

Newbridge House Croquet Tournament 2018

Cyril Corbally Cup (Singles Golf Croquet)

Newbridge House Inter-Club Trophy (Doubles Golf Croquet)



28th - 29th July 2018

Saturday 28th July saw the return of the Cyril Corbally Cup tournament to Newbridge House for the second year in a row. After a years hard work by Fingal County Council's Operations team the lawns at Newbridge House have been greatly improved with a new mower as well as a new irrigation system bringing much improvement to the lawns. After a drought-ridden summer characterised by resplendent sundrenched afternoons of play on the lawns, in typical Irish summer fashion the morning of the tournament saw the greatest deluge of the year. Nonetheless the rain provided ample time for getting organised. Registration, the organising of partners and the order of play was decided upon, diligently overseen by manager of the tournament Nicola Kelly.

Most historically Cyril Corbally's 1911 Silver Championship Medal was tossed to decide the order of play. Kindly offered for use by Cyril's step-granddaughter Mary Bradshaw (née Cobbe) the medal brought significance and gravitas to the commencement of the weekend, befitting the historic setting of Newbridge House and as a reminder of the continuation of a long tradition of Croquet in Ireland and more specifically at Newbridge House.



After a few attempts at practice in the rain, a consensus of futility saw the players adjourn inside to dry off and enjoy lunch. The weekend's players were composed of a variety of members from different clubs across the country, most predominantly Carrickmines and Herbert Park, also Moynalvey House and of course Newbridge. It also included players from The Hurlingham Club in London.

A tour of Newbridge House helped to introduce people to their setting, exploring the historic collection of the Cobbe Family and most significantly the connection to Cyril Corbally one of the 'Irish terrors' of the pre-war period, who lived at Newbridge from 1915-1933 and built the lawn recently restored. Cyril, a local of nearby Swords was the most successful player of Croquet and remains so to this day.



L: Singles finalists Mark Stephens and Robert O'Donoghue with Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Lavin

R: Doubles finalists Mark Stephens and Robert O'Donoghue (Carrickmines) with Frank and Jane O'Neill (Hurlingham) with Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Lavin



By 2pm play had commenced with force and saw some impressive play Herbert Park being an excellent match for Moynalvey House. Herbert Park also presented some great new pairings which brought some fantastic play and some of the best shots of the weekend. Newbridge House was well represented by N. Kelly and R. Miller who won 2/4 doubles games going out at the end on the 13th point to the strong Carrickmines pairing of M. McCann and M. Martin. Overall Saturday saw great challenges in both singles and doubles with some very exciting shots. F. and J. Martin for Moynalvey House finished off Saturday on top having won every match.

Sunday morning brought more rain, but luckily it passed in time for play to be well underway by 12 noon. The stiff competition for the doubles continued with M.Stephens and R. O'Donoghue entering the fray for Carrickmines. The pair soared through to the finals where they were up against the impressive F. and J. O'Neill of Hurlingham. Dominating the show M. Stephens and R. O'Donoghue won the doubles most impressive after a close match competing against each other in the singles. M. Stephens coming out the victor.

Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Anthony Lavin was on hand to present the trophies and prizes, the Cyril Corbally Cup was awarded to Mark Stephens and the Newbridge House Inter-Club Trophy to the Carrickmines pair Mark Stephens (again!) and Robert O'Donoghue.

Thanks goes to everyone who came out over the weekend to play. Special thanks to the manager of play Nicola Kelly. Thanks to Cllr. Anthony Lavin for his support. For all their hard work, Fingal County Council Operations Team, Ivan Smith and Paul Guildea. For work leading up to the tournament and during the year Simon Williams, Eugene McKenna, and Jack and Brid Hayes. Many thanks to the sponsor of prizes *Gilbeys of Ireland*.



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