

June 2018 Club Newsletter

Welcome to our June newsletter. It's great to be playing golf on a beautiful dry course on long, hot summer days that could rival any continental golf resort. The sanding program carried out in April is certainly paying off with both grass growth and a run on the ball the course, the best we have seen it for many years with both visitors and members singing its praises. Well done to all involved.

Teams

Our Ladies' teams have played in the Mary McKenna Cup, the Minor Cup, the Challenge Cup and the Revive Active 4 ball. The Intermediate Cup Ladies have had great success so far beating Galway, Ballinasloe and Athenry en route to the Connacht Semi-finals versus Co. Sligo (Rosse's Point) in Castlebar on Sunday 22nd July. Best of luck to all the team and Team Captain Máire Ní Mháille.

The Men have fielded teams in the Pierce Purcell, THE Barton Shield, the Jimmy Bruen, the All Ireland 4 ball, the Over 55s and the JB Carr. They still have the Jack O'Sullivan, the Senior and Junior Cups and the Connacht Shield to play.

The Club mixed team under the captancy of Jerry Gore and Margaret O'Neill have had three great wins so far, ie Galway Bay, Connemara and Athenry. They are due to play the Provincial Semi-final versus Westport in Claremorris on Friday 20th July with the Final the following day - 21st July.

We encourage as many of you as possible to support our teams – the Intermediate Ladies and the Club Mixed team and your presence in Castlebar and Claremorris would give them a great boost.

Juniors

Tom McDonagh, Monique Bolger and their junior conveners are extremely busy with over 75 juniors signed up for coaching with Derek. The response this year has been fantastic and this means that we are always looking for help in the organization of the coaching sessions. So if anyone has a free Saturday and would like to help, please give Tom, Monique or Derek a call - they would love to hear from you. There are now 90 junior members (18 new boys and 7 new girls) on our books

Club Ambassadors & New Fairway Mower

On Tues 12 June, the keys to the new and long awaited Toro mower were handed over to Mike Darcy, the head Greenkeeper by Brendan Barrett of Reesink Turf Care in a presentation at the Club. Part of the funding for this mower was received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Sports Council Grant under the 2017 applications scheme while the Club fund-raised the balance through running the 2018 Am-Am, setting up a Monthly Draw and various other events.

Our new Club ambassadors, Damien Brown and Kevin Walsh were present as their first official engagement. While helping to promote our club they will also be involved with our Juniors and will visit the local schools to attract more juniors into the sport. Derek has asked Damien to help

coach out team players in the mental aspect of the sport which is often the difference between winning and losing.



Getting into Golf

Some years back, the ILGU set up a system called Women in Golf to encourage women to take up the game. The Confederation of Golf in Ireland renamed this programme “Getting into Golf” and spread it to juniors and men. Oughterard Ladies Club has successfully run this programme over a number of years and already this year 11 of the 19 women who attended the course, have proceeded to join a programme for the rest of the season.

New Members

So far this year we have welcomed 36 new members to whom we say a very warm welcome. It is not easy to join a golf club and know how to go about getting involved in the club, meeting members, how to book tee times, getting a handicap etc. If you are a new member, please contact the Pro Shop who will put you in touch with our new members officer Mr. Jones Ferris.

Fundraising and 2018 Am Am

Firstly, let us say a very big thank you to Jones Ferris and his fundraising committee for the huge effort they put into organizing both this year’s Am Am and the club draw. The Am Am was played over four days 21st to 24th June. 69 teams participated which was a fantastic turnout. Over €5,000 was raised in sponsorship in total the club expects to raise €10,000 from this event which is an important contributor to club finances.

Overall Winners of the Am-Am:

1ST PLACE

B.LYDON, C.LYDON, P O'KENNEDY, K.DIXON **104PTS(55B9)**

2ND PLACE

S.CONCANNON, K.COONEY, T.MULLINS, A O' BRIEN **104PTS(50B9)**

3RD PLACE

R.HYNES, R.SAVAGE, D O'MORAN, M.MCMANAMAN **104PTS(48B9)**

SENIORS

M.LEE(B), K.LEE, PJ O' DONNELL, T.STAUNTON **98PTS**

LADIES

M.WALSH, M NI MHAILLE, S.COEN, P.KAVANAGH **87PTS**

The **monthly club draw** (also organized by Jones Ferriss) attracted 86 entries last month which was good for a first attempt but leaves lots of room for improvement. Based on feedback received the prizes are to be amended as follows 1st Prize 500 2nd prize 250 3rd, 4th and 5th €100 each. We would encourage as many members as possible to enter this draw. It is only 20 euro per month. You can sign up for a direct debit, a standing order or put your name and money in an envelope in the boxes located in the bar and Pro shop. As always: if you are not in you can't win.

Winners in May: 1st Vice Capt: Tom O'Donnell and 2nd: Ciaran Heaney (Michael's grand-son)

Course

The new rough mower is already beginning to make a difference with the rough becoming more playable. Mike Jnr is working to his plan and we are looking at introducing semi rough which will make the course more playable. Tee and pin positions have been discussed at length recently and the Captain met with the course convenors and our head greenkeeper to discuss this matter. This is under review but the weather conditions on the day have to be a factor when setting up the course.

President's Prizes

President Freda White's Prize to the ladies was played on Wednesday 20th June and her Prize to the Men on 23rd June. The weather conditions for both events was glorious and we all hope that Freda, her husband Past-Captain Tom, her daughter Fiona, son-in-law Simon and their two boys and son Conor all enjoyed the day followed by a great dinner and entertainment/dance in the evening time.

The winner of the Ladies President's Prize was Margaret O'Neill and the Men's Prize was won by David Healy. Congratulations to all involved.



Catering

Aidan and his staff are very busy and takings in the bar have improved as a result of the improved footfall. While the carpet in the restaurant is worn and is in need of replacement, the committee is very conscious of the need to control costs. But we also must balance that against our need to support our new caterer and not to have a sub-standard club house. Nobody wants to see a return to the days of employing chefs and floor staff so the matter is currently under review.

Both the Lady Captain and Captain look forward to seeing you on the course and in the club house

Yours in golf,

Richard Joyce
Maria O 'Donnell

Captain
Lady Captain

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