytown & Bettystow GC. The weather was fantastic, as was the hospitality. Despite a close match, the L&B Ladies won the trophy back from Co. Louth this year, and our ladies look forward to winning it back next year!



## The R&A Boys Championship

After a week of Mediterranean sunshine, incredible golf and tremendous support from the members and staff of CLGC, the R&A Boys Championship drew to a dramatic end on Saturday evening. On the first hole, where it had all started 6 days earlier, Guus Lafeber beat Yago Horno after 37 holes of a final. The match was nip and tuck for the 2 rounds, with the Dutch man leading by 2 after the first 18, but the young Spanish golfer never gave up. In the end, Guus Lafeber, who's Dad, Martaan, is a Dutch Pro who has played on the European tour since 1997, took the trophy in style.

Safe to say the memories, stories and connections from last week will live long in our club's history.

Hosting a tournament of that size, is a fantastic achievement for all our Members and special thanks goes to the Volunteers, and the Entire Staff of the Golf Club for their long hours last week.

To quote the R&A in their thanks to the club "It was a particularly efficient and happy operation. Every corner we turned, there was someone willing to help and it was a huge pleasure to work with such enthusiasm"

A massive "Thank you" to everyone involved in making that happen!





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## Junior Competitions and Events

### **Portmarnock Invitational**

Daniel O'Brien, Elizabeth Sharkey, David Bohill and Holly KirkPatrick travelled to Portmarnock to play in the annual Junior invitational tournament. Congratulations to Daniel O'Brien on winning the gross prize again this year, having done so in 2024 as well.

### **Carlow Boys Scratch Cup**

A busload of boys set off from the club at 6:45 on Friday 15th and returned victorious later that day having picked up the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th nett scores in the event. Well done 1st Oisin Bollard, 2nd Daniel Murphy, 3rd Eoin Farrell, 4th Sam Levelle. A big thank you to Peter, Niall and Elaine for travelling on the day with the kids.

### **Kerry Boys Matchplay Championship**

Jack McKenna managed to make his way to the semi finals of the Kerry Boys having secured solid matchplay wins in Ballybunion. Well done Jack.

### **Final Hibernia Steel Summer League**

Schools are slowly returning back this week and next, which means our final Hibernia Steel summer league day will be on Thursday 21st. This is also the final day of voting for the 2026 Junior Captains.

### **ProDream USA Irish Open & College Showcase USA Event**

Over in Seapoint last week the ProDream USA event was on. Well done to Holly Kirkpatrick who placed joint 2nd and to Harley Phipps who finished sixth with -3.

## Junior Gallery







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## Deirdre Smith - Irish Senior Women's Close Champion 2025

Friday, 15 August was a day to remember at Nenagh Golf Club as our Deirdre Smith lifted the Irish Senior Women's Amateur Close Championship in thrilling fashion. In a nail-biting final, Deirdre defeated Roscommon's Sinéad Benedetti on the 19th hole, securing the title.

This victory was all the sweeter given her heartache last year, when she finished runner-up at Kilkeel. Deirdre speaking at an interview after her win said : "I lost it in pretty poor fashion last year and I was really disappointed, so I set out to overturn that loss today."

And she sure did that ..

Her week was nothing short of outstanding. She topped the stroke-play qualifying.

In the semi-final she defeated Headfort's Maria O'Reilly 5&3, having earlier produced a superb 7&6 win over Nikki Currie. Benedetti, for her part, reached the final after overcoming Tracy Eakin of Dooks 3&1, setting the stage for a great match ahead.

In the final Deirdre saved par on the 18th where she got up and down out of a bunker to force extra holes.

On the 19th, her calm approach and steady putt from 6 feet were enough to claim victory and with it one of Irish golf's most prestigious senior titles.

Reflecting on the achievement, she summed it up perfectly: "Anytime you win an Irish championship it takes a lot of hard work, dedication and soul-searching... the trophy is not really what it's all about—it's all the other stuff that people don't see.

This is only one of many amazing championships that Deirdre has won.

To name a few ....

Two Connaught championships, a Leinster Championship.

Irish Ladies Champion 2004

Irish Senior Champion 2022

Including many years representing Ireland at European Championships and Home Internationals.

The win also secures the 2025 Senior Women's Order of Merit for Deirdre.

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## Stuart Grehan wins the Irish Close Championship in Westport

The West was awake last Sunday evening, in the shadow of Croke Patrick, when Stuart Grehan won the AIG Irish Mens Amateur Close Championship in Westport.

Stuart was the Leading Qualifier after 2 rounds but it was when he went into battle in the last round that his class and grit really shone through.

With a total score of 279 beating his closest competitor, Alex Kerins (Carton House) by 2 shots, Stuart took the trophy home to Co. Louth ensuring that both the Irish Amateur Open and Close Championships are safely in his hands for 2025!

And that was only Part 1 of his Week!



## Walker Cup

It was with bated anticipation that the announcement came from the R&A last Monday at lunchtime announcing their Walker Cup Team (GB & I) for Cypress Point next month. Rumours, Predictions and even Assumptions all aside, when the final word came, it brought a real sense of joy and pride to our golf club that 2 of our members would be selected for the most prestigious of all Amateur Golf's Team Events. Stuart and Gavin played together 2 weeks ago on our winning Barton Shield Team and to now have the opportunity to go and play on the team for Great Britain and Ireland is nothing short of Historic.

Not only are they fantastic golfers, that bit is not questionable, but they are really nice guys and we are very proud that they are ambassadors for our club around the world.

A Huge Congratulations to Stuart Grehan and Gavin Tiernan, your families and friends..

Co. Louth Golf Club members are so proud.

Go Well lads.

