

# Our Ireland Thirteensome



Photo by Mike Beckman

By Art McCafferty

The opportunity to party with the Irish when they were in town for the Ryder Cup festivities at Oakland Hills<sup>1</sup> was a great experience and provided the stimulus for me to get my golfing buddies interested in the idea of spending one of our golfing holidays abroad. The foursome of forever friends included Mike Beckman, Peter Allen and Mike Duff. We had played some very nice courses in the past twenty

years in Arizona, Florida, Wisconsin and, of course, Michigan. We had talked about a Scotland trip for years, but the Ryder Cup drew our attention to Ireland instead.

Jack Berry, PGA Lifetime Journalism Award winner, was the person who really sealed the deal. Our company convinced Berry to share his knowledge of playing over 70 courses during his decades long love affair with the “Old

Sod”, by doing a series of videos on Irish golf.<sup>2</sup> The enthusiasm of Berry’s commentary in the videos was a bit overwhelming. A pint or two of Guinness after our taping sessions did not hurt much either. Berry did tell us, that to try and plan a golf trip in Ireland without a driver was not wise. He mentioned the difficulty of driving in Ireland on the left side of the road, the poor signage of Ireland roads and the narrowness of them. That was sage advice from Berry and some

Photo above: The Cliffs of Mohr

we gladly we followed. Obviously, a driver and coach adds considerable expense to a trip, but again, it turned out to be money well spent.

Our foursome increased to an eightsome with the addition of our lovely brides; Linda, Pam, Sharon and Jennie. To that we added two couples who are friends of the Duffs, to expand our group to a twelvesome. Finally, we swelled to a thirteensome with the addition of our driver and guide, Cyril Quigley.

Quigley, really made the trip a total delight. He picked us at the airport on our arrival and deposited us back there a week later. His knowledge of Irish history, Ireland golf courses and interesting places to visit, contributed immensely to our enjoyment. Oh yes, he also regaled us with some great Irish songs during our week together. Perhaps more importantly, he allowed us to focus on our vacation and not the hassles that can occur when traveling. Our group was always fresh and our collective energy was spent in enjoying the experience.

The golf was as superb as it was expensive. However, 18 holes on Waterville Golf Course, was well worth the money. If we had had more time, we would have golfed Lahinch. Basically, to understand links golf, you need to acquire the

experience. It leaves a lasting impact on your thoughts about the game.

The Irish people are friendly and wonderful hosts. Their country is on a roll right now with almost full employment. Their golf status within the world community as also risen. They also have more golf product than Scotland and new courses are continuing to come on line to compete with those that have become legendary.

The spirit of our trip was captured in a video<sup>3</sup> – our “what we did on our summer vacation” memoir. If interested in planning such a trip, you can’t do better than Sullivan Golf and Travel. They are a client of ours, but they did a great job with the trip and were interested in our experience for improvement in the future. They are participants of the Michigan Golf Show and you can discuss your trip with them there. **MG**



Photo courtesy of Sullivan Golf and Travel

**Waterville, Hole No. 11**




Photo courtesy of Sullivan Golf & Travel

**Our group traveled in this coach. Cyril Quigley, our driver made the trip a total delight.**



Photo courtesy of Sullivan Golf and Travel

**Adare Manor and its grounds were sumptuous accommodations on the last day of our Ireland vacation.**

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|  | <b>1 Irish &amp; the 2004 Ryder Cup, Oakland Hills</b><br><a href="http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/irish/">http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/irish/</a>  |
|  | <b>2 Golfing in Ireland with Jack Berry</b><br><a href="http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/golfireland/">http://michigangolfer.tv/2005shows/golfireland/</a> |
|  | <b>3 Ireland Adventure-Golf and Touring</b><br><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bi0VIEHoOcg">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bi0VIEHoOcg</a>           |