

Misfits enjoy the luck of the Irish!



The Misfits, thrown together at the last minute to compete in **Oasis Fm/Canarian Weekly's charity Open Golf Tournament** on Saturday, proved to be far more than that.

In fact, Dubliner John McCabe's team of strangers pulled off a fabulous victory right out of the blue on **Amarilla's greenest of green courses**, to the amazement of all - including themselves!

A chance meeting between McCabe and **organiser Chris Elkington** two evenings earlier at the Palms Bar in Playa de Las Americas, led indirectly to their place in the **Texas Scramble, handicap, shotgun event**, which attracted an excellent total of **24 four-man teams**.

I saw Chris on Thursday and asked if I could enter a team, but I just couldn't get a foursome up," said John, who runs The Bell bar in Las Americas and also plays pool for the ever-conquering Palms Bar in San Eugenio.

"I managed to recruit my business partner, Alan Chainey, and we were told we'd be slotted in somewhere if we turned up at the course on Saturday.

"As luck would have it, Petra Van Schelvan's team from Golf del Sur pulled out late on, which left her spare, while Bill Holland was also looking for a game, and that's how we came together."

John, hugging his individual trophy and surrounded by his proud teammates after the **presentation ceremony** at the **Terrace Bar**, on **Amarilla Golf**, added with a big grin: "And the rest, they say, is history!

"Everything seemed to click in to place right from the start, and we discovered each other's strengths very quickly and played to them. And

when the three men played poor shots, Petra always seemed to rescue us with a good one.

“We finished eight-under after enjoying ourselves, and felt we had a good chance of finishing third or fourth. But when Chris called out the second and third places, I knew it was ours.”

Petra, disappointed at having to withdraw her own team, couldn't believe her luck. “It is so unexpected, but we had **a brilliant time** and I am so excited,” said the Dutch woman.

John added: “We didn't appoint a captain because we didn't really need one as we gelled together so well, and it took us a long time to come back down to earth.”

Smiles abounded all day as the teams made their way around this attractive but unforgiving course, after being posted at each hole for the **shotgun start**.

The wind grew stronger as the morning wore on and the sun shone brighter, but that didn't appear to faze most players, who revelled in the lack of pressure playing this format, in which the best shot of each player in the team determined the next shot at each stroke.

The Misfits shot 64 (54.2 with handicap), and in **second place** were **Moorcroft Mad Dogs** after losing two players (brothers) the previous day following a family problem.

That left the team with Captain Steve Moorcroft and Steve Womersley only. Replacements Tony Gernan and Aiden Dunn were brought in and, said Steve, no disrespect to the brothers, but they actually strengthened the team.



So much so that Steve insisted they were 10-under after 10 holes. "Honestly, everything went in and we couldn't put a foot wrong, he said."

But they just couldn't keep up their incredible birdie-a-hole sequence and fell away on the back nine to finish on six-under with a 65 (56.8).

Third were the positively jubilant **Jack Rabbit Wines team**, featuring Deano, Howard Green, James Vickers and Paul Tregent. They were squeezed out of **second spot** by the **Mad Dogs** after matching their round of 65, only to have that reduced to 56.9 on handicap.



But they still whooped it up, and Deano said with a wry grin: "It was so nice to play against so many 28-handicappers for a change!

All good fun, and the person who probably smiled longest at the end was **Sky TV football celebrity Chris Kamara**. He owns a place in Los Cristianos, near former **world boxing champ Ricky Hatton** and, like the Mancunian, is a frequent visitor to the Island.

Chris played League football for many years and was always regarded as a character on the field with various teams, including Portsmouth, Stoke Leeds and Brentford, for whom he notched up 150 appearances.

He also managed his last club, Bradford, for four seasons and then had a brief spell in charge of Stoke before switching to Sky Sports as a commentator and presenter - with hilarious consequences, it must be said.

On Saturday, the Middlesbrough man was made an honorary Irishman and played for Fergal Flaherty's low-handicap Hole in the Wall team, alongside the singer himself, Cormac Lynch and Desy Farrell

True, they failed to finish on the podium after shooting a respectable 68 (63). But popular Chris (Kammy to his devoted followers) is a football ambassador for the **Marie Curie Cancer Care trust**, and the **1,000-plus euros raised** from the tournament were donated to that cause.

Former **Manchester United manager Ron Atkinson**, another Tenerife regular, turned out for Premier Communications but couldn't replicate that Old Trafford magic and they finished way down.

The day's **biggest-hitter** was **Tim Chambers**, guesting for Chris Elkington's **Tenerife Comedy Club team**, who walked off with the **Longest Drive** trophy.

Three Nearest the Pin prizes on offer, all sponsored by the **Hole in the Wall**, appropriately, were for Holes 2, 5 and 14, and the first was **won by Charlie Aylott**, from **The Happy Gilmores**.

They were representing Volares Cabaret Bar on Golf del Sur, owned by his dad and team captain Gary. And Charlie didn't mess about, his ball finishing just 3cm from Hole 2. But he confessed, with the biggest grin of all: "It was a pure fluke because I scuffed my shot and got lucky."

The Hole 5 prize went to three-handicapper Ian Davies, from the Scruffy Macs, whose class shone throughout - and it had to because his three team-mates had never played golf before, never mind on an 18-hole course.

"We're representing Scruffy Macs on San Blas and that's because we subsidise the bar," said Ian.

James Foster, from the **Sound of Musicals**, received the **third award** after being **nearest the pin** on **Hole 14**.

Last year's winners were main **sponsors Marina Estates**, led by Aidy Benson, ably assisted by **Terrace Bar owner Andy Williams**, plus Mark Penhallow and Norman Keenan. But it was not to be this time for Aidy and Co.

"We sponsor the event because it makes sense to," said Aidy. We are estate agents based at Pebble Beach and surrounded by **Amarilla Golf Course**, so the two go hand in hand."

The event also heralded the return to the Island of former **Oasis Fm Dj and Canarian Weekly pop columnist Liam O'Reilly**, who went back to Manchester last year. He's back compering for the summer at his old haunt, The Blue Terrace sports bar, in Los Cristianos.

Sadly, his Wiley O'Reilly's team finished at the back of the pack, but Liam insisted they were held up by the "slowcoach" team in front of them.

Spare a thought for the lowest-handicapped team, Ironcraft, led by Paddy Davies playing off one. They shot a **best-of-the-day 62** round, only to be knocked down to 58 because of their handicap.

"It was always going to happen because of our four-shot handicap," said Paddy. "But we played to our form and finished fourth overall, so we had a good day."

Every team had a glorious tale of success or woe to tell, before, during and after a fabulous event, and the consensus of opinion was: "**Let's do it again next year.**" There will be plenty of parttakers!



Thankyous:

As always big thanks to everyone that played and helped to make the tournament a great success.

To the main sponsors **Marina Estates**, also **Liberty Seguros** and the **Hole in the Wall**.

Tenerife Golf Shop for helping raise money with the prize hole on 12, and **the Terrace Bar** for the longest drive and presentation party afterwards.

To all **Oasis Fm and Canarian Weekly staff** that helped before hand and on the day, these things don't organise themselves!

And finally to **Eduardo and his staff at Amarilla Golf** for making sure everything was smooth and the **course in such great condition**.

Here's to next year!

Chris Elkington