

WITH just over three months to go before Killarney welcomes the cream of Irish and indeed International Pitch & Putt players to the town for the third Irish International Open, Deerpark Pitch & Putt Club's preparations for the event have been aided by the announcement of the Kerry Phone Centres as the main sponsors for the event from April 15th-17th. Speaking at the announcement of the deal, Managing Director of the Kerry Phone Centres, Pat O'Connor said the company were delighted to be coming on board with Deerpark in the hosting of this prestigious tournament. "We're extremely proud to be involved in this tournament as the main sponsors. It's a big boost for the town of Killarney to be getting an event like this and we have no doubt that the club and town in general will be able to put on a fantastic show in the middle of April," Mr O'Connor said. Over 108 players will take part in the event from all across the country as well as the UK, Catalonia and the Netherlands to name but a few and Club Chairman Derry McCarthy said it's the biggest event by far in the near 40 year history of the club. "We've hosted many national and provincial tournaments before but this is by far the biggest undertaking the club has ever taken on and we're just delighted that the Kerry Phone Centres have agreed to come on board with us as the main sponsors for the event. The club is extremely grateful to them particularly in the current economic climate and we look forward to extending a big welcome to everyone near and far and we hope to make it a tournament for all to remember in the years to come," the Deerpark chairman said. The third staging of the event will be the first in Munster with the previous two tournaments have been held in Royal Meath in Clonee, Co Meath and RGSC, Dublin and PPUI President Myles McMorrow said the organisation is 100% behind the Killarney club in their hosting of the event. "We would be hopeful that with Deerpark as the venue itself it will increase both the participation as well as the profile of the competition. There is a good sense of excitement within the Pitch & Putt community about the tournament due to the event being held in Killarney and we know with Deerpark's track record of hosting major Pitch & Putt events in the past that it should be another tremendous success again this year," Mr McMorrow said. The Irish Open will be the first part of a busy year for the Killarney club with Deerpark also scheduled to host the National U-16 Championships in August and Derry McCarthy is confident the club will be able to host both tournaments successfully. "Despite the recent weather our Grounds Committee has been working fairly diligently over the winter doing a lot of the preliminary work for the Irish Open and we're currently doing a major fundraising drive around the town and I'm confident with this sponsorship now secure that everything will

fall into place perfectly for next April.” Further information on the sponsorship deal is available from the club’s website www.deerparkpitchandputt.com.