



## Breezes from the Lea September 2015

### Breaking News!

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July beautiful playing conditions but Gareth Bennett & George Wade fell foul of the magic from Cyril Cummins & Derek Alexander; another dog licence.

Quote: "I'll never get the spoon" attributed to George!



### Making Waves!

Ever wondered about the undulations on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> fairways? In response to a query from one of our readers:

*"The undulations which are a feature of the first nine holes at Carnalea were actually plough ridges for cultivation. Their main function was to provide surface drainage of the soil. The development of underground drainage systems in the early nineteenth century led to the decline of ridge cultivation. It seems that the ridge system preserved at Carnalea either dates from earlier than the mid-nineteenth century or represents a late use of the technique.*

*Covering nearly fifty acres, the scale of the Carnalea ridge system is exceptional and is possibly the best lowland system in Northern Ireland. Along with the ridge systems which survive elsewhere in the countryside, it is an important part of our cultural heritage."*



### Memories

Circa 1970's in a Saturday competition, Big O.E. (Wilson), Billy Kerr and Roger Wilson were playing the 9<sup>th</sup> hole. O.E. hits an iron from the tee then slams the club into the ground shouting "wrong club, wrong club, wrong club!" The ball lands on the 9<sup>th</sup> green rolls and rolls before finding the hole, followed by shouts of "it's in the hole O.E." Reply from O.E. "Don't care, it was the wrong club"!

Circa 1970 and after 11.00pm on Captain's Night. Frank Martin singing 'Solitaire' with Mike and his backing group and with his eyes shut. Voice from member "Frank – when you open your eyes the clubhouse will be empty!" Ed: Keep them coming Billy.



### Did you know ... a little bit of history ...?

The Golfing Union of Ireland was founded by nine Ulster Clubs in in 1891 making it the oldest Golfing Union in the world. Just 2 years later, the first ever Ladies ILGU meeting was held in 1893 at Carnalea where a resolution was passed:



*"That an annual Championship meeting be held and that the first meeting be held at Carnalea in 1894, at Portrush 1895 and Newcastle 1896"*

Moving forward some 40+ years, in 1927 Carnalea became Ireland's first Municipal Course when Bangor District Council recognised the potential of Carnalea as a social amenity and tourist attraction and purchased the clubhouse for the princely sum of £1,600. They also acquired the nine hole course and adjoining land south of the railway line on a 21 year lease at a rental of £245-10-0 (old money) per year.



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**“if Carlsberg did Sunday’s it would be an “Earlybird”**



The Carnalea Earlybirds golf society has now been going strong from it’s formation back in 1961.

Today’s members number 24 playing and 4 honorary.

We meet every Sunday morning (or afternoon depending on the weather) at 9.30am and our current Captain leads the way with the selected 4ball followed by our President’s 4ball with the other players go out as per the draw.

We are proud to have a great age span in our membership as our youngest player is in his twenties and the oldest player is in his eighties, our members also come from a diverse social and employment background with East Belfast and Bombardier supplying the majority. We also currently meet within the Height Discrimination legislation as there are at present 3 members under 5 foot better known as the “Hobbits”

The aims and objectives of the Society are to have enjoyment and a bit of competition on our Sunday outings, with the emphasis on the enjoyment of each others company and with a long standing rule that members **MUST** stay for a drink after playing !!!!

We have 3 Majors every year: Captains Day, Presidents Day and Christmas (Tommy Henderson Cup). Trophies are presented at each of these including a 4 foot tall Spoon that’s presented to last place on Captain’s Day. We also do “Away Days”, “no golf clubs required” & “all welcome” to Portrush, Down Royal, Drumbo and not forgetting National Welders Day in December and now celebrated in August as well.

The Society over the years has been blessed within its membership by some of the Carnalea Golf Clubs characters and all have left their imprint in the way our Society is run and some of the ceremonies we carry out on regular occasions. Its common to see the presentation of “wings” and “flying helmet” and also the “dog collar”, all these ceremonies well known to fellow golfers. Our foundation is strong and as current members we look forward to keeping the spirit and fellowship of the Earlybirds going well into the future.

We have now been able to ousted the “Mafia” and the Society is “now under new management” for the next few years !

Joking aside, we have to acknowledge Kevin Magee and Billy McVeigh for their management of the Society over the past many year s... 54 years and still going strong!

