

2011 Carr Mara Trust Tournament contested at County Sligo Golf Club at Rosses Point



The Garden City Team represented by

(SEATED) BILL HOGAN, ART GILLIN, MIKE SHERIN, MERRICK MCQUILLING,

(STANDING) JOE HOWARD, MIKE SWEENEY, MARK THOMPSON, ROB RICCIO, PAT FOGARTY

“The objectives of The Carr Mara Golf Competition are to honor the lives of Joe Carr and Wellington Mara through a friendly competition among Irish and United States golf clubs and to create and foster relationships among members of the clubs”. The founding board members of the Carr Mara Trust include Joe McAleese, Len Horan, Dr. Conor O’Brien, Bill Hogan and JP O’Hara.

The tournament originated with 5 clubs on each side, and was expanded to 7 teams each in 2009.

Participating clubs for the USA include; **Garden City, Winged Foot, Pine Valley, Oakmont, Oak Hill, Bel-Air** and the **Olympic Club**.

Participating Clubs for Ireland include; **Portmarnock, Sutton, County Louth, County Sligo, Royal Portrush, Ballybunion, and Lahinch**.

This year’s event was the third since inception, the previous two were held at Portmarnock in ‘07, and Winged Foot in ‘09. The tournament is held around the same time as the Walker Cup. The next Carr Mara Competition will be held at the Olympic Club in 2013. The tourney will then go to Royal Portrush in 2015.

There were many familiar faces at the Carr Mara such as Eoghan O’Connell and Kevin Hammer from Pine Valley, Dave Reneker from Bel-Air and Eoin O’Connor from Ballybunion. Many new friendships were formed such as those with John Carr from Sutton, Barry Reddan from County Louth, Hugh Rhundle from Oak Hill, Dermot Daly from Bel-Air and Ray Hennessey from Lahinch. The quality of person and passion for golf is first rate with all players of the Carr Mara Experience.

A special note of thanks goes out to Marty Carr. No one person did more for each and every participant than Marty Carr (son of Joe Carr). Marty made sure that all of our on Island arrangements, including transportation, lodging, food and beverage(s) were covered down to the last detail. Peter Keighery and Sarah Caufield (Carr Group team members) were awesome in their handling of all day to day matters! A job well done to the Carr Group!

The itinerary of the tournament included a practice round on September 4th at County Sligo Golf Club. A reception at the club was held that evening to welcome all guests, and to establish the rules to be followed for the competition held on the 5th and 6th. Local representatives of County Sligo were in attendance along with a select group of musicians to help make the atmosphere elegant and welcoming.

The two days of tournament play were contested under extreme conditions. The wind was steady 40 mph with gusts to 60 mph. And the rain showers that fell could be seen (for miles) approaching the land (from sea), allowing ample time to put on the appropriate rain gear. The low score on the first day was 79, and 76 was the low on day two. This year’s contest was won by the Irish team of Sutton, a world ranked 9-hole course located just outside Portmarnock (where JB Carr held his daily membership). The individual champion was David Dunne from Sligo with a great score of 80-76. It was most fitting that the Sutton team won on the course where JB Carr Captured the West of Ireland Championship 12 times over his career!

A formal dinner (Gala) was held after the completion of play, and guests were treated to great speakers and music from the Club. The loss of our own beloved Gary Griffith was recognized at the dinner. Gary was instrumental in the participation by Garden City Golf in the first Carr Mara tournament. A moment of silence was held in his honor!

The County Sligo Golf Club has a 40 person (men's) choir that performed some great Irish songs. They also performed a great rendition of New York, New York for the USA teams. Their conductor (a world class violinist) performed virtuoso quality music as well!

The evening was closed out with a moving speech from the captain of the Olympic Club (D. Thompson) who introduced himself, his team and his club as the hosts for the next Carr Mara tournament in 2013.

One last comment, Sligo is a stunning waterfront town with a world class golf course and some of the most hospitable people to be found anywhere. A golf trip to the northwest of Ireland is not complete without a stop at Rosses Point.



Pat Fogarty on behalf of the GCGC Carr Mara team