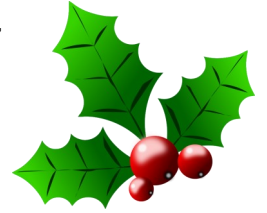




Oughterard Golf Club Newsletter Dec 2017

Note from Captain and Lady Captain



Dear Member,

WELCOME to our Club Newsletter.

Both Maria and I are delighted to be appointed your 2018 Ladies and Men's. We offer a big thank you to both Betty and Sean for inviting us to be their Vice-Captains in 2017. A big thank is also due to the outgoing Committee for their hard work and dedication during the year. A new committee is now in place with a good mix of experienced members and some who are new to committee work but all are firm in their commitment to the Club and the work that lies ahead.

Financial Situation - present

2017 was a difficult year financially for the Club with an increased loss (44%) over that recorded in 2016. Clearly, losses at this level are not sustainable. Consequently, a Finance Strategy Sub-Committee has now been set up with a mandate to draft a finance strategy document for the next 5 years. We have an immediate short term requirement to upgrade our fairways and our rough-cutting machines. We need to extend the playability of the course over the winter months by introducing a properly financed sanding and drainage programme. The Bar and Restaurant will continue to be a challenge with little prospect of it contributing to our cash flows. In addition, our legacy debt needs to be addressed.

Financial Situation - future

On the positive side, we have a wonderful membership base with everyone interested in seeing the Club get back on a firm financial footing. This can be achieved but it will involve the co-operation, goodwill and understanding of every member. Tough decisions will have to be made. Additional funds will have to be raised to not only fund our Capex expenditure but also our inevitable cash flow shortfall during the years ahead. Our Finance Sub-Committee will present its report at an EGM to be held before the end of February, 2018 at which the membership will have the opportunity to approve or disapprove the Plan.

Sports Grant – successful application

In early 2017, a small sub-committee was set up to apply for a Grant from the Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport under its Sports Capital Programme. Although the Club was not successful in its previous application, we are pleased to report that Oughterard Golf Club has been approved for €35,500. We expect to receive the exact terms of drawdown from the Department in the near future and will keep you posted with our progress.

New Position – Communications Officer

Barbara Buckley has been appointed to the newly established position of "**Communications Officer**". It is envisaged that her post will include the production of a regular Newsletter, the establishment of a Club Register, the organisation of Club Archives and an update of the Club website. Some of her work eg Club Information Presentation, Slow Play Presentation, Photo Presentation of both Captains' and President's Days, 2017 and last week's Photo presentation of Santa's Visit to the Club has been on display on the TV at the base of the stairs. On behalf of all members, I would like to thank Barbara for her dedication and unselfish service to the Club both as President and Honorary Secretary over the past years. Both Maria and I wish her well in her new role.

**Yours in Golf,
Richard Joyce
Captain 2018**

**Maria O'Donnell
Lady Captain 2018**



COMMITTEE 2018

Captain: Richard Joyce **Lady Captain:** Maria O'Donnell
President: Freda White **Vice President:** Michael Lee
Vice Capt: Tony O'Donnell **Lady Vice Capt:** Debbie Ann Leonard
Hon. Treas: Chris Duggan **Hon Sec:** Niall Malone



Committee:

Barbara Buckley, Richie Lee, Tom O'Reilly, Jones Ferriss,
Jim Greene and Dominic Ó Moráin

**The Club Committee wish all our members and Staff a very
Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year .**

Members Survey

The Club Committee would like to thank the members who filled out our recent Membership survey. 50% of the eligible membership completed and returned the surveys which goes to show the interest of our members in our club. The information garnered is a valuable tool for future developments and when summarised, the committee will inform you of the main suggestions put forward. Initially, the most common and surprising subject related to Social Golf. The new Diary (available after Christmas) will show this suggestion has been taken on board.

Club Office Hours over the Christmas Break

The following are the Opening Times for the Club Office from Dec 23rd to Jan 8th

Open: Sat 23rd Dec 9.00—13.00

Closed: Mon 25th, Tues.26th.

Open: Weds 27th, Thurs 28th, Fri 29th, Sat 30th (Hours 10.00—15.00 hrs)

Closed: Mon 1st Jan, Sat 6th Jan.

ProShop Hours over the Christmas Break

Our Pro, Derek McNamara will be closing the Pro-Shop on **Sunday 24th Dec at 12.00** as there is not a formal Men's Competition on that day. The Winter League will take place if the course is open. The Pro Shop will be Open again as usual on St Stephen's Day.

Clubhouse Hours over the Christmas Break

A Table of the various times at which the Bar and Restaurant will be open for your valued custom, will be posted in the Clubhouse and on our Website his week.



Nollaig Shona agus Aithbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh