

July August Newsletter 2018

As the season of mists and fruitful mellowness approaches rapidly, we can look back at the wonderful summer weather that brought lots of our members out onto the fairways of Oughterard Golf Club. Our Course Manager reports that we had 21 days of sunshine in June and 17 days in July. Although some fairways and some tee-boxes suffered due to the drought, the return to our more usual rainfall has resulted in the greening-up of the course. The fairways have been described as “carpet-like” by both members and visitors alike. The clubhouse was given a major boost in the very welcome donation by a member of a new carpet for the Restaurant area.

Lady Captain's Day

Lady Captain, Maria O'Donnell hosted her Captain's Day on 7th July. The weather was magnificent and course was presented in excellent condition. We hope Lady Captain Maria and her family, many of whom had travelled long distances enjoyed the day and the night's proceedings. The Competition was won by Jackie Gibney (67) with Junior, Ali Mc Donagh (65) coming second and Máire Ní Mháille taking Gross (85).



Jackie Gibney (1st O/A) with LC Maria



Ali Mc Donagh (2nd) with LC Maria

Captains' Prizes to the Young Juniors



Captain's Day

Following 3 exciting days of Golf, Peter Naughton was declared winner of the Captain's Prize, 2018. His popularity as a winner was expressed in the warm and hearty applause he received from all present. Ist Gross winner of the day was junior Ronan Hynes. Congratulations to all the prizewinners in the Captain's Prize and also to Ita Greene, who won the Captain's Prize to the Ladies.

Captain Richard has asked that his Captain's Diner speech prior to the presentation be included in the newsletter. Having addressed all officers, past and present he spoke as follows:

"Firstly I want to thank each and everyone of you for being here this evening to help celebrate my Captains day, we had 184 play in the qualifiers last week with the best 108 scores going forward to this mornings session followed by the top 27 best net scores going forward to a final nine holes the leaders going out last and grouped together, the winner of the Captains prize certainly earns it and I congratulate him on a fantastic win.

When I was first approached by Sean Rankin to be his Vice Captain I did what I had done on previous occasions when I was asked to be captain and that was outline some of the conditions under which I would consider the role.

- 1. Full open and honest engagement with the members*
- 2. The course to be the priority*
- 3. Stabilisation of club finances*
- 4. Three year strategic plan.*
- 5. Hand pick my committee*

Sean agreed with all of these suggestions and in short I agreed to be his Vice Captain.

The role of captain at Oughterard Golf Club is both challenging and at times complex I will be honest and say that there were times when I wondered what possessed me to take on this role but then I would remember back to the people that went before me - those that had the vision and the foresight to establish a golf course in Oughterard in the face of both adversity and opposition and in particular I remember the late Frank Kyne, one of the original investors, a past Captain and President but most of all, a man who gave his life to this club. Therefore, I would like to acknowledge the presence of his wife Mary here this evening.

I also felt I could help. Rural clubs such as ours have all struggled in recent years not only with legacy debt but also with declining member numbers. That said, it was never an option to do nothing. I always knew that this club had a fantastic group of members who genuinely care about the club and will, when asked, help in any way they can. We now have within our existing members, a group of people who are committed to both legacy and success of the club. I have high hopes for the future.

Several people here this evening have stood where I now stand either as Captain, Lady Captain or President: each of you gave of your time and energies unselfishly acting always in the best interests of the club I want this evening to publicly acknowledge and extend my gratitude for your past services and wish you well for the future.

As I near the end of my Captaincy I would like to feel that the club is in a slightly better place than it was at the start of my Captaincy. Hopefully I have gone some ways towards achieving my original wish list. There is still a lot of work to do with perhaps closer examination required as to the current management structures of the club. I have no doubt that the incoming committee will look at this in more detail and act in the best interests of the club.

I would to thank most sincerely all the members of the management committee for your support and willingness to work hard on behalf of the club and in particular I would like to thank Lady Captain

Maria O Donnell for her support and "can do" attitude. Nothing was a problem for Maria. Thank you, Maria. President Freda for her calming influence around the committee table and her work on marketing. It is great to see Tom out and about and I wish Tom continued good health. Special mention needs to go to Niall Malone for taking on the dual role of both Hon Secretary and Treasurer one role is challenging in its own right but two sounds impossible. Thanks Niall. Jones Ferris for all his hard work with club fundraising. He is doing such a good job he may not have time to be Captain in the future. Thanks Jones. Tom O'Reilly and Richie Lee for their excellent work both on committee and out on the course. The course has never looked and played as well as it has this year due in a large part to the work of Tom Richie and the course staff.. The expert advice Richie gave in relation to the sand and the deal negotiated by both of them on our new mower are major contributors to our present course conditions. Thanks Lads.

Barbara Buckley for all her hard work in a new role of communications particularly for all her work on the club website and the onerous task of putting some order on the club archives. Dominic O Morain and Jim Green for all their help with finance, marketing, restaurant and bar affairs: Debbie Ann for her work in the bar and for her support on committee: Michael Lee teacher for his uncompromising and unselfish commitment to this club as Vice President, management committee member and as Secretary of the men's club. I can say without fear of contradiction that this club would not function as efficiently as it does without the work that Michael puts in. I wish him well as incoming President. To Derek McNamara for his excellent work as house convenor and for helping shoulder some of the burden associated with clubhouse affairs. Finally and by no means last my vice Captain Tony O Donnell, a big thank you for all your advice and wisdom and for your support during the year. You are going to be an amazing Captain and will I have no doubt, continue on the work that we both started together.

I would also like to thank both the Men's club and the Ladies club committee for running the golf during the year: for dealing with the sponsors, presentations, handicaps and teams - a huge task in itself all done behind the scenes for all our members and visitors to enjoy.

A big thank you to Mike Jnr and staff for managing our course to the standard we have today particularly in the recent drought conditions.

To Aidan and staff for both an excellent meal and service they did an amazing job. To Paraic and Lisa in the office Ann and Noel behind the bar and my old buddy, Julia for all the help and support during the year.

Special mention to my mother, Ann; my son David, his girlfriend Sinead, my mother's favourite 1st cousin Mike Fuller all the way from the Kingdom and his beautiful wife Mary; last but by no means least to my own long suffering wife Catherine, a huge thank you for all the evenings at home on your own for your support and I couldn't have done it without you.

Finally this is tremendous club: a club that has a very bright future with the continued support of our members and a willingness to engage with change and be forward thinking. This club will be here in the next 100 years, here for our grandchildren and great grand children to enjoy.

So there it is, Ladies & Gentlemen, it has been an honour for me to be your Captain I thank all present and all those who cannot be here tonight for their kind wishes, the Captaincy has given me an opportunity to get to know lots of people that I didn't know before, make new friends, frustrate some old ones and for that I am most grateful.

Captain Richard Joyce 2018



Ita Greene, winner of Capt's Prize to Ladies



Captain Richard with his wife, Catherine



Captain Richard enjoying Peter Naughton's Prizewinner's acceptance speech

InterClub Team Competitions

Mixed Foursomes:

The already three-time winning team played against Westport in the Irish Mixed Foursomes, Connacht Semi Final in Claremorris on Friday 20th July. Unfortunately they lost to Westport who were beaten by Portumna in the Final on the following day. Well done to all the team under the Captaincy of Jerry Gore and Margaret O'Neill. So close but yet so far!

Ladies Intermediate Team

The Ladies Intermediate Team played Co. Sligo GC in the Connacht Semi-Final in Castlebar on Sun 22nd July. They were victorious and had a 3-2 win with Nora McDonagh going all

the way to the 23rd hole before a result was achieved. The Connacht Final versus Bearná was played in Roscommon on Sat 2nd September where the team, unfortunately suffered a 3-2 defeat with the final match once again going down the 23rd hole. Two matches went to the 18th while the other two went to the 19th and the 20th holes. Overall the team played great golf and Oughterard Club are proud of you. A big well done to the team of Martina Duggan, Sheila Coen, Nora McDonagh, Margaret O'Neill, Catherine Hosty, Laura Gore and Barbara Richardson with Máire Ní Mháille as Team Captain.

Burren Ladies Team

The Burren Ladies team have played in 2 rounds (Dunmore and Glenlo Abbey) of this competition and regrettably were not successful in getting through to the next round. Well done and maybe next year will bring more rewards.

Men's Competitions

Unfortunately, the summer of '18 has not been a sizzling summer match-wise for the Men's teams: Oughterard Lost out to Roscommon in early July; Gort beat Oughterard in the Jack O'Sullivan Cup on 19th July; Connemara Isles were winners in our match on 20th August. Thanks to all who played for the club in these events.

News from the Junior Club

"Coaching has continued throughout the Summer for all levels of Juniors. We are now finishing our 4th 5-week block of beginners' lessons and giving junior members the opportunity to play 6-hole competitions, accompanied by volunteers/parents.

In August they played in President's, Captains' and Professional's prizes to Juniors. These were a great success and you can see photos on our Facebook page.

Intermediate and senior girls and boys also continued with coaching and playing 12 or 18 holes competitions on Saturday afternoons. Some promising juniors, both girls and boys, featured in main adult competitions, losing shots on the way.

Overall we now have 93 junior members, including 29 new junior boys and 7 new junior girls. The junior camp at the end of August was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Derek is planning another junior camp for the Hallowe'en mid-term break, both for beginners and intermediate." (Report from Monique Bolger)

A big thank you to Monique Bolger, Maree Lundon, Shane Murphy and Tom McDonagh for the many hours spent looking after our Juniors almost every Saturday during the summer months. Their constant care and professional coaching by Derek and his team has shown great results and we hope their joint efforts will ensure the future of young people in our Club

Captain Richard and Lady Captain Maria thank all the ladies and men who freely give of the time to practice at home and away for all of the above competitions. These competitions are led by the unsung heroes of Team Captains who work hard at organising practices, team pairings and looking after the teams' meals and welfare.

Club Mixed Social Golf

The last round of his very enjoyable 12 hole competition was held yesterday (9th Sept). The winners of the Russell Cup were Una and Wally Russell – also sponsors of the competition. This competition is run (almost) every Sunday evening during June, July and August where the mixed pairings try to play with a different pairing each week. You are guaranteed good fun and this continues afterwards in the bar/restaurant upstairs.

Connacht Past Lady Captains

On Thursday 16th August ca 140 Past Lady Captains from the clubs of Connacht played their annual event in Oughterard. Although the day started out wet, the weather cleared in mid-morning allowing our visitors to experience the quality of our course, our clubhouse and our restaurant. Many stayed around for the prizegiving. Our own Barbara Richardson won the event scoring 38 points while Máire Ní Mháille won Gross with 26 Gross points. Well done Barbara and Máire and thank you to the organisers, many of whom spent the entire day running the show.

Holes in One

Mary Drumm (Westport GC) on the 13th on Past Lady Captains' Day.
Paraic Conroy on the 17th using a 5 wood

Monthly Course Development Draw

The Monthly Draw for the Course Development Fund is solely but surely gathering momentum. The August Winners were Micheál Ó Chonghaile, Debbie Ann Leonard and Laura Gore while the September draw was won by Michael Heane; second was Paraic Conroy and Noreen Hegarty was third. Jones Ferriss, the draw convener is pleased overall with venture but it is never too late to start contributing to this fund.

Photographs of Past Captains and Presidents

The committee are very aware and respectful of the contributions our past Captains and Presidents have made to our club. We are also aware that some past Captains and Presidents were upset at the removal of the photographs from the restaurant area. The committee regret any upset this may have caused. The photographs were removed to:-

1. Digitally scan the photographs to ensure their quality was maintained and archived in the club records for future generations
2. To improve the appearance of the entrance to our dining room in consultation with our new caterer.

The committee now propose to publish the photos on the club website and to repair damaged frames particularly on the older photos. All the original photos will then be re-hung in the old snooker room. This is a temporary measure until funds are found to pay for reducing the size of the photographs to head and shoulders to fit ten or so in a frame grouped by decades. These new photographs will then be re-hung in the bar area of the club House.

Forthcoming Event

Don't forget to purchase your tickets (€40 each) for the Club Gala night which will be held on 26th October. Enjoy the company of your friends in familiar surroundings with fine food, maybe some fine wines and be entertained by members of Moycullen Musical Society.

FYI

If any of you would like to get proofs of any of the photos as shown on the monitor in the entrance hallway or on our FB page, feel free to contact Barbara @ 0879171414