

Sunday's professional match should be fitting opening

Big week-end for Castletroy Golf Club

President G.U.I. to officiate at official dinner

(By Our Golf Correspondent)

WORK is now almost completed on the £15,000 club premises of the Castletroy Golf Club, which is due for official opening on to-morrow (Saturday) evening with a special dinner. To honour the occasion, on Sunday four of the best golfers in these parts, Ryder Cup men Brian Huggett, Eric Brown and Christy O'Connor, and Ireland's first lady professional, Philomena Garvey, will take part in a special challenge match over 18 holes.

A visit to the club recently showed that Denis Cassidy and his ground staff have the links in really first-class condition, and it can rival any in the country for perfection. The course has the reputation for being one of the finest 18 holes inland in the land. The watering of the greens has brought for tremendous improvement on the putting surfaces, which are lush, smooth and true.

A new car park has been laid down also, adding considerably to the amenities.

BIG ATTRACTION

However the big attraction will, of course, be the extensively altered clubhouse, erected at the cost of almost £15,000. The new locker room will cater for 156 members and a number of showers will also be available here.

The lockers will be situated as of yore, and again the bar will be adjoining. The bar will be most luxurious, and twice the size of the old.

The lounge will be more or less the same size, but will again be ultra modern. Alcoves are installed for extra and more comfortable seating.

GLASS FRONT

The front will be made all the more attractive because the wall will be of glass, thus enabling the people inside to have a perfect view of the course.

A television room will be an added amenity, and the ladies' locker room and lounge are modernised and extended.

STEWARDS' QUARTERS

The stewards' quarters, too,

have been extensively improved, the kitchen being doubled and four additional rooms built.

The entire pavilion will be centrally heated and the terraces, open to the elements in the old structure, will be covered, thus ensuring every possible comfort to those who wish to stay out in the fresh air.

The architect is Mr. Tom McMahon, last year's Captain of Castletroy, and he can be proud of a job well done.

THOUSANDS EXPECTED

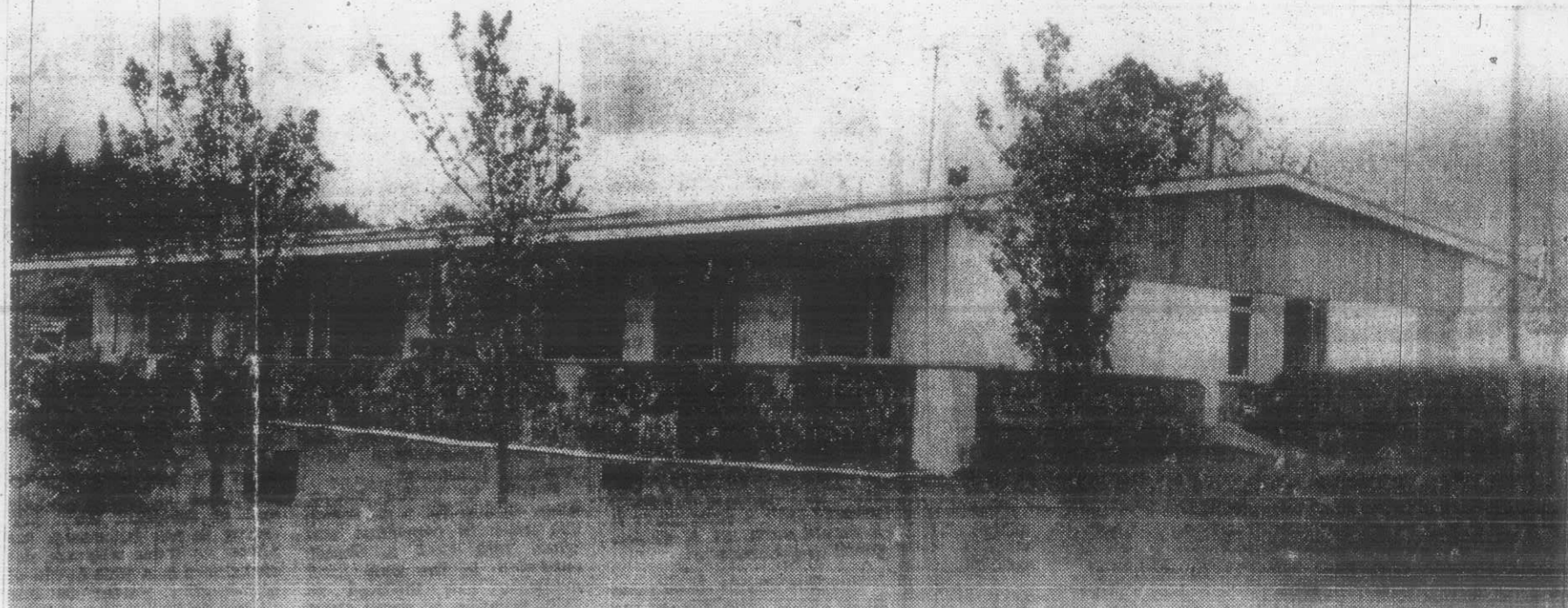
Thousands are expected for Sunday's big match. Miss Philomena Garvey will be a big attraction on her own, for this will be her first professional engagement and her first appearance in this area. Brian Huggett is considered the bright young hope of British golf and those great friends, Eric Brown and Christy O'Connor, always make interesting watching. The match, kindly sponsored by "Danis" Ltd., Limerick, also appears in the list of events in the Limerick Festival of Sport.

In view of the anticipated tremendous interest in the opening, the energetic and progressive Castletroy Club, under their Lee, are issuing a souvenir brochure. The brochure will contain a history of the club, details of the golf match and many more interesting items. A history of the club by colleague and past Captain, Arthur Quinlan, is first-class.

OFFICIAL DINNER

The official dinner at the clubhouse promises to be a most enjoyable function. Officiating will be Mr. Michael Murphy, President of the Golfing Union of Ireland, who in his term of office has proved most popular in all quarters. Other noted guests in the 150 people who will attend are Dr. P. J. Hillery, Minister for Education; Mr. D. B. O'Malley, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance; the

The Committee of Management of Castletroy Golf Club, back row (l. to r.): V. Feeney, Rev. Mr. W. Mills, T. O'Connor, T. McMahon, W. W. Stokes, Major T. R. W. Deakin, T. E. O'Donnell, T. Moloney, J. Dolan, A. J. McMahon, T. Glynn. In front—K. Fay, J. O'Connell (Secretary), Very Rev. P. J. Lee (capt.), M. B. O'Malley, solr., President; L. Fine, Vice-President; P. Collins, G. Cantrell (vice-capt.).



The magnificent new Castletroy clubhouse, reconstructed at a cost of £15,000.

Brown and Huggett noted for their fighting qualities

FOR Limerick golfing lovers the big day is at hand, and the professional golf match at Castletroy on Sunday between Philomena Garvey and Christy O'Connor, and Eric Brown and Brian Huggett should celebrate the opening of the clubhouse fittingly. While O'Connor and Miss Garvey are widely known throughout Ireland, Huggett and Brown are not quite such outstanding personalities in these parts. Below, I attempt to underline the characteristics that have put them into the top line of British pros.

One of the most controversial golfers in the world over the past fifteen years has undoubtedly been the fiery Scot with the fraying hair and lean body, Eric Brown, 39 years old, and still a very formidable challenger on the

relates some of his experiences with this pair, and it can be seen that they have a genuine understanding of each other's problems.

Browne has always been most noted for his ability as a match player. He won the

Handsome contribution to cost of bar

Messrs. Arthur Guinness, Sons & Co. Ltd. have played no small part in the erection of this fine clubhouse for they contributed handsomely towards the cost of the bar and have also helped with the decoration of the table for to-morrow's dinner.

strong views on professional golf in these islands, and particularly on the younger generation. Brian pleads: "Young players in America, once they show any promise at all, are sponsored for a year. Some make the grade and, to my mind, that is why they have so many better players. As far as I know, only Bobby Walker is sponsored in this way over here. We are always told to learn the hard way. Well golf is hard enough, and to play well you need a good stick, not a-b and chips; a caddy, not pulling a trolley in the wind and rain. Granted, some do make it the hard way, and so it must be or we would not have any stars; but we would have a lot more, like the Americans, if more young players were sponsored on the circuit.

Huggett is disappointed that the establishment rarely asks the younger players to have a practice round with them prior to a tournament, and he defends his compatriots in a newspaper article stating that young professionals in Australia were doing much better



tion for being an American hater but he denies this point blank: "I do not care for the

