Hon Secretary’s and Hon. Match Secretary’s Report 2016

The past year has been exceptionally busy both on and off the course. Thanks to our dedicated band of volunteers and our staff we successfully completed some 36 separate events around the province – dealing with all aspects of the game from entry to results. In addition, many of our Branch representatives have attended numerous meetings both in the Branch Office at Forestgrove and nationally in Carton House in order to keep the game we love running smoothly.

We would take this opportunity to thank our fellow Officers, members of Provincial Council, Match and Handicapping and Junior Committees for their significant efforts and for giving their time so readily. In addition, our thanks to the clubs who made their courses and premises available, often with club members on hand to help as required. Thanks also to Shandon Park Golf Club for the continuing use of their club for our ADM.

And of course, thanks to our sponsors, who are listed later in this report, for their continued support and generosity – they are greatly appreciated.

Strategy and Governance

Following the appointment of the new CEO in September 2015 a new GUI Board was established and met for the first time in May 2016. The Board replaced the former Executive Committee and has fewer members comprising of a Chairman (external), President, President Elect, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, one representative from each Province and two external members – one of whom is Keith McGarry who resigned as our legal advisor to take up the position. We wish him well.

In order to optimise the Union’s performance, work is ongoing on a number of strands of the Union’s strategy – Stronger Clubs, Dedicated Volunteers, World Class High Performance System, Supported Participation, Better Communications, Outstanding Competition, Fair and Consistent Handicapping, Optimised Governance, A Strong and Open Culture and One Governing Body.

In relation to the latter, the GUI and the Irish Ladies’ Golf Union are in the process of holding discussions regarding the creation of a single governing body for golf in Ireland. This is seen as not a merger, rather an attempt to build from scratch the most effective and successful governing body for the sport there can be.

Consultation meetings have taken place in 2016 with officials, clubs and staff with further consultations planned. This process will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to voice their ideas and visions for a single governing body which will aim to serve the game of golf, its clubs and players into the future. An update on this work will be provided at the ADM itself.

Confederation of Golf in Ireland

Rory Leonard from the Confederation of Golf in Ireland (CGI) gave a presentation at the 2015 ADM explaining their roles with GUI and Ulster Golf and outlined how they can assist Clubs in becoming “Stronger” through Club Support Services and Participation Programmes.

In relation to the latter, ongoing work continues in the areas of Schools Golf, Get into Golf Programmes, Taster Days and general awareness of the pathways into golf. Online applications for CGI’s support in running recruitment programmes in 2017 are open until 16th December, more details can be found by visiting www.cgigolf.org Rory will provide an update at the ADM itself.
Coaching
The 2015/16 Coaching programme was restructured to align with our long term objectives. There are now a few less boys in Provincial coaching and a lot more in Regional coaching. We have improved our golfers’ accountability, cultures in our sport and the mind-set of those involved in the programme. Some of this was due to a greater investment in sports psychology and strength and conditioning. It was pleasing to see these efforts by our coaching team reflected in results during the summer – two inter-provincial wins (U14 & U18) numerous provincial and national championships and good representation on Ulster and Ireland teams at all levels. Congratulations and thanks to our Junior Committee and team of coaches.

Max Hadden Trophy
As usual the Max Hadden Trophy, played for by the Club Captains within their year of office, was held at Max’s home club of Royal Belfast. This July fixture, held on a course in pristine condition saw a keenly contested competition with Simon Wady from Carrickfergus lifting the trophy. The traditional fayre of steak & kidney pie was enjoyed by all. 2017 Captains should ensure that this event is put in their diaries for the last Friday in July.

North of Ireland Championship
Our Championship was played during the usual holiday week in July with reasonable weather conditions this year. One change for 2016 was the use of Portstewart as a qualifying venue while changes to the Valley Links settled in. A tremendous score in qualifying over the two courses was achieved by Gary Collins (Rosslace), shooting 69 (Portstewart) and 73 (Dunluce) for a 142 total leaving him atop of the 300 man field in the qualifying section. The final was played in fairly settled conditions following some horrible weather that affected both semi-finals in the morning. Both finalists played good golf with Sean Flanagan (Co. Sligo) defeating Tiarnan McLarnon (Massereene) by 3&1.

Interaction with Clubs
The Branch held a series of Handicapping and Rules of Golf Roadshows in March which covered the principal changes to the CONGU Unified Handicapping Scheme (UHS) 2016 – 18 and Rules of Golf 2016. As before, club members seemed to welcome the opportunity to hear from the Ulster Branch face-to-face and the four events were well received. Thanks are due to Ballymena, Foyle, Co. Armagh and Shandon Park Golf Clubs for hosting the Roadshows.

The Branch also undertook a series of Handicap Reviews with approximately twenty clubs being visited to discuss the CONGU UHS in an attempt to ensure that the scheme was being correctly administered. It’s pleasing to note that, by and large, the scheme is being adhered to in Ulster and a ‘one pager’ is being sent to all clubs summarising our findings.

As mentioned in previous reports, we would like to appeal to captains of inter-club teams to make full use of the Cups & Shields Report. It can be used for any team, including Ulster Cup and Irish Fourball. On Golfnet, simply enter the GUI eight digit membership number for each panel member and it will produce a report listing the lowest handicap in the previous calendar year and the number of qualifying competitions for each player. The report will be of great assistance in ensuring that ineligible players are not selected and hence, running the risk of disqualification. It will also greatly simplify the process of exchanging handicap evidence during the match play rounds of various competitions.
The clubs who made their courses available for a host of competitions this year are to be congratulated and thanked for the use of their facilities and the superb standard of preparation for the Ulster Branch competitions.

**Ulster Branch Personnel 2016**

**Branch Officers**
Chairman: Eamonn O’Connor (Donegal)
Hon. Secretary: John White (Co. Armagh)
Hon. Treasurer: Alasdair Gibson (Knock)
Hon. Match Secretary: Norman Bennett (Holywood)

**Provincial Council**
Nick Agate (Malone)  Roy Archibald (Shandon Park)
John Boyd (Ballycastle) Jackie Graham (Castlerock)
David Heaney (Scrabo) Brian Hutchinson (Donaghadee)
Dougie Irwin (Rathmore) Tom Jones (Belvoir Park)
Terry Magee (Clandeboye) Damian Montague (Fintona)
Sam McBurney (Massereene) David McNeill (Cairndhu)

**Immediate Past President GUI from Ulster**: G. Ivor McCandless (Lisburn)

**Delegates to GUI Central Council**: Roy Archibald (Shandon Park)
Terry Magee (Clandeboye)

**Ulster Branch Honorary Delegates**: 
*Ian Bamford (Royal Portrush)
*Billy Black (Malone)
PJ Collins (Co. Armagh)
David McAuley (Royal Co.Down) until Feb 16
Lindsay Shanks (Royal Portrush)

* = Trustees of Ulster Branch

**Ulster Branch Trustees**: – in addition to those who are also Hon Delegates
Peter O’Hara (Massereene)
Brendan Edwards (Shandon Park)

**Honorary Delegate to GUI Central Council**: Tom Jones (Belvoir Park)

**GUI Trustee**: Billy Black (Malone)
**Executive Officer**: Kevin Stevens (Rockmount)
**Director of Coaching**: Brendan Edwards (Shandon Park)
**Talent ID Officer / Coaches Representative**: Stephen Hood, PGA Professional
**Office Administrator**: Ms Nicola Gorman (Cliftonville)

The Ulster Branch Provincial Council carried out its duties during seven meetings.

We would like to thank David McAuley (Royal County Down) for his work as a Hon Delegate of the Ulster Branch, following many years distinguished service as Hon Treasurer of the GUI.
Members of the Ulster Branch serving on 2016 GUI Committees

Eamonn O’Connor (Donegal)  Executive until Feb 2016, Greenkeeper Training & Ecology, Governance & Strategy
John White (Co Armagh)  Executive then GUI Board from Feb 2016, High Performance (Convenor) Irish Senior/Youths Selector
Alasdair Gibson (Knock)  Finance and Junior Selector
Norman Bennett (Holywood)  SSS & Handicapping
Nick Agate (Malone)  Greenkeeper Training & Ecology
Billy Black (Malone)  OGB
Brendan Edwards (Shandon Park)  High Performance
Brian Hutchinson (Donaghadee)  Championship & Irish Seniors Selector
Dougie Irwin (Rathmore)  Rules of Golf & Amateur Status
Tom Jones (Belvoir Park)  Constitution, Course Rating
Diarmuid Logue (Portsalon)  Championship
G. Ivor McCandless (Lisburn)  Constitution (Convenor) & Governance/Strategy
John McKinstry (Cairndhu)  Junior
David McNeill (Cairndhu)  SSS & Handicapping
Damian Montague (Fintona)  Venues & Fixtures
Kevin Stevens (Rockmount)  Venues & Fixtures, Governance/Strategy & OGB

Match & Handicapping Committee

Robert Aiken (Royal Portrush)  Tony Cassidy (Dunmurry)
Derek Ervine (Greensisland)  Trevor Lewers (Faughan Valley)
Kenny Logan (Edenmore)  Diarmuid Logue (Portsalon)
Patsy McCaffrey (Enniskillen)  Billy McCaul (Greencastle)
Colin McNeill (Rockmount)  Mervyn Marshall (Mahee Island)
Barry Ramsay (Letterkenny)  Jason Wilson (Loughgall)

The Match and Handicapping Committee had two meetings during the year, however, the bulk of this committee’s work is running the various Ulster Branch Championships and Competitions. We would like to thank Robert Aiken (Royal Portrush) for his work on this committee, as he has decided to stand down.

Competition Convenors

AIG Senior Cup  Nick Agate (Malone)
AIG Barton Shield  Terry Magee (Clandeboye)
AIG Junior Cup  Colin McNeill (Rockmount)
AIG Jimmy Bruen Shield  Damian Montague (Fintona)
AIG Pierce Purcell Shield  Patsy McCaffrey (Enniskillen)
Irish Fourball Inter-Club  Jason Wilson (Loughgall)
Irish Mixed Foursomes  Barry Ramsay (Letterkenny)
Belfast & District Cup  Mervyn Marshall (Mahee Island)
Ulster Cup  Billy McCaul (Greencastle)
Fred Daly Trophy  Tony Cassidy (Dunmurry)
Fred Daly Plate  Trevor Lewers (Faughan Valley)

The weather was relatively kind to the qualifying and match play fixtures this year. As in previous years, the convenors of each competition and Kevin Stevens and Nicola Gorman in the Branch Office, deserve huge credit for keeping things on track, especially for getting the Cups and Shields competitions finished for the All Ireland Finals.
**Ulster Interprovincial Teams:**
Individual reports on each of the Interprovincial Championships are published in the booklet. The Branch would like to thank the following for their effort and hard work throughout the year:-

**Ulster Team Captains / Managers:**
Senior Captain Colm Murphy (Clandeboye) Manager Shane Magee (Lurgan)
Boys Captain Peter Waddell (Knock) Manager Kenneth McCaw (Royal County Down)
Boys U16 Captain Tony Cassidy (Dunmurry) Manager Ciaran Fitzsimons (Ardglass)
Boys U14 Captain Diarmuid Logue (Portsalon) Manager Damian Montague (Fintona)

**Sponsors**
Many thanks to our sponsors who continue to sustain the game of golf in a generous way and we anticipate your continued support in the future.
North of Ireland, Seniors & Veterans: Cathedral Eye Clinic
Ulster Boys & U16 Boys: Brewin Dolphin
Ulster U14 Boys: Ian Bamford in memory of Charles Hezlet
Ulster Cup: Miscampbell & Co
Irish Fourball Inter-Club: Rollins Insurance Brokers
Coaching & Greenkeeping Bursary: GUI
Cups & Shields: AIG
Underage Orders of Merit: Andrew Morris Golf

**Office Administration**
We wish to express our sincere thanks to our office staff – Kevin Stevens (Executive Officer), Nicola Gorman (Branch Administrator) and Stephen Hood. Their hard work and dedication to Ulster Golf has been simply outstanding.

In conclusion, Ulster Golf is proud that next year a man with deep roots in Ulster Golf and a long-term member of Knock Golf Club – Peter Sinclair - will take over the reins as President of the Golfing Union of Ireland in February next year. This is a huge and well-deserved honour. We offer our best wishes to Peter and assure him of our support during his year of office.

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**John White**  
Honorary Secretary  

**Norman Bennett**  
Honorary Match Secretary
Senior Interprovincial Championship 2016

Venue / Date: Fota Island 4–6 July inc
Fota Island proved to be a fantastic venue for the Interprovincial series. The course was in fantastic condition and with a tough finish lent itself to some exciting matches.

Ulster Team:
Captain: Colm Murphy (Clandeboye)  Manager: Shane Magee (Lurgan)
Ben Best (Rathmore)                  Stuart Bleakley (Shandon Park)
Colin Fairweather (Knock)            John-Ross Galbraith (Whitehead)
Jordan Hood (Galgorm Castle)         Dermot McElroy (Ballymena)
Gareth Lappin (Belvoir Park)          Tiernan McLarnon (Massereene)

Day 1 Ulster 8.5 Munster 2.5
With Dermot and Colin leading the way Ulster won the morning foursomes 3-1. Some splendid play in the afternoon singles gave Ulster a perhaps surprisingly easy win over Munster.

Day 2 Ulster 5.5 Connacht 5.5
A very tight encounter indeed with many twists and turns. The morning foursomes were tied at 2-2 so, into the singles we went. With five out of the seven matches going to the last hole it was very much in the balance but with Joe Lyons 1up playing 18 against Ben Best it looked like a Connacht win until Ben holed a 65-foot putt to claim a valuable ½ for Ulster which happily sent us into the last match against Leinster knowing a win would give Ulster the title.

Day 3 Ulster 5.5 Leinster 5.5
Day 3 provided a classic encounter to say the least. Ulster won the first two foursomes matches with Dermot and Colin then John Ross and Tiarnon both winning 2/1. Ben and Gareth lost 4/3 and whilst Jordan and Stuart played very well they were kept at bay eventually losing on the 18th–Foursomes 2-2

Ulster needed to win four of the seven afternoon singles to secure the title. With victory, seemingly in our grasp Leinster defended their inter pro series with some incredible golf. Special mention to Jonathan Yates’s “shot of the year” at 18 where a quite unbelievable iron shot over and around trees followed by a 20-foot eagle putt secured an unlikely ½ against Colin Fairweather. Ten minutes later when Conor Purcell holed a 15-foot birdie putt for a one hole win against John-Ross Galbraith the victory which had looked like Ulster’s quickly became a Leinster one.

Congratulations to Seamus McParland and his team on a fantastic win.

I would also like to thank my team for all their efforts. I was proud of each one of them. They gave myself, Shane and their province all they had. I enjoyed working with them all. I must give special mention to our team manager Shane Magee. Shane was brilliant and gave me and the boys so much support. He left nothing to chance with his efforts and enthusiasm. Thanks, Shane!!

Unfortunately, my three years as Team Captain are up. I wanted to leave with a win but it wasn’t to be. I would like to thank the Ulster Branch for inviting me to be Captain. I felt that it was an honour and I really enjoyed it. I met and have made a lot of friends along the way and everyone on the Golfing Union of Ireland deserves so much credit for their voluntary efforts.

Hats off to you all and Best Wishes for the future.

Colm Murphy
Ulster Team Captain
Coaching
The Ulster Branch Coaching Programme has just completed year 3 of a 5-year plan. Pathway numbers were restructured once more to align with the long term objectives. The provincial sector of the pathway now delivers coaching to 27 athletes and the regional sector, after the completion of this year’s coaching trials now caters for 113 young boys. The Regional Centres are performing well; 92% of boys moving to Provincial Coaching over the last two years have transitioned from the 7 centres.

We are now in a position to predict where provincial players are going to come from as they move through the pathway. The progress over the last three years is the result of an agreed, shared vision that everyone involved is committed to working towards. We have increased our investments in Sports Psychology, Strength & Conditioning and workshops for coaches and parents.

The principle of “investing in the right people” continues to pay dividends with widespread changes in culture evident for all to see. This has allowed us the freedom to work towards a key aim of the pathway coaching programmes which is to produce “non-dependant, self-aware, problem solvers”. Much of this transformation is down to improved mind-sets, increased athlete accountability and the player owned, “Values System”. In addition to this we have dramatically increased the personalisation of the programme and how it is delivered to each and every athlete within the pathway. There have also been substantial inroads made in establishing the correct best practice towards “age and stage appropriateness” of programmes provided to boys aged 8-18. Our coaches workshops have played a pivotal role in developing this new stance.

All of this growth and progress was reflected in the results of our Coaching squad members throughout the summer. Of the 19 players representing Ulster across the three age categories 17 came directly from the coaching programmes. These three teams performed admirably winning two of the three Inter-Provincial team championships (U14 & U18). There were also numerous Provincial and National Championship wins at U14 & U18 as well as good representation on Homes and Europeans.
Two years ago it was acknowledged that the coaching programme and the team captains collectively required more opportunities to observe players in a competitive environment throughout the autumn and winter months to better evaluate the progress and potential of those vying for positions on teams the following season.

It was decided, last year, to introduce a “Winter Series” of events to support the needs of the players, the coaches and the team selectors. It proved to be a resounding success and as such we continue to support the initiative and grow the numbers participating across the three events over the coming months. The events were and have been extremely well attended and contested.

Our Pathway and coaching programmes continue to work towards a world class standard worthy of the rich culture and successes associated with Ulster Golf and its golfers.

**Ulster Branch Championships & Order of Merit**

**U18 Boys Order of Merit**
The U18 Order of Merit was won by Hugh O’Hare (Fortwilliam) with 116 points. Hugh played consistently well in all the Boys Championships finishing 2nd in Munster Boys, 7th in Connacht Boys, 4th in Irish Boys and 5th in Ulster Boys. Owen Crooks (Bushfoot) finished 2nd in the Order of Merit with 57 points.

**U18 Ulster Boys Open Championship**
The Ulster Boys Open Championship was held at Bangor. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather conditions, the tournament was reduced to 54 holes. Alan Fahy (Dun Laoghaire) won by 1 shot from John Murphy (Kinsale), Patrick Brennan (Balmoral), Jake Rowe (Tandragee) and Hugh O’Hare (Fortwilliam).

**U16 Boys Order of Merit**
Scott Jones (Belvoir Park) won the U16 Order of Merit with 70 points. Aaron Marshall (Lisburn) finished in 2nd place with 42 points.

**U16 Ulster Boys Championship**
The U16 Ulster Open Boys Championship was held at Donaghadee, who will host this tournament for another two years, with the eventual winner John Brady (Rosslare) winning by 1 shot with scores of 73 & 72. In second place was Sean Doyle (Island), with Kyle Patton (Lisburn) finishing in 3rd place.

**U16 Ulster Boys Close**
The U16 Ulster Close was held at Ardglass with a new format consisting of one round of strokeplay, with the top 16 players qualifying for the match play stages. The final was contested between Scott Miller (Clandeboye) and Josh Robinson (Lisburn) with Scott winning the final 3&1.

**U14 Order of Merit**
The U14 Order of Merit was won by Keaton Morrison (Greenacres) with 82 points. Josh Black (Hilton) finished in second place with 80 points.
U14 Ulster Close
The U14 Close was held at Greenacres. Tom McKibbin (Holywood) shot a magnificent 66 in the qualifying stage. In the matchplay, the semi-final matches were between Josh Black (Hilton Templepatrick) & Conor Byrne (Strabane) and Tom McKibbin (Holywood) & Keaton Morrison (Greenacres). The final was won by Tom McKibbin (Holywood) who defeated Josh Black (Hilton Templepatrick) 3/2.

U14 Ulster Open Boys Championship
The U14 Ulster Boys Open Championship qualifying section was held at two venues, namely; Blackwood and Foyle. The Grand Final then took place at Dunmurry where Joshua Hill (Galgorm Castle) won with a great score of 71. Evan Shipp (Headfort) finished in 2nd place.

The underage Order of Merits were all kindly sponsored by Andrew Morris Golf. Our sincere thanks go to Andrew for all his help and support.

Underage Interprovincial Championship
The Interprovincial Championships series for Boys, U16 Boys & U14 Boys was held at Tullamore. This was undoubtedly the most successful Interprovincial Series for Junior Ulster Golf, with both the U18 and U14 winning their respective Championships. Individual reports will follow from the three Team Captains.

Championship Winners
The Under 14 Ulster panel was very strong this year as they gained three title wins. Joshua Hill (Galgorm Castle) won the U14 Ulster Boys Open Championship, Conor Byrne (Strabane) was successful in winning the U14 Munster Boys Open Championship and Keaton Morrison (Greenacres) had a magnificent win in capturing the Irish U14 Boys Open Championship title at Lurgan. Congratulations to all three boys on their success.

Summary
I am delighted that the new coaching structure has ultimately lead to great success for Junior Golf in Ulster. Winning two Interprovincial Championships in the same year is something that we should all be proud of. My thanks must go to Brendan Edwards, Stephen Hood and the other coaches for all their hard work throughout the year. The Team Captains and Managers, along with our Executive Officer, Kevin Stevens and Branch Administrator, Nicola Gorman have worked tirelessly in many of the Championships this year and again my sincere thanks go to all of them.

We should all be very proud of the success of Junior Golf in Ulster in 2016.

John McKinstry
Junior Convenor
**U16 Boys Interprovincial Championship 2016**

**Venue / Date: Tullamore 21-22 July 2016**

We travelled to Tullamore with great confidence having picked what we thought was the best 6 under 16 players in the province.

**Ulster Team:**
- Captain: Tony Cassidy (Dunmurry)
- Team Manager: Ciaran Fitzsimons (Ardglass)
- Scott Miller (Clandeboye)
- Kyle Patton (Lisburn)
- Aaron Marshall (Lisburn)
- Odhran Maguire (Slieve Russell)

**Day 1 Ulster 1 – Connacht 4**
We had 2 very good practice rounds before we came up against a very strong Connacht team with Kyle Patton securing our only point.

**Day 1 Ulster 2.5 – Munster 2.5**
Match 2 Vs Munster was much closer with Aaron Marshall & Josh Robinson winning 2 & 1. Kyle Patton secured a point and Scott Miller halved his match to earn the team 2.5 points.

**Day 2 Ulster 1.5 – Leinster 3.5**
Match 3 Vs Leinster was close. Scott Miller halved his match and Josh Robinson won 4 & 3 and we finished with 1.5 Points.

Although very disappointed with the results I must commend all the boys for their effort and behaviour, they were a credit to our province. My thanks also to all the parents for their support and to Kevin and Nicola for their help. Ciaran Fitzsimons was a great help with his knowledge of golf being invaluable.

The tournament was a great experience where we all learned a lot and hope to have more success in future.

**Tony Cassidy**
**U16 Boys Team Captain**
Boys Interprovincial Championship 2016

Venue / Date: Tullamore Golf Club 20-22 July inc

Ulster Team:
Captain: Peter Waddell (Knock)  
Jack Madden (Dungannon)  
Owen Crooks (Bushfoot)  
Marc McKinstry (Cairndhu)  
Patrick Brennan (Belvoir Park)  
Manager: Kenneth McCaw (Royal Co Down)  
Michael McGurk (Warrenpoint)  
Jordan Logue (Hilton Templepatrick)  
Hugh O’Hare (Fortwilliam)

Day 1 Ulster 6 Munster 4
Very satisfactory start to the championship based on a strong finish to the foursomes when all seemed lost. All 3 pairs staged remarkable recoveries to halve their matches. Reasonably comfortable singles win with Hugh O’Hare leading the way with a 6&4 win over Andrew Mulhall.

Day 2 Ulster 5 Connacht 5
Really tough match with 7 of the 10 matches going to 18th. Good 2-1 result in the foursomes which proved necessary as the singles were not going our way and it required excellent last green wins from Marc McKinstry and Michael McGurk to ensure we tied the match.

Day 3 Ulster 6½ Leinster 3½
Again, another good 2-1 foursomes result which set up a 4½ - 3½ win in the singles with the last 4 matches romping in for a comfortable (in hindsight) victory over the reigning champions.

Tullamore Golf Club was an excellent venue for the Interprovincials with the course being a fine test in excellent condition. Genuinely welcoming members who were delighted to be hosting the event.

Overall a very satisfying week with our first victory in the Boys Interprovincials for 8 years. As always foursome results are vital to win matches. Most difficult to win 4 or 5 singles out of the 7 matches.

All members of the team contributed to the overall victory and deserve credit for the way they raised their games when the situation demanded. They blended together to form a formidable team who were a credit to Ulster.

Many thanks are due to too many people to mention here. Particular thanks however must go to my Team Manager Kenneth McCaw who orchestrated all the many and varied arrangements necessary for a successful Interprovincial series. Another special mention must be for Stephen Hood who was always available for advice and guidance. I know the players were most reassured by his presence in Tullamore.

Peter Waddell
Boys Team Captain
U14 Boys Interprovincial Championship 2016

Venue / Date: Tullamore 21-22 July 2016

Ulster Team:
Captain Diarmuid Logue (Portsalon)        Manager: Damian Montague (Fintona)
Keaton Morrison (Greenacres)               Conor Joynson (Dunmurry)
Edward Rowe (Tandragee)                   Conor Byrne (Strabane)
Tom McKibbin (Holywood)                   Josh Black (Hilton Templepatrick)

Day 1: Ulster 3 v Leinster 2
An early loss in the foursomes left the tie in the balance with the last two singles matches going all the way for two halved matches to give Ulster the victory by a narrow margin.

Day 1: Ulster 3 v Munster 2
A super comeback in the foursomes allowed Ulster to take victory in this match. In the singles superb wins by Josh Black and Keaton Morrison made the victory more comfortable than it felt.

Day 2: Ulster 3.5 v Connacht 1.5
With 4 holes to go in the Foursomes and the Singles matches, Ulster were up in one match and level in the other 4, a very stressful time for all involved. Great golf by the Ulster team led to a great victory and some notable performances.

An early arrival to the venue in place of a pre-tournament practice round might have been the difference in the last 4 holes of golf on the final day which helped Ulster claim victory over the two teams hot on their heels.

Many thanks to Kevin Stevens for getting the early practice round organised, which was invaluable as the Tuesday proved to be too hot for a full round practice for all under 14 teams.

Josh Black, Keaton Morrison & Conor Byrne won all of their 6 points while Tom McKibbin was also unbeaten.

I would like to express my thanks to Damian Montague for all his assistance which gave me the freedom to enjoy the tournament.

Thanks to the committee for selecting me for the role and to Kevin Stevens and Nicola Gorman for organising travel and extra practice which was invaluable.

Many thanks

Diarmuid Logue
U14 Boys Team Captain