

to appreciate a golf course. s they can say I enjoyed that. o play here again. That's all

ou're always talking about on the golf course. What o you mean? e player closest to a fairway should have the best angle green, rather than the player k the conservative route and e hazard a wide berth. His shot should be at more of a ntage. It's a mistake to think r shots by poor players should hed while 'almost great shots' players should not. Punishing ayers is pointless; they are an capable of punishing ves. Giving a poor player ntage is equally pointless; d not know what to do with ad, good players should be ged by putting hazards in where they are tempted to se to them in order to gain ntage. If they miscalculate, a should follow.

What did you make of the idea e European Tour needed a 'big ality' to captain its Ryder Cup o balance the selection of Tom 1 by the Yanks? eather captain will be hitting t that's the job of the other s. The captains will be in ckground using their brains. ; strings and settling the airs. You don't need to have pile of major championships ble to do that. The experience n golf and team match play is useful and Paul McGinley has f that. He is the right choice. It ng overdue that an Irishman e job. The next Irish captain e Pdraig Harrington in 2020 ot Darren Clarke. He made a ctical mistake going for it this.

Whom do you think Paul elect as his vice-captains at agles? Impossible to say so early. Paul ant at least one veteran by his nd who better than Des Smyth, m Torrance because he is a Paul Lawrie could get the call doesn't make the team. Pdraig nton is a candidate but he has ned to form and may be playing 14. Harrington has a poor Ryder record and must be anxious to at matter right.

ds of the Wise
power of positive thinking, my I'd much prefer to have the nity of an empty mind. I have four or five of Dr. Bob Rotella's s. ey are all the same and not h a damn. A proper set up, target ection and good timing got me a way in this game and that's what going to keep aiming to do.



Limerick was well represented by the students from Laurel Hill Colaiste and Secondary at the weekend in the most recent leg of the National Showjumping Interschools Competition. The event which took place on Sunday was hosted by Rockwell College in Tipperary Equestrian centre. The turn out was excellent with 19 teams of 4 riders from secondary schools across the country represented. The Laurel Hill team included Sarah Mangan, Aisling Ni Bhrolchain and newcomer Kate Gloster. The girls were under pressure from the start with a team of only three, but they beat off the fierce competition to qualify into the jump off. Sarah and Aisling jumped very well under > pressure and the team finished in 4th position on the first National Event of the year for Laurel Hill Equestrian Team. (Chef D'Equip Sandra Mangan, trainer Dan Foley Clonshire)

HORSE RACING COLUMN

Shock at death of local jockey Roger Hurley

KATIE'S CORNER

The Limerick horse racing community was shocked last week at the sad death of Roger Hurley, one of the greatest amateur jockeys of all time. **Katie McNamara reports**



A GREAT crowd turned out at the weekend to bid a fond farewell to the great Roger Hurley. Born in 1956, he had many achievements to be proud of throughout his life, which included winning the title of Champion point to point rider in 1987 with a record 35 winners. This surpassed the record his rival and dear friend Enda Bolger had set in 1984 with 33 winners. In the same year, Hurley had only missed out in achieving the overall amateur title with 17 winners on the track, finishing second behind John Queally. The Limerick rider was always associated with the successful PP Hogan stable and spent 30 years of his life there. Between 1977 and 2000, he rode 112 point to point winners. Roger also rode in all the three big races at Punchestown one year where he won the Ladies Cup on 'Which Way Now', the La Touche on 'How Ya Now' and the Champion Hunters Chase on 'Ah Whist'. He claimed 'How Ya Now' was his favourite and most fulfilling win. Racehorse trainer and well known RTE racing presenter Ted Walsh delivered a fitting eulogy at the funeral mass on Roger's life where he shared many stories about the colourful yet shy and unassuming character. Many have described him as one of the greatest amateurs of all time and a true horseman. May he

rest in peace. Meanwhile on the track, Mark Enright was again entering the winner's enclosure for the second time this month on the Grainne M. O' Connor trained 'Sherika'. Having previously won on the mare last month in Gowran Park, she was back to her winning ways at Thurles on Thursday where crowds flooded in for the Grade 2 Matty Ryan Memorial Kinloch Brae Chase. The Leugh Handicap Hurdle was quite a competitive affair attracting a field of sixteen runners where the Willie Mullins trained 'Away We Go' went off the 10/3 favourite. However it was 'Sherika' who stayed on best of all beating the brave challenge of Enda Bolger's progressive 'Drawn n Drank' by 4 lengths. The mare went off a 10/1 chance and justified her odds under Enright who gave her a perfectly timed ride to take home the winning pot of €10,005. Rathkeale jockey Emmet McNamara continued his fine run of form with yet another winner at Dundalk on Friday night on the Ger Lyon's trained 'Tocatta Blue'. The 7/4 second favourite was given a good positive ride by McNamara and was ridden prominently throughout the

race, where he hit the front inside the final furlong marker to take the Crowne Plaza Hotel Race & Stay Maiden by half a length from 'Eusepio'. It was the trainer's 100th winner at the Northern venue with McNamara winning on 28 of these. Both trainer and jockey have struck up a strong legiance and should always be taken seriously at the Dundalk venue each week. There was top class racing at Naas on Saturday where the Grade 3 Limestone Lad Hurdle was one of the features. The Charles Byrnes trained 'Solwhit' went off the 4/5 favourite for the showpiece where the Willie Mullins trained 'So Young' appeared to be his main danger. Champion jockey Davy Russell gave the son of 'Solon' a tactical ride chasing the leaders in third spot throughout the two mile three furlong distance and made steady headway on the leader 'Whatutthink' coming to the second last. However it was not until after he had jumped the last that Russell pressed the button and 'Solwhit' exulted clear to take the race by four lengths from 'So Young'. Ballingarry handler Byrnes commented afterwards "I'm delighted to get him back. I have no real plans now- he'll be entered in the World Hurdle. It'll be an option but I don't know whether he'll go or not. We might consider France as we'd be guaranteed soft ground there. He was well-in today so maybe we shouldn't be getting too carried away. He travelled well though and he looks back to somewhere near his best." The remarkable nine-year-old has now won 12 times and has been a real credit to all his connections. I'm sure many will agree that it is great to see him back to winning ways at the top level and if he heads to Cheltenham he will surely be worth an each-way punt.