# A Major route in for rebels

By WILL PUGH

GOLF expects its world ranking points in Bangkok this week.

The Saudi-backed rebel series has formed a "stra-tegic alliance" with the little-known MENA Tour to provide a back-door route

to the Majors.

LIV president Atul
Khosla said: "We are
taking this mutually beneficial action to support the game at

support the game at developmental level.

"And because of the importance and fairness of LIV golfers qualifying for Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) points."

MENA — Middle East and North Africa — will submit the LIV Thailand field as one of its own to the OWGR board before play starts tomorrow.

play starts tomorrow. And LIV will learn how many ranking points will

be awarded soon after.
LIV golfers, including
Open champion Cameron
Smith, lan Poulter and
Bryson DaChambage Bryson DeChambeau, are currently banned from the PGA Tour.

That has seen them slide down the rankings, denting their hopes of qualifying for the Majors.

South Dublin County Council

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# MANAGERSIN

PREMIER LEAGUE ... Pádraic Maher

has been drafted into Liam Cahill's Tipp backroom

team

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Legend Babs has say on the three Premier icons who are honing

their skils for possible shot at top jobs

in the future

Pádraic was so well-regarded, it made sense for Cahill to pick somebody like him

Eoin's not doing himself any favours if he ever had ideas of managing Tipp

MICHAEL 'BABS' feels Tipperary legends Brendan and Pádraic Maher can thrive in their new coaching roles but is unsure about Eoin Kelly's move to Waterford.

Tipp's three amigos have all been added to inter-county backroom teams for 2023.

Pádraic Maher has been recruited as a coach by new Premier boss Liam Cahill, Brendan is lining up with his former Borris-Ileigh manager Johnny Kelly in Offaly and Kelly is Waterford-bound with Davy Fitzgerald. itzgerald.

All three are former captains of their county and are blue and Kelly

Kelly was skipper when the Premier won the 2010 All-Ireland and Brendan Maher climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand when they claimed Liam MacCarthy in 2016.

The three men may have eyes on the top job, just as Keating did when he retired from inter-county hurling in 1975, eventually getting the gig in 1986.

Premier great Keating can see the

By JASON BYRNE

**GAA WRITER** 

Mahers making a big impression as coaches – though seriously questions Kelly's Déise move.

The Mullinahone clubman, 40, played for Fitzgerald when LIT won the 2005 Fitzgibbon Cup and was a coach under Liam Sheedy until 2020.

Keating (right) knows Kelly's pedigree but says his Waterford switch lacks ambition after serving his time in the Tipp backroom team already.

team already.

The two-time All-Ireland-winning boss told SunSport: "It's hard to understand Eoin Kelly's move.

"I only handled him for two years when he was a player and in terms of hurling ability, he'd be so far ahead of any of the fellas he'll be understudy to in Waterford.

"If Eoin is in the category of playing second fiddle at this stage of his life, he must not want to be a manager.

manager. of the was with Thurles Sarsfields but

last year and with Tipp under Sheedy but as a player on the field, he was so far ahead of most and has serious

most and has serious leadership qualities.

"But at the same time it's not healthy moving if he's an understudy.

"I can understand somebody moving if he was top of the pile but that's not the situation with Eoin.

"He's not doing himself any favours if he ever had ideas of managing Tipp or any other county, because you'd imagine he would have his sights set on managing Tipp more than anybody else.

"When I went elsewhere of the situation with the situation with Eoin."

"When I went elsewhere after being with Tipp, I was with Galway as a trainer but I never had ideas of being a manager in those days those days.
"I'd always had dreams of

managing Tipp but I felt it was never going to come to my

Pádraic Maher was skipper of the county in 2017 and 2018 but the six-time All-Star was

forced to quit hurling completely at the start of the year due to a neck injury.

And Keating believes the timing of the Thurles man's move into Cahill's backroom team still carries a risk.

He played with most of the squad and his younger brother Ronan is still a key player in the dressing room as he currently recovers from a broken leg.

Keating said: "I don't know Pádraic Maher personally, but he was so well-regarded as a personality and as a player and it made sense for Liam Cahill to pick somebody like him to get some credibility back.

"The only thing I'll say

"The only thing I'll say sometimes it is not a recipe for success going in with fellas that you played with.

"Cahill and Mikey
Bevans will be the main
men and they'll consider
themselves the more
experienced heads going
in there." In Brendan's





