

# Masters of Paternity

THE WORLD INVITATIONAL  
FATHER & DAUGHTER IS NOW A MAJOR



**T**here are three steps to a perfect father-daughter golf experience: One, when she's 7, you abandon your dream of her LPGA career. Two, when she's 10, you accept three holes and a cart ride as a complete round of golf. Three, when she's a teenager, you invite her to travel to Ireland to play in the World Invitational Father & Daughter Tournament. Which is when all the toys fall from the tree.

"I remember walking down the fairway at Waterville having just seen Maggie hit a great shot," says Joe Morrison, a West Coast toy-company executive, "and I'm thinking, *God, that girl over there that hit that shot is my kid!*" Banking executive Haig Ariyan, who has taken two of his four daughters, calls it "one of the top-five experiences in my life."

In the universe of family golf, the 26-year-old World Invitational Father & Son is a major. Its

eight-year-old sister, also a best-ball Stableford competition, is close to also being perpetually oversubscribed. It's an opportunity, as one dad puts it, "for a daughter to see her father in his native habitat" and for a daughter to come to love the game he lives for. Cost: about €3,000 per team for air transport, three days of golf, accommodations, a gala dinner and hours of "sing-songs" at the local watering hole.

When Irishman Marty Carr launched the Father & Son to honor his Hall of Fame father, Joe, and to promote the family travel business, heavy hitters like Dan Marino, Dan Quayle, Tom Fazio and a few Hall of Fame cricketers and snooker players made it an early success. A spectacular venue, Waterville Golf Links—and a commitment to genuinely Irish good times—helped. Marty has two daughters and no sons, and a good friend has three daughters and no sons, so they got creative. "I said, 'Marty, you and I are

not going to have any sons, and I don't want to wait till my daughters marry, plus I don't know if I'll like the guys they marry,'" says Jim Layden, a West Coast financial exec. "So we started it."

The Father & Daughter has been contested at world-class sites like Doonbeg Golf Club and Old Head Golf Links, and Waterville will host in 2016 (July 25-27).

Morrison has played the tournament twice with Maggie, who had the opportunity to investigate Irish culture and report back.

"At Old Head, one girl was getting married a few weeks later, and she wanted to go out and meet her caddie that night, but the pubs were closed," Maggie says. "There were about seven of us. So we heard this noise and discovered some secret underground club. And when that closed, we went back to the hotel and sang 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun' to all the dads."

Which is the part the dads remember.

—Bob Carney

DAUGHTERS SEE DADS  
IN THEIR ELEMENT  
ON A TRIP TO IRELAND.

