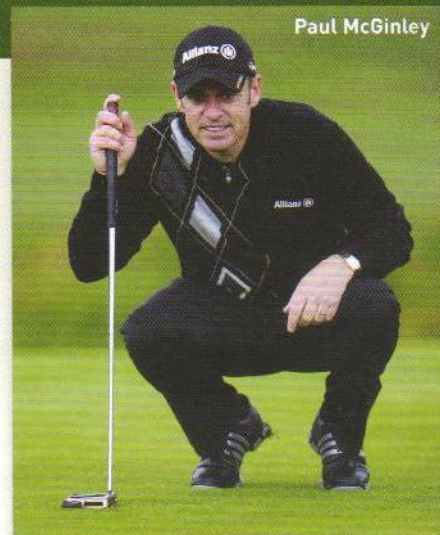


New club hire concept is an attractive option

A new golf equipment hire service at Faro Airport in the Algarve offers an alternative to paying exorbitant airline charges for carriage of clubs.



Paul McGinley

Going on a golfing holiday is a refreshing experience. There's the sense of anticipation, the break from normality and the opportunity to enjoy a few relaxing rounds amongst friends with the prospect of glorious sunshine.

The only cloud on the horizon for golfers travelling with Ryanair, Aer Lingus and several other airlines is having to fork-out sky high charges for carriage of golf clubs to and from holiday destinations.

The concept of charging for carriage of golf clubs was introduced in Ireland by Ryanair in 2003.

Aer Lingus followed soon afterwards and whilst it's now commonplace in the industry to impose a charge for carriage of golf clubs, a number of airlines still adopt a golfer friendly approach by not charging for clubs.

A reasonable charge for carriage of clubs would be understandable, but Ryanair's €40 charge per sector (airline speak for each flight you take) is hard to swallow. Aer Lingus charges €30 per sector, which is also unpalatable.

It's a charge on golfers that earns many airlines significant sums in extra baggage fees every year.

If you are bringing your golf clubs with you on holiday consider your options before booking flights in order to get the best deal on carriage of equipment.



The club hire shop at Faro Airport

Or, you could avail of a new online club hire service - similar to hiring a car - being provided by enterprising Irish company www.clubstohire.com

This new venture is being promoted by Irish entrepreneurs Tony Judge and Gerry McKernan. Ryder Cup star Paul McGinley has an interest in the business. It was launched at Faro Airport in Portugal earlier this season and there are plans to be fully operational at several other airports in the future.

For a rental fee from €35 per week you can hire a top-of-the-range men's or ladies set of clubs - right or left handed -

before you travel. Your clubs will be ready for collection on arrival at the www.clubstohire.com shop

The Faro club hire shop is situated in the airport arrivals hall. It is open from 7am to 11pm seven days a week and if your flight departs outside these times there is a designated drop off point.

An appealing feature of this new service is that you can spare yourself the sheer physical effort of taking your own clubs and the worry that they may not arrive at your destination or that they might be damaged in transit.

Check-out www.clubstohire.com

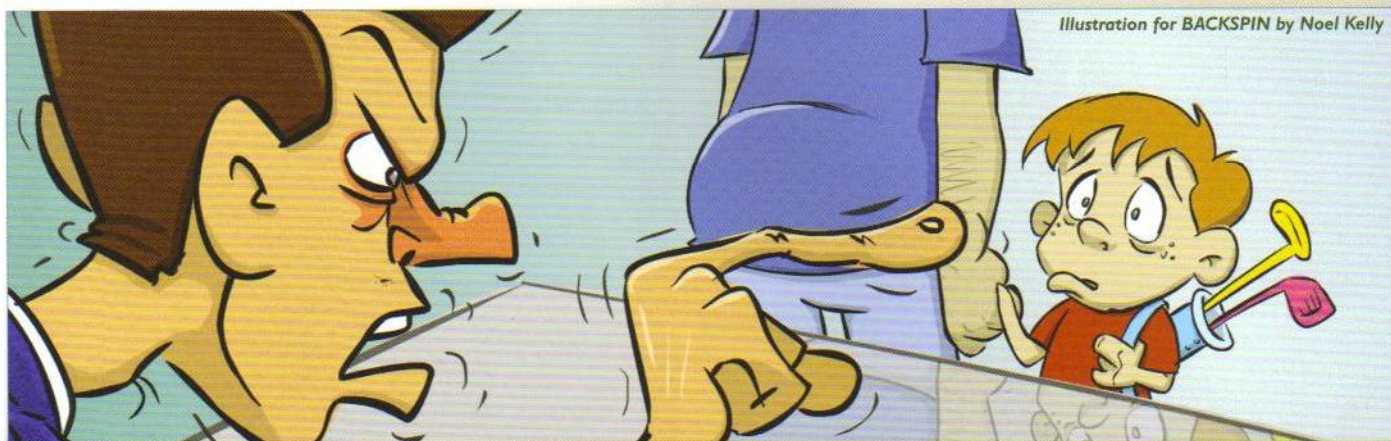


Illustration for BACKSPIN by Noel Kelly

I don't care if your Granny Kelly did give them to you!...They're not going on the plane if you don't pay!