

ISPS Handa World Invitational

Galgorm Castle • Ballymena, Northern Ireland • July 29-August 1, 2021

Course Manager

Rodney McKay

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Years at Galgorm Castle: 21

Years as a Course Manager: 4 ½ years

Previous Courses: N/A

Hometown: Ballymena

Professional Tournaments Hosted: This is 2nd ISPS Event for McKay. He has also hosted the Northern Ireland Open (10 times) and the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open in 2020.

Other Key Golf Personnel

Richard McKay, Assistant Superintendent

Mervyn McDowell, Assistant Superintendent

Mervyn McDowell, Equipment Manager

Ross Oliver, Director of Golf

Gary Henry, Managing Director

Number of Employees: 10

Number of Tournament Volunteers: 10

Course Architect

Architect (year): Simon Gidman (1997)

Tournament Fact Sheets for the PGA, LPGA, Champions and Korn Ferry Tours and USGA and PGA of America championships can be found all year at:

<https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

Tournament Set-up

Par: Men 70 / Women 73

Yardage: Men 7,100 / Women 6,585

Stimpmeter: 12

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 5,382 sq. ft.(500 sq.m)

Acres of Fairway: 30

Acres of Rough: 60

Number of Sand Bunkers: 48

Number of Water Hazards: 6 lakes, 2 rivers

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 13

Soil Conditions: Clay

Water Sources: River and lakes

Drainage Conditions: Good

Turfgrass

Greens: 70% creeping bentgrass / 30% poa 2.75mm

Tees: Dwarf perennial ryegrass, fescue, bentgrass 8mm

Fairways: Fescue, bentgrass, poa 10mm

Rough: Fescue, bentgrass, smooth stalked meadow grass 80mm

Additional Notes

- Winter 2020 projects included new greenside bunkers on No. 4, 6 and 7; redesigned bunker on No. 2; redesigned greenside bunker on No. 8; redesigned tee box on No. 7; new fairway bunker on No. 18; redesign of No. 18 with new water feature adjacent to green and refurbished bunkering.

- Area had a cold spring with frost on the course every morning in April. Then area had an unusually dry June.

- McKay has let the rough uncut to save on fuel and help wildlife. Hundreds of trees have been planted the last 10 years.

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