

## ***Toro Teams Up With Ireland's K Club For The 2006 Ryder Cup***

*Toro Supplies The K Club With Irrigation Systems And  
Turf Equipment In Preparation For The 36<sup>th</sup> Ryder Cup*

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (August 22, 2006) – The 2006 Ryder Cup will be heading to Ireland this September with the eyes of the golfing world focusing on The K Club's Palmer Course – one of Europe's finest golf courses, equipped with Toro's irrigation systems and turf equipment technologies. It will be the culmination of a six year partnership during which The Toro Company has been assisting The K Club in preparation for the biggest sporting event ever witnessed in Ireland.

"Toro has been in the forefront of my mind in helping determine how I'm going to prepare the golf course," said Gerry Byrne, course superintendent at The K Club. "This year's Ryder Cup is not only going to be a success for The K Club, Ireland and Europe, but also for Toro. I'm not talking about the result, but rather the challenge of producing a golf course worthy of a world stage. I cannot, and would not, even attempt to do it if I wasn't in partnership with my friends at Toro."

Toro is the official provider of irrigation and turf maintenance equipment for The K Club, and has partnerships formed with future European Ryder Cup courses over the next decade. Toro's support for The Ryder Cup includes providing irrigation system performance checks, ongoing involvement with superintendents and grounds crews, onsite technicians to assist during the event, and additional turf equipment including mowers, bunker rakes, utility vehicles and more.

"We're grateful for the relationships we share with The K Club and The Ryder Cup," said Mike Hoffman, Chairman and CEO of The Toro Company. "It brings us a great sense of pride to have them count on Toro to help create and maintain world-class golfing venues. That's why our commitment remains strong to developing new technologies that meet the many needs of our customers. It's important they stay on the cutting edge, and have the best equipment for the job."

Since 1998, The K Club's Palmer Course has undergone incredible change – all in preparation for this September's Ryder Cup. Byrne and his crew have added new greens, tees and bunkers; introduced swale areas; planted mature trees; reduced six fairway widths; and built a new maintenance facility.

Ireland's cool, maritime climate poses certain challenges to The K Club's course. Achieving a light footprint is important, so Byrne relies on Toro to provide him with lightweight mowers to easily and efficiently cut the fairways before and during matches.

"In addition to Toro's equipment, we have wall-to-wall Toro irrigation products installed on our golf courses and we're very proud of it," said Byrne. "Toro has really been there for me whenever I needed them; it's a consistent 'yes' with these guys."

Toro enjoys a longstanding relationship with The Ryder Cup. In 1997, The Ryder Cup took place in Spain's Club de Golf Valderrama – a golf course that has used Toro irrigation and equipment since 1986. In fact, Toro-equipped courses have already been chosen to host all European Ryder Cup matches through 2014.

As the big event approaches, Byrne says he is taking it one day at a time, monitoring everything from the weather to the fairways to the trees. Byrne even set up 40,000 meters of drainage across the crowd lines and sand-plated these areas to ensure a comfortable golfing experience. During the multiple-day golf tournament, more than 200,000 people are expected to walk through The K Club's gates. As a result, The K Club will have about 5,000 staff members dedicated to ensuring the event runs smoothly.

"It's just steady as we go, letting nature do its thing," said Byrne. "Toro has been a tremendous help to me. Nothing has been a problem. I'm looking forward to working in partnership with Toro for the next few months to ensure the success of this event."

The 2006 Ryder Cup begins Sept. 22 at The K Club in County Kildare, Ireland. For more information about the event, visit [www.rydercup.com](http://www.rydercup.com). For information on Toro products, visit [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com).

### **About The Toro Company**

The Toro Company (NYSE: TTC) is a leading worldwide provider of outdoor beautification products, support services and integrated solutions. With sales of \$1.8 billion in 2005, Toro is committed to providing environmentally responsible products of customer-valued quality and innovation. Since 1914, the company has built a tradition of excellence around a number of strong brands that serve a customer base that includes golf course superintendents, groundskeepers, sports field managers, landscape and irrigation contractors, fruit and vegetable growers, and homeowners. The Toro Company is headquartered at 8111 Lyndale Avenue in Bloomington, Minn. Visit the company Web site at [www.thetorocompany.com](http://www.thetorocompany.com).

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