



# The Delgany Dispatch

1st July 2022

## Captains' Message

These days we are golfing in and between heavy summer showers and the wet gear is getting another outing! However, every cloud has a silver lining, as they say. With the inevitable summer 'browning' of our fairways, the odd shower will be a welcome respite for the course which is currently in splendid condition.

This edition of the Dispatch is largely devoted to a promised mid-term message to Members from the Hon. Treasurer of the Joint Club, Colm Whooley, on his review of the club's finances and the attendant opportunities and challenges they present. We are very grateful to Colm for his insight and perspective and we encourage you to take time to read his message with a view to learning more about your club and the work being done to provide the best experience possible for our Members.

We want to extend a very warm Delgany welcome to our new Head Chef, Derek Byrne and look forward to working with him and the Bar & Catering team as we enter the second half of our Captaincies.

Finally, and sadly, as we write we are mourning the passing of a true Delgany legend – Johnny May – who passed away last evening, so soon after he lost his brother Philly (another Delgany stalwart) in 2021. Our sincere condolences to Liam, his son, and the wider May family on their great loss. May he rest in peace.

Captains Pat and Ann.

### Contents

- 1 Captains' Message
- 2-3 Financial Report
- 4-5 Festival of Golf
- 6-8 Men's Team News
- 9 Men's Competitions
- 10-11 Ladies' Team Update & Events
- 12-13 Junior News
- 14 Know the Rules
- 15 Peter Byrne RIP
- 16 Scratch Cups
- 17 New Member Profile
- 18 Light Moments

# Treasurer's Note to Members

Dear Fellow Members

Since assuming the role of Honorary Treasurer earlier in the year, one item in my "to do tray" was a note to the members on the financial position of the club. It has taken a little longer than I hoped and apologies for that, but this time has given me the opportunity to review things and come up with some ideas.

In the briefing paper I propose to address things at a high level and avoid getting into the detail of specific numbers, which I will keep for the year end accounts. In any case, the golf club business is so seasonal, that any results for part of the year can be misleading.

Overall, so far, this year can be summarized as follows:

- We are tracking our 2022 budget closely
- Costs, with inflation becoming a factor, are a little higher than budget
- Income in the form of subscriptions, green fee income and entrance fees are a little ahead of budget.
- Loan repayments and cash flow are in line with budget

Covid-19 and the global pandemic make the comparatives with the last few years very difficult especially taking account of the considerable government support the club received. However, it is safe to say that there hasn't been much fundamental change in the revenue and cost structure over the period, say 2016 to early 2022. I would best describe this time as one in which the club was run, by necessity, on a tight budget given the loan commitments we have and the reduced revenue we have coming into the club.

As part of my review, I spent some time comparing our club's finances with other North Wicklow and Dublin Clubs. Suffice to say that our income is significantly behind that of Dublin Clubs while also lower than our local Wicklow clubs. While our annual subs are comparable and, in some cases, even higher, our mix of membership and our age discounts, means our income is lower.

To counter our lower income, our expenditure is also much lower than Dublin clubs and in nearly all categories of expenditure lower than our local Wicklow clubs. There are of course cheaper "country type" models out there but I'm not sure they are very comparable with Delgany. Overall, given our location and management structure of the club, in general we do a good job of controlling costs.

Another interesting exercise is to compare the current income and expenditure with the comparable results from ten to fifteen years ago. During that period our income from Subscriptions and Green fees were on average about €150k higher than now and our combined Course, Admin and Clubhouse expenditure was about €200k a year higher.

As well as the day-to-day income and expenditure, the other area to review is our capital expenditure. Again, we have a similar story here, that our capital expenditure (course and clubhouse) has been lower over the last number of years than it was ten to fifteen years ago, this despite the fact that back then, we had just completed the new clubhouse and the redesign of the course.

In summary, I believe we have done a fairly good job at "cutting our coat to fit our cloth". Of course, there are times where we don't get everything right, but overall we have done a reasonably good job through difficult times.

The problem is that long term I am not sure this model is sustainable and we need to start reinvesting in the club both on the course and the clubhouse. What I have advocated at committee is that we follow the "Ryanair model" where we run a low-cost model but one that continually invests in capital to keep running costs as low as possible. There is no doubt our lack of investment is now being reflected in higher repair costs (both course machinery and clubhouse decking being good examples) and where we have no choice but to immediately replace certain items, such as the dishwasher and fryers in the kitchen, when they went earlier in the year.

Thankfully the economic environment is improving for the club in that entrance fees are again becoming a factor in the club's finances. As against this, inflation is now a big factor and there is pressure on all costs (course materials, energy costs, salaries, and capital costs).

With a view to generating better cash flow to fund necessary investments, one step we have taken is to offer our term members a discount on their entrance fees if they pay the remaining fee by the end of August. The improved cash flow this should generate, and other measures being taken have enabled us to proceed with two major items of machinery for the course, a new mower and a new sprayer.

For 2023, with rising inflation and the need for capital and day to day expenditure on both the course and the clubhouse, we see the ongoing need to look at all our revenue streams. Put simply to try and deliver Delgany to the standard I believe the members want, I'd be looking at:

- Higher subscription income – the aging membership and our discounts are putting our main source of income under pressure. Also, inflation naturally means we will need to try and recoup some of our higher cost base.
- Green fees – back in the day we were generating €75k a year and this year we will do well to get €25k. The right balance between members time and green fees needs to be looked at.
- Sponsorship, fundraising, corporate days – again another source of income well below previous levels which needs more champions to promote them.
- Entrance Fees – back in the Celtic Tiger era we were pulling in almost €500k a year. With the offer to the Term Members this year we are hoping to get in €125k. The big hope is that we can at least match this year's level over the next few years.
- Wills and bequests – the club applied and was granted charitable status in 2010 with the hope that it could generate tax-free contributions. I'd like to remind members of this option in the hope that something will come our way.
- Sale of some land - we're looking at the possibility of selling some sites on the course boundary, that should have little or no impact on our golf. Such a sale would be great for our finances and could bring our final repayment of the loan, which is currently about 7 years away, that much closer. With no loan repayments we would be in a whole new ballgame.

Needless to say, that in addition to our Revenue streams, an equal focus needs to be put on our costs specially to ensure the inflation impact is minimised where possible. The investment in replacing older course machinery should help reduce repair costs and lower running costs.

Another area that needs further focus over the coming months is the bar and catering. Covid-19 has made it very difficult to measure performance but now with things getting back to normal and our new Chef in situ, this area will be focussed on. At a very high level it would appear that while our gross turnover is well down on where we were in the noughties, at a bottom-line level it continues to trade close to breakeven but if the turnover levels continue to fall, this breakeven situation will be hard to maintain.

To conclude, we have come through a tough time for the club where a good outcome was to maintain the status quo and make sure the loan repayments were met. I believe we may have an opportunity over the next few years to think about reinvesting in a meaningful way in the club's facilities. At the end of the day while control of expenditure will always be important, the really important thing will be the income we can bring into the club.

Regards

Colm Whooley, Treasurer

## Festival of Golf - A Big Success!

We were blessed with a weekend free of rain and with lots of sunshine to remind us it might be summer!! The clubhouse was a blaze of colour with bunting and balloons everywhere. We had many different golfing competitions starting with the Juniors on Thursday.



We had team events, singles, mix 'n match, shot-gun, a scramble, a rumble and we finished with a wonderful 9 hole family team of four scramble on Sunday. Many familiar Delgany family names were playing in this competition with representation from the Bradshaws, Bergins, Harmons, Mulligans and the Boyles! Delighted for the Mulligans who won the event.

Friday evening was a memorable, relaxed and convivial evening with all who played in the afternoon team event and those who played in the mix 'n match eating in the bar and being entertained by a most talented young Ukrainian jazz musician.



Everything was relaxed until the very happy JB Carr team arrived back to the Clubhouse, fresh from victory over Powerscourt in the county final. The Captain of Dun Laoghaire, who was a supporter was very envious of the wonderful atmosphere he said we had in Deigany Golf Club.

Let's hope we can have many more nights like this.





Saturday was another very busy day with a beautiful buffet meal after the shot gun fourball rumble with music from the 70's and 80's to enjoy as we ate.

This was our principal event which was once again kindly sponsored by Arachas Insurance Brokers. Many thanks to Tom Galvin and Ian O'Donoghue for their continued support of the Club.



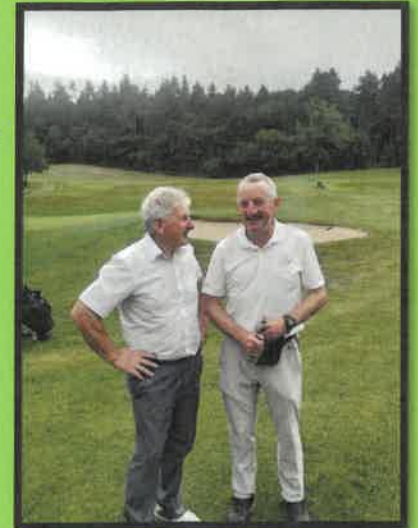
*Contratulations to the winners of the Rumble:*

*Don McGrane, Jim Blake, Ian Blake & Oh Peng Lim*

# Men's Team News

## DELGANY WIN JB CARR COUNTY FINAL

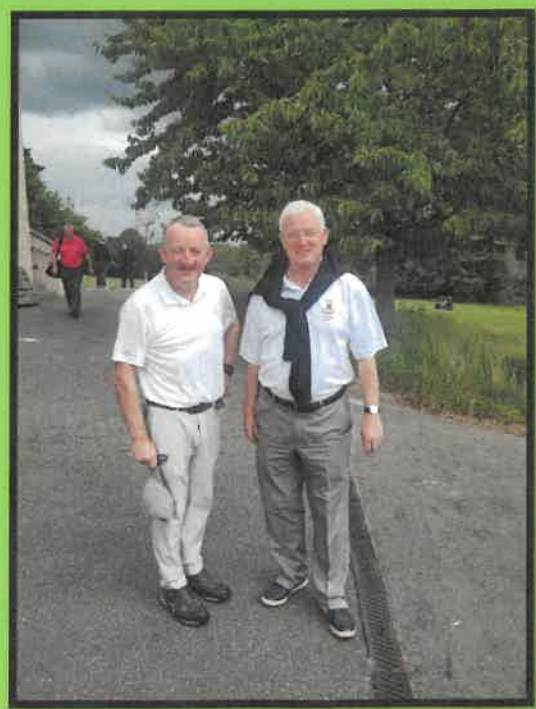
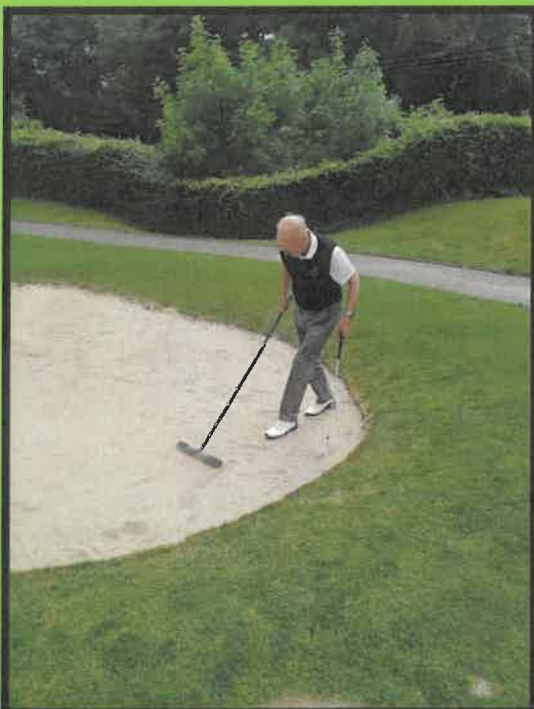
Wow, what a match. Delgany came away from Powerscourt with 2 away wins out of 5 and needed a minimum of 3 home wins to stay in the match. First over the line were Mike O'Brien and Frank Burke with a solid performance despite a shaky start. They were closely followed by the second pairing of Kenny Johnston and Michael Behan who had to fight all the way to get their win on the 16th hole. Then came word that our 4th pairing, Tom Bergin and Ailbe Brennan, had put in a master class performance and stormed to a win on the 14th hole.



Delgany now had their 5 wins in the bag and at worst facing a playoff tie breaker. Our third pairing of Dick Cotter and Eugene Davy were up against the strongest Powerscourt pairing and eventually lost on the 17th. It was now all down to the 5th pairing of Don Berkery and Conor O'Riordan who had a monumental battle on their hands and took the match to the 17th before losing.

The Final was now level at 5 wins each and the Match would be decided by a pre-selected pairing from each Club to go down the 1st hole on a sudden death mission. Delgany had pre-selected Tom Bergin and Ailbe Brennan. The advantage swung from one side to the other and Delgany only stayed in thanks to a great Tom Bergin putt for a 5 to halve the hole.

Going up the 2nd with the 2 selected drives were way up on the left hand side. Ailbe went first with an excellent pitch, pin high and just off the green on the left, while Powerscourt ended up at the back of the green on the left. Tom took on the hole and left his put 3 feet past the hole, pin high. Powerscourt struggled with the break on the green and left the ball 8 feet past the hole and missed the return putt. All down to Ailbe and as the ball hit the bottom of the cup the Delgany roar was heard down in the village.





# Men's Team News

## JB Carr great run ends

Delgany's great run in this year's JB Carr tournament came to an end at Castlecomer GC just recently. Coming out of Wicklow as County Champions, we were drawn away to the Kilkenny Champions.

Castlecomer Golf Course is long, at 5920 meters, with fast and difficult greens which made the task a difficult one. In spite of this we got off to a good start in damp conditions and at the turn were up in three matches, all square in one and just 1 down in the final match.

As the first match players drove the 10th the heavens opened and playing conditions deteriorated rapidly.

Castlecomer is a great track, a difficult challenge and very much a "local knowledge" course and this, combined with the heavy rain proved too much for most of us to handle.

Congrats to Ken Green and Michael Behan who played exceptional golf to win their match on the 14th. Match 1, 4 and 5 were lost on the 15th with match 3 being called in at the 17th.

The management and panel must be complimented on the marvellous preparation that was undertaken by this group all year with innumerable practice sessions which led to such a great run. There was a very large panel that held together right through the year that was so important to providing options for the selectors. A sincere thank you to the management of Sean Donnelly, Brendan Cooney and Ailbe Brennan and all the panel for such great dedication and hard work. Let's look forward to building on this effort in 2023.

## Junior Cup - Delgany vs Lisheen Springs 2 home & 3 away matches

Delgany unfortunately came out on the wrong side of a 3 to 2 result. A valiant and fantastic effort, with 2 home wins, William Walshe winning 3 & 2 (no end to his talents) and Liam May winning on the 20th, after being 3 down (mighty win).

There was horrendous rain and wind up in the Dublin mountains. All 3 matches looked doomed early on, however a great turnaround in all 3 matches ensured a very tight finish. Declan Hanley's opponent proved too formidable an opponent; Cathan McCarthy lost on the 18th and with Ian Cuddihy dormie 2 down, it seemed that was it. Ian had 2 fantastic wins on 17 & 18, to take the overall match to an extra hole, however it proved just a short step too far.

Well done to all the players, subs, caddies, panellists, and supporters.



# NEWS FROM THE COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

## HolmPatrick Cup:

The qualifier for the HolmPatrick Cup in aid of the NCBI was held on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and the winners were...  
Tiernan Lane and Rory McMahon

Congrats to Tiernan and Rory who have qualified for the Leinster Region Final in Carlow on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Validation of Competition Results:

When the last scores are entered in a competition it is then closed.

These results are automatically posted to the How Did I Do (HDID) website when the competition closes.

However, the competition results must be validated first by the Competitions and Handicaps Committees.

Once all the cards are checked and the scores confirmed, the results will be posted to the Competitions page on the Club Website – see link below.

<https://delganygolfclub.com/competitions/>

Until that happens the results you see on HDID may not be the final ones, which is why you may see the same competition posted more than once on HDID.

## Card Completions and Entering Scores on the Computer:

On a related note, there has been some improvement in card completion and score entering. So we are grateful for that.

Unfortunately though, we continue to see scores not being entered on the hallway computer which adds to the workload of the volunteers who give up their time to check all the cards and score entry.

It only takes a couple of minutes to enter a score but it saves a lot of time afterwards!

One more ask is to ensure that you have written your front and back nine totals on the card as that has to be checked also...

## Fourball “Crossovers”:

You may not have noticed but Paul Hautz has created an additional competition entry for fourballs for teams which are Crossovers – one player in common with two teams in the fourball.

All you have to do is enter the first pair/team in the main fourball competition initially, followed by the second pair in the Crossover competition. Both sets of results will be checked afterwards but we recommend that you write the word “Crossover” at the top of both cards to draw attention to it.

## Uncollected Prizes:

The Competitions Room is looking more and more like a wine cellar due to the amount of uncollected prizes!!!

Over the next week we will be clearing out those prizes and uniting them with the worthy winners...

After that’s done, any unclaimed prizes which have not been collected 3 weeks after the date of the Competition will be forfeited and used for other competitions.

That’s all from the Competitions & Handicap Committees...

## Ladies Team Update

Our Ladies Intermediate team lost to Slade Valley - hard luck to players caddies and managers.

Our Mixed Foursomes team lost Beech Park - hard luck to all involved.

And then there was one!

Our mighty Challenge team had a super win against the K Club in round 3.

Congratulations to Ann Marie, Bernie and Marie who had such convincing wins at home that Ann and Jackie got called in early away.

Well done to all players and Patricia and Ann who were subs, as well as caddies and Ann Nulty and Helen Doolin who are the Managers.

Next round is the 1/4 Final v Powerscourt GC

We will have 2 matches at home and 3 away

Date of match is: 10th July at 3.30pm

### Team

#### Home

Anne Marie O'Grady - caddy Bernie Jones

Bernie Flynn - caddy Mags McDarby

#### Sub

Marian Lambe - caddy sub Mary Corcoran

#### Away

Marie Bolger - caddy Anna O'Loughlin

Ann Hayes - caddy Pauline Burke

Marie Monaghan - caddy Ann Cafferky

#### Sub

Sharon Byrne - caddy sub Sandra Doyle

**Please put the date in your diaries now and make a big effort to support our girls.**

We can do this girls

Anna O'Loughlin

Team Liaison

## Forthcoming Ladies Events



### Captain Pat Kitterick's Prize to the Ladies

**Tuesday 12th July**

**Dinner and prize giving from 7pm.**

*Please book your table at the bar.*

### Gavin Kavanagh's Prize to the Ladies

**Tuesday 19th July**

**Dinner and prize giving from 7pm.**

*Please book your table at the bar.*



# Junior Golf

## Golf Ireland Leaders Workshop

Neil Kilgallon from Golf Ireland paid us a visit on Monday 20th June to give some of our committee, helpers and parents a Leaders Workshop which entailed basic warm up exercises for our juniors (which we should all do before stepping on the first tee) and some fun games for our younger juniors on the practice area. Thankfully the weather was kind to us and all present thought the Workshop was very enjoyable and should provide us with plenty of activities for our 'scramblers' over the summer season.



*Neil with our eager bunch of 'Junior Helpers'*

Our juniors will be getting into full swing now that the primary schools are closing for the summer holidays and we welcome all our scramblers back both boys and girls.

We currently have over 140 juniors and if any parents or members would like to join our 'helper group' please contact Mairead (0868378631) or Michael (0868193583).

We need 'helpers' to walk with the scramblers and to supervise activities such as the 'Improving our Putting' below..



### **Junior Competitions**

Unfortunately we did not progress in the Leinster Junior Foursomes and we wish Wicklow well in their semi final match.

On Monday last Delgany hosted the South Leinster U18 Interclub with 16 clubs vying for a place in the All Ireland Boys Interclub. Team of 5 play singles stableford with the best 3 scores to count. With only 1 team to qualify it was always going to be a tough task and despite a great effort from our team we did not qualify finishing in eight place just 6 points behind the winners. This was the first introduction to Interclub golf for the team and I know they will have learned a lot from the experience. Thanks to Charlie, Evan, Alex, Robert, Ollie and Felix.

***We will come back stronger next year lads!***

Special mention to Cathan McCarthy and William Walshe who performed brilliantly in the Senior Mens' teams this year.

# Know the Rules....

## BUNKERS



Sue and John are playing the 4th hole and after two great drives, Sue hits it onto the green and John pushes it into a bunker on the right. He is lucky his ball stopped just before a huge footprint which would have made the shot very difficult. There are some leaves and twigs in front of his ball which he removes making sure that he does not move the ball. He takes a practice swing making sure he did not touch the sand then takes his stance by twisting his feet into the sand and hits the ball onto the green. As you can see in the picture whoever was in the bunker before John had not bothered to rake his footprints on the way out of the bunker. This is the way John likes to leave the rake with the head in the centre of the bunker and the handle just touching the grass at side of the bunker. So if a ball hits the rake head it will be in the centre of the bunker not on the down slope.

### Question

If John's ball had ended up resting by the rake what could he do and what penalty?

- (a) Move rake and if ball moves replace it no penalty.
- (b) Move rake and if ball moves play it from new POSITION 1 PENALTY SHOT
- (c) Move rake and if ball moves play it from new position 2 PENALTY SHOTS

Answer on last page

**Remembering Peter Byrne (1926-2022)**  
**Past Captain 1994**



Peter Byrne our 1994 Captain passed away peacefully on the 30th May 2022. He is survived by his wife Jane (Lady Captain 1981) and their three sons.

Peter worked with the Eastern Health Board based in Baltinglass where he first took up the game of golf and in fact was Vice Captain there the year they left Baltinglass and moved to Delgany.

Peter joined Delgany in 1972 and he was a wonderful member both on and off the course, where he and Jane rarely missed a "Good Night in Delgany". Most of Peter's contemporaries have passed away and although he had not played golf for many years he looked forward to attending the Past Captains' golf day each year when he would reminisce about the old days with a glass of Whiskey or two, once he had organised his lift home to Priory Road.

Peter had worked on many sub-committees and as Captain with his Lady Captain Carmel Wyse carried on the ethos and traditions of Delgany Golf Club. He was always the gentleman and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dhilis



# Co Wicklow & Delgany Senior Scratch Cups Delgany Golf Club

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022**



**Entry: Members €25  
Visitors €35  
(includes  
Soup & Sandwich)**

**Timesheet available at:**

**[www.delganygolfclub.com](http://www.delganygolfclub.com) - BOOK A TEE TIME**

or

**<https://members.brsgolf.com/delgany/login>**



## New Member Profile - Paul Ryan



### What is your golfing background?

Having just acquired by my GUI two and half years ago I suppose you could still call me somewhat of a golf novice. Prior to this, I enjoyed playing sociable golf, especially during the summer down in Wexford, where I am originally from. Since attaining my GUI I love getting out regularly in the attempt to get the handicap down.

### **Why Delgany?**

I joined Charlesland Golf Club on the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2020 (BC) and received my GUI before Covid hit. Unfortunately, at the end of Oct 2021 we were advised that Charlesland was closing and hence came the time to chose a new golf club to join. I had never played in Delgany, but during the close down I took the opportunity to have a few walks around the course. From the moment I came through the front gates, up the drive way and then out onto the course, I felt a calm, peaceful and relaxing feeling. This, coupled with the fact that I knew some good friends and acquaintances here, made it a must club for me to join. I would like to acknowledge and thank Bernard O'Toole who was one of my sponsors to join this Club.

### **Golfing ambitions.**

It goes without saying that I have the usual golf ambitions of hitting my ball straight 'more of the time' and getting my handicap down. However, one of the main reasons I play is that I just enjoy golf plus meeting new acquaintances and friends, as I move into next chapters in my life. I had the privilege this week to play with Don McGrane in the Wednesday 9- Hole competition. After the game, while enjoying a post-match drink in the clubhouse we met a pal of his Cyril O'Loughlin. The banter, craic and slagging between the two of them as regards who had the most hole in ones showcased to me the amazing, open and friendly culture this club has. This is an example of why I am playing golf in Delgany.

### **Other sports interests and sporting heroes.**

I enjoy a lot of sports and I have been very actively involved in Ladies Gaelic Football for a long number of years (hence my delay in taking up golf). Thus, my admiration and 'sporting heroes' are all those women in whatever sport they play, who participate, excel and are now getting the exposure and recognition for their achievements. From Sinead Goldrick a local Gaelic player, to Rachel Blackmore, to Leona Maguire etc

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

In 2021, I did well in one of the Medal Competitions and was thrilled to see my name on the Golfer of the Year Notice Board, a real feeling of success for me (position did not matter). Since joining Delgany I have been able to bring my handicap down from 29 to now 21. I'm hoping to see this trend line continue!

### **Interesting facts.**

Golf is one of those sports that has the ability to bring people together. Every summer for the past 15 years myself and college friends have an annual golf get together. Every year we meet up for two days of golf and it's an annual golf event we all look forward to. After one of our friends passed away, the group acquired a barrel of whiskey, which after many years has now matured and we bottled it last year with a personalised label & branding named after our pal "Foxy". I look forward to many years of meeting friends after our round of golf and raising a glass to good friends.

## *A few light moments...*

### *You can't escape Avril .....*

She thought she would escape any fuss but we had to ring in a very special birthday for a very special Captain, 2021 Avril Dowley. Enjoy your year of celebrations Avril.

*A very happy birthday from  
all in Delgany GC*



*Former member Des O'Connor, capturing our own John Byrne, remarked on the uncanny similarity to one of the golfing greats, Sam Snead!*

### **Answer to Know the Rules: Bunkers**

(a) - Providing you replace it there is no penalty. If you play it from where it moved to you would be playing from the wrong place with a 2 shot penalty

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

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