

THE CELTIC CHALLENGE 2009

OPENING CEREMONY

Sue meets Lord Mayor and introduces him to Coleman Ryan and the presidents

- Scotland **Byron Milton**
- Wales **Tony Smith**
- Ireland **Denis Nightingale.**

Introduce the presidents and the Lord Mayor to the crowd.

Denis Nightingale welcomes the Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor makes a speech.

He and the presidents throw the first boule.

Sue introduces the umpire, **Derek Jones**, who gives the rules as Sue escorts the Lord Mayor away.

Sue returns to draw attention to the following matters:

- the order of play is in the middle pages of the brochure.
- this order shows the piste that each game is to be played (the column 'P').
- three games are to be played in the morning and three in the afternoon.
- lunch is after the third game. Try to limit it to no more than 45 minutes.
- the Irish want to be finished for a big match at 5.30pm.
- the scoresheet in the brochure is for the team's own personal record, not for handing in.
- the scores for each game are to be signed and handed up immediately after the game.
- in the event of a dispute the following are the tournament and play committee – **Richard Elvin, Paul Murray, Brian Ward and Don Jenkins.**
- Contact Sue Ryan about deliveries back to the hotel this evening.
- Collections from the hotel in the morning at 8.15 to start play at 9.00

THE SUNDAY DINNER

There will be a top table consisting of

Byron and Sandra Milton, Tony Smith, Denis and Claire Nightingale, Derek Jones, Jim and Sue Ryan, possibly Coleman Ryan and his wife from Frankfield (10)

At coffee time Sue invites the presidents to make a speech, first of all Scotland, then Wales, then Ireland. Each in turn will give a present to the others.

Denis should thank all those involved in the organisation in Cork and nationally. He should thank the sponsors and the Ryans of Frankfield House. A very special thanks going on for some minutes to Jim Ryan for making it all happen!

Sue announces the results – winning team, fourth, third, second and the winners. She presents the trophy to the winning team captain. He can make a speech if he likes.

Sue announces the best triple and presents them with their prize (what is it?).

Sue calls out the names of each triple and they come up to accept their mementoes, starting with the fourth, third, second and the winners. Denis gives out the mementoes.

Finally the first triple to be fanned.

PRESS NOTICE

The Celtic Challenge in Petanque (French Boules)

Between Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Started in 1990. It alternates between nations. Last year it was in Scotland, next year in Wales. It was played in Cork in 1994.

Wales have won it 9 times, Scotland 4, and Ireland 5

The host nation has two teams of four triples. The visitors have one team of four triples.

Each triple plays every other triple, so that each plays 12 games over the weekend.

Games are the first triple to 13. Each player has two boules. On each team there is a pointer who goes first, a shooter who removes opponents' boules and a milieu who is in between. The target is a small coloured wooden ball known as a cochonnet (a small pig). A triple can win from one to six points on any end.

If a team is beaten 13/0, in other words they do not score any point, then they have been "fannied". The winners must buy the losers a drink.

There are six players in the Irish squad who have played in the World Championships, none on the Scottish side and three on the Welsh side.

The Bears are from the far north of Scotland, from Fochabers, near Inverness. The youngest player is Jack di Pizzo from Dublin who is only 13. The oldest is John McCloy from Lisburn who is 70.

The Irish team come from all parts of the country, Belfast, Dublin, Westmeath, Wicklow, Tipperary and Cork. There are three from Cork on the A team and seven on the B team. There are three French born, one Portuguese, one Australian, a Slovak and a Chezk. One of the Irish has played in every Celtic Challenge since 1992, 18 consecutive times.