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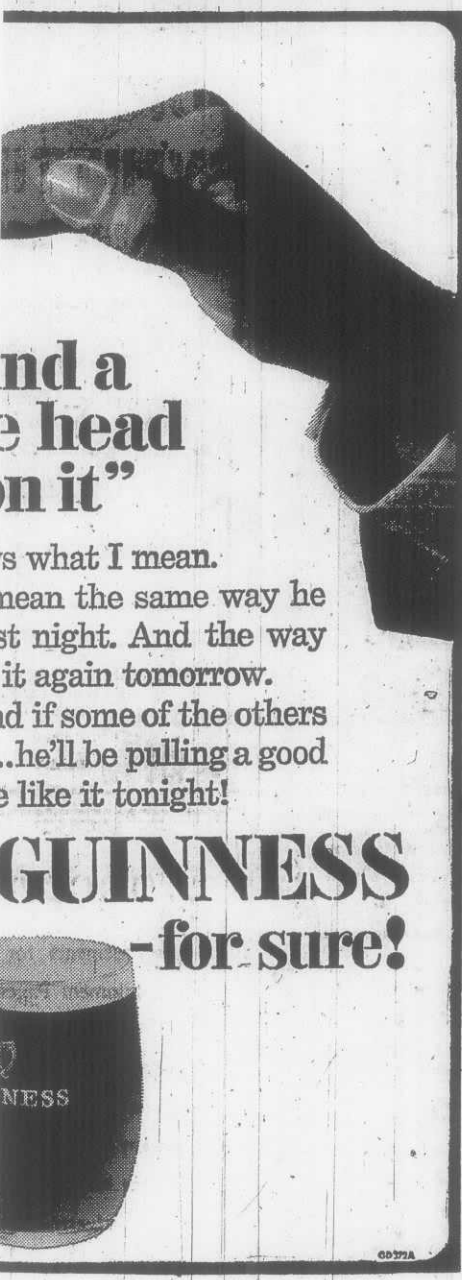
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are overlooking the 11th green and 12th hole at Ballyclough. The new premises will be opening on Saturday, April 16, and the occasion will be marked on the following day by a professional exhibition between four top Ryder Cup golfers and Ireland's top twelve amateurs.

**Ryder Cup Players for Opening of £30,000 Premises**

**Limerick Golf Club marks 75 years of progress**

LIMERICK Golf Club, the first to be established in the South of Ireland and the third oldest in the 32 Counties, will mark the opening of its new £30,000 premises at Ballyclough on April 17 with the playing of four exhibition matches, featuring Ryder Cup players from the four countries and the top 12 amateurs in Ireland. The matches are being sponsored by Messrs. Danus of Limerick.

The four professionals are Christy O'Connor (Ireland), George Will (Scotland), David Thomas (Wales) and Peter Alliss (England), and they will play a series of four 36 holes matches against Irish amateurs Joe Carr, Tom Craddock, Dr. David Sheahan, John Nestor, Raymond Kane, Noel Fogarty, Jimmy Bowen, Vincent Nevin, Bill Kelleher, Rupert de Lacy Staunton, Brendan Edwards and Michael Craigan.

The new clubhouse, which includes the latest golfing amenities, is at present under construction and is situated on the site formerly occupied by Crawford's Castle, beside the 11th green. The course is being specially lengthened and reconstructed in anticipation of a unique and fascinating day's golf.

Limerick Golf Club was the first golf club to be established in the South of Ireland and the third to be formed in the 32 counties of Ireland.

The moves that led to the formation began in 1883, when a family named Murray came

from Scotland to live in Castleconnell at "Prospect House." Mrs. Murray had three sons by a previous marriage to a Mr. Driver and these boys became friends with a well known sporting family named Phelps. The Driver boys brought with them from Scotland a considerable knowledge of the game of golf and they were not long here before they had constructed impromptu greens around their house. Playing on these the Phelps became "bitten by the bug" and spoke of it to their many friends. The Phelps were members of the Limerick County Club and introduced the Drivers as members. Here they met some of the officers of the famous Scottish Regiment, the Black Watch, which was quartered in Limerick at the time and golf became the main topic for discussion. In this way many County Club members became interested and, eventually, it was decided to form a golf club in Limerick.

**Club Formed**

A public meeting was called and held in the Library of the old Athenaeum (now the Royal Cinema) on December 12, 1891, at which the Limerick Golf Club was formed. The meeting was presided over by Mr. (later Sir) Alexander Shaw, who was elected Captain, with seven members of a committee, and an officer of the Black Watch as an ex-officio member. Mr. E. G. Pitt (late owner of the well-known establishment in O'Connell Street) was elected secretary.

The first committee meeting was held on December 21, 1891, at which a resolution was recorded "that Mr. Driver be elected an honorary member for the present season, as it is principally owing to him that the game of golf has been introduced into the South of Ireland."

The first course of the Limerick Golf Club was situated on the Limerick Race Course, and was held at a rent of £15 per year, but after a year it was found that the receipts from members' subscriptions were not sufficient to meet the rent. Another course was then procured at a cheaper rent on a farm in Ballinacurry.

**Lahinch Links**

It was at this time that the now famed Lahinch Links came into being. It came about like this: Some officers of the Black Watch back from military duty in West Clare mentioned to some members of the Limerick County Club that, in the course of their work in Clare, they had come across a place at Lahinch which they considered ideal for a golf course. After much discussion about this, it was arranged at a meeting of the Limerick Golf Club held in March, 1892, that the Captain (Mr. Shaw) and the Secretary should visit Lahinch and report on its suitability. This was done and the committee received such a glowing account that negotiations were opened with the owner of the land at Lahinch, and a temporary links marked out. An excursion to Lahinch was organised for Good Friday, 1892, and 30 members went on it and played over the course. On their return, the verdict was that "better could not be found in Ireland."

It was then contemplated that the Limerick Golf Club should be transferred to Lahinch, to make the subscription 10/- a year and the Railway Company arranged to give return tickets for single fare to members of the club. This plan, however, fell through, and on the construction of the Golf Links Hotel at Lahinch, the affairs of the Lahinch Golf Club passed away entirely from

**At Ennis Road**

Meantime the Limerick Golf Club again changed its course—this time to a site near where the Limerick County Tennis Club stands at present. The new course was situated at the side of the Ennis Road, extending from the Workhouse Cross to where Lansdowne Park now is (no houses stood there in those times). The County Cricket and Tennis Club was situated here too but the Golf Club had the right of playing over that land also and in those days, golf was only played from October to March each year when there was no cricket or tennis.

It would appear that this was a very small course, as we look back on the game today, but in those times, a drive with the old Coty golf ball was not long. Many are the stories and anecdotes told about the doings on that course and one concerns a game between Sir Charles Barrington and Mr. J. E. Goodbody (both deceased). One of them had the misfortune to drive a ball right through a window in the maternity ward of the Limerick Union Hospital—and, needless to say, the Hospital Authorities strongly objected. There were also complaints from the County Club that the golfers were hacking the tennis courts to ribbons. So the Limerick Golf Club didn't stay long on this site and in March, 1895, the Limerick Golf Club moved to Newcastle Hill, where they secured a course stretching along the side of the road from where the old Castle stands to the Reservoir. (Note this site was only two fields away from the present Castletroy Club.)

After a few seasons here the owner let the land for dairying purposes and off we had to move again. This time to Ballysheedy, but after a short time here because membership fees had increased considerably, it was decided to move again to Eogan's Farm in Ballinacurry and here a pavilion was erected.

The membership continued to increase and the committee now felt that they could afford to rent an all-the-year-round course. In 1908 a course was rented from Mr. Richard Furnell at Ballyclough and here a really fine 9-hole course was laid out, the greens being considered remarkably good. Membership subscriptions were raised to: Gentlemen, £2, and Ladies, £1 per year.

**Present Course**

In March, 1919, the farm on which the present course is situated came into the market and was purchased from the late Mrs. Crawford. The committee of that time faced successfully the gigantic task of raising funds to purchase this farm, construct the new course and build a suitable pavilion, and in March, 1920, it opened for play as a 9-hole course. It was altered to an 18-hole course in 1923 and finally converted into its present lay-out when a further stretch of Miss Crawford's farm was acquired in 1927. Through the care and zeal of former Captains and members of the Limerick Golf Club to-day has one of the most up-to-date inland courses in the country.

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with magnificent greens originally constructed by one of the most famous firms of golf architects: Messrs. McKenzie & Sons, of Leeds, England.

The course commands a magnificent view of the City of Limerick, the Clare Hills, the Shannon Valley and a stretch of country as far as Knockferna.

other steps have been taken to improve the decision. A Governing Body has been elected under the Chairmanship of General Sean and consists of fifteen members. The object of the Foundation is to continue the services of Michael Collins to the Irish and care has been taken to see that the Foundation will be adhered to in future years. The monies will be used for the cultural and artistic training and development of Irish men and women from any of the Provinces, without distinction of creed or politics. The Committee now appeal for funds and feel confident that the people of Ireland will take this opportunity to pay tribute to a Irishman. All subscriptions will be acknowledged and amount is too small — and may be sent to:

The Treasurers  
 Michael Collins Memorial Foundation  
 The National City Bank  
 10 College Green, Dublin 2

or to any of the following members of the G. Lieut.-General Sean MacBain, Mr. Joseph General Richard Mulcahy, Mr. Nevin Griffith A. Costello, S.C., T.D., Mr. Seán Collins, T. Cosgrave, S.C., T.D., Major General Joseph Eamon Martin, Lieut.-General Michael J. C. General Liam Archer, Dr. Niall O'Rahilly, D. Barrett, T.D., Senator Prof. James Dooge, J. Connolly. c/o to College G

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