

A SPORTING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR



THERE may be an unusual shortage of soccer finals involving local teams over the holidays but there are still plenty of sporting fixtures planned between now and the New Year. Here's a list of some of the sporting fixtures over the next fortnight:

Wednesday, December 21

HORSE RACING: The annual Christmas meeting takes place at Downpatrick and is sure to attract a bumper holiday crowd.
RUGBY: Ballynahinch U-19s play Malone U-19s, kick-off 7.30pm.

Thursday, December 22

POOL: The Castlewellan Pool League's Five-a-side final takes place in Mooney's, starting 9pm. This year's final is between defending champions Maginn's Bar and Bridge Bar.

Friday, December 23

POOL: The annual Turlough O'Hare pool competition takes place in O'Hare's Lounge Bars (invitation only).
GAA: Dundrum GAC juvenile presentations take place for all those boys and girls in the U-6, U-8, U-10 and U-12 age groups in the Parochial Hall.
POKER: A Christmas Poker Night is being held in Aughlisnafin GAC clubrooms.

Saturday, December 24

SOCCER: The big holiday soccer attraction, the Steel and Sons Cup final, is being played on Christmas Eve as Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. It may not have a local flavour like two years ago when Kilmore beat Downpatrick but it always attracts a big crowd and that should be the case this Saturday when there are few other soccer fixtures scheduled. This year's finalists are Bangor and Larne with a 10.45am kick-off at Seaview. * There are Cup quarter and semi-finals as well as one League game in the DYFL. See fixtures pages 68 and 71.
RUGBY: There is a friendly challenge match at Ballymacarn Park, Ballynahinch as McIlwaine's Warriors take on Spiers' Evergreens with a 2.30pm kick-off.

Christmas Day

SWIMMING: The annual swim at Newcastle Harbour is as traditional as Christmas dinner.

Boxing Day, Monday, December 26

RUNNING: The BARF Turkey Trot starts and finishes at the Trassey car park, outside Bryansford. This annual fell race commences 11am.
RUNNING/WALKING: Over at Burren, the



No snow this Christmas but one can almost feel the chill as hardy sailors fight it out on the B Fleet start line in last Sunday's Carlingford Lough Yacht Club Winter Series. Photo: Michael O'Farrell

fourth annual Burren Townlands Run/Walk will commence at Burren Heritage Centre at 10.30am.

SOCCER: The Carnbane League's 44th Bessbrook Cup final will be played at Newry City's Showgrounds featuring Bessbrook United and Cleary Celtic with a 2pm kick-off.

FISHING: The annual Boxing Day fly fishing competition at Islandderry Fishery,

Dromore, starts 10am.

SAILING: Carlingford Lough Yacht Club sailors will be on the water, weather permitting, for their annual Mince Pie Race. There is an earlier than usual start time of 1.45pm.

HORSE RACING: Local race fans will be making their way to Down Royal for the big Boxing Day meeting. There is a seven strong race card and gates open 11am

with first race 12.30pm.

GAA: St Peter's Hurling Club, Warrenpoint, are once again hosting their annual charity fancy dress hurling match at Milltown Playing Fields, Warrenpoint, at 11am, featuring up and coming stars and past masters! A new dimension has been added to the event with the introduction of an U-10 and U-12 half time match.

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The Mourne Observer Sports Desk wishes all contributors and readers a Happy Christmas and a successful 2012

