



Great swingers....Bing Crosby and Danny O'Brien at Killiney Golf Club.

There were, in fact, three professionals at the club during the first two years of its existence, Eddie Martin, father of the late Ryder Cup representative, Jimmy Martin, Pat McKenna and William Jeffreys. McKenna later went to Rathfarnham while Jeffreys was succeeded by James Davies, who held the position from August 1905 until June 1916.

When Davies was appointed in August 1905, he was expected to fulfil the functions of professional and greenkeeper, while his wife would be caretaker and general manager of the clubhouse, all for a combined wage of 30 shillings per week.

Davies was almost four years into his tenure, when the minutes of a special committee meeting on May 22nd 1909, noted this letter informing them that he was "Resigning from his position as Caretaker of Clubhouse and Caterer." (It would appear that he had been required to take over these duties, which were originally assigned to his wife). In the event, the secretary was "directed to write to Davies stating that the Committee accepts his resignation and is willing to re-engage him as Professional and Greenkeeper at a salary of two pounds (40 shillings) per week. The Committee will take over the sale of balls and if the result is as satisfactory as the Committee hopes, the advisability of giving Davies an increase of salary will be considered."

Meanwhile, by way of proving that there were ill winds working to somebody's good, even at the end of World War I, misfortune for Stillorgan Park GC meant a decided stroke of luck for Killiney. After a relatively short time in existence, the Stillorgan club, situated close to the present St John of God Hospital, became defunct. Which left their professional, Willie Holley, without a job.

Though he was at Killiney for only three years before taking what proved to be a lengthy appointment at Castle, his impact was considerable. "That was a time when golfers had to be golfers," he later recalled with pride.

His popularity at the club was reflected in a decision in February 1910 to give him £2 towards any expenses he might accrue in competitions around that particular time.

Tom Gaffney replaced Holley in 1921. It was an appointment which would lead to a father/son sequence, similar, for instance, to that which other clubs would enjoy in later years, as with the Kinsella family at Skerries and the McCaverys at Lahinch. Meanwhile, the club had launched the first of what was to become a sequence of professional competitions, which, though dominated initially by local-man Holley,



1969: C. O'Briain, T.J. Macken, Mrs. E. Tierney, D.J. O'Connor, G. Owens, J.G. Lyons, H.N. Robinson, P. Burke Kennedy, Danny O'Brien.