

Gout to be kidding

MARK WILLIAMS is battling gout at Belfast's Northern Ireland Open — but will not ditch kebabs.

The Welshman is wearing a slipper on his left foot as he hobbles around the table in agony.

Junk food fan Willo, 46, is taking medication to ensure he can survive the rest of the week at the Waterfront Hall.

The world No8 said: "A couple of weeks before it happened, for no reason I stopped eating meat and went on a vegetarian diet for a couple of weeks — and then I got gout!

"So sod it, I'm eating as much meat, chicken and bacon as I want. I'm back on the kebabs.

"I'm feeling much better now. I can almost walk like normal. I have a slipper on my foot. I cannot get a shoe on it. It's too painful.

"I brought it over with me to Northern Ireland."

No10 seed Williams beat Jak Jones 4-2 and faces old

By **ROB MAUL**

adversary John Higgins in the last 16.

It is not the first time he has suffered severe joint pain — he last had it at the World Grand Prix in February 2020.

On the latest incident, the three-time world champion added: "I went to bed on a Monday night, absolutely fine. Woke up the Tuesday morning and was screaming in pain."

Ronnie O'Sullivan, who smashed Alfie Burden 4-1 in their first-ever clash, had sympathy for his fellow Class of '92 man.

The Rocket, 45, who faces China's Yan Bingtao next, said: "He should go home and put his feet up if he is struggling to walk."

"He is a solider — a legend of this sport."



DONOR CARD... Williams is not cutting out the kebabs



RANK 'N WHILE... ex-No 1 has been off the boil for some time

Rory: I'm too nice to myself

By **DAVID FACEY**

RORY McILROY believes he can reclaim his place as the world's best golfer — provided he stops giving himself an easy time because he has such a great life off the course

McIlroy admits he has used his family bliss with wife Erica and daughter Poppy as an excuse for not beating himself up when things go wrong between the ropes.

The four-time Major winner will tee off a new PGA Tour campaign at the CJ Cup in Las Vegas today at 14th in the rankings, and says that is simply not good enough.

He said: "Getting back to No1 is definitely a realistic goal. When I play my best I'm the best player in the world. I firmly believe that."

"I haven't played like that for a while but I don't think I have to look that far back to see my name at the top of the rankings. When the pan-

demic hit I was the No1 player in the world.

"Obviously the last 18 months haven't been what I wanted them to be but keep it in perspective. I'm not that far away and there's a ton of great players now playing really good golf."

"I will say that sometimes I give myself too easy of a time if things aren't going so great in tournament golf."

"I try to play it off that golf doesn't define me, I've got a great balance in my life and I'm happy away from the course."

"And that's obviously very true. But if I'm honest, sometimes I maybe use that as a way to lessen the blow if I don't play good golf."

"Last season was just OK, with my 19th PGA Tour win as the obvious highlight. Twenty is a nice number so I want to get there quickly and kick on from that."

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

CANU DO BETTER?!

Shazza trainer: Pressure is on Em's new coach from the start

INDIAN SUMMER IS OVER... Raducanu waves to the fans after early Indian Wells exit

COACHING Emma Raducanu could be a poisoned chalice, according to the mastermind behind Maria Sharapova's stunning rise.

Raducanu raised eyebrows by parting with coach Andrew Richardson after the 18-year-old sensationally won the US Open last month.

World No100 Aliaksandra Sasnovich brought the British teen crashing back to Earth in Indian Wells last Friday, dumping her out in her first match since New York glory.

Raducanu immediately issued a plea for an experienced coach after her early exit in California — and Argentine Carlos Rodriguez, who had great success with Justine Henin, has emerged as a favourite to land the job.

But Michael Joyce, who helped Sharapova win at Wimbledon when she was only 17 and go on to become world No1, is not convinced top coaches will be in a rush to work with Raducanu.

Joyce, who coached her fellow Brit Johanna Konta in

By **PETE THOMPSON**

2018, said: "I was really surprised with the wording of the statement released when Emma announced she was splitting with Andrew Richardson, saying she felt she needed someone with Tour-level experience."

"I didn't like the statement. If you have a good coach and it works well, then you'd think you would want to stick with them. Why would you want a big-name coach?"

"She's a great player but it's going to be a tough job for the next coach, as expectations are high."

"If she goes to the Australia

lian Open next year and goes out early, people will say it's because of the coach."

"I'd known Maria for quite a long time before coaching her, as I was her hitting partner. We got to know each other, we were on a journey."

"It's a tough one for whoever comes in and works with Emma as they won't have that relationship and they will be under a lot of scrutiny."

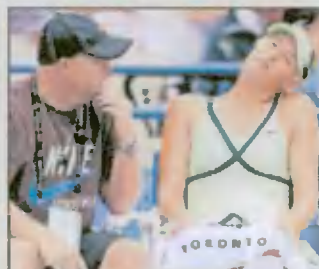
Joyce says that Raducanu should seek out Russian five-time Grand Slam champ Sharapova, now 34, for advice on coping with being in the spotlight so young.

The American added: "It's going to be much harder for her now with so much hype and attention."

"Players can get on a hot streak, get in a zone and a bubble where everything just seems to come together. It's how you react when that comes to an end."

"There are likely to be hiccups with such a young player, with expectations high and a superstar status to get used to."

"It can only help Emma to speak to Maria so I would encourage her to do that."



ADVICE... Joyce helps Sharapova

Recruitment

Educational Psychologist required for Roots & Wings Donabate

Based out of our Donabate branch in Dublin

You will be responsible for running our Educational Psychology program. Please note, this is not a "child care" position. Applicants must be qualified/certified in Psychology/Educational /Youth or Child Psychology.

Educational psychologists deal with the psychological and educational development of people in the education system. This includes students of any age, their parents or guardians and the people who work with them.

The main job duties for our position:

- using psychological tests, theories and procedures to support the wellbeing and learning of those children at Roots & Wings who require it
- helping children with learning difficulties to achieve their full potential
- recommending, developing and administering appropriate therapies and strategies
- carrying out psychological assessments to uncover a child's problem
- writing reports
- conducting research
- advising and making recommendations on educational policies

This is a full time permanent position based on a 39 hour week.

Salary is 30,000 per annum.

Location of the job is 22 Beresford Road, Donabate, County Dublin (Roots & Wings).

Please apply by posting CV to the above address or email Leonne Byrne at rootsandwingsdonabate@gmail.com

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Orla Dooley is applying for Planning Permission for (1) Conversion of garage to side of existing dwelling with first floor extension over with both extending to front of dwelling, (2) ground floor bay window extension of existing living room to front with covered porch area, (3) conversion of attic and dormer to rear and velux rooflight to front of existing roof, (4) single storey extension to rear with internal alterations, (5) Single storey rear garden room & shed Circa 40sqm and all associated site works at 33 Crannagh Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, D14NP70. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

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