

# THE DELGANY DISPATCH

DECEMBER 9TH, 2022

## Captains Tom and Betty looking forward to a busy year

Our new Captains, Tom Bergin and Betty Sherry, have just embarked on their leadership of our Club for the next 12 months, supported by Vice Captains Ian Barrett and Alison Graham. Here they give us some insight into their priorities for the year ahead.

As incoming Captains we look forward to a full and busy year of golf for our great Club. We are very aware of the need to consolidate the improvement in Club finances and seek further sources of income for investment in the course and the clubhouse. We have a number of projects planned to generate additional income and we hope you the members will lend your enthusiastic support to ensuring their success.

We also aim to move towards the implementation stage of the One Club governance project and expect to put proposals to members on a new management committee structure and club constitution before the end of our term of office. The objective is to put in place a structure which will facilitate greater continuity and a more strategic and professional approach to the running and development of the Club. Your views as members will be very important to the direction we take and you can expect further surveys from us on a number of relevant issues throughout the year.

We are delighted at the extent to which our new members have integrated into the life of the Club and look forward to welcoming more new members throughout the year. The exponential growth of the local Delgany population provides a wonderful opportunity to expand the Club membership and attract a younger age profile through the Junior programme and the associated interest of Junior parents. We will be working on projects to reach out to the local community and showcase the wonders of our great course and facilities.

We hope to meet you all during the year either on or off the golf course and welcome any good ideas you may have on all aspects of Club life.

Yours in golfing

Tom and Betty



### Contents .....

1. Captains' Message
2. Joint Club AGM
- 3-4. Ladies' Christmas
5. Men's Competition
6. New Membership
- 7-8. Course Update
9. New Tee boxes
10. Communications Up-date
- 11-15 Centenary Book
16. And finally



## Joint Club AGM



The Joint Club AGM was held on Monday 5th of December and the minutes are currently being compiled by our Honorary Secretary, Tony Doyle. However, we can report that a full house contributed to some lively debate over three hours and all issues raised are being discussed as we move forward.

The members approved our Treasurer's Report as well as the incoming Officers for 2023 (all are looking forward to working on the challenges that 2023 will bring). Incoming Captains Tom and Betty were welcomed and outgoing President Greg O'Neill presented our new President for 2023, Ruth Jenkinson, with her official jacket to much applause as the meeting closed.



## Ladies' Christmas Spirit Dinner Photos

To start the day off, the Ladies played a 9 hole 3 ball scramble with lots of lovely prizes. First prize of three delightful gnomes went to Susan Lennon, Helen Kane and Denise McCarthy with a score of 30.5. Well done Ladies.

Later that evening the Ladies had their annual Christmas Spirit dinner. There was a great attendance and everybody enjoyed a fantastic dinner. The fabulous music provided by Bernie Clarke, Anne Hickey, Marian Waters, Annamarie Urell, Yvonne Connolly and Lucy Mulcahy all accompanied by Tony Quinn was great fun and everybody joined in.

The star of the evening was, Captain Betty, who dazzled us in her fabulous sparkling Christmas Tree dress.

Mary O'Neill



# Ladies' Christmas Spirit Dinner Photos



# Men's Competition News

## 1. Winter League

Thanks to all who have put their names down for the Winter League.

A reminder that that the entry book is in the hallway beside the computer where you enter your score.

Closing date was this coming Sunday but we have extended that to Wednesday, December 14th. because of the adverse weather forecast.

Please remember to select the correct handicap range and include your mobile number and handicap index when entering.

## 2. Wednesday Fourball - December 21st - SHOTGUN START AT 11.30

Please note that the final Wednesday Fourball before the Christmas break will be a Shotgun Start at 11:30. The timesheet will be open on Sunday, December 11th.

It's important that you book the names in the pairs as they will be playing.

Also, you must be there at least 30 minutes before the shotgun start to facilitate entry to the competition and the allocation of holes to each group.

## 3. Slow Play - Is It You?

Once again we have received reports of slow play, particularly in Fourballs.

Respect for fellow members is one of the cornerstones of any club.

We take such reports seriously so we would ask (as we have done on many previous occasions) that you do the right thing and call people through always when you have lost one or more holes on the group in front.

There is nothing worse than being stuck behind a group who seem oblivious to the delays they are causing in multiple groups behind them.

Keep up with the group in front of you and be courteous if asked by the group behind you to play through...

## 4. Card and Score Completion

Another ask is that you check your scorecard before handing it in...

Are the handicaps recorded?

Are all the Gross Scores and Stableford points noted?

Are the two nines totalled up - correctly - and the overall score recorded?

Are both signatures on the card?

We are constantly receiving cards with details missing (especially handicaps and signatures) and sadly a good few of these result in disqualifications.

Men's Competitions & Handicaps Committee

## New Membership

At this time of year we are looking at our planning for the following season and that includes the diary, competition schedules, course projects and most importantly welcoming new member applications. If like many of us at this time of the year we are meeting up with family and friends and if the topic is golf then we have some good news. Across the many categories from Ordinary to Intermediate and also Junior we are now filling vacancies and these categories will be filling up mainly during January. So it's a good time to consider recommending family and friends to start the year in your Club!

A lot of the necessary information you might need to help is now on our website including a copy of the membership application form. If you would like to discuss any aspects of membership why not give Patrick a call in the office, he will be delighted to discuss the process and any discount opportunities that are currently available. In terms of discounts it is worth while mentioning that those on term membership and whose fee falls due in the fourth year, are still eligible for the 10% discount on entrance fee until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. This early fee payment will save €350 but must be taken up soon.

### Don't Forget

The main Club billing run took place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December and if for any reason a member did not receive their invoice and related notes please let us know and we can rectify that straight away.

Just to remind you, those members who pay in full by 31 December 2022 will be entitled to Concessionary Green Fee vouchers with the number of vouchers dependant on their membership category. The Green Fee vouchers may be used by Ordinary Members for their guests at any time, including at weekends (change from 2020) for invitation competitions or for casual golf. The Green Fee Vouchers issued to other membership categories may be used on weekdays for their guests, for invitation competitions or for casual golf or at weekends for their own use (change from 2020).

These vouchers are now valued at €25 per round for casual golf, so a very valuable bonus (up to €250 value for Ordinary members) for those that pay before year end. So the early bird will definitely get the benefit.

Patrick Bradshaw  
General Manager  
Delgany Golf Club  
Delgany, Co. Wicklow  
A63DX32  
+353(0)1 2874536  
Why not visit us @  
[www.delganygolfclub.com](http://www.delganygolfclub.com)



## Course Update

After the Joint Club AGM, I am delighted to have been elected to Chair of the Course Committee. The excellent presentation by our Treasurer, Colm Whooley, outlined the tight financial situation that we have to operate in.

I am now trying to get my 'feet under the desk' and have been welcomed by the Course Committee at my first meeting, last week. In addition, I had several interesting tours of aspects of our course with David Caul & Steven McDonald.

We are working on the winter tee roll out so we can protect and rest, where possible, our main tees. In addition, we are in the process of finalising our Winter Projects and Winter Maintenance Programme. This will be published in the next edition of the Dispatch.

We are presenting the remit of the Course Committee to the Management Committee in the New Year and when agreed, we will share this with the members. The reason for clarifying our remit is to publish what we do and how we work with and need the support of our key stakeholders.

Following the passing of the amendment on the buggy path motion at the Joint Club AGM, we will shortly start the process of taking soundings from interested parties. We are committed to reporting back to the members, on the detailed implications of options concerning the extending of our buggy path network, by the 30th April, 2023. Recently there were some concern over the driving practices of some of the buggy users. So we thought it best to update and publish the Delgany Buggy Etiquette rules to remind everyone of what is expected and what is best practice to ensure the safety of drivers, players and the protection of our course.

In conclusion, the Course Committee looks forward to working, on behalf of you, with our members towards building on the work of previous committees to enhance the playing experience. We will need your support and feedback as we progress. It is our intention to contribute regularly, through the Delgany Dispatch to keep you informed of our work.

Ken Greene,  
Chairperson,  
Course Committee



## Course Update

### BUGGY ETIQUETTE

**Buggy users must adhere to the buggy etiquette in order to prolong the period during which buggies can be used on the course.**

The safe operation of buggies on the course requires conscientious application and adherence to the requisite standard of care required in the use of all motorised vehicles.

1. Use the **buggy paths** where provided.
2. Drive in the **rough only** where paths are not provided.
3. To cross a fairway, observe the 90<sup>0</sup> rule and cross before the red distance markers. **No stopping on the fairways.**
4. Keep your buggy at least **10 paces** away from greens, tees and bunkers unless on a buggy path.
5. Never make **sharp turns** that may damage the grass or in any way endanger the occupants or others either on the course or in the car park. Never **use the buggy** to look for a golf ball by driving up and down the area.
6. Please obey **direction signs and roping** that is designed to protect the course.

In the interest of safety, or the condition of the course, the Club may impose restrictions governing the use of the buggy on the course whenever, it deems it appropriate to do so. This might apply to the whole or part only of the course. Among the issues which may result in such restrictions are adverse weather conditions including wind, rain, water logging or frost.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Patrick Bradshaw  
General Manager



## New tee box signs and notice board 2023

As part of the Club's continued development, in 2023 it is planned to install a new course notice board along with new tee box signs. The tee box signs will be placed at optimum positions adjacent to each tee box and will include a map and details of each hole, along with space for advertising. The Club is inviting companies and local businesses to avail of this opportunity to sponsor one of these signs. This is the style of the proposed signs.



With over 30,000 rounds of golf played annually at the Club by members, visitors and guests, this is a great opportunity for sponsors to promote their business. Sponsorship is offered on either a one year contract or alternatively at a discount price for three and five years. Because of the cost of creating the sponsors plate we are encouraging the three and five year options, where possible. Rates vary according to location of tee box as detailed below.

	<b>1 year Paid annually</b>	<b>3 year deal payment (paid up front)</b>	<b>5 year deal payment (paid up front)</b>
<b>Noticeboard</b>	€1,500	€4,000	€6,000
<b>Tee box signs</b>			
First Tee box	€700	€1,600	€2,800
Premium Tee box	€500	€1,300	€2,000
Standard Tee box	€400	€1,050	€1,600

In addition, the Club will also offer the sponsor the following:

A Complimentary fourball which can be used to treat clients or guest to a game at the Club.

Launch of Signs. We will have a shotgun start competition to officially launch the new signs.

Each sponsor will be invited to enter a team which will start on the sponsors' assigned hole.

Discount on standard rates for a corporate golf outing.

Include the Sponsor's company profile on the Club website.

Special reduced rates when booking the function room in the clubhouse.

The Club plans to have all signs in place by March 2023. For further details please contact any member of the Sponsorship & Events Committee or the club General Manager, Patrick Bradshaw, email [operations@delganygolfclub.com](mailto:operations@delganygolfclub.com)

**Sponsorship & Events Committee:** Fergus Cardiff, Tom Bergin, Francine O'Byrne, Aidan Lacy, Paul Ryan, Gary Connolly

## Communications Committee Report

As with all committees in our Club, we are indebted to volunteers who give up their time and expertise for the good of the Club. Our Communications Committee see's some changes this year as we said goodbye to our popular Chairman, Sean O'Rourke, Tanya Beattie and Adam Rodgers, all of whom have made a considerable contribution to our recent progress.

We now can officially welcome Dermot McCarthy, Mary O'Neill, Daragh Bass and Jason Bradshaw into the group as we look ahead to working with General Manager, Patrick Bradshaw, and his team, in order to provide up to date information for all our members across multiple forums. The Delgany Dispatch will be updated for the new year with some new ideas coming through. As you will see, we are starting today with instalments of the Club Centenary book which details the Clubs past brilliantly.

Our Website has had a long overdue update thanks to Dermot McCarthy and his work is ongoing as we plan to integrate as many information formats as possible. Eugene Murray has done sterling work on our Club V1 system and this while he works tirelessly away with our Drama group. Jason Bradshaw is our Facebook man and he has grown our page with increased visits and likes as we push Club photos and news out as quickly as possible.

Daragh Bass brings a wealth of marketing and communications experience to us and has already given us plenty of food for thought as we move forward. Captain Betty has arranged Mary O'Neill to join us and Mary will report all the news of the day from our Lady members.

We are aware that not all members are computer users and you will have seen that thanks to Briege in the Office, we started leaving printed copies of the Dispatch at the Bar for members to read at their leisure and this initiative will continue in 2023 (just please remember to leave the copies there for others).

Our thanks to all who read, contribute and help us as we work to keep Delgany GC in the news and our members up to date.

Tony Corcoran.



## Delgany Golf Club Centenary Book

Thanks to some gentle prompting from Phil Farrell, Richard Sherriff and Joe Codrye, we are planning to reissue the 2008 Centenary Book in instalments over the coming year. This book is a great source of information on the Club's background and one that give our newer members insights into the who, what, where and when of the Club. We start today with .....

This account of the birth and growth of Delgany Golf Club is unusual, if not unique, in that it is compiled, written, illustrated and printed almost exclusively by members of the club. It is not a 'history' in the strict meaning of the word—rather it is an attempt to tease out and celebrate the 'bits and pieces' of human effort that brought the club through the last hundred years and, also to show how the club and its members have interacted with the local community and the wider golfing fraternity.

Among the more important bits and pieces are (a) the physical environment in which the club was formed (the local landscape and how it came into being; who were the residents of Bellevue House and lands and what was their legacy (b) the formal establishment of the club and the teething problems that followed, not least World War 1 and World War 2 and (c) the woodlands, the vegetation and grasslands that support active bird, animal and insect populations. At the human level, we learn a little as to what was involved in playing a game of golf at Delgany in the post World War 2 period, and explore the female perspective and broader issues of club membership and development. We also learn a little about how the club and its previous occupants were viewed by Delgany residents.

We follow the development of the golf course itself—from the original, and still unknown, layout of Tom Hood, through Harry Vardon, and up to the modern changes of Patrick Merrigan. We trace the story of the clubhouses, from the original tantalising tentative tenure in Bellevue House to the official opening of the current building and the completion of the upgraded service complex. We also share the views of our professional, Gavin Kavanagh, on how the game and the course should/might be played. Membership is examined from the stand-point of numbers, surnames, family connections and geographic distribution. We look at inter-club social golf events and at the more serious side of club golf as reflected in the main trophies that are played for every year. 'Serious' golf, though, is not a continuous 52 week affair and the cyclical nature of the golf year for the ladies is highlighted.

## Delgany Golf Club Centenary Book

It is a great pleasure to record in this book the achievements of our golf teams in inter-club competitions, as well as to celebrate the names of individuals who achieved external golfing success. We are very pleased to have had access to official club minutes, extracts from which are quoted here to illustrate the range of society and life style changes during the century, and the variety of issues which must be dealt with when running a golf club. Preparation of balance sheets and income and expenditure accounts are only part of the job!

The last section of the book is a record of the Centenary year, concentrating on the special events and competitions of this unique year. The planning for these started in the last century, and their range and appropriateness reflect the foresight, energy and drive of the management of the club over this extended period. During all this lead-in time, a time of unprecedented physical development, the Centenary committee, under the leadership of John Berkery, worked tirelessly to plan and deliver an imaginative programme of class and quality resulting in a year to savour and remember.

Finally, an attempt is made to illuminate the phrase 'special chemistry of Delgany' by recording some responses and remarks of our wide membership to particular issues and events. And if these remarks have no particular relevance, then simply looking back on ourselves and having a smile or a laugh surely gives us some pointers as to what should happen, and where we should go, over the 'course' of our second century.

## 1. CRADLE

### 1.1 LANDSCAPE and SOILS

One of the features which sets golf apart from most other sports is that the game is played on grounds that are not laid out to standard dimensions. The 'pitch' and its environment are integral to the difficulty and pleasure of the game. Golf courses generally seek individuality by deliberately taking advantage of the natural features of their site locations, which in turn become 'signatures' of the course. To understand Delgany Golf Club's signature, we must look back to distant events that shaped the landscape on which the course lies, and which give it its characteristic topography and soils.

The land between Bray and Wicklow Town, and inland as far as Roundwood and Rathdrum, is underlain by rocks that are 500 to 1,500 million years old. They are mostly sandstones that were changed to quartzite by volcanic activity 400 to 500 million years ago. Locally, quartzites form the range of hills of which Bray Head, Great Sugar Loaf and Little Sugar Loaf are the most distinctive. These same quartzites lie under the younger shale rock that forms the geological floor of Delgany Golf Course.

About 2 million years ago, the climate of North West Europe started to cool dramatically and Ireland was subjected to an Ice Age, during which huge masses of ice covered most of the country. The

ice that had the greatest influence on the Delgany area had moved there from the North West (the Irish Midlands) and the North East (the Irish Sea Basin). When temperatures eventually started to increase again and the ice started to thaw, vast volumes of melt water were generated from which extensive deposits of sediments settled out across the local countryside. As well as this, melt water that was trapped within the glacial debris eventually escaped by cutting huge channels through local rocks and hills – the best known examples of these channels are the Scalp, the Rocky Valley and the Glen of the Downs all of which are so distinctive of the landscape around Delgany.

When the Ice Age ended 12,000–15,000 years ago, the topographical features of the Delgany area were not much different to what they are today. It was at this point that present-day soils began to form. At Delgany the shale rock that underlies the golf course was relatively rich in plant nutrients and therefore comparatively amenable to soil formation: at the lower elevations of the golf course, soil formation was also favoured by the presence of limey deposits that had been transported on to the site by the invading ice.

In 2005, a survey of the soils surrounding the clubhouse was carried out, some details of which are given in the Appendix. Overall, it was concluded that the soils rank highly in terms of suitability for golf and would not be inferior to

many others, except those found on sea-side links or on the few parkland courses that have been developed over a base of sand or gravel. However, modern demands for year-round-golf as well as the sheer volume of golf that is played nowadays have exposed limitations on those parts of the course that require the highest quality of grass, namely greens and to a lesser extent tees. Recognition of this is evident in the recent decision of the club to use imported sand, without native soil, in the root zones of greens and tees on the re-designed course.

## *1.2 LA TOUCHE DIMENSION*

Bellevue House was the first clubhouse of Delgany Golf Club! This came about in the following way: Major Peter La Touche inherited the house and demesne in 1897/8. On his death in 1904, the estate passed to his three sisters Mary, Charlotte and Frances. Thirteen years earlier Frances had married Arthur Mountford Archer, a local doctor and widower with two daughters. The Archers moved into Bellevue immediately, but because Peter had died intestate, an executor's sale of the main contents of the house had to take place during 1906. A little later (1908) Dr. Archer was to be one of the six founder members of the club and his agreement to provide Bellevue land for the course and Bellevue House (now without furniture) as the clubhouse places him as the most significant of the founder members. His election as first President of the club acknowledges this

reputation among the early members.

In 1913 the Archers moved from Bellevue to Malvern, a dower house in Delgany village (behind the petrol station) ending more than 150 years of La Touche family occupation of the estate. A fuller account of this family and Bellevue is outlined in the Appendix.

In 1914 Hugh Howard, a step-brother of the Earl of Wicklow, rented Bellevue and was in negotiation to purchase it when he died in 1919. The house with some of the land was then bought by Mr David Frame – other parts of the estate were taken over by the Department of Lands (Forestry Division). In 1932, Mr Frame disposed of his interest to the Land Commission from whom, in the same year, the Golf Club acquired the freehold (without mineral rights!) of that part of the property that constitutes most of today's course.

During this time Bellevue was never lived in as a home. Its condition deteriorated as the years went by and it was finally pulled down in the early 1950s. Today, there is almost nothing left to indicate where the once magnificent old house stood (above and to the north west of the 9<sup>th</sup> tee). There are, however, three artefacts still standing on the golf club property that reflect the grandeur of the former Bellevue Estate – the lime-kiln behind and below the men's 1st tee, the stone walls that are most visible to the right of the 8<sup>th</sup> green, in the dyke to the right of the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway, in the vicinity

# Delgany Golf Club Centenary Book

Folio No. 4960 - Schedule No. 30758 Reg. No. 2  
**LAND ACT, 1923.**

Agreement between the Irish Land Commission and a Purchaser for Sale of a Parcel.

## IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

AN AGREEMENT made the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 1923, between the Land Commission, the Vendors of the parcel of land described in the Schedule hereto, and THE DELGANY GOLF CLUB of DELGANY, Co. WICKLOW, the Purchaser of the said parcel, being a body coming within the provisions of 1923

Whereas the said parcel has vested in the Land Commission, pursuant to the provisions of the Land Act, 1923. Now it is hereby agreed as follows:—

1. The Vendors hereby agree to sell, and the Purchaser hereby agrees to purchase the said parcel for the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED pounds (£2,500)

2. The Purchaser hereby applies to the Land Commission for an advance of the sum of £1700 for the purpose of such purchase, to be repaid by an annuity of £80-15s-0d. being at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the said advance payable as is by the Land Act, 1923, provided.

The balance of the Purchase Money (if any over the amount of the advance under the Land Purchase Acts) is to be paid by the Purchaser in Cash (£800).

3. The said parcel shall, subject as hereinafter mentioned, and as provided by the Land Purchase Acts, be vested in the Purchaser in fee-simple, and shall have appurtenant thereto and be subject to, as the case may be, such easements, rights and appurtenances as are set forth in the Appendix hereto in addition, so far as not included therein, to those provided for by Section 34 (1) of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896.

4. The exclusive right of mining and taking minerals within the meaning of the said Acts and of digging and searching for the same is reserved to and vested in Saorstát Éireann.

4A. The ~~Mineral and the Sporting~~ rights reserved by a Fee Farm Grant dated 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 1787 or in any Superior Grant in fee of the lands are reserved to Mary Baker his heirs and assigns or other the Owner or Owners thereof his or their heirs and assigns, and subject thereto

5. The Sporting rights within the meaning of the Irish Land Act, 1903, over or upon the said parcel are reserved to and vested in the Land Commission.

6. There shall be payable to the Land Commission interest on the Purchase Money at the rate of £4 15s. 0d. per cent. per annum from the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 1922, until the gale day next after the said parcel is vested in the Purchaser, if so vested, or until the date on which possession of the said parcel is given up to the Land Commission pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, and, if so vested, on the said gale day an additional sum, equivalent to a proportion of one year's interest on the Purchase Money at the rate of £4 15s. 0d. per cent. per annum in respect of the period between the said gale day and the day

of the 12<sup>th</sup> green and 13<sup>th</sup> tee, and to the right of the 13<sup>th</sup> fairway, and lastly, the stone pillar on the right side of the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway.

**Lime-Kiln:** The lime-kiln recalls a time when at least some of the soils of the Estate needed to be limed to achieve 'reasonable' growth of agricultural crops, and when lime-mortar was needed for the construction and upkeep of buildings. Being derived mainly from non-limey rocks, the soils on the Bellevue Estate were naturally acidic,

and they tended to become even more so with the development of agriculture which led to losses of nutrients in drainage and nutrient removal in crops.

Unlike many other Wicklow farmers however, the occupants of Bellevue, as well as many of their near neighbours, did not have to import lime from outside the county because earlier ice activity had resulted in massive depositions of limey gravels along the lower slopes and valleys of the nearby country-side.

## And finally....

Lee Trevino turned 83 at the beginning of December and here's some of his legendary golf wisdom.....



- The older I get, the better I used to be.
- You can't teach passion, you can teach everything else.
- There is no such thing as a natural touch, its something you create by hitting millions of golf balls.
- I never think of yesterday, I can't do anything about it.
- Pressure is playing for ten dollars when you don't have a dime in your pocket.
- Golf isn't my business, it's my hobby.

**The Delgany Dispatch is produced by the Club's**

**Communications Sub-Committee:**

**Tony Corcoran (Chair),**

**Ian McMahon, Mary O'Neill,**

**Dermot McCarthy, Daragh Bass**

**Eugene Murray & Jason Bradshaw**

**with support from Briege Burton**