

## ISPS Handa British Blind Golf Open 2021

Galgorm Castle Golf Club, Northern Ireland, was the site for the 2021 ISPS Handa British Blind Golf Open Championship. The best blind golfers from around the world assembled for the first blind golf tournament since COVID restrictions in early 2020.

Northern Ireland Blind Golf, in partnership with RNIB Connect, Disability Sports Northern Ireland and Golf Ireland arranged a special inclusion day event, where blind and visually impaired people from all over Ireland were invited to try out golf and enjoy the facilities at Galgorm.



To mark this event, members from the club played in a mixed tournament with the visually impaired and blind golfers from around the world.



Galgorm Men's Captain Raymond Lynn, who played with NIBGA Chairman, Drew Cochrane said "It's amazing what they can do, considering their impairment". Ross Oliver, Director of Golf Operations at Galgorm Castle Golf Club was delighted to host this event. Referring to their long-standing relationship with ISPS Handa, through the tri-sanctioned World Invitational series, Ross commented that the club was proud to be associated with NIBGA and the ISPS Handa British Blind Golf Open "driving the case for blind and disabled golfers through the power of sport"



The golfers were delighted to be back playing in competition again. after a long layoff. Following two days of top-class golf over the sun-drenched course, Donegal man Paul McCormack, representing United States Blind Golf, led the field by one stroke to claim the coveted claret jug.

Paul said that in one way the "golf was secondary", and the important thing is to create awareness about the value of sport to enhance the lives of people afflicted with visual impairment. Mayor Cllr. McCaughey described the players as an "inspiration" and was proud that events like this "showcase our town and our borough." After such a successful event, the blind and visually impaired golfers now set their sights on the 2022 Vision Cup, the Ryder Cup for blind golf, which will be played at the majestic and world renowned TPC Sawgrass complex in Florida in September 2022.

## **Winners' Podium**

### **Overall (Nett):**

Paul McCormack

(United States Blind Golf Association)



### **Runner Up (Nett):**

Jason Heathfield

(England Wales Blind Golf Association)



### **B1 Gross Champion:**

Paul O'Rahilly

(Northern Ireland Blind Golf Association)



### **B2 Gross Champion:**

Paul McCormack

(United States Blind Golf Association)

### **B3 Gross Champion:**

Jason Heathfield

(England Wales Blind Golf)

### **Ladies Champion:**

Jan Dinsdale M.B.E.

(Northern Ireland Blind Golf Association)



### **Stableford:**

Ed Maguire

(Irish Blind Golf)



### *Acknowledgments*

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