



Saturday January 27th saw the arrival of the 3 Captains of Ashbourne Golf Club to kick-start the golfing year in the Club. How the Captains arrive is always a well-kept secret and this year was no different. The large crowd of members assembled were greatly amused as Brian Purcell, Winnie Morris and Junior Captain Simon Purcell, approached on some of the Club machinery, bedecked in John Deere regalia. Awaiting their arrival was the traditional champagne

presented to them by Vice-Captains Dave Doolan and Bríd Ní Bhraonain. After mingling with those present, the Captains went to plant their Captains' tree on the course and were then led by a piper in to the Clubhouse which was packed with family, friends and well-wishers.

The ritual tee off was performed in front of a large crowd and despite pressure of Ryder Cup proportions, all three sent cracking drives down the middle of the first fairway. Mightily relieved our trio went off to a very enjoyable lunch with invited guests. This helped them to relax and to prepare for the second half of the day.

Part 2 of proceedings begins with a formal segment of speeches by all 3 which included the announcement that €400 had been raised by the "lollipop ladies" Deirdre O'Keeffe and Anne Gavin for Cystinosis. Then came the entertainment. This is something that is always highly anticipated as our Social Committee of Diarmuid Golden, Deirdre Whelan and Elaine Walsh with the assistance of the Vice-Captains had the audience in stitches with a Beckettesque self-penned production of the Captains' portraits engaged in conversation. This had the members in great mood for the music and dancing that continued 'til the wee hours. There were a lot of tired people around the Clubhouse on Sunday but everyone involved was delighted to be part of a great day which augurs well for the coming year.



### Coast2Coast Cycle Challenge

On the last weekend in May every year, around seventy cyclists gather in the Pillo Hotel at 8am for early morning coffee and scones, and prepare to take on the annual Coast2Coast Cycle Challenge, travelling from the Atlantic Ocean at Galway Bay to the Irish Sea at Laytown Co. Meath.

This annual event is organised by the local 'Ashbourne and District Lions Club' and all funds raised go towards supporting both local worthy causes and other well-known charities namely: "Make a Wish Foundation" for terminally ill children, and "Alzheimers Society of Ireland". These Charities are selected every year by the Lions Club committee. This years event will be the 4th Coast2Coast Challenge and will be held on Saturday May 26th and May 27th. (This is the weekend before the June bank holiday weekend).

**Distance:** The distance is around 230km and is completed over the two days arriving in Laytown at 5pm on Sunday May 27th.

**Entrance Fee:** The entrance fee is €250 and includes your transportation by tour bus to Galway Bay, Bed and Breakfast in Athlone, plus all food, snacks and water over the two days.

**Sponsor Cards:** Sponsor cards and online sponsor cards will be made available in April.

**Training option:** If you are keen to start training or to just get cycling again, then The Ashburners Cycling Club meet up every weekend on Saturday and Sunday mornings at the Cinema, and cater for cyclists of all skill levels. This offers you a great opportunity to get fit and work towards the C2C challenge in May.

Are you ready for a new challenge this summer? Why not join us and take on the Coast2Coast Cycle Challenge? The event is guaranteed craic, and there is always great comradery over the two days. If you would like to register your interest in participating as the number of participants is limited, please send an email to lionsashbourne@gmail.com.

More Information on [www.ashbournelions.com/coast-2-coast.html](http://www.ashbournelions.com/coast-2-coast.html)

**Please note:** For health and safety reasons, all participants must be over 18 years of age.

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