



# The Delgany Dispatch

March 30th, 2022

## Captains Drive-in 2022

On Saturday, 9 April we will have two shot gun start 18 hole Four-person Scrambles (any combination) – one in the morning at 9.00 a.m. and the other in the afternoon at 2.00 p.m. The Captains will have their Drive-in at 1.30 p.m. and we welcome as many as possible to join us for this event which traditionally starts our golfing year.

This year we are aware of the many new faces we have in Delgany. We come from all corners of this island and beyond!!! As part of us learning something new about each other the captains would love if you could wear the colours of your county when playing golf. Not only will this be a spectacular “colours” event it will also give us the opportunity to learn something new about each other!!! This is always an enjoyable day and we would love to see the club full to capacity and full of colour on the day.



We will have dinner and entertainment in the evening with dinner set for 7.30 p.m. There will be true Delgany entertainment from our “Delgany troubadours and guests” after dinner and it will be guaranteed to be an enjoyable evening. Please book your table with Jamie and once again we would love to have a full house for this event.

Captains Pat and Ann

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## Interim report from The Captains

We barely had our feet under the Captains' desks when we made our maiden contribution to the Delgany Dispatch on 3 December 2021 – almost 4 months ago! The busy-ness of the Club has never waned in that time and we have been carried along by a collective and generous goodwill and the ongoing activity generated by Members, our various committees and wonderful staff.

In our first Captains' message, we committed to issuing an "interim report" in March (2022) on the work we have started or are continuing relevant to issues raised at the 2021 EGM/AGM. It will be more than that, of course, but we do so now in the knowledge that none of us could have envisaged then the significant changes to our world that may impact in one way or another on each of us personally and, indirectly, on our involvement in and with our Club. Covid has surged when we thought personal responsibility, rather than imposed restrictions, would keep us safe from now on and our Club has not escaped its effects; supply chain difficulties have merged with creeping inflation to increase the daily costs of living and are becoming issues for our Club. Less directly impactful, but no less emotionally charged or painful, is the plight of Ukraine and its people which, you will agree, puts our concerns into some perspective.

The core business of the 2021 EGM was a series of Management Committee motions and decisions on the Club's future membership structure and associated fees/capital levies. Substantial majorities favouring the four motions signalled to us that Members appreciated in no small measure the need to address the long-term financial viability of the Club over a reasonable period in order to allow this and subsequent Management Committees greater flexibility in future-proofing the development of the Club. Planning ambitiously and proactively rather than conservatively and reactively had to become our strategy. Proof that the Club is on the right track, even tentatively, has been the wonderful response in 2022 membership fee income generally and, in particular, the almost 100% Direct Debit renewals. The Captains take little or no credit for that – its basis is the loyalty and commitment of the membership to their Club for which we are collectively grateful at all times.

The AGM raised a number of disparate issues which were addressed in the meeting but which, nonetheless, form an important part of our agenda. The great majority (14) of the interventions from the floor/online participants related to the maintenance and management of the course which we cover below. Separately, staffing and other costs in key operational areas – management & administration, bar & catering, course and house maintenance – were queried and challenged. We have been conscious of the need to balance necessary costs with services which members rightly expect – such as maintenance of a top quality course that attracts and retains active playing membership all year round and high quality food, drink and service in congenial and comfortable clubhouse surroundings.

The absolute commitment to maintain our food and dining offering at current levels is coming under significant pressure due to ever-increasing ingredient costs; to that end, ordering and waste control policy is currently being reviewed and we have asked that our menus and prices be benchmarked against other comparable providers, after all of which we will be in a better position to have more tangible information for members. Key to all of that is motivated staff who take pride in their work, have the members' interests at heart at all times and work to key performance standards and indicators set for them. We have the ingredients to achieve all of that and we are continually working with managers to support that objective.

Nature – and our course – never sleeps and what might have been a concern for members last autumn or winter may have been resolved one way or another since then. The issues raised at AGM ranged from quality of tee-boxes through course damage from machinery to the need for specialist advice on agronomy, the training requirements of our course staff and a request to publish the proposed Winter Programme (this was done through the Delgany Dispatch in December and in the clubhouse). Regular meetings of Course Committee and weekly engagement between Operations Manager, Course Chair and Head Greenkeeper have ensured, to the Captains' satisfaction at this time, that the development, improvement and maintenance of the course is based on sound advice and rational decision-making (for example, through agronomic soil testing of greens, arborist visits, in-house expertise of members on biodiversity etc.). We are conscious that not every member will accept or agree with every decision about the course but our work to date has been to ensure that members are kept as fully informed as possible on decisions and actions and we encourage constructive queries and suggestions. We are confident that the ongoing work on bunkers and irrigation/drainage, on the 9th tee and on the development of the new short course will result in better playing conditions for all and in making the course even more enjoyable for longer for those who might desire a less physi-cally demanding round.

A key area for any Club is its financial management and presentation of information to its members, an issue also raised at AGM 2021. Management Committee is looking afresh at the kind of financial information that they need for their work, and that will best assist members in understanding our financial position. Comparison with past years' performance, forecasting future years' income and expenditure based on realistic assumptions (membership numbers, desired development and essential works), ongoing review of the current year's budgets, reduction of the Club's indebtedness as well as benchmarking our position against other clubs – all are part of the Honorary Treasurer's approach to maximising income and controlling cost and Colm will provide a mid-year report on our finances via the Dispatch in due course.

Listening to members at AGMs and chatting informally to them in the bar, on the stairs or at the car, it struck us forcibly that we needed some forward planning over 3 to 5 years ahead based on a medium-to-long term vision of our Club, using Golf Ireland's One Club model as a starting point . Our Vice-Captains Tom and Betty have begun work on that task (see the Dispatch of 16 March) and this will be a continuing theme during our year.

Slowly but surely, the social side of Delgany GC is taking wings and between well-attended Ladies Club events, Wednesday Fourball 'afters' and Sunday lunches, the buzz has been coming back. We try to be as visible as possible throughout the week and are trying to get to know as many members as we can.

Finally, as we are well into our terms of office now – and the honeymoon is over! – we hope this interim report gives you a sense of our thinking, our main priorities and some modest achievements to date. We are realistic in that all we can do in this gift of a year as Captains is to listen to and hear the mood and concerns of our members, respond as we think best through our Management Committee and sub-committees, make reasonable decisions, be open and transparent and work as hard as we can for you.

Here's to the next few months and another update mid-summer. The sun is up, the fairways are firmer, mud will soon be a distant memory and we are so lucky to play this lovely game.

Happy golfing....and mind yourselves.

**Captains Pat and Ann.**

## Personal belongings

We have noted that personal belongings (shoes and bags) are been left at the bottom of the stairs and other common areas of the Club, we kindly ask that members and guests refrain from leaving anything in these areas.

With thanks.

House Committee

**NOTICE**

**Please don't leave your belongings unattended.  
We are not responsible.  
Management Thank You.**

## Delgany Bridge Club comes up trumps

As part of the Golf Club's fundraising for Ukraine, our Bridge Club organised a charity tournament on 11<sup>th</sup> March. The event turned out to be a great success and was very well supported. The Tournament Director, Anne Dodd, proved once again that women are so much better at multitasking than men. Not only did she run the tournament very efficiently, but together with her partner Kay Moynihan they won the North /South section of the tournament. East / West section was won by Eileen Dunne and Angela Shaw. For readers that are more familiar with golf terminology than bridge terminology these four winners are Senior Cup material !

We are grateful to Nuala Cotton for doing the scoring and the results for the competition. Ann Cafferky, with her renowned enthusiasm, arranged extra bidding boxes, cards , prizes, and brought along some friends to support the event. Thanks also to Brigid Bergin for the delicious coffee cake that was enjoyed by the players.

Finally we are delighted to report that over €1,675 was raised for such a worthy cause.

Well done to all as we await the clubs Ukraine total fundraising figure to be finalised.

Tom Bergin,  
Vice Captain

## Club Mixed Foursomes & Hospice qualifier

Our Club Mixed Foursomes matchplay is traditionally always a great and well fought competition.

However we have noticed a fall off in entries and have put a sheet on the noticeboard for names of people who would like to play and may not be able to find a partner.

Hopefully we can match up men and women thereby increasing entries. If you are interested, please sign up immediately as the competition draw will take place shortly.



**Also Ladies are reminded that the Wicklow hospice 4 ball qualifier competition takes place next Tuesday. A raffle will be held so please remember to bring cash for tickets when playing on Tuesday! Fundraising for a great facility in our community. Thank you**

## Ladies Buddy Program 2022 finale

Last Friday 60 ladies attended the Buddy Program dinner and a great night was had by everyone. Congratulations to all the ladies who took part in the program. It has allowed mixing across all handicaps and will hopefully help everyone with their golf going forward.

We had 12 group winners - well done ladies . Our over all winners with a super 20 points over 9 holes, Margo Lavelle and Brigid Bergin.

Huge congratulations girls, it was great scoring from you both. Thank you to all the buddy group leaders for your help and to Captain Ann for agreeing that this program would help our lady members and onwards to next year.

Anna O'Loughlin



# Ladies Buddy Program 2022 finale photos





# KILLINEY MIXED INVITATION MATCHPLAY COMPETITION



SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY – FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

Dear All,

We are delighted to announce that our very popular Mixed Invitation Week, kindly sponsored by Sherry FitzGerald, is running once again this year and we are returning to our normal month in May. We look forward to welcoming so many of you who have enjoyed playing in this competition over the years. We also look forward to meeting new friends who will be experiencing the famed Killiney hospitality for the very first time.

Competition Details:

The week will commence on Sunday 15th May. The 64 pairs will be split into two sections. There will be two starts one in the morning at 9am and another at 1.30pm in the afternoon.

The knockout rounds will then be held on Monday 16th until Thursday 19th starting each day at 4.00pm. Shotgun starts on both Monday and Tuesday. The Final will be held at 3.00pm on Friday the 20th May with a Consolation Competition starting at 3.20pm

All pairings must be Full Members of the same Club with a maximum allowable combined Course Handicap of 34.

If combined Handicaps are over 34 you may still of course enter but they will be adjusted down accordingly.

Entry fee is €80 per team of two.

Maximum of 6 teams from the same club permitted to enter.

Closing Date for Entries is Wednesday 20th April 2022 (or when full as entries are on a first come first served basis).

Places cannot be held and are only valid once Payment and Entry Form has been received.

Please be aware this competition tends to fill up very quickly.

Looking forward to welcoming you all to Killiney in May.

Very best wishes,

Michael P Purcell & Aisling Sherin

Killiney Mixed Invitation Committee



## Junior Section News

### Meet our Junior Captain and Vice Captain for 2022

#### Josh Wyse - Captain

*I've been playing in the club for around 8 or 9 years. My whole family plays in Delgany. My mum, dad Mark, brother Hugo, aunty Ruth and grandma Carmel who is also a past lady captain of Delgany. I love this club especially the junior section because of the friends you make and fun you have and can't wait to get back into the summer Thursday competitions and our junior team competitions especially playing the Wicklow cup this year as defending champs!*



#### Cathan McCarthy - Vice Captain

*About 5-6 years ago I took up the game of golf, initially with my primary school St Laurence's, which had links with Delgany. My dad persuaded me into playing from a business standpoint but this developed into a want to keep at it and represent my club at committee and the juniors themselves.*

*I would love to see Basil and the lads defend the Wicklow Cup after the brilliant victory last year*



#### **Junior Girls**

We are looking to recruit more girls to our Junior Section so if any member would like their daughter, granddaughter or niece to join we would be delighted to see them on either Thursday during the Easter holiday.

#### **Junior Golf Clubs**

If you have any Junior Clubs that are not being used we would be delighted to take them off your hands as we are constantly looking for them for our Junior Scramblers - Contact Michael Behan 0868193583

#### **Easter Holiday - Junior Competitions**

We have competitions on Thursday 14th and Thursday 21st April

|          |                |                 |                       |
|----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1st Tee  | 8am to 10.30am | 18 hole strokes | 9 hole Stableford     |
| 10th Tee | 8am to 9.20am  | 6 hole scramble | Members guest welcome |

## Mens Team News

The Fitzgibbon Cup is one of the earliest competitions to be held each year. This competition is for foursomes with combined handicap of at least 14. It is seen as a precursor for the Barton Cup which is held later in the year. Delgany which was managed by Jason Bradshaw, assisted by Donal Meehan and Paul Hantz were in a group of 5 teams.

Delgany got off to a great start beating Foxrock 4.5/1.5, next up was Dun Laoghaire where we were beaten 3.5/1.5. We had a great win in our third match against Old Conna winning 3.5/1.5.

Our final group match which was held on last Sunday was against a very strong Castle side and we were beaten 4/2 after a battling performance.

The management wish to thank all of the players and subs for their commitment to date and our focus will now shift to our Barton Cup preparation. We play Wicklow in the first round and this match has to be played by 22nd June, so we have lots of time to prepare!

### JB Carr

Many of our other teams are working hard on preparing for the new season. An example of this is our JB Carr team, managed by Sean Donnelly who is assisted by Brendan Cooney and Ailbe Brennan. Sean describes his preparation as follows: After a 2-year lockdown and no JB Carr competition in either 2020 or 2021 the Delgany Team is now back with full preparations now underway. The first Trials were scheduled for the 24th February which had to be cancelled due to the weather conditions. This was followed by a full trial on the 14th March for which we had 24 players participating in good competitive conditions. The Panel is currently changing with new blood coming into consideration having passed the minimum age limit.

This initial Trial was followed by a Challenge Match with Old Conna on a home and away basis. Last Thursday we played in Delgany with each side having 6 Pairings and this was followed on Friday with the same format in Old Conna. The match put players in a real competitive environment and tests the suitability of the pairings and their performance in real competition.

The next Team preparation will take place on the 7th April in Delgany and we hope to have 24 players out again.

The team is drawn against Blainroe in the first round with home advantage and the Match will be played by the end of April.

This gives an example of the great amount of volunteer work that our team management puts into preparation for the Inter-club competitions for which they should be commended.

Kevin Whelan & Brian Fitzpatrick



Fran O'Hara & Jim O'Riordan



# Mens Competitions

1. ALL placing is being removed from Friday April 15th.

2. Hollow - coring of the greens is scheduled from April 11th to 13th

Monday April 11th - Course CLOSED. Open Seniors moved forward to April 4th

Tuesday April 12th—9 holes

Wednesday April 13th—9 holes (Mens comp will be Non-invitational)

3. Mens Matchplay

Congrats to the 64 players who qualified last Saturday. The draw details are on the notice boards in the Locker Room. Please add your contact number beside your name.

N.B. - it is the COURSE Handicap which must be used for Singles Matchplay and it's the FULL difference between the two players.

Finally, please ensure that all the matches are played by the dates specified on the sheet. If one player is unable to play by that date then the match is awarded to the other player.

The Honorable Frank McGee will be presiding over the Competition and will adjudicate if necessary.

4. Men's Intermediate Singles Matchplay

Congrats also to the 16 players who qualified for the Intermediate Matchplay last Saturday.

The draw will be made this weekend and will be displayed in the Locker Room also.



## Mens Winter League Final

**Final 2022:** 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 13:00 H John Sweeney vs F Ian Barrett

**Format:** Fourball Better Ball Match Play. 18 Holes. 90% of Course Handicap. Green Tees. 4 Pairs plus substitutes from each team.



Team Captains Ian Barrett (F) and John Sweeney (H)

### ***Team H***

Robert Bradshaw    Pat Kitterick  
Tom Bradshaw        Maurice Kelly  
Mike A. O'Brien     Michael Hickey  
Sean O'Rourke

### ***Team F***

Colm Whooley        Padraig Stokes  
Ian Barrett           Philip O'Neill  
Dermot McCarthy   Eugene Rellis  
Eugene Davy         Brendan Cooney

Battle commenced as the first four ball teed off promptly at 13:00. All matches had to be played to a finish unless the final had already been decided i.e. one side has 3 wins, in which case the final match can be called in.



**Team F:** Brendan Cooney, Phil O'Neill, Ian Barrett, Colm Wholley, Padraig Stokes, Eugene Davy, Dermot McCarthy and Eugene Rellis



**Team H:** Robert Bradshaw, Mike A. O'Brien, Maurice Kelly, Thomas Bradshaw, Sean O'Rourke, Pat Kitterick (Captain 2022), and Michael Hickey.

## Mens Winter League Final

In the event that the matches are tied at 2:2 the captains designate a single player from each team for Sudden Death Singles Match Play Playoff starting on the first hole.

All of the matches were closely contested. The outcome of the Winter League 2022 Final came down to an enthralling battle between Tom Bradshaw & Maurice Kelly (H) vs Ian Barrett & Phil O'Neill (F). Tom & Maurice found themselves dormie 2 down playing 17 and rose to the challenge winning both of the last two holes to force a sudden death playoff.

It was back to the first tee (19<sup>th</sup>) and all 4 drives were in good position for the approach to the green. For a heartbeat it seemed that a superb chip from Tom Bradshaw (H) was about to hole-out for birdie but the ball finished just inches from the hole for a gimme. This left Ian Barret with a tricky shot from rough just off the green. Worst case he had to at least match Tom's result. As we wondered what shot to play? Ian opted for the putter and we all held our breath the ball ran through the rough, broke down to the hole and for a split second we were once again looking at a birdie but it was not to be. Hole halved with 2 pars and up the 20<sup>th</sup> we went.

A superb second shot left Ian Barrett just feet from the pin with a birdie putt. However it was Phil O'Neill who made the winning downhill putt for team F following a superb third shot onto the green. The result, Ian Barrett's Team F lifted the Winter League O'Loughlin Trophy 2022.  
(As reported by Conn Loy)



**The Presentation of the  
O'Loughlin Trophy  
by Cyril O'Loughlin and  
Vice Captain Tom Bergin  
to Ian Barrett (Team F)**

# Mens Winter League Final

## A Little Bit of History:

The Winter League Trophy was presented to the Club a number of years ago by Dave Fox. The Competitions Committee in consultation with Dave have named the Winter League Trophy, The O'Loughlin Trophy for Cyril O'Loughlin who founded the Winter League almost 30 years ago and has been an integral part of the Winter League, and indeed the Club in general, for many years. Thank you Dave & Cyril.

## Best Individual Score:

The winner of the prize for best individual score was Aidan Lacy (6.1) with a fantastic 109 points. Aidan is pictured here receiving the congratulations of Vice Captain Tom Bergin.



Our thanks to all who participated, here's to next year.



## Putting on the style .....



It was quite the week for Cyril O'Loughlin as his immortality was secured with the re-naming of the Dave Fox donated Winter League trophy as the O'Loughlin Trophy. In honour of the fact that Cyril founded the event over thirty years ago.

Cyril is a Delgany GC legend with his ability to bring out the sponsor in all of us and it was great to see him at the peak of his sartorial elegance for the final.

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

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