

McCarthy helps his side to first title

O'SULLIVAN'S of Shandon Street claimed their first ever darts title at the High House on Monday night when they captured the CDO High House sponsored junior league 4-2 after a very impressive display against a gallant Aunties team.

The first game in front of two groups of very enthusiastic supporters got underway with Aunties player Robert Clarke-Hurley taking the first leg ahead of O'Sullivan's John O'Driscoll.

Hurley had a top hand of 95 as he took the opening leg on a double three, but O'Driscoll hit back to win legs two and three for the win, hitting a double two and a double one in his winning legs.

Game two brought Aunties' Mick McSweeney to the oche along with O'Sullivan's Patrick Dunlea, and again it was the Aunties player who took the first leg in this encounter as a double five saw him win the leg and McSweeney made sure as he followed in taking the second leg on a double 14 to square this final.

The third game brought O'Sullivan's Liam Eager and Aunties' Conor Dennehy to the oche, and it

CDO DARTS By FRANK GOULDING

was Eager with hands of 110 and 97 in his winning legs to set him on his way to putting his team back in charge by 2-1.

Aunties, however, were not going to lose sight of O'Sullivan's, and in at number four came Brendan McSweeney along with O'Sullivan's Jamie O'Connor, and a very exciting game followed.

McSweeney took the first leg as a top score of 100 helped him to a double 10 checkout with O'Connor lurking just behind.

Again McSweeney was first to a scoring double in the second leg and hit 108 with his first three darts, and as both players matched each other score for score it came down to who was the sharper finisher, and it proved to be McSweeney as he hit a double two to take it after O'Connor had missed his shot at his checkout, and so leave it all square at the break.

The break certainly didn't do Aunties any favours as Eddie Cummins got the better of Eugene O'Neill over three legs.

Cummins took the first leg on a

double 17 and he followed by winning the second leg on a double 14 to put his team within one game of a famous victory.

That victory came in the guise of Mark McCarthy for O'Sullivan's whose first three darts brought him a return of 104 which led him to a double four finish, and it was game set and match for O'Sullivan's as McCarthy again hit a double four to send his supporters into a frenzy of excitement.

Some consolation for Aunties was in Brendan McSweeney being awarded the High House man of the match award.

Meanwhile in the ladies leagues, O'Sullivan's didn't have the same luck as their male counterparts as they went down 4-1 to the Gallows in the Carling A division league.

Sinead Warboys, Martina Doolan, Helen Lawton and Mary Flaherty were the Gallows winners, while for O'Sullivan's the sole point came from Mary O'Connor.

Joshua Tree ladies were full value for their 3-2 win away to the Red Cove Inn as Breda Barrett, Fiona Loughlin and Eileen Jones all scored wins, while best for red Cove were Mary Thornhill and



The winning O'Sullivan's team who captured the High House Junior League trophy in their defeat of Aunties by 4-2 in the final played at the High House. Also included are Ashley O'Callaghan, proprietor High House and William O'Driscoll, High House.



Brendan McSweeney, Aunties, accepts the High House Man of the Match award from proprietor of the High House Ashley O'Callaghan.

Gillian Hegarty.

Evening Echo Cup champions Ma Dullea's were caught out by the Abbey Tavern, Ma's went down on their own board by 3-2 as Caroline Aldworth, Bronagh Mallon and Amanda Parkes all won for the Abbey while it was Mary Long and Kathleen Doyle for Ma

Dullea's, who grabbed a pair of points.

Sheehan's Local also won on the road as they had a 3-2 result over the High House with wins coming from Charlotte Barry, Kay Monahan and Christine O'Mahony with Michelle Gould and Maria Healy taking a point each for the House.

My chance encounter with the country's secret service

IN A budget that saw Brendan Howlin slice €2.2 billion from public spending – one small, little-known agency was left untouched. The Irish Secret Service will retain its €1m annual budget – despite having spent less than half of this, €450,000, in 2011. A quick search on Google (“if it’s not on the first page, it’s not there” is my motto) threw this up: “There is NO Irish Secret Service in this jurisdiction, at least as far as attorney general is concerned.” Apparently, “the money allocated to the Secret Service goes to a fund administered by the Department of Finance, which allocates it on request to various Government departments.” A little more digging and we found out: “Given the sensitivities

associated with a fund of this nature, it is not possible to provide information on the persons who administer it.”

There was nothing for it but to ring up 11811.

“Could you put me through to the Irish Secret Service please?”

“Do you have an address?”

“Probably a warehouse somewhere.”

“Nothing is coming up, I’m afraid.”

The trail seemed to have gone cold. I had turned my attention to the UK Snooker Championship odds when my ringtone began to jingle. Caller ID said private number.

“Hello.”

“Mr O’Shea,” came the reply, in a soft Midlands drawl. “It’s come to my attention that you have been doing some snooping around.”



“So.”

“What is your interest in the Secret Service?”

“I was merely trying to discover if you do, in fact, exist.”

“Goodnight Mr...”

“Wait! How come you spent only half your budget last year? What’s your secret?”

“Let’s just say we are privy to a lot more information than you are when you recommend bets to your readers.”

“I knew it! What are you betting on? Horses? Football?”

“I can’t tell you. I never said this, but you cannot run a secret service on a million a year. The CIA spend that on sunglasses.”

“Come on, give me something. I won’t publish any of this, sherr I’m sure you have plenty of dirt on me to dish out if I dared to?”

“There does seem to be an alarming amount of incidents with shopping trolleys on your file...”

“So come on.”

“OK. Listen carefully... Ignore all races with less than eight runners. Of those left, discount any race that doesn’t have at least four horses entered beginning with the letter ‘M’...”

“Like M in James Bond?”

“Yes, like M in James Bond? Can I

continue?”

“Ok, I’m just writing this down.”

“There should only be one race with four ‘M’ horses in it on any day, that’s how they’ve organised it. Now count the letters in the names of all the entries. Divide the number you get with the amount of horses in the race and add a one if it is the first race, a two if it is the second, and so on.”

“And that will give you the winner?”

“Of course it won’t, you idiot. Now keep your nose out of our business.”

RECOMMENDATION: Bursting Bubbles in the 5.30 at Kempton seems an apt tip.

He is 9/4 favourite with SkyBet and will come out of stall two.

This newspaper will self-destruct in 12 hours if it doesn’t come up.

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