



Howth Golf Club

Tee Times

September Edition 2014



The Club Championships



The Captains' Corner

We have just experienced the most wonderful Indian summer, and the course has never looked better. It has been an extraordinary season, and it is with a little trepidation that we look forward to autumn, and our turkeys, hampers etc.

I was so excited when my friend **Roger Cleveland** accepted my invitation to come and give a clinic for the members of H.G.C. on Wed 23rd July. He arrived to a beautiful blue sky and a wonderful Howth welcome from the members. He spent over two hours discussing the short game and swing concepts, and then moved on to bunker play. Darragh, and Darren and his staff worked very hard to have the practice area in immaculate condition.



Thank you all for making this a very memorable occasion.

The Captains' Charity once again was a great success. This was played on the 22nd and 23rd of August in beautiful sunshine. The recipient this year was LauraLynn Charity, Irelands only Children's Hospice. We thank everybody for there unbelievable support, both on the Corporate Day and the Members Day. Through your generosity we are in the happy position to be able to present LauraLynn with a cheque for Twenty Five Thousand Euro.

A very sincere thank you to the amazing organizing committee, to all who helped promote this event, sold raffle tickets, and those who provided help and assistance to us on both days..

Marriage is still alive and healthy in H.G.C. with 46 couples playing in the Husband and Wife, and Ninety Nine dining that evening, a great time was had by all. Congratulations to Paul and Felima O'Callaghan being the worthy winners of the Trophy, and on presentation of the trophy, they discovered they had 1st won it previously! There were many prize winners on the night, and we all enjoyed a wonderful meal served by Kyle Catering. A Big Thank you to Darina and Bernard Mc.Guirk for organising such an excellent Day/Night for us all.

Ladies, continued best wishes to you all, may you continue to enjoy your golf, and friendship, with some nice autumn sunshine through our Round Robin, and Winter League Season.

No Sun will out live its sunset, but will rise to see the dawn.

Breda Swan
Lady Captain



The Captains' Corner

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A sincere thanks to our course convenor Gerry Barry, his committee and especially the staff for presenting the course in excellent condition. Not forgetting Mary Moore who maintains the entrance and front grounds to a very high standard.

On the inter-club competitions, we thank all the Managers and players for the time and effort they put into preparing and representing our Club. So many of our matches went to the 18th and in many cases beyond. Hopefully 2015 will bring a long overdue pennant or two.

My prize to the ladies and the Lady Captain's prize to the men was postponed due to fog and instead held on 16th August. Frank McKenna won Lady Captain Breda's, and mine was won by an emotional and very elegant Marie McCarthy. As we go to press the dedicated Charity Committee under the Chairmanship of Sean O'Sullivan is finalising its affairs and a substantial contribution will be presented to LauraLynn in early October.

A special thanks to Barry Hall, who applied his endless energy to our fundraising. We wish his son Eoin continued improvement, and hope he will be home soon.

For the rest of the season let the turkeys be wary, Howth golfers are preparing the stuffing already.

Mile Buiocheas do gach duine.



Marie McCarthy wearing the beautiful necklace presented by Captain Muiris as his prize to the ladies



Roger Cleveland At Howth Golf Club





Tee Times

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Scenes from the Captain's Charity Days





The Social Butterfly

The Summer of 2014 has been a couple of months of mainly sunshine and warmth, interspersed with showers and heavy rains which on a couple of occasions caused the course to be closed. However overall members will remember our summer as warm and sunny, with an Indian summer in September when golfing during the winter months.

Open Week started on Sunday 8th July and beautiful weather was enjoyed on Monday 9th July which was the Ladies Open Team of Four Competition. The second ladies competition held on Wednesday 11th July was also another beautiful day and this year was sponsored by Country Market. Everyone was spoilt with homemade lemonade and sumptuous brownies between the 10th and 11th holes and if you were lucky you also got some samplings between the 8th and the 9th!! A thank you to Country Market for sponsoring this event.

The Mens' competitions on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday were all held with beautiful weather conditions. A mixed competition took place on Saturday and a Team of Four event closed the Open Week on Sunday 15th July. A thank you must go to all our sponsors during our Open Week, their generosity is very much appreciated.

On Wednesday 23rd July a very exciting event took place. The Club members were treated to an exhibition of a Short Game Clinic by the renowned Roger Cleveland who gives instruction to prestigious and world class golfers such as Phil Mickleson. Howth Golf Club members felt very privileged to have him in our midst.

The next major competition on the calendar was the Captain's prizes to the Ladies and Gents. This competition was planned to be held in July but due to early morning fog and a lot of cancellations on the timesheet the competition was called off and rescheduled for Saturday 16th August. The timesheet was heavily booked by both ladies and gents. A beautiful white gold necklace from Applebys was Captain Muiris's prize to the Ladies and a beautiful case of a dozen bottles of wine was Captain Breda's prize to the Gentlemen. These beautiful prizes were won by Marie McCarthy and Frank McKenna and the prizes were presented at a dinner in the Club on the evening of the 16th. There were also many beautiful runner up prizes for both the ladies and the gentlemen. A very big thank you to our Captain Muiris and Lady Captain Breda for giving us the very special day.

The Captains' Corporate Charity Day was held on Friday 22nd August and the Captains' Members Charity Day was on Saturday 23rd August. Both days were very well supported and the Charity nominated this year was LauraLynn Hospice, the only Children's Hospice care in Ireland. It was said that approx €25,000 was raised by the Club over the two days so the members and their guests should be very proud of their generous support to this very worthwhile Charity.

The Husband and Wife Competition was held on Saturday 30th August. A most enjoyable day was had by all who took part. The evening meal by Kyle Catering was excellent. This was followed by the presentation of prizes.



The Husband And Wife Competition



Winners of the Husband and Wife Trophy, Paul and Filema O'Callaghan (37pts) pictured with Darina McGuirk (organiser), Lady Captain Breda and Captain Muiris





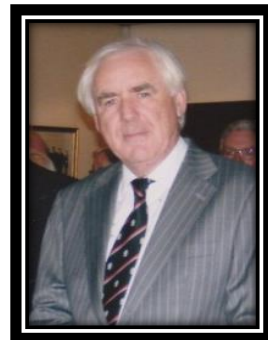
The Social Butterfly Continued

Our prizewinners were Paul and Felima O'Callaghan who won the coveted Cup with 37 points. They also were the lucky winners in 2011. There were a number of runner up prizes and each couple received beautiful wine hampers. A big thank you must be extended to Darina and Bernard McGuirk for arranging such an excellent and enjoyable event, a lot of work went into it and it was very much appreciated by all the participants.

The next Golf and Social event will be the Final of the Friday Nighters and this will take place on Saturday 11th October followed with a presentation of prizes and dinner. Michael and Emer O'Hanlon who have organised the Friday nighters from April right through the Summer would love to see a big turnout for the Final and for the dinner. Our sincere thanks is extended to both of them for the work they put in for these most enjoyable social competitions and where many of our new members get the opportunity to get to know the more long standing members in the Club. Now that autumn is upon us Eileen and her Committee (and the ever supportive Des, Eileen's hubby) are putting together a schedule of social events for the dark evenings ahead. These will be advertised in the Clubhouse in due course.

In And Around The Greens

Hollow coring (often referred to as hollow tining or poll forking) was carried out during the week starting 11th September and we hope for good weather so recovery is within two to three weeks. It is difficult to pick the most suitable time for hollow coring -- greenkeepers would like to have the work done during August so that there would be quick recovery but this would seriously interfere with club competitions and matchplay finals. Leaving the work until mid September is not advisable as a few weeks poor weather at that time of year could mean up to a month before greens are back in good condition. We usually wait until matchplay finals are completed -- maybe these could be brought forward by a week for next year ?



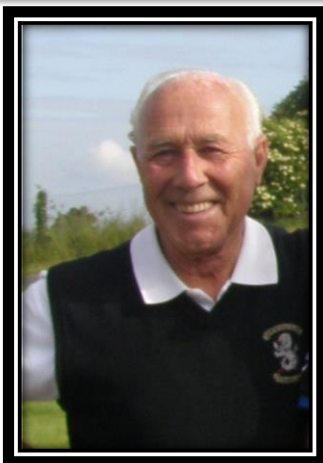
Hollow coring is essential if the organic matter content of the greens is at an undesirable level -- taking out cores and replacing with sand helps to get the balance right. A second overseeding with Creeping Bent (variety Penn 4) was also carried out after coring and sanding and in time will improve the quality of our greens.

The course stood up well to the deluge of rain during the second week of August but some damage was caused to bunkers and in particular the drain leading from the front of the 11th tee towards the 10th green. The Committee will examine our drainage system at this general location with a view to undertaking whatever remedial works are feasible.

COURSE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Greens Committee was pleased with the outcome of the recent SGM which approved works contained in motion 'A' and while motion 'B' was not passed, there was a satisfying level of support. We are now planning the phased implementation of motion 'A' works which comprise new plantings; new bunkers; new tees; fairway realignments, and ground works around the 'Tank'. The works will be scheduled so that there will be minimal disruption to play and members will be kept informed of progress. Much of the work can be undertaken by our own course staff, with input from specialist contractors such as irrigation and plant hire. I believe these are exciting times for the course and we should continue to improve on and prudently invest in our main core asset (the golf course !).

Gerry Barry, Course Convenor



In Conversation with ...

Thos (Thomas) O'Connor

I had the pleasure of catching up with Thos and listening to him as he recounted a wonderful summary of his life and times living in Howth. Thos was born on January 11th 1934 in St. Peter's Terrace (The Puzzle) and has spent most of his life living and working on the Howth Peninsula.

He left school at 14 and went to work with the Great Northern Railway out of its local depot in Howth. His first encounter with golf was as a caddy at age 13. On a Sunday morning he would catch the early morning 8am mass (which was over by 8:15 thanks to Fr. Henry), would run home for breakfast and be back out on the course by 9:30. Caddies would get 1 shilling and 3d for a round so if we were lucky we could earn up to 3-4 shillings a day (that's old money!!) – Thos shared this with his cousin Paddy O'Connor. Mostly though they would go out hunting for lost golf balls. To help supplement their catch, they would muddy the drains so if a golfers ball landed in it the chances of him finding it were pretty slim.....

In the year 1952, at the age of 18, two things happened. Firstly, Thos became a fisherman, just like the rest of his family, and stayed at it until 1964. To quote Thos "They had little or nothing, but it felt like they had everything, as they were reared on fish and blackberry jam..." At the same time he started playing golf as a member of the Artisans and stayed there until he left in 1982 when he was invited to join H.G.C. He had some great times within the Artisans, including winning the All Ireland Artisans Championship in 1973 at Woodbrook.

In August 1962 Thos got married to Margaret who is a living saint and was content to become a 'grass widow' in support of his golf exploits. To foster a more family environment Thos left the fishing industry and joined MacPhearson's paint factory where he stayed working until he was 69!! Mind you his work never got in the way of his passion for golf and this was reflected in his many successes on the course, including: 5x Club championships; Sid Bradshaw Trophy; 3x Foursomes Championship (once with Davy Byrne and twice with Bernard Dillon); 2x Phil McHenry Trophy (with Mairead Leahy who was his playing partner for 32 years); Runner up in Captains Prize 1982 & 2003; Four ball beaten finalists 2002/2003/2005.

Thos also represented H.G.C. in the following competitions: Barton Cup; Barton Shield; Junior Cup; Irish Mixed Foursomes; Joe B Carr Trophy; Tom Phelan Singles Trophy. Having played with a handicap as low as 3, Thos' current handicap is a very respectable 8!! In reflecting on the changes over the years it is clear that Thos preferred the old course layout. However he is quick to emphasise that the changes were needed to cope with the modern day game and golf equipment. To quote the youthful octogenarian – "Howth Golf Club is fabulous!!!"



Young Guns

The Junior boys had a good run in the Fingal League, to finish in the top half. We had a Junior Captains Prize on July 15th, won by Ciaran Kelly with a very good score of 40pts. The Captains Prize (Muiris Heron) to Juniors played on August 19th won by Jack Hughes with 41pts.

Parent & Child Competition was held August 15th was very well supported. Kevin Agnew & Robbie Hynes reached the Junior Matchplay final, with Robbie emerging victorious. Conor Collier reached the men's singles final, finishing runner-up, while were also in the men's fourball final, were John Smyth and Ciaran Kelly, also runner-ups.

Robbie Hynes Junior Captain's prize was won by Ciaran Kelly (10) with 40 points.

We are going to continue our coaching in Fingal Driving Range in early winter.

Mossy Connolly

Junior Convenor

Captain Muiris Prize to the Juniors

Congratulations to **Jack Hughes** (age 12), who won the Captain's Prize to the Juniors. Jack, playing off 23, won the prize with an impressive score of 41 points!

Jack joined HGC after participating in last year's 4 Week Introduction to Golf Junior Membership Program. He received his first handicap of 28 and has lost 5 shots this summer. Jack is a familiar presence on the putting green and already shows signs of emulating the winning ways of his Granddad Bernie Dillon!



Junior Girls

The wonderful summer has come to an end for the sixteen junior girls. Of these Breanne Flynn and Laura Doherty have finished school and have, or will shortly, move on to the next category of membership. Of the remaining fourteen, three of these girls joined as a result of completing Daragh's Introduction course in June which was a huge success. Daragh offered coaching throughout the summer months which mostly the younger age group availed of. This was again a great success and the young group learned a lot and had good fun. Sue Bamford continued her coaching throughout the summer and the six girls who availed of this really enjoyed it and improved greatly under her guidance. The attendance on Tuesday mornings (the official junior's slot) was low and those who attended were encouraged to play nine holes and obtain a handicap which is work-in-progress.

Thanks Daragh and the many other volunteers who helped make the Junior Girls Summer Programme a success.

Kate O'Neill,

Junior Girls Convenor



New Kids On The Block



A warm welcome to new member.

Nina Salveta

"I was recommended by friends and family to join the 6 Week Introduction to Golf that was being run by the Club and Daragh Tighe . I went for it, playing as much as I could within the six weeks before making the commitment to join as a member, Now as a member I try to play at least three 9 Hole's every week and I have seen a steady improvement in my golf. Even if I don't play well, the location and the view make it worthwhile.

I find the hardest bit is getting over the hump on the second hole and driving over the gorse on the 6th and 13th!

I have played with some of the senior member and although I can hit some of my drives further than them they seem to have the edge on me near the green's. Something's to work on."

Howth Golf Club welcomes the following new members who have joined since June:

7-Day: Paul O'Connor, Shona Leydon, Claire Cawley, Carl Hanratty, Ian Nash

5-Day: Brendan Doyle, Martin Murphy

Intermediate: Michael Chubb Jr., Ian Whittington, Niall McNamara, Mark Furlong, Daryl Rock, Mark Quill, Conor Barron, Paraic Kelly,

Juniors & Cadets: Sean Scannell, Gavin L'Estrange, Ben Foy, Lucy Collins, Ronan Fitzpatrick, Emma Cooling, Christina Burke, Jack Ryan

Overseas: Louise Ryan, John Ryan



Results Round-Up



Winner of Captain Muiris' Prize to the Ladies
Marie McCarthy (23) 39 pts



Winner of Lady Captain Breda's Prize to the Men
Frank McKenna (13) 40 pts L9



Club Matchplay Results



Felix McHenry Trophy (Mixed foursomes)

Winners: **Sibeal Cole & Karl Herssens**

Runner-Ups: **Anne O'Malley & Eddie Hyland**



Junior Boy's Singles

Winner: **Robbie Hynes**

Runner-Up: **Kevin Agnew**



Results Round-Up

Men's Club Championships Strokes

August 10, 2014

(Due to inclement weather, the competition was decided over one day)

Ben Edar Cup – Class 1 (0-12 handicap)

Winner: John Smyth - 74

Tom Joyce Trophy – Class 2- (13-17 H/C)

Winner: Doug Anderson -79 Paul

Noonan Trophy – Calss 3 (18+ H/C)

Winner: Noel Kennedy – 92

Des Rea O'Kelly Trophy

Men's Winner: Terence Reddy

Lady's Winner: Pat Slowey



Eileen Monahan Fourball Trophy

Winners: Mary Tynan & Kitty Walsh – 33 pts (L9)



Ladies Matchplay Results

Ladies' Cup - Singles

Winner: Mary Geraghty

Runner Up: Pat Slowey

John Mc Guirk Trophy – Foursomes

Winners: Carmel Walshe and Derval Magann

Runners Up: Louise Mahon and Anne Tyndall



Ladies' Fourball Trophy

Winners: Therese Gray and Niamh O'Keeffe

Runners Up: Barbara McMullan and Mary Lowe





Scenes from The Club Championships Prize Giving



Runner-ups of The Ladies
Four ball Match play,
Barbara McMullen & Mary Lowe



Runner-Ups of The John McGuirk,
Ladies Foursomes Match play,
Ann Tyndall & Louise Mahon



Runner-ups of the James Middleton
Fourball Matchplay
Ciaran Kelly & John Smyth



Runner-up of the Tom Phelan Singles
Match play
Conor Collier



Winners of the 2014 Ivy Hadden Mixed Foursomes Trophy, Sean O'Sullivan and Myra Keavney



Mens Matchplay Results



Tom Phelan Trophy- Singles

Winner: Martin Cleary

Runner-Up: Conor Collier

**Sid Bradshaw Shield
(Foursomes)**

**Winners: Paddy & Finntan
Archer**

**Runner-Ups: Ken Williams &
Paul Guinee**

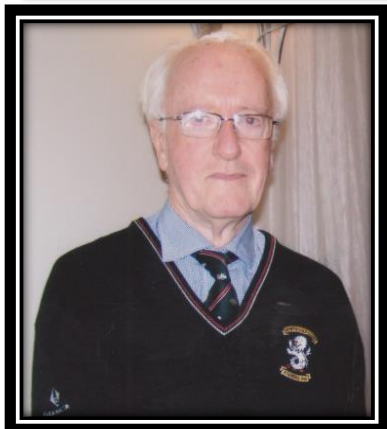


**James Middleton Trophy
(Fourball)**

**Winners: Aidan Hurley &
Damien Reville**

**Runner-ups: John Smyth &
Ciaran Kelly**





Council Matters

WE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL SGM WHEN 157 MEMBERS ATTENDED AND A LIVELY DEBATE TOOK PLACE ON ALL THE MOTIONS.

THE ENERGY CONSERVATION MOTION WAS PASSED AND WE ARE BUSY GETTING THE CONTRACTS PLACED AND THE PROGRAMME OF WORKS AGREED. THE MOST SERIOUS DISRUPTION WILL BE FROM THE 12TH OF OCT TO THE 18TH OF OCTOBER WHEN THE CARRICKBRACK ROOM WILL BE CLOSED. THERE WILL ALSO BE A SHUTDOWN OF THE HEATING SYSTEM FOR A PERIOD OF 2 DAYS TOWARDS THE END OF SEPTEMBER. THE FULL PROGRAMME OF WORKS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THE MEMBERS BEFORE ANY WORK COMMENCES.

GERRY BARRY MADE A VERY IMPRESSIVE PRESENTATION FOR THE COURSE WORKS AND THE MOTION RELATING TO THE SMALLER WORKS WAS PASSED.

COAST CATERING RESIGNED SOME WEEKS AGO AND KYLE CATERING HAVE TAKEN OVER FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF 8 WEEKS. THE MEMBERS APPEAR TO BE VERY PLEASED WITH THE FOOD AND SERVICE BUT THE OPERATION OF THE BAR AND BAR CATERING MAY BE A PROBLEM.

THE STAFF AND OUR ACCOUNTANTS ARE PREPARING THE RESULTS FOR THE 2013/14 ACCOUNTING YEAR

***Thanks to Alan Swan who provided
most of the photographs in this
issue of Tee Times***

