

All the games on schedule are postponed

LADIES HOCKEY

IT WAS bad, but not unexpected news, for sides due to take part in the Irish Hockey League this weekend.

Due to the adverse weather the Irish Hockey Association have decided to postpone all games on safety grounds.

A brief statement from the IHA said: "As we are now into the three-day range with the forecast for freezing temperatures set to continue we have been left with no alternative but to postpone all IHL fixtures for this weekend (December 4-5).

"These matches will not be played before Christmas and the IHL committee will meet to discuss the rescheduling of round three shortly."

Disappointing as it will be for the likes of Harlequins, UCC and Catholic Institute they will all acknowledge that it was the correct decision on this occasion.

A pity from a Munster point of view as all three sides were at home, and some interesting games were in prospect. But with UCD and Pegasus both having to travel to Cork and Loretto to Limerick, along with countless other games, the IHA didn't want to put any players and/or fans at risk and thus came to their decision.

With the games called off last on Wednesday it didn't allow enough time for clubs to re-arrange league ties, so there won't be any division one matches this weekend.

Meanwhile the weather also caused disruption to Fermoy's plans last weekend as their Irish Hockey Trophy tie in Tyrone postponed late on Friday, as well as their Division Four clash with UCC which fell foul to the weather on Sunday.

All three senior teams hope to play this Sunday as their division two side travel to take on Bandon and the division six side are away to Cobh, in a game that will take place in Middleton.

Their division four squad are at home to Tipperary and, as other sports, all games are subject to weather conditions.

Their U14s season is up and running, with their first round of games being played at home. With three teams in action Fermoy made an impressive start and showcased some very good talent.

Plans are under way for a Christmas themed fancy dress party with dinner and drinks in Fermoy on Saturday, December 11. Please contact Aisling Cotter if you are interested, this is open to all Division 2, 4 and 6 players.

Fermoy Hockey Club is now on facebook. Search for Fermoy Hockey Club and keep up to date with our hockey happenings. For more information check out their website: www.fermoyhockeyclub.com or contact Marie on (086) 403 8565.

Decision to be left as late as possible

MEN'S HOCKEY

By FRED TREACY

THE adverse weather conditions looks set to cause major disruption to this weekend's men's hockey fixtures with the Irish Hockey League scheduled for the weekend already postponed.

A spokesperson for the Irish Hockey Association said "that with the forecast for freezing temperatures set to continue we have been left with no alternative but to postpone all Irish Hockey League fixtures for this forthcoming weekend (December 4-5).

These matches will not be played before Christmas and the IHL Committee will meet to discuss the rescheduling of round three.

At the time of writing no decision had been made by the Munster Branch with regard to local fixtures and according to their fixture secretary Alan Wolfe the Munster Branch is leaving the decision as late as possible in the hope that some matches might be played.

One match that must be doubtful is the first round Munster Senior Cup match between Catholic Institute and Bandon at Rosbrien in Limerick.

Bandon's fixture secretary Andrew Kingston said that Catholic Institute will be making a pitch inspection on Friday afternoon when a final decision will be made.

For Bandon he said the problem was that a number of their players lived in West Cork and travelling may be difficult for them.

If the match goes ahead Bandon will enter the match as favourites although it will not be easy against a Catholic Institute side keen to make up for the disappointment of losing 5-1 to UCC last weekend in the Irish Hockey Trophy competition.



Pictured at the Cork Harlequins Ladies Hockey Club fundraising fashion show, Sue Bartley, Stylist from Fermoy and Jan O'Leary, Jane Boutique Kinsale.

Picture: Jim Coughlan.

There is one Munster Senior League Division 1 match scheduled for this weekend with Cork Church of Ireland 11 down to play UCC at Garryduff on Sunday.

Meanwhile the Irish Hockey Association has refixed the Cork Church of Ireland v Kilkeel first Irish Senior Cup match for Saturday, December 18 at Garryduff Sports Centre, hit off 1.30pm. The original fixture was cancelled due to the tragic sudden death of the Cork Church of Ireland player/coach Andrew Chambers.

● A 32 strong panel has been selected to attend the Irish U18 trial in Dublin on the December 29. This is part of Ireland's preparations for the European Nations Championship to be held in Holland in July 2011. Ulster who won the recent U18 interprovincials in Dublin, completing a hat-trick of titles, have 15 players in the panel while Leinster has 13. There are just four Munster players selected and they are Nick Burns (Middleton College), Richard Lynch (Ashton Comprehensive), Dylan Murphy (Villiers School) and Scott Sullivan (Bandon Grammar School).

FIXTURES TONIGHT

Munster Senior League Division 2: Cork Church of Ireland C v Bandon B – Garryduff 8pm; UCC B v Cork Harlequins C – Mardyke 8pm.

Division 3: Middleton v Cork Church of Ireland E – Middleton College **TOMORROW**

Munster Senior Cup first round: Catholic Institute v Bandon – Rosbrien 11.30am. Sunday 5th December 2010.

Munster Senior League Division One: Cork Church of Ireland B v UCC – Garryduff noon.

Division 3: Bandon C v Limerick B – Bandon GS. 1pm; Belvedere v Cork Harlequins D – Ballincollig CS 2pm.

Division 4: Catholic Institute C v Cork Harlequins E – Rosbrien 12.30pm; UCC C v Ashton B – Mardyke 11am.

Murphy to not be effected by 'meteorological malaise'

ALL ROADS lead to the ditch this weekend, so travelling teams and supporters better beware of icy surfaces.

"All roads lead to" is the tried and trusted way to begin a match preview in the sports journalism business.

It is us turning the key in the ignition, putting the tablecloth down or laying yesterday's edition in front of an unpainted wall, and we will use it in our intros no matter what the venue, unless of course it's Rome, because that would smack us as cliché.

Not that we wouldn't be against using the odd cliché to describe our current meteorological malaise, if only to comfort our more valued readers.

More valued reader: When you say 'meteorological malaise' do you perhaps mean the weather conditions?

Longshot: Spot on. 'Meteorological malaise' is long-winded, but so too is 'weather conditions'. You could as easily say the match was in doubt because of the 'weather' or the 'conditions'.

MVR: But let's say things get worse. What sort of weather conditions would we be looking at then?

LS: Adverse weather conditions.

MVR: And what sort of frost might this bring?

LS: A severe one.

MVR: Which kind of disruption might this cause?

LS: Major.

MVR: In regard of the postponing of matches, what might you have?

LS: No alternative.

MVR: When would no decision be made regarding the cancellation?



LS: At the time of writing.

MVR: But surely some sort of decision would be made after a late pitch inspection?

LS: Yes. A final one.

MVR: Going off the point somewhat, if there had been a pitch inspection after the Italia '90 game between Ireland and England, what might have been discovered?

LS: That Paul Parker was not the only

number two on the field for England.

MVR: Would you care to explain?

LS: Not in a family newspaper, but a quick search for the game on youtube should support Gary Lineker's revelation this week that it wasn't only the fans at home in Ireland who were leaping off their stools during the game.

MVR: Any chance you might tip something before the end of the column?

LS: With the week that's in it we will go for an indoor sport and you don't get more indoors than snooker. The only way the game could be played outside would be if players could attach brollies to their cues and a giant umbrella could be planted in the blue spot.

On Monday, competitive pro snooker announced it would be returning to Ire-

land after an absence of six years.

The Players Tour Championship Grand Finals will take place at the Helix Theatre in Dublin in March next year.

The Championship is one of a new series of 12 short events, six of which are to be held in Sheffield and six of which will be held around Europe.

The top 24 players at the end of the series will qualify for the event, in a race to Dublin, akin to golf's Race to Dubai.

To whet our appetite this week sees the UK Championship televised from tomorrow on BBC until Sunday week.

Recommendation: It's so cold this week that politicians have got their hands in their own pockets. Expect World number four Shaun Murphy to cram the table pockets at the UK Championship at 12-1 with Coral.