



# THE DELGANY DISPATCH

16TH FEBRUARY, 2022

## A glance into the future

Change is often difficult and challenging. We are conscious in writing this that, when change is in the air, any of us may over-react to it, jump to conclusions over it, dismiss it out of hand, rage and rail against it or even 'shoot the messenger' (or all of the above!). But here goes anyway!

As Captains for 2022, we believe that it is important for our Members to consider what this wonderful club might look like, and be, in three or five or even ten years hence. A key 'lens' for this, for example, would be Golf Ireland's guidance document on the future governance and management of golf clubs and its proposals on a 'One Club' structure. Another focus might be the place of Delgany GC within its growing community. Yet again we might look at the golf and social needs of a changing membership profile. More importantly, perhaps, it might be prudent to look at opportunities to develop our facilities. The only limitation on our future ambition is the extent of our vision for our club!

With that in mind, we have asked our Vice-Captains Betty and Tom to consider ways of collecting, in due course, the thoughts and opinions of the Members on a range of ideas about the future, including the Golf Ireland 'One Club' proposals on club governance. We also want them to pull together the various short- and medium-term plans of our various management sub-committees so that we can put shape on a club-wide development strategy.

Rome wasn't built in day and a future DGC certainly won't be! Our modest aim is to begin a process that, hopefully, will be developed over years to come. All we ask of you, our Members, is an open mind, a willingness to contribute your ideas and a constructive response when proposals come calling – as they surely will, but not tomorrow!

Many thanks for your attention.

Captains Pat & Ann.



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## Ladies Scramble report

### WE'RE BACK!!!

Last Tuesday, 8 February the ladies had a shot gun scramble on both 9's with lunch afterwards. Although we had a persistent mist throughout the morning it did not deter our ladies from playing golf. It was very enjoyable and thank you to the course staff for providing us with the full 18 holes. It was interesting to see the difference in winning scores for the front and back nine! The atmosphere was electric and it was so wonderful to see all our ladies together again.

Ellen O'Mahony and Captain Ann could not contain their excitement and burst into song!!

We had a buffet lunch, presented by Shane and Tony - it was the most

wonderful of fare. The food was spectacular and that together with a packed dining room lends itself to an electric atmosphere with lots of smiling faces. It was great to see that non-golfers came and joined us too for lunch. Many thanks to everybody involved in making this a complete success but special thanks must go to Ann Cafferky and her team who facilitated us with our cards pre-done, showing our shots and manually checked when completed. This was stress free for all competitors but took a lot of time and effort by Ann and her team to ensure this could happen.

I look forward to many more great occasions like this throughout the year. Lets make lots of memories!

Captain Ann

The winners for the day were :

Front 9 Winners Anna O'Loughlin, Eileen Bates, Tanya Beattie: 31

Front 9 Runner-up Dolores Hayes, Trish Caren, Maura Lernihan: 31.6

Back 9 Winners Mairead Coghlan, Teresa Thompson, Bernie Roberts: 34.9

Back 9 Runner-up Dee Mackay, Trish Wyse, Ruth Raymond 36.1





# Ladies Scramble Photos



## New Walking Group invitation .....

### *MOONLIGHT WALKING*



It's a marvellous night for a moon walk!!!!

A glass of wine and a chat can lead to exciting ideas. Captain Ann and Anna O'Loughlin have launched a walking group which currently will meet once a month for a moon-lit walk. All members are welcome, this is not just for Lady Members.

The inaugural walk will happen on Wednesday, 16 February, 2022 (Full Moon) commencing at 7.30 p.m.

**Weather permitting**, we will meet at the Wilton hotel at Southern Cross roundabout (Bray end). We will walk to the high point on Bray head to look out over Greystones and Bray.

It will take approximately 1.5 – 2 hours. If interested, please bring a torch, wet gear, hat, gloves and runners that can get dirty. A tiny beverage to heat everyone up at the top will be provided as it is the first walk. Being a member of a golf club is not all about golf!!!!

P.S. Your safety when walking is your responsibility.



## **Mens Competitions**

Many of you will be aware that most of the playing time on Friday February 11th was severely curtailed because of overnight frost and its impact on the greens. Whilst the course did actually open for play later in the day, this meant that the winter league 'ALT' Competition had to be cancelled as it was a frost course. As a gesture of goodwill, it has been decided that no competition entries will be levied for anyone who did not play on the day.

Due to recent use of untypical Friday 12-hole singles courses to allow for necessary resting/maintenance of certain holes, a number of early competitors were delayed at points on the back 9 where our long-standing TGIF ladies society were also present. The Club wishes to apologise sincerely to the Members involved and to our visitors for any upset or inconvenience caused.

*Mens Competitions and Handicap Committees*

## **RIP**

**It is with regret that we advise you of the passing of our  
esteemed former Member Greg Larkin.**

**The President, Captains, Trustees, Management Committee, Members and Staff of  
Delgany Golf Club extend their deepest sympathy to his son Conor, family and  
friends.**

**May he rest in peace.**

**Details on [RIP.ie](http://RIP.ie)**



## Course update

**Winter Programme Progress:** We have now concluded the Bunker development work on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> holes. We are completing the final phase of the bunker redevelopment on the 16<sup>th</sup> this week (see photo). We plan to start the new build of the artificial strip on the 9<sup>th</sup> next week and weather permitting will be installed within the week.

**Weather affecting the course:** We had to utilise the frost greens last Friday for the first in over 3 years. We have had a very mild Winter up to now but this week-end alone we had a delay on Friday followed by a closure on Sunday from heavy rainfall on Saturday. Fingers crossed we can get back to the mild weather we were enjoying.

**Fauna Consultant:** The club will be engaging with a Fauna consultant to help support our efforts to look after our wildlife while balancing the need to maintain the golf course.



Mark Carwood, Director of Operations, Delgany Golf Club

## Spring is in the air



## The legendary "Delgany Chain Gang"

Here's our green fingered gardening 'Chain gang' working away at the back of the 12th tee, making sure our spring bulbs are looking good. These volunteers do a great job all year round and are a huge asset to the club. If you like a little light gardening and have a few free hours a week, why not join them (I know they look tough, but rest assured, you will not have to rob a bank to join them).

## Mens Team Managers meeting report

The Men's Club Team Management Committee held a meeting with Team Managers on the 9<sup>th</sup> February to discuss preparations for 2022 and almost all Teams were represented.

Dermot OBrien, Chairperson of the Team Management Committee welcomed all those present and thanked them for their contribution to the Club by volunteering to manage Teams. All Team Managers are now in place and the next phase is to go through the process of building Team Panels, commencing preparations to compete by having practice matches and challenge matches.

Paul Hautz went through the current handicap regulations, competition rules, and player eligibility. Dermot OBrien went through the budget for running Teams. He also emphasised the need for Team Managers to review the intake of new members and identify any possible candidates for inclusion as members of Team Panels. Dermot also emphasised the need for Team Managers to publicise Team matches and results on the Club website and noticeboards.

Dick Cotter and Sean Donnelly spoke about Team preparation and Team selection and made the following points:

- Commence preparation as early as possible, know the Competition rules and ensure each player has all of the correct gear and equipment.

- Ensure good communication within the Panel, use WhatsApp.

- Arrange matches early and know the away courses.

- Have Team helpers available and provide advice for players.

- Ensure player compatibility for Fourballs and Foursomes.

- Dick provided all those present with detailed notes on Team preparation.

There was a lengthy debate on the issue of whether or not we should enter a Senior Cup Team this year in view of the limited number of Delgany players meeting the required handicap level. The majority in attendance were in favour of entering a Team and it was agreed that we should not do it at the expense of the Junior Cup Team. Co-ordination arrangements were agreed to ensure that this would not happen.

There was also a debate on communications required within the Club to ensure that there is an opportunity and invitation for any Club members to express the desire to be a part of any Team Panel and it was agreed that Club noticeboards should be used to facilitate this. The meeting also agreed that we need additional members to come forward and help out with running Teams.

It was also agreed that the TMC would review each Team performance at the end of the season to facilitate a continuous improvement in standards.

Our thanks to Sean Donnelly for this update.

**“Fail to Prepare – Prepare to Fail”**

# New member profile

## Introducing: *Norah Mullins*

### 1. Golfing background

2. I have no family golfing background, I started with would you believe indoor golf lessons and then a tennis friend put my name down to join The Thursday Tigers, a ladies golfing society in Leopardstown Golf Club, a great introduction to the game where we had many fun trips away and abroad.



### 2. Why Delgany?

Myself and my husband Ambrose were long-standing members in Charlesland Golf Club where we met many of our now good friends due to the great social comradeship in the club. We joined Delgany Golf Club as it is a Members Club, is friendly and has a great reputation for its vibrant social scene.

### 3. Golfing ambitions

My main ambition is to be a consistent golfer who is able to play to handicap and enjoy playing many of the beautiful courses at home and abroad for many years to come.

### 4. Sporting heroes

Tiger Woods has to be one of the greatest! Phil Mickelson for his wonderful short game. I'd love to see Shane Lowry win another few majors!

### 5. Other sports interests

I grew up in a big family living beside Oulton Tennis Club so we played a lot of tennis, every year we looked forward to the Wimbledon 2 weeks engrossed with the great tennis from Navratilova, Graf, Agassi and of course the entertainer McEnroe with his constant outbursts at the Umpires. Today of course it has to be Federer, Nadal and the Williams sisters and Barty I admire. We also love rugby and follow Leinster, Johnny has a great rugby brain and we have a brilliant new young team evolving, indeed Hugo Keenan being one of them not only for Leinster but for Ireland!

### 6. Golfing successes so far

I'm not the most competitive, I did win the President's prize in Charlesland many years ago and a bronze medal.

### 7. Interesting facts you would like to share?

When I travel out the N11 going to golf even after all these years I still feel privileged! How lucky we are!

We just became grandparents so I'm really looking forward to getting to know my granddaughter and spoiling her soon!



## New member profile

### Introducing: *Julian Mc Donnell*



#### 1. Golfing background

I joined Delgany last year from Charlesland GC, where I had enjoyed almost four years playing regularly until its surprise closing. Before that I played in golf societies at work and enjoyed visiting many lovely courses, mostly around Leinster, which was a great way to experience a variety of course types and challenges.

#### 2. Why Delgany?

Choosing Delgany was an easy decision. I have lived in Greystones for 16 years and wanted to remain playing golf relatively local, and I had been told Delgany GC was very welcoming which I have found it is indeed. Parkland courses are my favourite and Delgany is particularly nice with wonderful flora and fauna and beautiful views. The tree lined fairways frame the holes well and after coming from quite an open course, I hoped this would sharpen my focus. Unfortunately for me, as many can also attest to, keeping the ball on the fairways did not come right away and I learnt quickly that precision is more important than wayward distance.... still a work in progress for me!!

#### 3. Golfing ambitions

I would like to improve ball striking and iron play in general this year, which hopefully will bring my handicap down. Currently my WHS index is 15, so low teens would be good this year.

#### 4. Sporting heroes

There are so many individuals that it's difficult to name a few. There are plenty of golfers but Formula One's Ayrton Senna, Michael Schumacher and MotoGP's Valentino Rossi really impress me. Their skill, intense focus, stamina, controlled aggression and complete trust in their teams allowed them to spend long periods dominating the track under the additional and ever present risk of serious or fatal injury. More recently and closer to home has got to be Katie Taylor, transitioning from top amateur to professional and quickly rising to the top and propelling women's boxing profile with her successes is inspirational to any young aspiring sports person.... everything is possible.

#### 5. Other sports interests

I am not actively involved in other sports or a big sports fan in general, but I do enjoy watching our national teams and individual athletes perform on the world stages, and even more so when they are doing well.

#### 6. Golfing successes so far

Most successes were with society golf by winning many events, a few captains' prizes and a couple of golfer of the year, even a hole-in-one too. Unfortunately no such success in club golf.... but who knows, maybe this is the year !!

7. Interesting facts In the summer of 2019 I broke both wrists in a silly accident playing with my young family and ended up in two casts. Golfing was not possible for a long time obviously and then COVID restrictions limited further playing opportunities, which was probably a silver lining in helping the healing process. Thankfully I have made a full recovery and I can swing a club without restriction or discomfort, but now I cannot make any more excuses for my swing.

## Mens Winter League update

We are well into this year's Winter League with Round 8 completed last weekend. Sadly we had to cancel Round 9 due to adverse weather conditions last Sunday.

There are only two rounds remaining in this phase of the Competition - February 19th and 26th (with ALT Days the previous Fridays).

Just 30 points separate the 1st and 4th Teams and the Team in 5th place are a mere 3 points behind 4th spot.

1st Team H - Captain John Sweeney with 787 points

2nd Team F - Captain Ian Barrett with 776 points

3rd Team I - Captain Frank McGee with 768 points

4th Team E - Captain Paul Hautz with 757 points

5th Team J - Captain Conn Loy with 754 points

Remaining 6 Teams range from 752 to 713...

So as Alex Ferguson would say..."it's squeaky you-know-what time..."

You will have seen some recent changes made to booking rules. Sunday 8pm is the new Booking Night.

Casual Golf can be booked 8 days before the date on which you want to play

Finally, we are planning to move to 15 holes from Monday February 28th...

*Mens Competitions and Handicap Committees*

## Good day, bad day....

Leona Maguire became the first Irish winner in LPGA Tour history Saturday, closing with a 5-under 67 for a three-stroke victory in the LPGA Drive On Championship at Crown Colony.

*"It's huge for Irish golf," Maguire said. "There was never an Irish player on the tour, let alone a winner. Hopefully, there is a lot of people watching at home tonight with big smiles on their faces and little girls watching knowing they can do that, too."*



While its great to see a hole in one, this type of celebration leaves a lot to be desired and is certainly not in keeping with the ethos of the game.



**The Delgany Dispatch is produced by the Clubs  
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