



# WORLD PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS



*“To foster and preserve the art and improve the skill of ploughing the land.”*

(The World Ploughing Organisation mission statement)

Ploughing Championships are an ideal meeting place for anyone involved in the agricultural industry and their families to see top ploughmen show off their skills for the honour of being crowned a Northern Ireland Champion and representing their country on European and world stages. Visitors to ploughing Championships are able to enjoy the different styles of ploughing seen through many generations; from horse classes, vintage classes with the usual modern world style conventional and reversible classes.

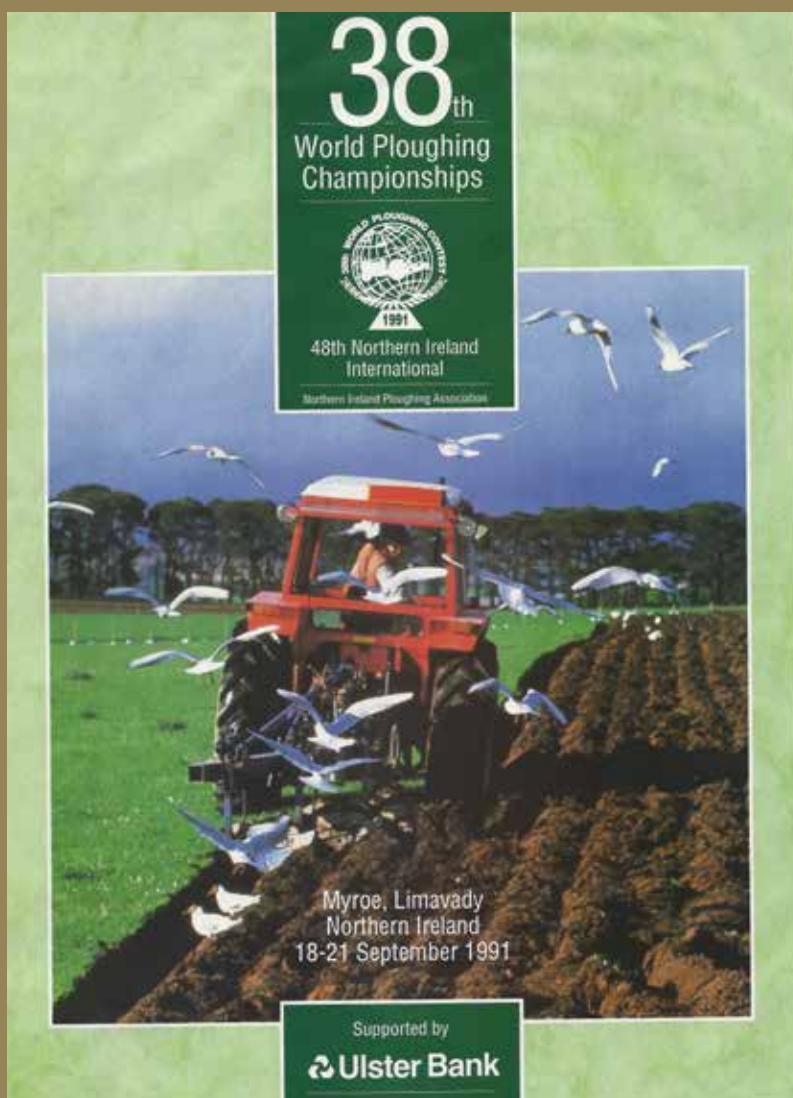
There have been many famous names from across the province who have been successful in ploughing, the Barr’s, Wright’s and Gill’s to name a few. In fact, Northern Ireland is recognised across the world for producing 7 World Champions who won the Golden Plough (World Title) on 10 occasions which is second only to Austria in the all-time list.

The first World Ploughing Contest took place at Cobourg, Ontario, Canada in 1953 and was first hosted in Northern Ireland in the village of Armoy in 1959. Limavady has been fortunate to have hosted the World Ploughing Championships three times in the years, 1979, 1991 and 2004. At each of these World Ploughing Championships the competitors brought a stone representing their country which was added to a cairn built by the host on whose farm the competition was held.

Host Cairns	World Ploughing Contest	Year	Location	Host	Conventional Class Results
	27th	1979	Limavady	Mr. James Gilfillan	1. Robert Wieser -Austria 2. Josef Liszt - Austria 3. Vaclav Milik - Czechoslovakia
	38th	1991	Myroe, Limavady	Mr. Jim Kane	1. Ulrik Olsson, Sweden 2. Bengt Anderson, Sweden
	51st	2004	Ballykelly, Limavady	Foyle View Farm, owned by the Barr family	1. Peter Lanz, Austria 326.50 pts 2. Evan Watkins, Wales, 320.75 pts 3.Andreas Steiner, Austria, 312.25 pts



Three time champion Hugh Barr who won the World Championships on the years 1954-1956



The 38th World Ploughing Contest was incorporated into the 48th Northern Ireland International Ploughing Championships. 38 competitors from 19 countries took part.

There have also been five members of the same family who have won the Northern Ireland Ploughing title on several occasions- W G Wright, Des Wright, Norman Wright, Don Wright and David Wright.



W. Lawrence McMillan (NI), winner of the 7th World Ploughing contest held in Armoy, 1959. Runner up was Charles Bonney (Canada). Image courtesy of Ballymoney Museum



Des Wright won the ploughing contest three times in the years 1984, 1986 & 2003

*The National Ploughing Association was the first in the world to organise ploughing matches on a national level.*