

McGinley chips into golf firm



HARRY LEECH

CHAMPION golfer Paul McGinley (above) is hoping for a hole in one after making a "significant investment" in a new golf business that aims to take the hassle out of travelling on golfing holidays.

McGinley has taken a minority shareholding in Clubs To Hire, a start-up firm set up by Tony Judge and Gerry McKernan.

The company offers full sets of golf clubs to rent at the destination airport for just €35 per week and is banking on golfers preferring to rent on arrival, rather than pay excess baggage charges of up to €80.

The company opened its first airport shop in Portugal's Faro Airport in June and has already invested €500,000 in the operation. Club To Hire hopes to be fully operational at six airports in the next year.

Another CRH executive to join forces with rival

NICK WEBB

GLEN Culpepper, the CRH finance chief who left the company for "personal reasons" in May, has joined one of the cement behemoth's key rivals.

Culpepper, who was promoted to the number two slot at CRH when Myles Lee became CEO, joined US-based Summit Materials at the start of this month. He will serve as the company's finance chief.

The defection of €1.1m-per-year Culpepper to Summit

Materials is the latest in a series of top-floor exits at CRH — many of whom have left to join Summit, which was set up by former CRH executive Tom Hill last year. Hill ran CRH's US operations and was widely tipped to become the company's chief executive when Liam O'Mahony retired in 2008. However, he was pipped to the job by Myles Lee. Hill subsequently left CRH with a €2.2m pay-off.

Sources close to CRH indicated that it had no idea that Culpepper was going to join

Summit when he left the company. The Irish company understood not to have made its executives sign non-compete clauses as they are costly and difficult to enforce.

Last December the *Sunday Independent* revealed that CRH executives Michael Brady, Tony Keenan, Anna Fonina and Damian Murphy had defected to join Hill's company. Summit raised more than €550m from its backers, including giant US private equity firm Blackstone and SilverHawk.

Student's ski boots walk off prize in Dyson design comp

HARRY LEECH

A REVOLUTIONARY new ski boot which promises to bring comfort to the ski slopes has beaten a number of quirky Irish inventions, including a self-sanitising door handle, to win the Irish James Dyson Award for Design.

Brian Byrne, a 23-year-old NCAD student from Dundrum, Co Dublin, has been announced as the winner of this year's competition and says he was inspired to create the Flip Ski Boot after years of enduring the discomfort of existing ski-boot models.

"I had skied all my life and

I always had a problem with the ski boot.

It was uncomfortable and impeded movement when walking on the mountains.

My flip ski boot addresses these problems.

You have more control and less pain. Also you can easily step out of the boot into a lighter boot for walking around"



WINNER: Brian Byrne ski boots

While there may be waiting at the end of poor maths.

science res in this year. Leaving C Byrne faced competition the Irish and

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fund; and a further 12 student inventors have shortlisted for the G1 James Dyson Award.