

# Dundalk

## MOTORSPORT

### Stephen English

DUNDALK played host to the start of the Circuit of Ireland last weekend where - amidst much fanfare - the competitors got the rally under way. The organisers had the coup of the winning car from Suburu Impreza, won his fourth Circuit title after a close battle with Gareth MacHale. At the end of the 15-stages rally only 33 seconds separated the two. McGarrity admitted afterwards that he had been out-paced by MacHale and Alastair Fisher, but when it mattered most he was immune on the stages around Castleblaney and it was his performances in these two stages that tipped the rally in his favour.

MacHale, dogged by electrical gremlins, was satisfied though he came so close to winning the most prestigious rally in Ireland. I wenty-one-year-old Fisher was incredibly impressive in finishing third. The young Circuit, led for seven stages even though he was disadvantaged by driving a Class N machine and not the top tier World Rally Cars as driven by McGarrity and MacHale. Fisher, nephew of Irish rallying legend Bertie, led during the wetter stages but suffered a puncture and then, once the roads dried out, the advantage was given to his rivals who grabbed the opportunity. Reigning champion Eugene Donnelly lost a lot of time after a mistake on stage 1 in the hills around Banbridge, and clawed his way back to finish fourth after a spirited drive, but will be disappointed with himself after setting competitive times. Craig Breen, touted as one of the pre-event favourites, driving an M-Sport-prepared Ford Fiesta S2000, retired on stage 3 after he aquaplaned off the road in the wet conditions. The youngster has a busy season planned with outings in the World Rally and British Rally Championship as well as a full season in the Irish Championship, to ensure that the disappointment will not be remembered for too long. In the National Rally class Kenny McKinsty was leading until the final stage when he retired after his Suburu Impreza caught fire, leaving John Waring in a Mk2 Escort to come through and win the class.

It was a thrilling rally that captivated fans in the area with an enthralling spectacle and the decision to start the rally from Dundalk was lauded by many, with fans giving a great reception as the crews left the starting ramp and headed to the first competitive stage.

## ERHILL

McKeown (26) made a long-awaited visit to the club's enclosure as he capped the Easter weekend with a stableford competition. The return of 42 points, an early-season promise for Fruition for Barry as he finished 43pts, 2nd Colm Winters (18) and 3rd Andy Coleman (10) 40pts, 3rd Andy Coleman (10) 39pts, 4th John Minnock (24) 38pts.

The Golfer of the Year competition is in full swing as points are awarded for the week's competitions. At the moment Eamon Jackson is in the lead with 40 points, closely followed by Kieran Dullaghan and Gerry Duffy, both with 32. This can change at any time as up to 20 points can be awarded depending on the particular competition. Details are on the newly arranged noticeboard in the hall of the clubhouse.

The Thursday Open competition has just got underway again. This is open to members and non-members and so it is an opportunity for visitors to play our challenging course.

The weather forecast for the coming week is very promising, with temperatures expected to be in the mid-teens, so all you budding golfers have no excuses.

DUBLIN HOUSE Society hold their second outing of the season with a trip to Ardee Golf Club on Saturday April 10th.

Armagh (seller Declan Armagh (seller Declan Paul Callan c/o O'Rourke; €50 L. Mc-Cashel (seller Seamus The club would like to thank all the people who supported the draw.

Friday at 7pm.

## WANNAN CASTLE

Results were as follows: 1st Tony Delaney (24) 43pts, 2nd Colm Winters (18) 40pts, 3rd Andy Coleman (10) 39pts, 4th John Minnock (24) 38pts.

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## FITZPATRICK'S

ONLY three points separated the top seven scores at the Fitzpatrick's Golf Society outing on Saturday last. The sun shone on the 20-plus golfers who took on the challenge of playing one of the finest links in Ireland.

The greens were fast and true and the cross-wind challenged the players. Some prizes were decided on count-back, but the overall winner was Black-rocks Sean Russell (33pts). Placings were valuable, with prize-winners earning valuable points towards the much-covered Golfer of the Year prize which is decided at the end of the season.

Cat 1 - 1st prize went to Ray Pepper, Joe McCarthy & Decian Murphy shared 2nd & 3rd place; Cat 2 - 1st went to Gerry Toner, 2nd Brian Doran & 3rd Gerry O'Meara.

Fitzpatrick's GS would like to thank Peter Moran of Moran CCTV for his kind sponsorship of the prizes.

The next outing is in Greenore on May 1st, tee time 10am. New members can join by contacting Sean Russell or any committee members. Entries for Greenore must be received by Thursday at 9pm.

PEADAR'S Golf Society had a big turnout for the Doohan Financial Planning Scramble at Ballymac on Saturday. Result 1st Ollie McGorran, Mick McGinnity, Richie MacKin 58pts; 2nd Seamus Bailey, Pat Morrissey, Finbar Hughes 59pts; 3rd Frank Doherty, Gerry Callan, Michael Mckeown 60pts; 4th Barry Savage, Denis Mckenna, Joe Reenan 62pts; 5th: Brendan Kelly, Niall McArdle, Jason Hoey 63pts.

## GREENORE

RESULTS of Sunday's Fr Bob Callan Cup stableford: Overall winner Noel Frewell (12) 38pts, Gross prize Caolan Rafferty (3) 33pts, Cat 1 Niall Clarke (12) 36pts, Cat 2 Pat Harner (16) 36pts, Cat 3 Joseph Molloy (20) 36pts, Senior winner John Murphy (6) 31pts.

Bank Holiday Monday's Open four-person any combination, kindly sponsored by Servisource: 1st Leo Shannon (6) & Keith Shannon (3) 45pts, 2nd Jim Renaghan (20) & Stephen Dolan (15) 44pts, 3rd Joseph Molloy (19) & David Stanton (11) (Dundalk GC) 40pts, 4th Dennis McArdle (18) (Mannan Castle GC) & V Kerr (18) (Nuremore GC) 40pts.

The March 29th Open seniors was won by 17-handicap-per Sean McGevevy (33pts).

Next Sunday will be the Mullatee Trophy stableford (GOY). Saturday will be a voucher competition. There will be an Open Gents Singles stableford every Tuesday and on April 26th. Contact the Pro Shop for timesheets.

RESUIT from Sunday's 18-hole stableford: 1st David Cairns 47pts, 2nd David McCourt 42pts, 3rd Michael Grant 42pts.

KILLIN Killinbeg Golf Club will be hosting a Rules Night this Friday at 8pm in the clubhouse, followed by a quiz. The Leinster Fourball against Bellewstown will be played on Saturday at 1pm, while the North Leinster Mixed match with Laytown & Bettystown is on Saturday April 17th at 3pm. Matchplay entries must be paid by next Sunday.

The draw for teams for the Killin Golf Society outing to Greenore Golf Club on Friday is posted in the clubhouse.



With MacHale arrives in central Dundalk for the start of the Circuit of Ireland Rally.