

2019 MEDIA COVERAGE



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Top kids cooking on gas

I HAD the pleasure of playing Royal Portrush alongside Flogas Irish Junior Open winners Harry O'Hara and Parker Bonnes last week.

Harry, from Clondeboye and Hollywood, is the Gary Player champion, while Parker, from Galgorm Castle, is the reigning Winter Series champion.

I was teamed up on the famous links with Harry, who is 10 years old, while Parker, only seven, was partnered by Cormac Sharvin.

Cormac and I played Portrush as normal, but the two boys played in the junior format, from 150 yards and 130 yards out respectively.

Harry birdied the last for us to win one-up, but overall it was a real treat for both kids to play a course that plays host to this year's Open.

It was also a treat for Cormac and me to see the boys play - not only were we impressed by their skill levels, but also their demeanour around

the course. They were a credit to their families. Respect also to Michael Gallagher, the brainchild behind the Irish Junior Open and someone who has done an amazing job for young golfers across the island.



2019 OPEN COURSE Magnificent Royal Portrush



DAILY MIRROR

When Harry met Gary

TEN-year-old Harry O'Hara from Newtownards was crowned the Gary Player Trophy Champion at the 2018 Flogas Irish Junior Open.

And last week he got to meet the Black Knight himself during The Open Championship at Royal Portrush.

Nine-time major winner Player has been a big supporter of the Irish Junior Open series, which has grown to become one of the biggest in Europe over the past five years.

Harry gained this impressive title by competing across Ireland against junior golfers from across the world in six summer events.

These Irish Junior Open events, which are open for boys and girls aged between five to 18, have attracted 2,000 entries this year from as far afield as Australia, China and Canada.

With a new 'Champion of Champions' World Invitational commencing in 2020 Harry will be tuning his game up to qualify for this and to defend his title.

Speaking at the Open Championship Harry said: "It's been an incredible year with so many highlights. Winning the 'Flogas Irish Junior Open' Gary Player Trophy has given me a host of opportunities including, competing in the



Champions Match at Royal Portrush with two European Tour players, meeting one of my idols Mr Player and getting to compete in the ISPS Handa World Invitational Pro Am."

Player admitted he was thrilled for Shane Lowry following his win on Sunday.

"That was one of the greatest victories I've ever seen in a championship and how appropriate to win in front of all those enthusiastic fans," he said.

"This was my 64th Open that I've attended, so I've seen a lot of Opens all over the country, and I would have to say, even though I didn't participate, it was one of the most successful Opens ever."



Thrill ride: Harry O'Hara meets Gary Player and (above) his idol passes on some top tips

IRISH INDEPENDENT

Golf superstar praises Ruairi on superb win

GARY PLAYER CALLS MONAGEER BOY ON THE PHONE

By **BRENDAN KEANE**

TWO brothers from Monageer have finished first and second in this year's Flogas Junior Irish Open golf championships with the younger of the two, Ruairi Cooper (9), being personally congratulated on his victory by golf legend, Gary Player on the phone. Mr Player also complimented Ruairi on Twitter in the wake of his victory and tweeted: 'Many congratulations to the new Irish Junior Open Champion, Ruairi Cooper. Continue to follow your dreams and never, ever stop working to achieve more, whether in golf or life.'

Ruairi's brother, Sean (12), finished second in the competition and both players have been praised by members of Enniscorthy golf club, where both are members, as being exceptionally talented and 'years ahead' of where people their age would normally be.

FULL STORY PAGES 2 & 3



Ruairi Cooper (9) took a call from golf legend Gary Player (inset) following his win in the Junior Irish Open.

IRISH TIMES



Ruairi Cooper (9), from Enniscorthy, is the new Flogas Junior Irish Open champion and also the US Player of the Year.

LEGENDARY GOLFER GARY PLAYER
PHONES RUAIRI TO CONGRATULATE
HIM ON HIS JUNIOR IRISH OPEN WIN

IRISH NEWS

THE TWO BOYS ARE SEVERAL YEARS AHEAD OF WHERE YOU WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT A TALENTED JUNIOR TO BE



Brothers, Sean and Ruairi Cooper, from Excelsior Gc are the U12 and U18 golf players of the year and they also finished second and first, respectively, in the PING Junior Irish Open championship.



Gary Prager rang Ruairi to congratulate him.



IRISH INDEPENDENT

Golfing stars of the future compete in Spa Open event

Golf
By Dominic Cunningham

GIFTED young golfers from as far away as Wicklow and Buncrana were at Spa last week for the PING Irish Junior Mid Term Open tournament.

Local clubs were well represented also with players from Spa, Ardglass, Downpatrick, Crossgar and Banbridge among the competitors.

Josh Kearney from Ardglass won the U-18 category while T Bradley from Buncrana was the U-7 champion, E Burrows of Balmoral was the U-9 winner and A McGettrick, Balbriggan, topped the U-15 leaderboard.

Spa juveniles also acquitted themselves well in a field of over 50 talented competitors with Ewan Power and Bryn Ward finishing second and third respectively in the U-15 section.

Their club colleague Jaxon Wardlow finished third in the U-7 category with Logan Harland and Ben Millington both showing great promise in the U-9 division.

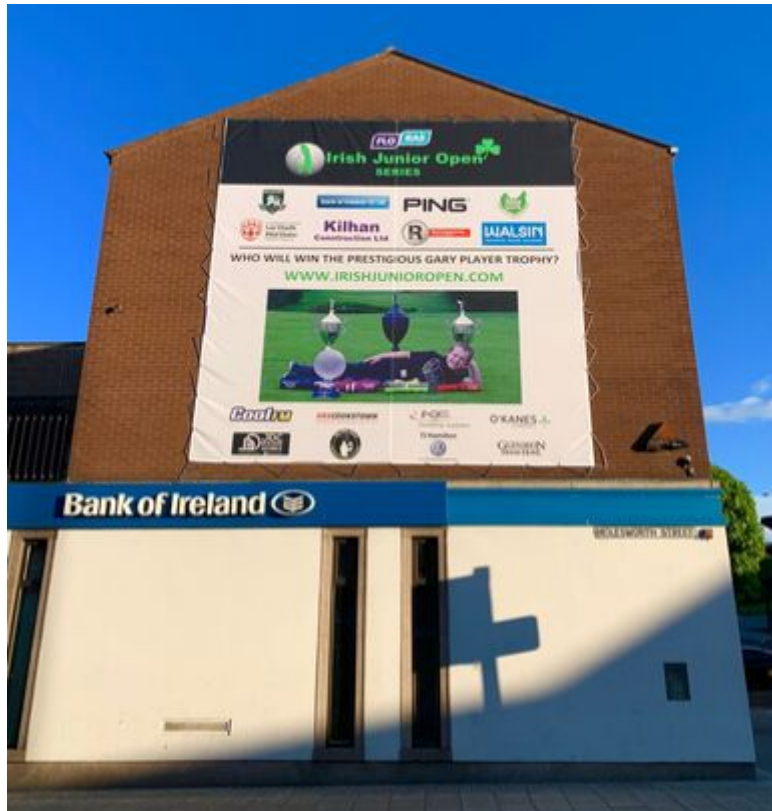
Organiser Michael Gallagher of MG Golf thanked Spa for hosting the event and paid tribute to Gary Wardlow, the club's head professional, for all his valuable assistance. He also thanked the parents and players for their support as well as the bar, catering and green staff at Spa.



LEFT: Five-year-old Ollie Brooks from Crossgar, pictured with his mum and dad Suzanne and Paul, was the youngest competitor taking part in last week's Irish Junior Opens at Spa.



Here young golfers waiting to tee off in the Irish Junior Mid Term Open with Spa president Tom Colburn (right) and the club's head professional Gary Wardlow. RIGHT: Spa's head professional Gary Wardlow with a group of winners and participants after last week's PING sponsored Irish Junior Mid Term Open at the club.



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THANK YOU FROM ALL OUR COMPETTORS FOR SUPPORTING US