

Focus on Inniscarra 4-mile race

ATHLETICS
By JOHN WALSH

NEXT Sunday see the seventh annual Inniscarra Community Centre 4-Mile Classic road race take place.

This should have been the eighth renewal of the event but the flooding last November put paid to the 2009 and the organisers will certainly be hoping for better weather on Sunday.

The race is now a valuable fundraiser for the local community centre, according to chairman, Eamonn Hegarty: "We obviously need a lot of funds as we try and keep the place neat and tidy and attractive to the users, so the race is of great benefit to us."

"The community centre was built in 1974 and we cater for a lot of sporting organisations in the parish with our all-weather pitch and meeting rooms."

Mick Dooley, who lives locally and is also a committee member of the Cork BHAA under whose auspices the race takes place, said they had no option but to call off the race 12 months ago: "We had huge preparations made so we were very disappointed it didn't go ahead. We in the BHAA are delighted to be involved and there is a good local organising committee here with the likes of Clíodhna and Maire Ní Chonghaile, Karl O'Connell and Margaret Horgan on board."

For the past few years, the race has received valuable sponsorship from the Blarney Golf Resort Leisure Centre and they are again involved on this occasion.

"We offer a 20 metre pool, a steam room, sauna and fully-equipped gym and there are special rates to all those taking part in the race," said Julie McCann of the Leisure Centre.

The Tim Murphy Memorial Cup, in memory of a famous local athlete, goes to the winner.

In 2004, the second year of the race, there was a very fitting champion when Timmy Murphy, grandson of Tim, came home first in a time of 21:26.

Other winners include Irish middle-distance track international Liam Reale from Limerick, along with Wieslaw Sosnowski from Poland and Latvian Raivis Zakis who took the honours two years ago.

The race starts at 11.30am with entries taken in the community centre, where refreshments (including the traditional soup and sandwiches) will be available afterwards.

Entries cost €5 for BHAA registered and €8 for non-registered runners.

All standards of runners are welcome and further information can be had by contacting Karl O'Connell at 021-7332211.

Clubs gearing up for Christmas challenge



Pictured at the launch of the St Stephen's Day Challenge Cup in Carrigaline were Lauren Hickey, Ali Corbett and Aoife Furlong of the Carrigaline Ladies Football Club with organisers Pat Allen, Nicholas Murphy and Paddy Cronin, Rosies Bar, sponsor.

Picture: Howard Crowdy

DETAILS of the fifth annual St Stephen's Day Challenge in Carrigaline were announced at a reception held in Carrigaline GAA club last night.

This year three matches will take place with the ladies being involved for the very first time.

The Carrigaline GAA Club will face a Village Selection drawn from players from the local soccer club, with a current and past players team on both sides playing for the coveted trophy which was won by the GAA Club last year.

The Ladies will take to the field for the very first time, playing a 20 minute match prior to the senior and legends teams.

CARRIGALINE CHALLENGE

By HOWARD CROWDY

Cork senior All Ireland medal winner Nicholas Murphy will be playing for his club in the seniors game and will line out against his Cork colleague Michael Shields who will play for the Village Selection.

As St Stephen's Day falls on a Sunday this year, there will be no South Union Hunt or Wren Boys festivities in the village until the Monday Bank Holiday, so the challenge cup will be the only family activity taking place on that day and the organisers are expecting a

large crowd to come along and support the event with proceeds raised going to local charities on the day.

A monster raffle will be held during the afternoon, with the prize of a framed Cork senior football jersey, signed by all of the winning All Ireland Cork senior team will be on offer along with numerous vouchers and prizes.

Tickets for the raffle are just €2 each with lines available at both clubs and in Rosies Bar in Carrigaline.

Speaking at the reception, Kevin O'Driscoll, chairman, Carrigaline GAA Club, remarked that the GAA club were delighted to be associated with such a wonderful fund-raising event at this time of year which is becoming more and more import-

ant, while Willie Walsh, chairman, Carrigaline soccer club remarked that this was a 'fantastic fund-raiser which has integrated well into the St Stephen's Day festivities and was a perfect example of the community coming together for the good of the local community.

Main sponsor again is Paddy Cronin, of Rosies Bar, in Carrigaline who was also present at the launch, with KWP Print and Design providing the sponsorship cards and posters.

Special mention was given to event organisers and founders Pat Allen and Nicholas Murphy from the soccer and GAA club who have brought an added fundraising attraction to Carrigaline on St Stephen's Day in recent years.

More power to Wild Thing's elbows needed in Hong Kong

GOLF tournament winners are notoriously difficult to pick, but there is a smug satisfaction when you do that is unmatched by other successful punts.

Perhaps it has to do with the length of the thing. You have to wait four days to collect and hit every shot with your player when the producers let you, if he ever gets screen time.

It is to be savoured more than choosing the winner of a 5f flat race, although, admittedly, the odds and the amount you put on the horse do play a part.

In the US, golfers have gone in to hibernation, and where Tiger Woods chooses to slumber has become of interest again.

His ex-mistress Rachel Uchitel recently bought a \$1.6-million apartment

in New York and is renting it out for \$10,000 a month. Listed in the amenities is new tiger-print carpeting. Uchitel was the first of Woods' lovers to sell her story, so you can bet he chipped in for the purchase, albeit inadvertently.

Tiger knows better than anyone that the important thing now is practice. To get out there and hit some golf shots, so that when he comes back next year he can win some golf tournaments. And maybe he can then stop putting the words "some golf" before everything he says. We get it, you play golf.

While Tiger has well-documented problems handling love, John Daly's troubles, as usual, centre around his love handles.

Unusually this time, it is his lack of



them that is bothering him.

Referring to his poor putting of late, Daly said: "I have nowhere to put my elbows. I used to be able to rest them right on my sides and that was pretty good. Now they are all over the place."

Many a putter's career has been ruined by the yips, but Daly languishes at 563th in the world because of a severe case of no hips.

Daly plays in the Hong Kong Open this weekend and while he is not playing well enough to win it, the two-time major winner could be leading after the first round (125-1 with Boylesports).

Rory McIlroy is 8-1 favourite with Paddypower to win the tournament, but he has been taking medication for a chest infection and admits he is not fully fit.

Fellow Northern Irishman Graeme McDowell, who replaced McIlroy as world number nine in the rankings this week, is second favourite at 17-2 with Victor Chandler and as the only man who can catch Martin Kaymer in the Race to Dubai (which finishes the weekend after next in the Emirate) he has far greater incentive to push for victory.

McDowell is 5-1 with Ladbrokes to overtake Kaymer (who doesn't play this weekend) for Europe's top golf spot.

He is just over €370,000 behind after finishing third at the Singapore Open on Monday and can further eat into the German's advantage with another good performance, as top prize in Hong Kong is €300,000.

But perhaps more realistic is that McDowell will ruin another Antrim man's Christmas by beating Grand National and 3,000+ career winning jockey (I think I backed two of them) Tony McCoy for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award. McCoy is evens favourite.

Recommendation: McDowell is 9-2 with Bet365 to win the BBC Sports gong on December 19.