

Hole in One on 11th at Annual Golf Classic 2007!

Beautiful weather provided a wonderful backdrop to top quality golf at the Newbridge Chamber Annual Golf Classic on 10th September last, which was kindly sponsored by Newbridge Silverware. An enjoyable day of golf and chat among the representatives of Newbridge business made the event a great success for all involved. Almost 100 people played for a fabulous array of Newbridge Silverware prizes.

Michael Delaney came back into the Curragh Golf Clubhouse sporting a very big smile, having achieved a Hole in One on the 11th, while playing with the Sean Melia Meats team. For this feat he won a VIP pass for two, including champagne lunch, to the Parknasilla Hotel Goffs Million race day at the nearby Curragh racecourse.



Are ewe playing too?

After a well-earned dinner provided by chef Carl Slattery and his team, President Joe Fennell awarded 35 prizes to participants. The Leinster Partnership team took the main honours, on 93 points, winning large designer silver lamps to light up their homes. Next up on 92 points, in second place came Sean Melia Meats, in third place with 89 points, came the R.A.C.E.

team. The evening ended with a raffle in aid of The Samaritans, Newbridge which raised a stunning €934, thanks to the generosity of all present.

Full details of the winners are listed on www.newbridgechamber.ie

The top teams home were:

RESULTS

PRIZE	TEAM (+ points)	INDIVIDUALS
1st Prize	The Leinster Partnership (93 points)	John Leddy, John Gallagher Tony Sheridan, Conor McGarr
2nd Prize	Sean Melia Meats (92 points)	John Dempsey, Pierce Freaney Gary O'Carroll, Michael Delaney
3rd Prize	R.A.C.E. (89 points)	Niall Byrne, Fergal Britton Derek Meade, Keith Rowe
4th Prize	Equisoft Ltd. (88 points)	Robbie Byrne, Donal Dwyer Nicky Tobin, Nicky Reynolds
HOLE IN 1	Michael Delaney of Sean Melia Meats team	



Hole in One! Michael Delaney after his triumph on the 11th hole.

Book Aid update

Book Aid International has been in contact to say they safely received 600 kg of books (in 2 pallets) from Curragh Carpets, with thanks to all the people of Newbridge who donated their books. They will be

shortly shipping them to literacy projects in 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The objective of all Book Aid's work is to break the poverty cycle, as we're told each book will be used by at least 13 children.



1st Prize: The Leinster Partnership



2nd Prize: Sean Melia Meats



3rd Prize: R.A.C.E.



4th Prize: Equisoft Ltd.

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Chamberchat

AUTUMN 2007



CHAMBER PUSHES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Minister John Gormley has invited interested parties to submit ideas for his Green Paper on Local Government reform. Newbridge Chamber is delighted to finally get an opportunity to air its passionate views on this subject. The Chamber's Policy sub-committee has clearly outlined its opinions on how this reform should happen in its September submission to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Newbridge Town Council is one without the ability to strike a rate. This means the town's revenue from rates, parking etc. is centralised into a County Kildare 'pot' as opposed to being ring-fenced for spending in Newbridge. While pressure is successfully applied by the current Town Council for certain projects, this is dependent on the goodwill of Kildare County Council, as opposed to being an automatic decision.

This is because the law dictating the status of Town Councils dates back to 1898 - long

before we had a population approaching 19,000. At that time, there was a total of 70,000 people in the county, with only one major population centre of that era remaining today - Naas. Now Co. Kildare boasts 186,335 people, with 79% of the entire county contained within seven population centres.

The pace of population growth over the past 20 years presents a further challenge to local representation. In 1986, Newbridge had a population of 11,503 and the 2006 census recorded 18,520 (purely Newbridge town figures).

No business, either state or privately owned, can expect to be relevant, if it is largely managed, structured and resourced from a framework that was devised 110 years ago. A fundamental review will ensure that best practice and relevant strategies could then be adopted that will actually reflect the requirements of this rapidly growing county in a far more integrated and credible fashion than

the current system could ever achieve.

Newbridge Chamber fully accepts that there is a huge challenge in pulling together this reform and we are willing to play our part. The price for not taking these innovative steps is to continue with the current system, or at best, a variation of it. We will continue to lose the interest and involvement of many people if the manner they are both represented and administered is not brought screaming into the 21st century.

We have invited the Minister to attend a meeting with us in Newbridge to hear our views on the subject as he prepares his Green Paper. He replied saying that he wanted to see these views on paper first hence we have sent in our submission. We are also in close communication with other like-minded Chambers from similar sized towns with the same dilemma. We will keep all members posted on this important area as we have updates to report.

CSR SUCCESS!



Our photo shows President Joe Fennell accepting a 'CSR Special Recognition Award' from the Chambers Ireland Policy Committee, on behalf of Newbridge Chamber, at a Gala Awards ceremony at The Burlington Hotel on 26th September last. This special award was presented to recognise Newbridge Chamber's progress in promoting CSR within the local business community and was a very welcome surprise!

Newbridge Tidy Town in the pink

"There is a great vitality in the town of Newbridge and this, coupled with the new developments such as the bridge and the Whitewater Centre, makes Newbridge a town to enjoy under all circumstances" - thus ends the Adjudicators' Report in the 2007 National Tidy Towns Report.

As tireless Newbridge Tidy Town's (NTT) Secretary Déaglan De Paor commented "We all know this, but it is still nice for our town to receive positive news from an independent source. Newbridge did well this year, and thanks are due to all of you who have supported, helped, funded and encouraged us. We are pleased that we held our position of third place in Kildare, and retained our position within the top ten in our category nationally. Of course being awarded a Bronze Medal is the icing on the cake for Newbridge, the first time that the town has been awarded such a medal."

NTT's partnership approach with local authority Kildare County Council and



interaction with business interests like ourselves and schools across town were commended in the report, which delivered a total of 268 marks out of a total possible 400, up 15 marks on 2006. The Newbridge in Bloom initiative, which includes 95 planters, were admired and the sponsors thanked for facilitating this street spectacle all Summer. The Chamber CSR project was also noted under the 'Waste Minimisation' section and it encouraged future action in this area. So onwards and upwards and congrats again to all involved in achieving this wonderfully positive result for Newbridge.

Diary Date:

6th December 2007

Annual Budget Breakfast meeting,
sponsored by **Campbell & Company Chartered Accountants**
at The Silver Restaurant, Newbridge.

A full Activities & Events Calendar 2007
can be downloaded from www.newbridgechamber.ie/events.htm

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CHAMBER COMMENT

Newbridge Chamber President speaks out

"Another First for Newbridge Chamber"

I'm delighted to let you know that we have won a National award from Chambers Ireland. This Corporate Social Responsibility Award is in recognition of Newbridge Chamber's efforts to promote CSR activities within the local business community. I had the great pleasure of accepting this award, on behalf of all our members, at a black tie ball in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin on 26th September last. I would like to thank all of you for getting behind the Chamber with your efforts to promote CSR. It's worth noting that we were the only Chamber to receive an award!

What a great day we all had at our Annual Golf Classic; we had a first there too, with Michael Delaney having a "hole in one" on the 11th in the Curragh. I'd like to thank our main sponsor Newbridge Silverware and everybody who either sponsored a hole or entered a team. Our raffle was extremely well supported on the night and raised more funds for the Samaritans.

Another first to report – this time for Newbridge Tidy Towns: their recent Bronze medal and a commendation for the County Awards is fantastic to see. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Deaglan and his committee for all the great work they do around the town.

Finally, remember our Team Newbridge ethos especially coming into the winter months "if we can do a little it will help a lot", so let's support the Tidy Towns committee and keep our town litter free.

Thank you for your continued support.

Joe



Joe Fennell

President, Newbridge Chamber

Jimmy 'in the frame' for a change



Well known Newbridge photographer Jimmy Fullam found himself on the other side of the camera in July, when he became the first recipient of this year's Vodafone Passion for the World Around Us Awards! Jimmy was nominated by Liz O'Connor and received the award in recognition of his continuous work with the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA).

Over the last twenty years Jimmy has fundraised for the Irish Wheelchair Association both locally and nationally. Every year, he spends two weeks travelling all over the world taking part in sponsored walks to raise funds for the organisation. Since 1987, he walked thousands of miles in 18 sponsored walks for the Association. This local hero has a close connection with the IWA day centres in Athy and Clane.

The Passion for the World Around Us Awards are run by Vodafone in partnership with Newbridge Chamber and 17 other Chambers nationwide. The awards recognise and reward individuals and businesses who make an effort to improve their local communities and who have been successful in making a positive contribution to the world around them. Jimmy received a certificate and a specially commissioned, handmade award designed by Irish artist



Michelle Hannan at a ceremony attended by Jimmy's family in Hotel Keadeen on Monday 23rd July last.

The next round of The Passion for the World Around Us Awards will focus on businesses that have made a valuable contribution to the community.

Joe Fennell, Newbridge Chamber, Jimmy Fullam, Liz O'Connor (Nominator), and Joe Cullen, Vodafone.

Are you receiving us loud and clear?

Every month we issue general member information, including events notices. 90% of members receive this by email as it's more efficient where possible. For those who don't like to receive communications by email, we post them out instead. If you are not getting emails or a postal notice from us near the beginning of every month we need to hear from you!

Make sure you are getting the most out of your membership.

Don't forget to let us know if any of your contact details change, especially your email address. This will enable us to keep you informed accurately on what's happening in the area. It would be helpful to have your mobile number for our database – we do not release personal email addresses or mobile numbers to anyone else, but it would be good for us to hold if we need to contact you with business opportunities! The office tel. no. is 045 438296 or our email is office@newbridgechamber.ie.

EQUINE SUCCESS FOR SKILLNETS CLUSTER



Rob Lovatt, Fellow of The British Horse Society instructing students on the "Intermediate Instructors' Course" at Calliaghstown Riding Centre, Rathcoole earlier this Summer.

Extensive research by Newbridge Chamber in 2005/6 into the training needs of the Equine industry, in Kildare and nationally, resulted in identifying very specific needs in three areas: Riding Schools, Racecourses &

Thoroughbred Breeders. This year we are glad to report that customised training has started to roll out to meet these demands under the umbrella of 'South Dublin & Kildare Skillnets'. The Riding Schools representative body 'AIRE' was delighted to work closely with Newbridge Chamber. According to them, the fragmented nature of the equestrian industry often leaves managers and trainers isolated in the work place. They can rise to a managerial capacity without the relevant training and many then become stale in their teaching methods. Because they don't invest in themselves, this

can lead to a lack of enthusiasm and motivation. Thus it was identified that the need here was to 'train the trainers!' Renowned expert Rob Lovatt travelled from the UK for 6 different training days over April, May and June to share his experience and knowledge with 12 riding school instructors from all over Ireland, at Calliaghstown Riding Centre in Rathcoole. They were blown away at being able to study with this expert without the prohibitive cost of travelling to the UK. In addition, all this was possible at a subsidised cost, thanks the Skillnets funding. Feedback from the course was really positive – with attendees asking when they could next avail of further training!

Grant Thornton arrives in Newbridge

The reduced commute was a big attraction to Laois man Noel Delaney who heads up the new Newbridge office for international accountancy firm Grant Thornton! He persuaded its partners to focus on all their existing clients in the Leinster area and see that it made sense to service clients in Co. Kildare, Co. Laois and other adjacent areas, without them having to travel further afield. Attracted by the existing success of Newbridge as a location, the decision was made to set up in town as a central base. Now existing and prospective clients have an alternative to seeking specialist tax advice previously referred to Grant Thornton's Dublin offices.

At their official opening on September 6th last, Noel told the Chamber that they are very excited about setting out their stall in Newbridge. They intend to offer the full range of wealth management and accountancy services but with particular emphasis on family-run, entrepreneurial type business. Mullingar native Paul Raleigh, Managing Partner, relayed some enjoyable anecdotes on the night about well known family business clients, including a story referring to a family-run grocery chain who effectively started up on the proceeds of a winning raffle ticket!



Noel Delaney, Grant Thornton, Darren McNamara, Bank of Scotland (Ireland), Paul Raleigh, Grant Thornton, Tom Stafford, Reidy Stafford and Patrick Beirne, Patrick J Beirne & Associates at the Grant Thornton, Newbridge, official opening on 6th September.

For more conventional start ups, Noel has 11 years of experience with Grant Thornton to share in this particular area, from start up to succession.

The opening, on a sunny September evening, was attended by many existing clients and members of the local business community, who wished Grant Thornton every success in their own new venture. The atmosphere was enhanced by the beautiful background strains of traditional music group 'Celtic Harmony'.

Meet New Members *We extend a welcome to recent new members:*

Name	COMPANY	BUSINESS TYPE
Ms. Colette Vogel & Ms. Lisa Bothwell	Bothwell & Vogel	Graphic Design Consultants
Mr. Tony Monahan	Central Health & Safety Services Ltd.	Training provider
Mr. Kunte Olasogba	E - Universal	International Property & Trade management
Mr. David Quirke	Financial Engineering Network Ltd.	Financial Planning and Wealth Management
Mr. David Clinton	Magic Castles Ltd. (Tricky Tricksters Ltd.)	Children's Entertainment Venue and Services
Mr. Mark O'Toole	OmniTel (Callidus Telecom)	Wireless Broadband provider
Ms. Maria McDonald	The Business Bureau	Virtual Office provider

Direct Debit introduction

As we mentioned to you earlier in the year, the Chamber is introducing a new payment option of Direct Debit collection for renewal subscriptions next January, 2008. It should make renewal collection more efficient in terms of time and money for everyone. You will receive a Direct Debit form from us in the next

few weeks. If you feel that this once-a-year collection method would be a convenient way for you to renew your annual membership, please complete and return the form to the office in Canning Place. The first deduction will be scheduled for January 2008.

Thank you.

Wireless Broadband in Newbridge

A reminder that new member OmniTel is rolling out high-speed, always-on wireless Broadband in Newbridge and surrounding areas. OmniTel is an Irish company with over 2,000 wireless broadband customers throughout the South-East and offers a wide range of packages for residential and business

users. The issue of access to Broadband came out as the top problem area for Newbridge businesses in last year's Newbridge Chamber Survey. If you are interested in wireless broadband for your home or business, simply lo-call them at 1890 943 666 or visit www.omnitel.ie.

Close-up on Committee



In this issue we meet **Con McNamara**, a Colonel serving with The Defence Forces, based in The Curragh. A long time hard-working Chamber member, Con was in fact President in 2000 having previously chaired the strategic committee for the transformation of Newbridge Chamber into a fulltime operation. Today he is an active member and represents Newbridge on the Kildare Strategic Transport Committee.

Next year Con will celebrate 40 years in the Defence Forces. His life has been a roller coaster of experiences that most of us can only imagine. He has served overseas in the UN Truce Supervision Organisation stationed in Syria and Israel, UNIFIL in Lebanon, Nicaragua and El Salvador in Central America. From 2001 to 2003 he worked at NATO HQ in Brussels and served with the Irish Permanent Mission to the EU during the Irish Presidency in 2004.

His current position - Commandant of the Command and Staff School – oversees the provision of senior officer education for the Defence Forces, incorporating an MA programme with NUI Maynooth. Con's own qualifications make him the ideal person to head up this important development for the Defence Forces, with an MA in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies, NUIM under his belt. He is also a Graduate Teacher in Communications Skills from Guildhall, London and a Graduate of the Public Relations Institute.

A native of Ogonnelloe, Co. Clare, Con has been living in Newbridge since 1972. He is married to Margaret and they have three daughters Elaine, Ruth and Susan. This sports man has won Army medals in rugby, hurling, basketball and volleyball and has managed the Newbridge 2XV rugby team for the past two years, winning both the League Cup and the Lawlor Cup. We're lucky to have a man of Con's calibre amongst us willing to help out in all spheres of Newbridge business and community life.