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 presented by MAIRE LALOR AND DAVE O'CONNOR



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For enquiries or bookings please phone
 Maire at 086 8368287 or Dave at 086 8300575
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FOOT AND MOUTH CRISIS



■ Johnny Bolger sprinkles detergent on mats at the entrance to Wexford County Council offices.

SIPTU seeks compensation for meat plant workers

SIPTU said it was seeking compensation from employers in the meat processing industry for workers laid off as a result of the foot and mouth scare.

Union vice-president Jack O'Connor said the frantic efforts to restrict the movement of cattle has interrupted the slaughtering of livestock which had in turn led to the laying off on workers in boning operations.

St. Helen's Bay 'taking every precaution'

Golf club rounds on its critics over Welsh visitors

ST. HELEN'S Bay Golf and Country Club has rounded on its critics after coming under fire for allowing a party of Welsh golfers to play on the course over the weekend.

Managing director Larry Byrne said the club took the threat of foot and mouth very seriously and had taken every precaution to disinfect golfers' clubs and their cars. Claims being aired locally that 150 Welsh golfers were at the club on Saturday and Sunday were 'simply not true'.

'We had a total of 12 Welsh golfers from two small groups that we couldn't cancel. They were on their way already,' he said.

Mr. Byrne, who is chairman of Wexford Tourism, said that as a precaution against foot and mouth, the club had cancelled all of March's business - 153 golfers. A familiarisation trip by 40 British journalists had been called off as well.

'We are being proactive and cancelling them ourselves and refunding people in full,' said Mr. Byrne.

He said the March cancellations meant the loss of about

At other courses...

■ Another party of Welsh golfers was reportedly among the last to tee-off at Enniscorthy, before the club closed its course late last Thursday.

'Nobody has been on the course since last Thursday. We cancelled all competitions, the lot. The members are not even playing,' said Brian Kenny, Secretary of Enniscorthy Golf Club.

■ A spokesperson for Rosslare Golf Club said the club was open, but that was 'subject to review on a daily basis.'

'We are not open to overseas visitors, people from England and Wales.'

■ Wexford Golf Club is open to members only.

judged and misinformed'.

'I was called by people who said we had 150 golfers here. That was far from the truth.'

'In terms of the contagion, the golfers were city-based people. I went down to the harbour on Friday morning to try to get details, but the sailings had changed and they were already on their way.'

'How we're going to get the business back is a serious question for us, 150 people from the UK is a huge loss to us,' he said, adding that the club was open but not taking bookings.

Spending

'You're probably talking about £50,000 worth of business... each of them would be spending an average £300 on a break. It wouldn't have come to just St. Helen's, it would have gone to Wexford as well.'

Mr. Byrne said that if sporting clubs were forced to close as a result of foot and mouth, it would amount to killing off the tourist industry.

'If we were to close you would be are killing the tourist industry as well, hotels, pubs, all the same thing.'

£50,000 worth of business.

'To put things in a proper perspective, on Thursday morning we rang Teagasc and put in place mats and disinfectant and put up notices for golfers to dip their clubs and their feet in the disinfectant.'

Procedures

'On Friday, the same procedures were in place and on Saturday we brought down our own tractor spraying unit to disinfect cars, with a man on duty on Saturday and Sunday.'

'I was also in contact with the IFA and Teagasc, and they thanked me for our efforts to provide assurance as best we can.'

'We physically can't stop people coming over, but would prefer it if we didn't have golfers from the UK at this time,' said Mr. Byrne.

Answering critics of the decision to allow the Welsh golfers to play, Mr. Byrne said he was unable to contact them to cancel their trip. He also described some of the complaints as 'ill-

Re-think business trips says Chamber

WEXFORD Chamber of Commerce has suggested that people planning business trips in the coming weeks should reconsider their plans in the light of fears over foot and mouth.

'All those intending to to make business trips over the coming weeks should reflect on the importance of the trip and whether or not it can be postponed until another time,' said chamber chief executive Emer Lovett.

She said it was vital that every person should understand that they had a person-

al role to play in ensuring that foot and mouth doesn't spread across to the Republic and business had a particularly important role to play.

'This is not just an issue for the agri-business sector as it also has the potential to have a major impact on the wider business community.'

'We are calling on each business to reflect on what they can do to prevent a spread of virus to their area.'

Ms. Lovett said a vital step in the protection of the local and national economy was

to place disinfectant mats in front of all premises.

Each business should also ensure that their supplies are sourced and delivered in a manner that won't assist the spread of the virus.

'The long-term economic interest far outweighs the short-term difficulties these (steps) may cause,' she said.

'For its part, Wexford Chamber is cancelling all non-essential events and meetings until further notice.'

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