

# THE DELGANY DISPATCH

MARCH 2ND, 2022

## Weather to play or not to play ?

Activity around the club was severely impacted by weather since the last edition of the Dispatch and losing 6 days golf has been something of a shock to us all, considering how extremely fortunate we have been over the winter so far. If there is an 'upside' to the enforced break from golf for our Members, it is that the course itself - fairways in particular - has had an opportunity for well-deserved R & R and that can only be to our benefit in the long run.

The planned hollow-coring programme is now scheduled for just under 6 weeks time. Securing the required equipment for our preferred dates has been a challenge as, with very few suppliers, there is stiff competition among golf clubs for that equipment and timing is not always within our control. We know that this necessary maintenance process was a cause of some concern for Members last September and we Captains have worked closely with Course Committee and course staff to ensure that the process will be carried out to the highest standards on this and future occasions. We thank them for their assurances in this regard.

Captain Ann has been working hard to get the "short course" measured to ensure accessibility to golf for all our Members for longer by removing the need for arduous walks to some tee boxes. Lastly, we need to remind Members again that repair of fairway divots is a player's responsibility and protects our course. Ample divot bags are available - where sand runs low (a sign of use!), staff will fill the bins as soon as possible. Please do YOUR bit! The same can be said of pitch-marks on our greens - pitch in and repair a few, even if they are not your own.

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We are delighted to welcome **Colm Whooley** (Colm will introduce himself later in this edition) as our new Honorary Treasurer of Joint Club, taking over from John McGloughlin. Colm is back in a familiar role, as he served the club with distinction in this position in the period 2008-2011. His willingness to 'go again' is a sign of his great commitment to the club and its future and we look forward to working with him during our Captaincies. As Colm starts his work, we must acknowledge the particular assistance provided by Mark, our Director of Operations, in bringing Colm 'up to speed' on the club's finances and the various systems involved in financial management of an organisation like ours.



We hope we are working hard enough to ensure that Members are as informed as possible on club activity and on decisions that might impact on your participation in, and enjoyment of the club. The Captains and Management Committee encourage open and respectful communication from Members on any relevant matters and will respond as promptly as possible. However we cannot, and will not deal with anonymous correspondence.

Finally, Gavin will be out of commission for a while and, on your behalf, we wish him a full and speedy recovery. The services of the Pro-Shop will be fully covered in his enforced absence.

Here's to better weather, running fairways and lots of enjoyable golf!

Captains Pat and Ann

## Save the date Ladies ....

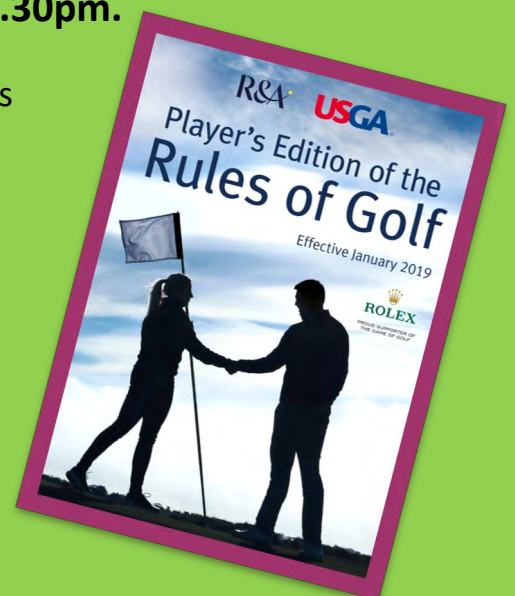
**Ladies club are holding a rules night on 15th March at 7.30pm.**

This is very important for all members but especially newer ladies

as it's a great way of learning and

asking questions if your aren't sure of anything!

Please make a huge effort to attend if you can.



## Lady Captains at Carrickmines GC



Captain Ann met fellow Captains of 2022 for the first time in person last Friday.

On the initiative of Captain of Carrickmines we were invited to play 9 holes of golf and we had a lovely lunch on the terrace afterwards in the beautiful sunshine which was very welcome after a very stormy and wet week.

Twelve captains played a Champagne scramble but unfortunately not a drop of Champagne passed my lips! I look forward to continuing and strengthening the relationships formed on Friday.

In other news ....

- Green fee vouchers are now available in the Pro Shop for those who availed of the early payment of their annual subs.
- Entries are now open for the Ronnie Stephens and Challenge Cups, please put your entry fee in the brown envelopes provided with your name on the front and place them in the Ladies scorecard box in the hall.
- We have decided to play "Surprise Foresomes" this year instead of the "Summer Foresomes" this year. Entry opens on March 15th and you do not need a partner as there will be a draw for partners.
- Finally, Get Well wishes to Gavin Kavanagh, Eileen Whooley and Rita O'Brien (who is recovering from a knee operation). We hope to see you all back in the Club soon.



# Mens Competitions

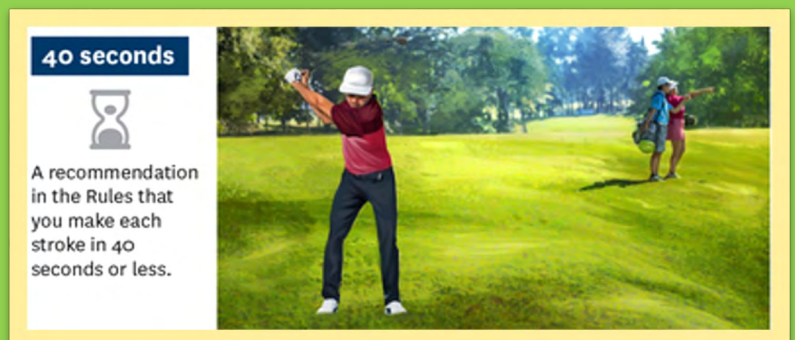
## Men's Competitions Update:

Please **NOTE** the Wednesday Fourball booking moves to 7:50pm from Sunday, March 6th and we will be back to a full 18 holes from Monday March 14th.

- This is to facilitate members who wish to book their golf on Wednesday and then their weekend tee times.
- The qualifying phase of the Winter League was completed on Saturday with Team H (John Sweeney's) finishing 1st with 790 points which is impressive given we lost two rounds due to adverse weather.
- In 2nd was Team F (Ian Barrett's), 3rd was Team B (Tom Bergin's) and 4th was Team I (Frank McGee's).
- The Semi-Finals take place on Sunday, March 6th with Team H vs Team I and followed by Team F vs Team B.
- There is a huge level of administration which goes on during each round so a special "thank you" goes to Conn Loy (ably assisted by Frank McGee) for collating the individual scores and providing updates to the Team Captains.

## Pace of Play Tracker...

- You will recall us mentioning Pace of Play in an earlier edition of the Dispatch



- We are now asking each playing group to nominate one person to keep a close eye on how your OWN group is moving relative to others
- The general "rule of thumb" is to make sure you keep up with the group in front so if they have pulled away from you this may indicate that your group needs to speed up play and/or call the group behind you through...
- Either way your Pace of Play Tracker should remind his group to pick up their pace as this adds to all our enjoyment of our golf !

Finally, we are introducing a new rule for collecting Prizes which will mean that anyone who doesn't collect their prize within 1 month of the date of the competition will forfeit that prize and it will be returned to Competitions for future prizes. Of course this does not apply to Pro Shop Credit.

Many thanks,

Men's Competitions Committee



## Maura Devereux's 99th Birthday

*"Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful older people are works of art" - Eleanor Roosevelt*

Maura was 99 on Friday last and I was delighted to have the opportunity to have a tea party in Delgany on Tuesday to celebrate her great achievement with her. Her cousin, Judy Brennan shared the following information with us to give us a short cameo of Maura's fulfilled life to date.

Maura was born on 25 February, 1923 one of twins with her sister Breeda (Judy's mother). They were the second and third of 7 children. The family lived in Enniskerry 6 girls Molly, Maura, Breda, Kay, Ann and Peggy and one boy Bill. The family expanded in 1947 when they were joined by Breeda's 2 daughters Judy and Louie. 11 living as one big happy family home filled with lots of noise, laughter and music, music, music. Maura went to boarding school in Dominican Convent Wicklow with her sisters all of whom were involved in the orchestra. Maura on piano, Breeda on violin, Kay on Cello and Ann on piano.





## Maura Devereux's 99th Birthday



**Maura** became a very accomplished pianist as everyone in the golf club knows first hand. She played at all the big social events in Delgany over the years. On leaving school she did a secretarial course and worked for several years until she married. All the family were very involved in Delgany from the 1940's and Maura and her sister Kay met their husbands in Delgany. Maura met Michael Devereux in the late 40's and they married in 1953. They had a long and extremely happy marriage and had 3 children Bridgette, John and Louis and music continued to be at the centre of Maura's world. While working she saved up

and bought a beautiful Beckstein piano which she still plays every day and has been joined many times by her very talented son John who plays multiple instruments, flute, mouth organ and guitar and Louis on bodhran. Maura still plays golf and drives everywhere. She is one of the kindest and most generous people you could meet and the whole family is so proud of her and on her birthday last Friday she performed on the piano with her usual high accomplishment. Delgany remains a very special place for Maura and all her family. The photos show that we had a special "Delgany afternoon" with Maura and we wish her the happiest of birthdays – keep making memories Maura.



## Course update

If you thought the 16th hole was a handy par 3, maybe its time to think again as the bunker project on the hole is 90% complete. We are including an additional small bunker towards the middle to back right of the green and are working on the drainage on the hole also. This will hopefully lead to the hole being available as an option throughout the year when complete.



The foundations to place the new artificial strip on the 9th hole took place on Monday. We will place a crush mix along with reinforcing 804 on this surface with a wacker plate and have this framed with timber rails before the artificial strip is placed on the back of the tee box.



On Monday we pencil tined the greens for general maintenance of the greens just for anyone who played this week. All of these works are being completed by our own Green-keeping team.



## Jamie Night...

### It's Back with a bang !

Hard to believe it, but it's two years since our popular Head Barman Jamie Elliot hosted his last "Jamie Night", an informal social occasion where members of Delgany Golf Club can meet and mingle, enjoying good food, good music and good company.

**There are still a few spaces left for the much anticipated return of the Jamie Night this Friday, 4 March.** It may, for obvious reasons, be a slightly less romantic occasion than the last one, which coincided with St Valentine's night in 2020. However in the best traditions of the supper dances of yore, members and guests can look forward to an evening of enticing fare, followed by the ever popular local band, Take it Easy.

**Meanwhile, we are happy to report that Sunday Lunch continues to attract large numbers. It's available from 12.30 to 3.30 - book early to avoid disappointment.**

## Mens Team News

### Team Report 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Our Fitzgibbon Team, after a great win against Foxrock were up against very strong opposition on Sunday against Dun Laoghaire. The result was a win for Dun Laoghaire on the score line of 4.5 to 1.5.

Their next outing is on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March in the postponed match against Old Conna followed on 27<sup>th</sup> March with the final game versus Castle Golf Club.





## Introducing our new Treasurer, Colm Whooley

On taking up my second term as Hon Treasurer I have been asked to write a small piece on myself, which is never easy but here goes.

48 years ago, I joined the golf club at age of ten, following in my parents' footsteps. For some reason I was the one chosen from six boys to play golf. I quickly got involved with a very strong junior set up at the time and over the next 7 years enjoyed great success with two Smurfit Cup victories and a few years later was part of the winning Barton Cup team.

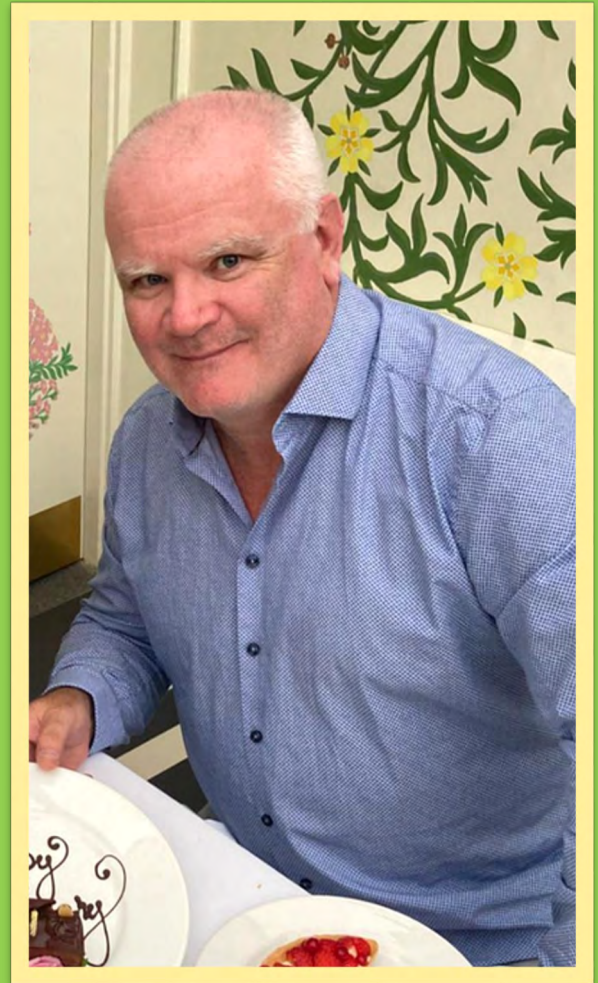
My golf probably reached its pinnacle at the age of 20 when I was picked for the Leinster Youths and Irish Universities teams.

After that my golf went in a decidedly negative direction, which probably reached its low point just last year when the Pierce Purcell Management team, of which I was part, took the very harsh decision to exclude me from the panel. Thankfully since that rebuke, I believe my golf has had a bit of a renaissance and I'm hopeful there are still a few productive golf years ahead. My wife Fiona (probably better known in the club than me because of her acting prowess with the Delgany Drama Group) tells me there better be, seeing as though I'm in the process of getting fitted out for the new Stealth driver. That's all part of my plan to try and win the World over 60's, long drive competition!!

The last time I took on the Treasury Role was in Pat O'Mahony's year as Captain. Little did I know at that time that the world was about to come to an end and Ireland was heading into to a financial crisis, while the club was saddled with €4m in debt. Great work has been done in the interim by the club's officers to keep us on the straight and narrow to the point where the loan is down to a more manageable figure of about €1.6m. However, the loan repayments remain a huge burden and certainly have impacted on how much there is to spend across all areas of the club. Without any significant entrance fees, much lower green fees, reduced annual subscriptions and rising cost inflation, we don't have many options.

While managing our costs, the real key is to improve all revenue streams, so it gives us more scope to reinvest across the course, clubhouse, and general amenities. If we don't do this, it will negatively impact on Revenue in the years to come.

I understand that I am due to come back in the next month with some more detailed financial thoughts on where we are and what we might be able to do over the coming years.



## Chairs for charity .....



When was the chair invented? **The ancient Egyptians** are believed to be the first to invent a four-legged seat with a back, better known to most as a chair.

The earliest examples have been found in tombs dating as far back as 2680 B.C. They could be covered with leather or cloth and made from carved wood. Believe it or not, in Delgany Golf Club, we have an abundance of these wonderful items. Cared for, maintained for and occupied by notable icons over years. And as our picture indicates they are in good condition.

It is our hope they will go on to continue support the posture of many people for many years to come.

There are surely some charities to which items of this nature can be donated and we are seeking your help in finding a good home for our surplus chairs.

Please let us know, as we have 2 dozen available for a good cause.

Paul Conalty, House Committee Chair (pun not intended)





## New Member Profiles, welcome to....

### Liz Hurley

#### Golfing background....

I started golf in 1987 when I was living in Hong Kong. Such was the demand and limited courses, I could only play once a month as a guest of a friend lucky enough to have a membership. There was a 20 year waiting list for the only club on HK island and you'd have to sell your apartment to afford the joining fee. When Charlesland opened in 1990, I was delighted to take overseas membership and I enjoyed lots of golf during the holidays. I really took to the game in earnest in 1997 when I came back to live here.

#### Why Delgany....

People! Delgany has a reputation for being friendly and sociable and in my year here I've found that to be absolutely true. During my Captaincy year in Charlesland (2015), I had played Delgany several times with my opposite number Helen Kane. These outings were so much fun I had no doubt that Delgany would be a great club to join.

#### Golfing ambitions....

I'm happy any day that I play to my handicap. I enjoy team match play and I'd love to be on a team that would bring a pennant to Delgany GC. Equally as important to me is to be part of the Delgany community and to enjoy the social life here – fun and friendship is my goal.

#### Sporting heroes....

The obvious ones – Leona Maguire, Rory McIlroy and am gutted today for Shanes bad luck at the Honda Classic after a really fine round. I watch a lot of golf on TV but I also like going to the majors when I can. Am excited to be going to The Open in July and the Solheim in 2023. Tickets for both already secured.

#### Other sports interests....

I was an enthusiastic tennis player until golf got hold of me and I played hockey when I lived in the Middle East. Now I'm a TV fan of rugby, tennis and snow sports.

#### Golfing successes so far....

I played on teams at Charlesland for many years. I especially enjoyed mixed interclub but sadly have no pennants to show for it. I was Golfer of the Year in 2016 and my lowest handicap was 16. I also won the Doubles Club matchplay several years with my partner, Mary Brennan, who has also become a member of Delgany.

#### Interesting facts ....

On my first day out at Delgany in April 2021 I played 9 holes in the company of my fellow new member also from Charlesland, Mary de Chaumont, and two beautiful baby deer! They kept us company for the first two holes – wonderful!





## New Member Profiles, welcome to....

### Kevin Solon

#### Golfing background:

My mother and father were both Captains of Mullingar Golf Club. One of my older brother's, Paddy, has 9 hole-in-ones to his name, including two in a single round so he inherited all the good golfing genes. I started to play in Wicklow GC in my 30's and peaked in my 50's after I joined a bunch of reprobates called the 'Mafia' in Charlesland GC. Our current Mafia Captain Derek Archer mentioned the Mafia in an earlier Dispatches (December 2021) so enough of that.

#### Why Delgany?

After the demise of Charlesland there was only one real option. The Mafia moved en-masse to Delgany for both the quality of the course and the camaraderie. It has a reputation for being a very friendly club and we have not been disappointed. We have been welcomed with open arms and I'd like to say thank you so far. I can't wait for the post Covid uplift.

#### Golfing ambitions

To get back to a (double digit) handicap that doesn't begin with a 2!!

#### Sporting heroes

My father Dermot, who played hurling for Clare and Munster. He won a National League medal, a Railway Cup, a couple of Captain's Prizes and a Barton Cup medal.

Gilles Villeneuve, Canadian F1 driver who died tragically in 1982. He was so exciting to watch. I had driven across to the Belgian Grand Prix to see him live and he was killed in practice before I got there.

Pdraig Harrington, for his tenacity, drive and sheer will power. And for all the near heart attacks I suffered watching him as he won - the hard way.

Fergus Slattery, Irish Rugby Legend. As a young lad I was in awe of his prowess and how he was usually the last one up after an on-pitch shemozzle.

#### Other sports interests

Motor Sport (obviously), Rugby, Downhill skiing (I never miss a chance to watch Ski Sunday on BBC). I tried the latter sport once and won the falling and sliding downhill prize.

#### Golfing successes so far

I've a Singles Matchplay Title, 2 hole-in ones and have lost in 2 Foursomes Finals. Since those glory years I've had to re-mortgage the house to pay all the bets I've lost to my Mafia compadres.

#### Interesting facts

I was inducted into the said Mafia in 2006, having moved from Wicklow GC. Since then I have been a 'provisional' member and I've been promised that full membership will be considered when I'm 85. Roll on 2045 !



## RIP Rosaleen McGleenan



We were very sad to hear of the passing of a dear past member of Delgany, Rosaleen McGleenan. Rosaleen joined the club from Bray on 24 February, 1995 and was proposed by the late Gerry Boate. She played off a handicap of 12 when she joined Delgany. She was wife of PJ McGleenan, a current member and well known pharmacist in Greystones. Rosaleen was born in Co. Westmeath and went to school in Arklow. Rosaleen was a beautiful singer and the Arklow School choir of which Rosaleen was a member was highly acclaimed.

Rosaleen won many awards at Feis' throughout the years. She performed many times at functions in Delgany golf club and most especially within the ladies club. The Thursday fourball could never be missed with her playing buddies Stephanie Brennan, Patsy Burns, Bernadette Harmon and Angela Barrett. She will be sadly missed by them and the ladies of Delgany Golf Club.

Our deepest sympathies go to PJ, Susan, Patrick, Sheena and John.

May she rest in peace.

## Good week, bad week....

It was a good week for Shane Lowry despite a last minute monsoon costing him victory at the Honda Classic in Florida. Shanes second place finish moves him up 15 places in the world rankings to No. 35 and sees him in good form ahead of the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill this week. With the Masters on the horizon, Shane will be looking for that elusive green jacket and no better man.



Its been a bad week or so for Phil Mickelson as his ill considered comments about the PGA tour put him in the media spotlight. Despite an apology, his sponsors KPMG cut all links with Phil. Then Workday, Amstel and even Callaway followed in their footsteps.



**The Delgany Dispatch** is produced by the Clubs  
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