

The Late Patrick Foley.



Patrick J Foley, as pictured in the GUI Yearbook for 1978

It is with great sadness that the Cope Golf Alliance mourn the death of Pat Foley on 18 April 2017. A founding member of our Golf Alliance in 1977, our first President in 1978 and a trustee for the past 40 years.

Pat Foley left an indelible mark on the game of golf, at home and abroad, serving as President of the GUI and President of the European Golf Association (EGA)..

It was in 1977 that Pat rose to the rank of GUI President having served with distinction as captain and president at his beloved Muskerry in Cork. His lifelong association with golf continued in the late '90s when elected to the position of EGA President from 1997 to 1999.

A man of great vision and immense ambition, Foley set high standards for Irish golf. Writing in the GUI Yearbook of 1978, in which he recounted his year as President, he reflected: "In my view the time for action has come and a recommendation that would receive my benediction would see the immediate formation of a hand picked squad of players, that, with an extended and closely supervised training regimen, would have, as their objective, the winning of the European team title two years hence."

Pat Foley's bold ambition would not be realised until 1983, when Ireland reclaimed the European team title for the first time since 1967. Acutely aware of the negativity pervading Irish golf at the time, Foley was not a man easily deterred.

Expanding on his hopes for Irish golfing success, he wrote: "There are those who maintain that the material to achieve this eminence is simply not available to us at present but, to attain our purpose, we have got to maintain an optimistic approach and then adopt the aforementioned procedure with all immediate dispatch."

He will be sadly missed by his loving wife Deirdre, son, daughters, daughter-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and a large circle of friends. The Cope Golf Alliance extend our deepest sympathies to his wife and family and thank him for his many decades of loyal service.

May he rest in peace.