



Georgia: Getting ready to play a round

Mini-golf centre is the business

By **Ross McDonagh**

'PUTT' away your wet gear – you can now have a 'ball' at Ireland's first proper mini-golf centre, and it's only a short 'drive' away.

Terrible **golf** puns aside, Ireland has been very slow getting a mini-golf centre and bizarrely it's not until the middle of a recession that we finally get one.

The 1,500 sq metre facility at **Dun-Drum** Town Centre opens its doors for the first time tomorrow.

The two 18-hole South American-themed mini-golf courses have a **rainforest** setting – one 'Aztec' and

the other 'Mayan' – complete with tropical foliage, authentic Mayan/Aztec carvings and animatronic special effects (but no Georgia Salpa).

Rainforest Adventure **Golf** is the brainchild of businessman Ross Ivers, who admits he is confused as to why it took Ireland so long to get one – especially since we have the perfect weather for it.

'Similar leisure concepts are very popular in America and the UK, but there is no themed indoor venue like this in Ireland,' he said. 'It was on yet another wet Irish holiday with little to do for the kids that I thought something like this would work.'

'There are many indoor play venues around for younger children, but it's baffling that for such a wet country, there is still little variety in indoor venues which also cater to older children, teens and adults. **Rainforest** Adventure **Golf** is somewhere all age groups can have fun.'

An educational pack with information on **rainforests** and South American cultures is also being developed for school tour.

And in another 'scoop' (sorry) for the venue, Ben & Jerry's has chosen to open its first non-cinema ice-cream counter at the on-location restaurant, the Canopy Café.