

# Championship of Ireland

## August 3-10, 2013

### Dublin, Ireland



The Irish Championships is just a wonderful experience that for any age croquet player who likes Association Laws would enjoy.

After a visit to Ireland you understand why most anyone you meet claims to have "a little Irish in them".

For one thing they like Americans and the hospitality is something that brings you back in time.

The venue is just below Dublin and called Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, which like Ireland, has a deep history of croquet. (The noted Croquet historian, Dr. Prior, makes

the categorical statement that "one thing only is certain; it is from Ireland that croquet came to England and it was on the lawn of the late Lord Lonsdale that it was first played in this country" that was about 1851) Carrickmines C&LT Club dates back to 1903.

The lawns are quite fast and well kept. (by champion croquet player Simon Williams ) The bar is always open and well stocked. Each lawn has a "rain hut" for players and spectators. It does rain and you will need warm clothes at times, but you can never get too cold with the warmth of the Irish people.

There's all the croquet you can handle with seven events going on over eight days:

- Event 1: Singles Championship of Ireland (handicaps 3 or less)
- Event 2: Doubles Championship of Ireland (open to all)
- Event 3: Handicap Singles (open to all)
- Event 4: Handicap Doubles (open to all)
- Event 5: Advanced Play Singles (handicap range 3.5 – 8)
- Event 6: Level play (handicap range 9 – 14)
- Event 7: 14-point games, Full-bisque, base 12 (handicap range 15 - 20)

There is all the competition any level player would need, whether at championship level (which this year had eight players continuing on to play in the world championships) or high handicappers who play with bisque's and know how to use them!

This was my second trip to Carrickmines and I am looking forward to returning soon!

Put it on your list, you will not regret it.

~David Bent

Championship Doubles winner with Andrew Johnston of Ireland  
Semi-finalist Championship Singles