



Howth Golf Club

Tee Times

July Edition 2013

The Captains Prize Edition





The Captains' Corner

The report from the Gray household is very promising; we are still together and likely to finish our year as husband and wife! Without a doubt our first 6 months in office have been so rewarding. Both of us have been overwhelmed by the sincere congratulations and goodwill we have experienced from all of the members, it is something we shall never forget.

Dublin was the sunniest place in Ireland in the month of June, breaking a 71- year old record, the Lady Captain grabbed two days and the men settled for two less sunny. Norma O'Mahony was the winner of the Lady Captain's prize and Maurice Connolly came out of the pack to win the Captain's prize. Both Norma and Maurice were very deserving and popular winners. The months of April, May and June are traditionally the months in which most of the interclub matches take place. All of our teams whether Juniors, Ladies, Male or Mixed have done us proud to date. Junior girl

Laura Doherty has once again done us proud and has been selected to represent Ireland on the girls Under 18 international team for European Championships. This is indeed a great honour for Laura and for Howth Golf Club and our junior convenors. The junior boys continued to play in the senior interclub competitions. In the Barton Cup we beat Portmarnock, Sutton and only lost to Royal Dublin by virtue of them having 3 matches at home and 2 away. Our mixed team has been very successful in the Irish Mixed Foursomes competition and is playing Beaverstown in the quarter final of the Leinster Section on Saturday, 13th July. As Howth have 3 matches at home and 2 away we are quietly confident of progressing and wish them the best of luck. We thank all of the team managers and assistant managers who have spent time and energy over the past couple of months in organising and managing their teams.

One of the great success stories of the year was the 6 week membership promotion run by Brenda Flynn and her team to which we referred to in the previous Tee Times. Ultimately 40 ladies participated of which 11 in one night were interviewed for full and 5 day membership and there are more to come. Well done ladies.

Apologies to members and staff who have done great work and have been overlooked in this brief report.

Therese and Michael



In Conversation with ... Lady Captains Prize Winner, Norma O'Mahony

We are delighted to say that the Lady Captains Prize Competition was as successful as ever this year. We were graced with lovely weather on both days and the colour and splendour of the many lady members who entered the competition were only matched by the colour and splendour of the fashion at the prize giving dinner. The standard of golf and scoring were to a high standard which made the win all the more exciting for this year's victor, Norma O'Mahony.

We managed to catch up with Norma still on a high from winning the coveted Lady Captains Prize and we began by asking her what winning the trophy meant to her:

"I am a very proud and privileged winner of the Lady Captain Therese's prize held on 15th June 2013. It is an all too rare occasion to win this magnificent prize and I can't believe that I have been honoured with such a prestigious prize. The Lady Captain's competition to me is one of the most exciting dates in the annual Golf Calendar and everyone looks forward to it with great excitement when the very prestigious prize is displayed in the cabinet."

How long have you been associated with HGC?

"I have been a member of Howth Golf Club since 2000. I joined initially with my husband Sean as a Pavilion Member I was fortunate to be invited to become a 5 day member in 2001 and then became a full member in 2004 – how times have changed!

Describe the first day's event:

"I always like to wear something "new" for the first day of the Lady Captain's as it is such a special day, so I bought a new top and windcheater. Thanks to the Greens staff the course was in immaculate condition and the greens were like velvet. My playing partners on the day were Breda Mullaly (a past Lady Captain) and Fiona McMorrow and they were both just so very encouraging and supportive. I had 18 points on the front nine and finishing with 16 points on the back nine gave me a total of 34 points. I was pleased with the putts and felt for most of the holes they went my way. When I looked at the leader board that evening there were great scores returned and I was ninth on the list with very good golfers with good scores not only ahead of me but also following me."



In Conversations With...Lady Captains Prize Winner, Norma O'Mahony, Cont'd

So bring us through the second day:

"Saturday 15th June arrived, a bright sunny day, a little cool with a very strong wind. Again the course was in good order but the greens were somewhat fast and I felt my putting on the day was not as good as the first day. I achieved 21 points on the front nine but I must say at this time I did not count my points on either day until the competition was over. My partners, Carole Carberry and Pauline Jones both fellow Class golfers and very good golfers (long hitters) and myself, nearly danced on the green with joy when my put from just off the 12th green went into the hole, but we didn't!! They were both most encouraging and supportive. I managed 17 points on the back nine giving a total of 38 points. I was pleased with my result overall but still didn't think I was in with a chance."

How did you find out the good news?

"Just before I left home for the Lady Captain's dinner in the Club I received a phone call from Pat Slowey to say I was the winner of the Lady Captain's prize, I was absolutely gobsmacked and couldn't believe it. I raced out to the garden where Sean was tending some plants and told him and he helped me put a few words together for a speech. When it comes to golf Sean has been so patient over a long number of years. He once said that I got great value out of a game of golf given the number of shots I took!!"

Any final thoughts you would like to share with us?

"Saturday night was very emotional for me on receiving the Trophy and the beautiful String of Pearls from Lady Captain Therese. Pearls were a favourite piece of jewellery of my late mother so they have an extra special significance for me. I am very proud to wear them and it is with much love and joy. Thank you Lady Captain Therese for giving me the opportunity to win such a beautiful and special prize. I would also like to congratulate all my fellow prize winners on the night in winning such a beautiful array of prizes. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness, generosity and good wishes extended to me from all the Lady Members, I feel very honoured and privileged to be a member of the Club."

Well done and many congratulations again to Norma O'Mahony for winning the coveted 2013 Lady Captains Prize!!

The Captains Charity 2013

**In Aid of St. Francis Hospice,
Raheny**

**Team of Four for the Corporate Day Fri. 23rd Aug € 400
Club Day Sat. 24th Aug Cost € 100 per team of four**



In Conversations With Captain's Prize Winner ... Mossy Connolly

As Mossy said himself, in the autumn of his life, aged 72, he has won his first major. This was his 45th attempt to win the Captain's Prize, being a member of Howth Golf club for the last 45 years.

Day one was a very windy day with most competitors finding the conditions very challenging. A first round of 36 was an excellent return ensuring that Mossy was near the top of the leader board going into day two.

In the week, Mossy did not think about the opportunity ahead, he has never played well on day two of the Captain's prize and there was no reason to expect this year to be any different.

Mossy's previous successes were when playing for the club. He was on the winning teams of both the Uden and Mc Donnell cups, but individual success has always eluded him. He has been a runner up four times in club finals.

Day two arrives. The pre match routine is one of total relaxation, watching the Lions playing in Australia followed by a coffee. Then day two commences. It is windy but not as challenging as on day one, Eventually, Mossy arrives at the 16th tee and expectations are starting to rise. He realises that if he can get two points on the remaining holes he will score 40 points and given his first day score, this is likely to be a winning total. The playing partners, (Joe Richardson and Tommy O Connor), want to offer advice but know that silence is the best tactic. Mossy is starting to shake as the expectations rise. With true grit, the necessary points are achieved and a total of 76 points are recorded over the two days.



In Conversations cont'd...

Mossy sits in the changing room in disbelief and the emotions flow as he showers and awaits the final result. Thankfully his son, Michael is there to offer support. He is finally declared the winner.

The feeling is unbelievable; the acceptance speech is highly emotional, with tears flowing again. After 45 years Mossy is a winner.

There is no more deserving winner then Mossy, a person who has contributed to Howth Golf Club in so many ways. Mossy finds out something that many only find out after they pass from this world - he is very much loved and everyone is delighted for him. He cannot believe the amount of congratulations coming his way.



Congratulations to Laura Doherty who has been selected to represent Ireland in the Under 18 Girls European Championships in Linkoping, Sweden, 9th – 13th July. Good luck Laura!!



The Social Butterfly

After a successful run of Social evenings the last event before the Summer was held in April. Peter Sheridan (brother of Jim Sheridan) gave us a wonderful presentation of his play “Break a Leg” which was interspersed with some Dublin ballads – Peter is not only an excellent writer but also has a very good voice. This play was attended by over 100 members and guests and enjoyed by all who were fortunate to have been there. The question and answer presentation after the play could have been an evening’s entertainment in its own right. All in all, it was a very successful night for the Social Committee both from an enjoyment and financial aspect.

The Social Committee will now take a rest until the the autumn and our thanks to Eileen Gilroy and her Committee for the work they have put in to give the Club a varied programme of social events.

The Friday Nighters commenced in April and is both a golfing and social evening. It also gives new members an excellent opportunity to play golf and enjoy a meal and drink in the club with their playing partners after the competition and to meet and to get to know other members in the Club.

On Wed. 29th May, the Ladies prize giving night took place in the Club and the details of the major prize winners are outlined in a separate article. The prize giving was followed by a buffet meal. After the meal a dazzling fashion show was presented by Carmel Brennan with a magnificent selection of outfits from her boutiques, Ellen B in Clontarf and Stepz in Malahide. Our thanks to our very elegant models Veronica Baker, Mary Flannery, Mary Judge, Fiona McMorro, Carole Reid and Helen Webster.. The girls were super models and the photos tell their own story.





Howth Golf Club's Next Top Models ? !!





The Social Butterfly Contd.

The Lady Captain Therese's Competition took place on the 8th and 15th June. The weather on the first day (8th June) was like being in Spain or Portugal with plenty of sunshine and a nice light wind. The second day on 15th June was sunny, cool and windier but thankfully no rain. All the Ladies were spoilt by the Lady Captain. Each lady received a lovely cover for their golf diary plus refreshments for our round of golf. After the round of golf the dining room was transformed with blue check table cloths and the caterers looked after our every need. We were also spoilt with a complimentary glass of wine. The final day was very exciting for all of those golfers who were on the leader board.

Lady Captain Therese's beautiful and envied prize of a string of pearls with a white gold and diamond clasp was won by Norma O'Mahony and congratulations and good wishes were expressed to her by all the lady members of the Club. The runner up was Pat Slowey and third was Mary Gray Fitzpatrick. There were many other prize winners who were all very fortunate to receive an array of beautiful prizes from the Grace Kelly Collection in the Newbridge jewellery and their photos are all set out on a separate page.

Many lady Members enjoyed the Lady Captain's special night. It was wonderful to welcome old and new members alike and the smiles tell the tale.





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The Social Butterfly Contd.

Captain Michael Gray's competition took place on Sunday 23rd and Saturday 29th June. Sunday 27th started off dry but developed into a day with hurricane winds and thanks to all the younger members in the Club who helped as ball spotters on the day. The second day was warm with beautiful sunshine. Captain Michael gave a beautiful prize of a Silver salver with the Howth Crest and Captain's Prize 2013 engraved on it. The winner of this most coveted prize was Maurice (Mossie) Connolly. There were many other beautiful prizes such as a golf trolley, golf bags and an array of golf gear which were won by many deserved winners. The Captain's dinner also welcomes the ladies to join their men folk and they add an extra sparkle to these very special celebrations. An enjoyable night was had by all.





New Kids OnThe Block

This spring we ran a 6 Week Introduction to Golf Membership Program for ladies and we had a great response with 46 ladies signing up for the classes. We divided the group into two sections, with a group during the day and another group in the evening. All the ladies were put through their paces with coaching from Daragh Tighe and assisted by the lady members. Hot tips on putting and chipping filled the first two weeks as cold weather prevented us from using the practice ground and putting green.

With the evening lengthening and getting warmer, the practice ground was filled with lady wielding clubs and whoops of joy rung out as they got to grips with striking a golf ball. Our last night was an on course class with the lady's playing a few holes followed by a glass of wine. We are delight to say that we have 11 new lady member and more have expressed interest for next year.

So far this year, Howth Golf Club has welcomed 38 new members in total – 13 ladies; 13 men; 2 students and 10 juniors. Additionally we have 10 new Junior Applicants for membership after the successful introductory program and several inquiries for our 18 month membership offer.

We would like to officially welcome our new lady and gents members: Ann Marie Sheehan, Barbara McMullen, Geraldine McGuire, Catherine Tattersall, Dawn Shine, Alice Kissane, Julie Cassidy, Lesley Phelan, Sandra O'Brien, Trish O'Connell, Kitty Walsh, Margaret O'Donnell, Sile Chuinneagain, Nicholas O'Dwyer, Alan Maher, Gerard Mellinn, Darragh Mulligan, Barry Blake, Brian Conroy, Neil Furlong, David Smeed, Anthony Dunne, Eamonn Walsh, Gerry Pigott, Ruairé Allen and Stephen Kennedy. Best of luck to you all and we look forward to seeing you on the tee!







Young Guns

Jan Ives & Rob Herssens

Congratulations to Laura Doherty for making the European Girls Team Championship which will take place in Sweden from 9th to 13th July. This is a fantastic achievement and fully deserved. Laura has played in the Irish Girls U18, Scottish Ladies open Stroke Play, Hermitage Scratch Cup, Irish Women's Stroke Play and Irish Women's Close championship to name a few competitions plus winning the Leinster Ladies Alliance Match play.

During June we ran an introduction to golf for juniors. We had 25 very enthusiastic youngsters being taught the basics of golf from Darragh and a number of club volunteers. Ten of these juniors have already applied for membership which is great. We will be running some more coaching sessions and mini competitions for them during the summer once Open Week is over. Our existing younger junior girls continue to be very keen and with some new members I am sure it will help them play more and get their handicaps soon.





Young Guns Cont'd...

The Junior Tuesday competitions have started and to date the turnout on Tuesday mornings has been poor - approximately ten juniors playing each Tuesday through June. Hopefully these numbers will increase through July & August.

We were unsuccessful in qualifying for The Irish Junior Boys Foursomes at Balbriggan Golf Club. Now that the Fingal Leagues is underway on a weekly basis hopefully we will do well, especially as Howth Golf Club is hosting it on Tuesday 6th August. There will be sixty four juniors from sixteen clubs participating on the day.

May I take this opportunity to thank Errol Golding for organising the juniors to ball spot for both days of the Captains Prize, as well as playing an essential role in Junior Golf.

Also a big Thank You to John McGuirk who did two one hour sessions with seven of the under 18 team, great to see you back on the practice range with The Juniors John!

Congratulations to Tom Crinion (age of 10), who played his first qualifying competition and won with a score of 42 points, and lost 3 shots from his handicap!

We would like to encourage all of our juniors to become more involved in the competitions and coaching at Howth Golf Club.





Council Matters

Ciaran Mulhall, Chairperson

As we pass the Mid Year we thought it would be informative to brief Members on developments in our Club and advise on some of the issues the Council is currently dealing with:

Membership

This year will see a small decline in overall numbers and a continuation of the movement within the membership to Senior and Leave of Absence categories. We have had great success with our Six Week Introductory Programme for Lady Members which attracted 11 new members. Great credit is due to Brenda Flynn, her team of Lady Member helpers and Darragh for their sterling work which produced such an excellent result in difficult market conditions. An Introduction to Golf Membership for Juniors took place in June and attracted 30 participants and so far, we have 10 new junior applications for membership. Other programmes have been initiated or are in the pipeline targeting husband/wife membership and the twenty year old cohort. An 18 Month Membership is also on offer and there have been many inquiries to date.

Finance

We continue to be in a strong Balance Sheet position with a good cash reserve and only a small bank loan. On the operating side we expect to come in close to the budget target set at the 2012 AGM due to better than expected miscellaneous revenue and tight cost control.

Course

A very difficult start to the year with constant East winds and no growth made for trying conditions. More normal weather has returned and the course has recovered and is now in good shape. A Short Course has an outline design and implementation is scheduled for later in the year. The practice area is under review to develop improvements. We will advise more on this later. Tee box upgrading will restart after the main playing season. Extra staff have been assigned on the weekends to improve course presentation for competitions. Finally, a new Course Development Plan is in the early stages of formulation and Members are invited to submit ideas to the Greens Committee,

Catering

Our Franchisees --Stephen and Ellen Fee have had to resign due to health reasons. We wish them well. So far we have not found a replacement. In the interim we have taken the Bar and Catering functions back in-house. This has been successful because of a huge effort by Darragh, the bar staff and our administration staff with the added accounting burden.

We continue to search for a franchisee as this our preferred option.

House

The new windows for the Carrickbrack and Shielmartin rooms will be installed after the playing season. Issues with the roof made an earlier date unworkable as it would have been too disruptive in the height of our year. Other windows around the side of the building will be replaced as normal repair/ refurbishment. Upgrading of the showers will take place after the main playing season. There is a demand for full lockers and a number of unused half -lockers will be modified to accommodate this. They will be offered on a seniority basis.



Council Matters Cont'd....

Boundaries

Increasing walking activity on the Hill of Howth has brought great numbers across our course, .not all of whom obey the signs and many wander up the 17th, along the side of the 16th and enter from the back of the 6th tee box. The safe passage of traffic across the designated right of way is another issue. We are in consultation with Fingal County Council to develop a joint approach to some of these problems. Improved signage, stiles and fencing will be required. These are costly and we hope to get the County Council to bear some of it.

Centenary

We have a subcommittee developing plans for 2016. We will report on this later in the year.

Development Plan

A key task for the Council is to bring forward a plan with a three to five year horizon. This is in progress and a first draft for Members review will be produced by year end.

We currently have the following outline:

Course

- Implement the Short Course
- Agree a Course Development Plan with a completion schedule
- Upgrade our Practice Facilities
- Bring our Green keeping Standards to best practice

Membership

- Continue an innovative marketing strategy
- Structure both Golf Clubs to have programmes to retain Members
- Develop a long term programme for Juniors

House

- Upgrade the environmental control in the Carrickbrack Room
- Upgrade the Visitors Ladies Toilet
- Review the office layout and location to provide a better working arrangement
- Improve the decor of our entrance and upgrade carpets and curtains in the main rooms

Organisation

Council - review its operation and adjust as required.

Catering /bar - Franchise if possible, if not provide appropriate management resources to handle it in house.

Professional - Our present arrangement with John McGuirk will happily continue, however we need to plan for a new arrangement for the future

Finance - These are not easy times and our Plan will reflect that by being prudent and timing each expenditure phase to match our resources. Borrowings will be avoided as will levies. We have a strong starting point and we may ring fence some miscellaneous revenue.

A cash flow projection will be a core element of the plan.



Results Round-Up

Ladies Section

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Phillie McHenry Trophy | April 20, 2013 | Mary Goode |
| PGA Tankard | May 1, 2013 | Kate O'Neill |
| Eileen Monaghan Trophy | May 15, 2013 | Brenda Flynn & Barbara McMullen |
| Lady Captain's Prize | June 9 & 16, 2012 | Winner: Norma O'Mahony |

Runner-Up: Pat Slowey

Gross: Mary Goode



Mary Goode winner of the Phillie McHenry Trophy



**Brenda Flynn & Barbara McMullen
Winners of the Eileen Monaghan Trophy**



Kate O'Neil Winner of the PGA Tankard



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Men's Section

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| St. Fintan's Cup | April 27 & 28, 2013 | Ken Williams |
| Tom Nicoll Trophy | April 20, 2013 | Peter Faherty |
| PGA Tankard | May 13, 2013 | Damien Reville |
| Michael McMahon Trophy | May 18, 2013 | Ray O'Hanlon |
| President's Cup | June 16, 2013 | Ken Williams |
| Captain's Prize | June 23 & 29, 2013 | Winner: Maurice Connolly Runner-Up: Niall Carberry Gross: Gerry Barry |

Mixed

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Ivy Hadden Mixed Foursomes | June 1, 2013 | David & Ann Coleman |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|

Teams

As we go to press, the Irish Mixed Foursomes Team, ably managed by Breda Mullally and Bernard Byrne, are due to meet Beaverstown on Saturday July 13th in the Leinster quarterfinals. Good luck to the team!!

Howth Golf Club

2013/2014 Membership Offer

18 Month Membership Offer July 2013 - December 2014

**For Full Details on this Fantastic 7 Day Membership Offer
contact Darragh Tighe, General Manager
on 01 832 3055 or email gm@howthgolfclub.ie
(Terms and conditions apply)**

**Special Offer Price for a "Limited Period Only".
We have a number of payment plan options available**



Out And About the House

A very big thank you is extended to Stephen, Ellen and all the catering staff for the catering they have carried out in the Club over the last number of years. We wish them well in the future and our thoughts are with Stephen, Ellen and the family. The search for a replacement caterer for Stephen Fee Catering continues without success to-date. The Club have taken on a part time chef on a 3 month contract. Additionally we have taken on new bar staff whom we welcome and who are giving a good and friendly service to all the members.

The catering for both the Lady Captain's Prize Day and the Captain's Prize Day were carried out by a company called Kyles Catering who served excellent meals for these two very important events in the Club.

New rails for the golf shoes have been installed under the lockers in the Ladies locker room and this is to enable easy maintenance of the floors.

With the 100 year celebrations taking place in 2016 the House Committee is carrying out a review of all aspects of the Club. The first of these is the windows which are expected to be installed in September.

In And Around The Greens

Since the last edition of Tee times many small but important drainage works have been completed -- 2nd fairway/rough; 13th fairway; side of the 15th green, and front/side of 17th green. The real benefit of these works will be apparent next winter. In addition the deep cutting at the front of the 11th tee has been reconfigured and made safe.

Work on our new hardstand area is now completed and the six bays created will be used to store and organise materials more efficiently as follows: Divot mix, Sand, Pebble, Greenwaste, Usable materials (pipes, sleepers etc), and General Waste.

It is important that our course staff have the best available machinery and the club continues to provide funds for this purpose -- recently a new sanding machine was purchased and delivery is expected shortly of a new greens mower.

There were some issues regarding the quality of our greens in late April /early May but in recent weeks both the roll and speed of the greens have improved greatly and course staff hope to provide weekly stimpometer readings on Fridays, which will be posted on the course information board for the duration of the summer.

To complement the efforts of the course staff members are asked to help in the following areas:

1. Return all DIVOT bags now languishing in the boots of cars!
2. Bring a divot bag with you and use it especially on your designated hole.
3. Replace and respect all ropes and poles which are in position to prevent wear at particular locations.
4. Use the divot mix provided at the par 3 holes to dress damaged tees.
5. Take care when removing and replacing flagsticks/pins so as not to damage the hole.

Finally the Greens committee wish to draw up a strategic plan reflecting how members would wish to see the course developed over the next 3-5 years. Members who have suggestions are asked to forward them in writing to the Greens Committee before the end of July.

Gerry Barry, Greens Convenor