



The Delgany Dispatch

December 23rd, 2022

Captains' Message

*You better watch out, you better not cry
You better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town....*



Betty and Tom wish all our members, their families, and our staff a peaceful and happy Christmas. Since our election as Captains we have been busy with 2023 Budgets, the Joint Club AGM, and happily, a few social events.

We are grateful to Briege Burton, Ann Cafferky and John Gallagher for all the work they have done in putting together the Club diary for 2023. Having not featured for many years the Delgany Corporate Golf Day is making a return in June 2023. Also in June we have a five day Open Week. Our Sponsorship and Events Team will be on the lookout for sponsors for these events. Make sure to check the Club diary before booking your 2023 holidays!

Finally, we want to remind members that if they know of anybody that is considering membership in Delgany Golf Club, it is important to get their application form in before 31st December to avail of the lower entrance levy and discount. We are also open for new Ordinary and Intermediate Members.

We hope you get time to drop into the club for casual or competition golf over the Christmas break.

Best wishes for 2023, Tom & Betty



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Santa visits Delgany Golf Club



We had some very special visitors to the Club on Sunday 18th when Santa, Rudolf and his elf arrived by special buggy down the third fairway bringing good cheer and gifts for all the children waiting with high excitement in the clubhouse. The atmosphere was electric as Santa arrived into his grotto where he gave some special time to each little person, distributed gifts and heard their wishes for Christmas. All the families gathered partook of an excellent Christmas lunch, cooked to perfection by Tom, Simon and the catering team and served with great good humour by Jamie, Kevin, Kasia, Hannah and Emer. The children had a fantastic time with face painting and balloon games and the adults were entertained by Captain Tom's intriguing card tricks. All thanks to Mairead Coghlan for superb organisation of the event and to her support team - Diego Quiros, Phil O'Neill, Gavin Kavanagh, Ann Boyle, Colm Rigley and Alec Vaughan - and most of all a huge thanks to Santa for taking the time from his very busy schedule to come to Delgany Golf Club and create a very special experience for all the families who came to see him.

Have a great Christmas everyone!

Captain Betty



Men's Wednesday Fourball Christmas Photos

Wednesday 21st December saw the usual Men's fourball turn into a shotgun event in order to allow everyone join in the festive fun.

Thanks to Captain Tom and his helpers, there was much laughter and banter as the Christmas spirit took over in the Bar with Tony Quinn on the piano. Biggest cheer of the day was for the rendition of Happy Birthday to celebrate Phil O'Neill's 160th.... oh maybe that was the darts, anyway many happy returns Phil !



Thanks to Daragh Bass and Ray O'Toole for the photos.

DGC Soccer World Cup Sweep

The excitement in Qatar was replicated in Delgany last Sunday. While Santa was entertaining the children in the Seaview Room, a few stray parents were watching the World Cup Final in the bar.

The lucky holders of Argentina win €100 each: Joe Nelson, Eva Doherty and Alan Grace.

The holders of France win €50 each: Robert Bradshaw, Robbie Kelly and Paul Conalty.

And the holders of last placed Qatar win €25 each: Cathan McCarthy, Hugo Henley and Patrick Bradshaw.

Our Sponsorship and Events Group thank all who entered the sweep, and well done to the winners

Christmas Clubhouse & Golf Schedule



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 2022/2023

	Fri 23 rd Dec	Sat. 24 th Dec	Sun. 25 th Dec	Mon. 26 th Dec	Tues. 27 th Dec	Wed 28 th Dec	Thurs. 29 th Dec	Fri. 30 th Dec	Sat. 31 st Dec	Sun. 1st Jan 2023	Mon 2 nd Jan
BAR	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	10.00-Close	10.00-Close	10.00-Close	10.00-Close	10.00-5.00pm	10.00-5.00pm	10.00-Close
Catering	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open to 2.00pm	Open	Open
Golf Events	Men's & Ladies Singles	Casual	Course Closed	Casual	<u>Santagon</u> Team of 4 Scramble Mixed	Men's Winter Invitation Fourball	Junior Competition	Men's & Ladies' S/S	Men's & Ladies' S/S	Men's & Ladies' Fourball	Men's & Ladies Invitation
Pro Shop	9.00-4.00pm	9.00-1.00pm	Closed	9.00-1.00pm	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
Office	9.00-1.00pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9.00-5.00pm	9.00-5.00pm	Closed	Closed	Closed

Thanks to Brieger for the schedule above, there are a few spaces still left for (a) two ladies and (b) one four in the mixed Santagon event on Tuesday 27th December.

Over the Christmas period we will have some special menus for those who wish to clear their bar credit before January 1.

All unused bar credit expires on January 1st (other than top ups) so please ensure you spend it where possible.

Make sure you take advantage of the special green fee voucher offer before the end of the year, by paying your subscription. To make life easy you can pay online, pay at the office (see our opening hours) or by contacting us over the phone with your card details.

Patrick Bradshaw
General Manager

Men's Competition News

As the year draws to a close it's timely to recognise all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes in the Competitions Committee during the year.

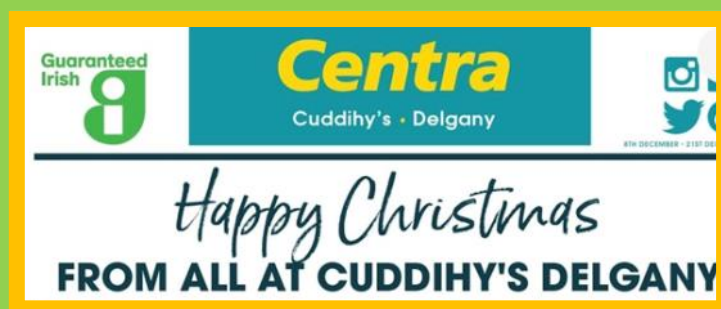
Conn Loy and Brian McGee set up the BRS details at least a month in advance (sometimes more), with Briega in the Office and Donal Meehan putting the finishing touches to each competition by adding the details of start/end times, competition format and any additional information relevant to it on the Banner. Once that's all done, Paul Hautz adds the Competitions to Club V1, the system where you enter on the day you arrive to play. He must make sure that the details match the BRS and that the correct course details are in operation when playing a shortened course.

After the Competition, the cards are collected and sorted in order, with each card being checked/validated the following day for correct handicaps, two signatures and any errors. Unfortunately, if anything is incorrect or missing then this will result in Disqualification.

All the Committee Members mentioned earlier (bar Briega!) are given responsibility for particular days and work in teams with Seamus Byrne, John Sweeney, and Eugene Rellis. A few people have stepped down this year and I'd like to thank Frank McGee and Dick Cotter for their dedication to the Club as volunteers. On the flip side, Alan McDonnell has joined this year and will be overseeing the Winter League in 2023. On that note, we have received almost 120 entries now so we will be going with ten teams of 12 - details to follow.

Santagon Mixed Scramble– December 27th (Shotgun Start at 11am) Thanks to all who have entered this fun event which is our first joint competition after the Christmas break.

We are very grateful to Cuddihy's Centra here in Delgany (@ The Wicklow Arms) and Cuddihy's Ashford, who have generously donated the festive hamper prizes for the event. Local businesses have been supporting us for years so please support them when shopping locally.



Happy Christmas & New Year from all in the

Men's Competitions and Handicaps Committees...

Course update

Buggy Path Suggestion:

At the Joint AGM it was agreed that the Course Committee would engage with interested parties to take soundings on further options concerning extending our buggy path network. To this end we invite you to a meeting on Friday, 20th January at 4.30 pm in our Clubhouse. The agenda of this session is to discuss the issues of this buggy path extension, the challenges and the next steps. Please confirm your attendance at this meeting by emailing us at admin@delganygolfclub.com so we can gauge numbers and set up the room accordingly. All members eligible to attend the Joint AGM are welcome. We look forward to seeing you on 20th January.

Winter Projects and Winter Maintenance Programme:

The winter season gives us the opportunity to tackle some necessary projects that we cannot reach during the full growing season. However, despite the significant reduction in the growth of grass at this time of the year there is still a considerable amount of continuous maintenance that is required to keep the course maintained, healthy and disease-free.

Winter Project and Maintenance Programme 2022 / 23

This programme covers the period up to the middle of March 2023, depending on weather conditions

Priority Winter Projects:

Irrigation upgrade

- 1. We must continue the replacement of the sprinklers which, in most cases, were put in in 2003 and are obsolete and inefficient compared to the modern ones that are more water efficient and adjustable.*
- 2. Replacement of 6 greens sprinklers on holes 1, 3, 7, 10, 11 & 15, this will leave 8 greens to be completed.*
- 3. Replacement of 3 tee sprinklers on holes 10 (long red tee), 13 & 15 this will leave 5 tee complexes to be completed.*
- 4. Labour will be inhouse*

Construction of new green turf nursery

- 1. Replace our green turf nursery but this time we will build it to the full USGA green specification.*
- 2. This is essential to give us back up for plugs for small repairs to our greens caused either by animals, players, machinery or diseases.*
- 3. The position will remain at the left of the old '17th 'green (practice area) as this area has automatic irrigation*
- 4. Labour will be in house*
- 5. Note: This work needs dry weather.*

Installation of the new Tee Markers & new Notice Board near the putting green

- 1. Agree the location, installation & method of fixing the 21 new tee markers*
- 2. Remove the existing notice board at the putting green and fix the ground*
- 3. Install new notice board in a better location*

Other Projects

- 1. Upgrade and roll out of our winter tees*
- 2. Continue roll baring / crown lifting of our trees*
- 3. Improve the playability, to promote grass growth and to facilitate the mowing around our trees.*
- 4. Review the 6th plantation to establish the feasibility of removing some of the large evergreen trees (and unhealthy ones) that are encroaching (as are their roots) on to the fairway and preventing the growth of our native and more appropriate trees.*
- 5. Remove the temporary ramp at the 10th green tee. The side of this tee will be regarded with improved drainage and returned to grass.*
- 6. Return the gorse area on the 8th to grass to prevent further maintenance work here in the future.*

Course update

Winter Maintenance Programme – ongoing

Greens

1. Holes changed 2/3days weekly, daily cup clipping & daily dew removal
2. Plug, repair or seed as required
3. Monthly application of liquid of turf conditioner applied to keep the turf hardened and silver moss suppression
4. Monthly Preventive fungicide treatment applied to all greens to assist with disease suppression.
5. Monthly application of foliar feed to boost grass growth and green health
6. Cutting frequency will be adjusted in line with growth rates and will be reduced to 1 or 2 times per week, as conditions dictate.
7. Turf 'ironing' will be carried out weekly to hold firmness as weather conditions dictate.
8. Monthly aeration programme of pencil tinning and light topdressing as conditions allow.

Fairways / Rough

1. Foliar feed and iron applications is required over the winter months.
2. Sanding of all key walkways throughout the winter months.
3. Verti drains fairways in the new year.
4. Worn and damaged areas turfed or seeded as necessary, when ground conditions allow.
5. Mow when required and ground conditions allow

Tees

1. Rotating between front tees (winter) as weather and wear & tear dictates in conjunction with the introduction of our winter tees
2. Foliar feed and iron applied as required
3. Sanding of tees as required
4. Heavy divoting once a week with a light divoting applied daily
5. Divot boxes checked and filled daily

Miscellaneous winter maintenance programmes

1. Marker disks to be clipped, cleaned and painted as required
2. Seed and turf worn areas throughout the golf course.
3. Continuous leaf blowing away from the golfing areas. Mulching and collecting the leaves when possible.
4. Rope and hoop traffic areas as required.
5. Sprinkler head trimming
6. Maintain the temporary / frost greens for winter play.
7. Spray moss on paths
8. De-ice avenue and clubhouse surround when necessary
9. Snow removal when required

Wet Weather Priority Jobs (when applicable)

1. Tee signs, disc and distance markers cleaning
2. Bunker edging & maintenance
3. Divoting of fairways where access is available
4. Cleaning & maintenance of course furniture
5. Strimming.
6. Clearing drains
7. Machine maintenance, sharpening and repairs
8. Clean, tidy workshop and maintenance yard
9. Clearing sprinkler heads of grass and debris
10. Stock taking/ rotation
11. Boundary repairs if required, clean and tidy areas of the course.

During the winter period we have staff holidays to cover and currently we are in the process of replacing a staff member to return our course crew to 6 staff members.

Ken Greene

Course Committee Chair

Delgany GC Drama Group = Play 2023

We are pleased to let you know that our Delgany Drama group are busy rehearsing for their play in February, '**Cupid Wore Skirts**' by Sam Cree.

This is happening on:

February 15th - 18th and February 22nd - 25th.

Tickets priced at €20 each available from:

Cheryl Ball 087 2520835 cherylball@mac.com or

Diane Reid 087 6374117



We look forward to a full house each night and hope you will enjoy our performance.

Delgany Golf Club Drama Group

Clubhouse

Our congratulations to all involved in the decoration of the clubhouse for Christmas, it looks fantastic and especial thanks to Paul Conalty for the magnificent Christmas tree Wow!

It is also great to see Johnny May's legendary putter on show in the Bar. The fantastic display cabinet used, was created by our own master craftsman Graeme McHugh with timber sourced from the course..



When these gravels were screened, burned in the kiln and spread on the land they were more effective at decreasing soil acidity than the original limestone gravels; also, when mixed with water and sand, the lime provided mortar for building purposes.



Walls: The attractive dry-stone walls found on the parts of the course referred to above were probably constructed with three objectives in mind, (a) to control the movement of farm animals and deer in and out of the woodlands and gardens, (b) to prevent erosion of soil from higher ground, and/or (c) to stabilise the faces of cuttings that were made to alter the course of a roadway or avenue. Sadly, most of the walls are now in a poor state of repair and in places, in fact, sections of wall have disappeared, leaving the once hidden earthen banks in full view.



Pillar: A granite pillar, complete with iron gudgeon, stands alone on the right of the 10th fairway.



Unusually, the gudgeon was secured in place with molten lead. The pillar is nearly two metres high and measures 36cm x 18cm at the base and 32cm x 28cm at the top. Because the pillar stands beside an old roadway, it possibly marks the position of a gate to a former

field on the estate. Alternatively, since the gudgeon is facing in an apparently senseless direction for it to be part of a swinging gate, the pillar may have been re-located from some other position on the estate to act as a 'scratching' post for farm animals.

1.3 TREES and WOODLANDS

Trees have generally been an intrinsic part of 'standing' in Ireland, and going back to pre-Christian times, trees were associated with 'special', sacred, places. This status continued into the Christian era, a notable example being St. Brigid, who founded her famous settlement beside a sacred oak tree near Kildare town—Kildare, 'the Church of the Oak Tree'. Secular sites were also associated with groves/trees, one example being the establishment by the kings of South Leinster (McMurragh-Kavanagh Clan) of their headquarters at Ferns, 'the Alder Grove'. Such sites had a value beyond their intrinsic worth, and part of historic battles was the utter destruction of the sacred grove of the vanquished—the final insult. Even worse than this, Brian Boru saw fit in 1000 BC to cut down the 'Sacred Wood of Thor' during a siege of Dublin, and as a prelude to the Battle of Clontarf.

The first historical mention of Delgany is in the Annals of Ulster which records a battle there in 1021 in which Augaire Mac Dúnlain, King of Leinster, defeated Sigtryggr, son of the King of Dublin, seven years after Brian Boru's

death. Earlier than this (in the 6th century in fact), things had been a little more peaceful at Delgany, where St. Mochoróg choose to build his church in a 'thorny grove'—the grove in question being made up of the Blackthorn, the sacred tree of Delgany. Isolated representatives of the Blackthorn still survive at Delgany, notably in the Southern Woodland.

Moving on in time, the trees and woodlands that lie within, and surround, the Golf Club are part of what makes Delgany such a very special place. Surrounded on three sides by magnificent woodlands, the course is a virtual hideaway from the outside. Yet from within, the same woodlands do little to conceal the spectacular views of the sea and the surrounding hills, while the wonderful array of ageing broadleaved specimen trees within the course adds another dimension to those faraway and fairway views. Along with their aesthetic qualities, the woodlands protect against the noises and interferences of the outside world, giving golfers the peace and tranquillity they require. They also provide suitable habitats for the survival of numerous plants, animals and birds.

Tree planting at Delgany goes back to the middle of the 18th century and the old trees that date back to that period represent just one of four categories of trees and woodlands that are to be found on and around the golf course. The second category is made up of mixed stands of broadleaf and coniferous trees

planted on the northern, southern and western boundaries in the period 1933 – 1934. The third category is made up of mixtures of broadleaves and conifers planted in spinneys between fairways on various parts of the course. These were planted in the 1960's and early 70's. The last category comprises individual specimen trees planted in various locations since then to mark particular events.

Ancient Trees Planted in the 18th and 19th Centuries:

Successive generations of the La Touche family were prolific tree planters whose efforts still bring much enjoyment, and sometimes frustration, to golfers playing the course. According to the Tree Register for Co. Wicklow, Peter La Touche II organized the planting of almost 50,000 trees in the greater Delgany area during the period 1810 – 1830. More than likely, though, the La Touches had also planted an array of other attractive ornamental trees even earlier than this (mid 18th Century). Apart from 'estate manicuring', tree planting in Ireland at that time was seen as a deliberate statement by landlords of their presence and status in the country. It is not certain if any of the beech trees around the golf course date back to the early part of the 19th century, but their size and general appearance suggest that this is very likely.

Golfers see trees in less than aesthetic terms: they are obstacles to be negotiated on the way to a perfect round. The legacy of the La Touche noble trees may be pretty but on more than half of the holes

on the course they have to be factored in to the golfers strategy.

Starting at the 1st, it is clear that three ancient trees, each of which dates back to the mid 18th century, strongly influence play on the hole. The large Spanish chestnut on the left hand side of the fairway (21m (69 feet) high and 6.4m (21 feet) trunk circumference), and the sessile oak on the same side closer to the green (22.5m (73.8 feet) high and 5.1m (16.7 feet) circumference) spell trouble for anything played down the left, either off the tee or in approaching the green. The large beech tree on the right, in close proximity to the green, ensures that the golfers who play too cautiously to avoid the interference on the left will not necessarily be rewarded for their timidity. This lordly specimen (20m (65.6 feet) tall and 6.3m (20.7 feet) in circumference) is in poor health, however, and could now be said to have a short life expectancy.

The ancient Horse chestnut to the left side of the fairway is a major psychological challenge for most golfers as they stand on the 2nd tee, knowing that it cannot be easily avoided without bringing the spinney on the right into play. Only after a drive has found the fairway is the majesty and beauty of this tree, with its fabulous white flowers in spring and conkers in autumn, likely to be appreciated.

The 150 – 200 year old sycamore on the other side of the fairway is also



of age, are significant features challenging play on the next two holes. One on the left short of the 3rd green makes it difficult to find the green with any shot played from the left. The other one, which is a prominent feature on the left side of the 4th fairway, close to the 5th green, can affect play on both of these holes. The first ancient sycamore tree to come into play on the golf course is

magnificent, but less influential on the play of the hole. The row of Scots pines between the 1st and 2nd holes also date back to the mid 19th century, and although they seldom feature when playing either hole, their coloured bark and twisted branches make them noble specimens in their own right.

found just short of the 5th green on the right. This tree is in remarkably good health considering the numbers of golf balls that crash into its crown during the golfing year. It is notable for its beautiful green foliage when it comes into leaf in spring.



A sliced or pushed drive down the 6th hole will in all probability be punished by the large beech that stands just off the fairway on the right hand side. With a spinney on the left, the hole dog-legging in the same direction and the ground falling away to the right, all too often the golfer's next challenge will be avoiding the large sessile oak guarding the right entrance to the green.

The largest of these significant pines is 18.5m (60.7 feet) high and 3.5m (11.5 feet) in girth.

Large sycamores (dating back to the late 18th – mid 19th centuries) stand awaiting the opportunity to punish even slightly wayward shots on the next two

Two ancient sessile oaks, about 200 years

holes. Two on the 7th hole, one on the left, the other on the right of the fairway, are much more often in play than the distance separating them would suggest. Avoiding the next sycamore at the front right of the 8th green, especially from the new tee, requires the golfer to flirt with the steep fall-off to the left from where a par will not always be realised.



The large double beech tree and the two ancient oaks that dominate the right side of the 9th fairway are fine specimens by any standards, but from the golfing standpoint it is their threat to drives aimed at the right side of the fairway favouring the approach to the green that is most significant.

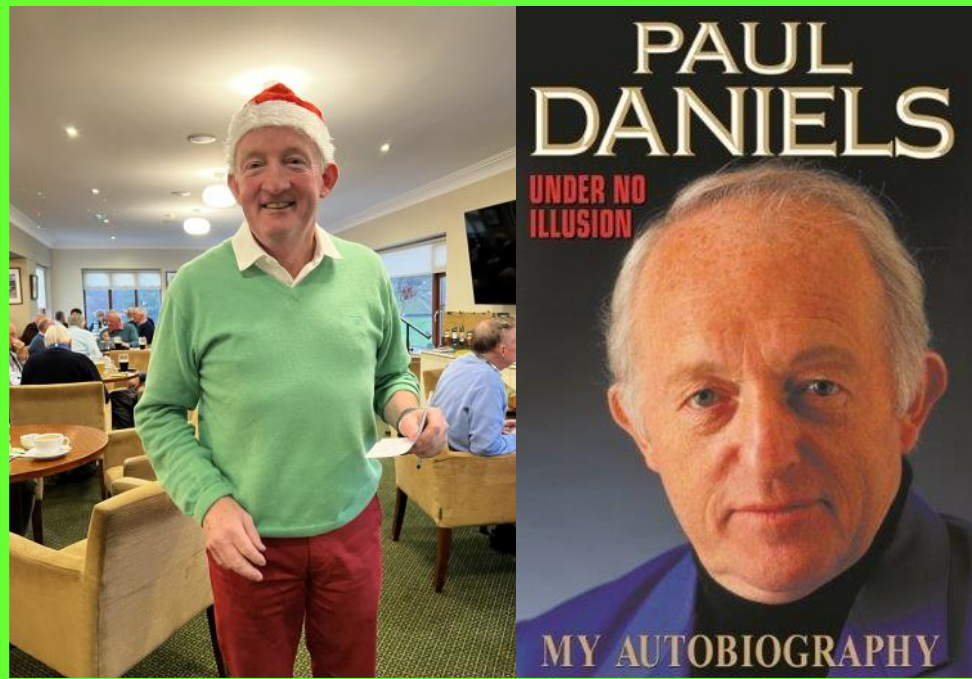
There is also a magnificent Hornbeam to the right side of the 9th fairway. It stands 17.5m (57.4 feet) tall and 2.7m (8.9 feet) in circumference.



Far fewer ancient trees impact on play on the second nine holes. Behind the 10th tee, there is a significant willow specimen – 17.5m (57.4 feet) tall and 3.1m (10.2 feet) around the trunk. A sturdy old (150 – 200 years) sessile oak stands proudly on the left side of the 10th fairway. Across the 10th fairway from this, and partially hidden from view by other trees in the wood, is a truly magnificent Turkey oak, standing at 29.5m (96.8 feet) tall and 5.6m (18.4 feet) in girth. This tree has been judged to be one of the largest of its kind in

And finally....

"You'll like this Mr. Captain... not a lot, but you'll like it!"



Separated at birth Now that's magic !!

Many thanks to all who have taken the time to read our Delgany Dispatch during 2022 and to all those who contributed during the year (especially our members who sent us some great photos, more please!). We are looking forward to 2023 with some new ideas as we continue to try to keep you informed and up to date on what's going on in your Club. New ideas are always welcome and we will do our best to bring them to fruition (like when Richard Sherriff, Phil Farrell and Joe Codrye suggested we reprint the 2008 Centenary Book).

Tony Corcoran

The Delgany Dispatch is produced by the Clubs

Communications Sub-Committee:

Tony Corcoran (Chair), Ian McMahon, Dermot McCarthy
Mary O'Neill, Daragh Bass, Eugene Murray & Jason Bradshaw

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