



THE DELGANY DISPATCH



Issue 23.1

January 13th, 2023



Captains' Report



Best wishes to all our members for 2023. Tom's New Year's Resolution was to give up double bogeys, but like all new year resolutions that one was short lived! Betty's resolution of a birdie in every round was equally short lived. We are now both working on more realistic golf targets for 2023.

A big thank you to all the members who have renewed their subscription for the coming year, your continued support is very much appreciated. Club diaries for 2023 have arrived and are available from the Bar. Membership stickers for your golf bag are also available from the Administration team. After the poor golfing weather in December and over the Christmas break, hopefully we will get a run of kind weather for a few weeks. Apart from the frustration that this bad weather brings for enthusiastic golfers, it also presents challenges to all aspects of golf course maintenance. All members can help by bringing a bag of sand with them onto the course and spreading it on damaged spots during their round. There are plenty of bag refill opportunities out on the course, so no need to be shy with the sand. On the first tee, if you notice that your playing partner is not carrying a sandbag please remind him/her that they need to get a bag. Even players that choose to carry their golf bag should bring a sandbag. Our fairways will benefit enormously if we all do this every time we play. It is important that members adopt this practice.

In the Men's Club the winter league is up and running and preparations for the Fitzgibbon Cup and Barton Cup teams are already being rolled out by Jason Bradshaw. Other team managers are turning their thoughts to their panel selection. Tadgh Dolly is briefing himself on his new role in overseeing all men's teams and will be encouraging members to put their names forward for inclusion on panels. In the Ladies' Club we are looking forward to our first event of 2023 on Tuesday 17th with a 9 hole shotgun start followed by lunch and a fun quiz. The buddy matchplay winter series which Anna O'Loughlin has organised so efficiently is underway and while many planned matches have been hampered by the bad weather enthusiasm is strong and no doubt all matches will take place before too long.

We notice that all the various committees in the club are having early meetings to set out their stall for the year. We are grateful to our committee chairs and committee members for all the hard work and time that they invest so that the members can enjoy the Club.

Regards, Tom & Betty

Inter-Club Competition News

Building on the great progress made by last year's teams, Anna O'Loughlin, Betty O'Reilly, Tadhg Dolly, Dick Cotter and Jason Bradshaw will form this year's ladies and men's club liaison teams for our Inter-Club competitions.

As a Club we have a fantastic record of Inter-Club success, this success has generally been based on competition for places on the teams and the commitment from those who are selected to represent us.

As always, everyone is invited to play for the Club, please see below a list of all of the competitions we are entered into this year, their format, and the handicaps that are eligible to play. **

If you would like to play for the Club please feel free to email the liaison teams at delganygolfclubinterclub@gmail.com or to reach out directly to any of the team managers. All team managers personal contact details are available in the members section of our website.

Competitions	Managers	Formats	Handicap Range
Ladies Club			
Senior Foursomes	Dee Mackay	Foursomes	Combined not lower than 12.0
Junior Foursomes	Avril Dowley	Foursomes	Combined not lower than 28.0
Junior Cup	Mags McDarby	Singles	Not lower than 7.5
Challenge Cup	Ann Nulty	Singles	Not lower than 26.0
Revive Active Four-ball	Mary De Chaumont	Four-ball	Low & Mid tbc
Mary McKenna Trophy	Mary Courtney	Scotch FS	Combined more than 50.0
Boyne Trophy	Bairbre Smith	Fourball	24.0 to 54.0
Men's Club			
Senior Cup	Paul Hautz	Singles	Scratch
Barton Shield	Don Berkery	Foursomes	Scratch
Junior Cup	Don Berkery	Singles	Not lower than 2.5
Fitzgibbon Cup	Jason Bradshaw	Foursomes	Combined more than 14.0
Barton Cup	Jason Bradshaw	Foursomes	Combined more than 14.0
Jimmy Bruen	Geoff Dolly	Foursomes	3.5 to 12.5
JB Carr	Willie Kennedy	Scotch FS	Combined lower than 29.0
Metropolitan Cup	Robert Bradshaw	Singles	Not lower than 8.5
Pierce Purcell	Fran O'Hara	Foursomes	12.5 to 21.5
Irish Mixed Foursomes	Bernie Jones	Foursomes	Combined more than 19.0
	Dermot Browne		
Cullen Cup	Ann Boyle	Foursomes	Combined lower than 30.0
	Pat Kitterick		
Super Seniors	Cyril O'Loughlin	Scotch FS	No Limit
Best Cup	Séamus Byrne	Four-ball	More than 18.5
Old Conna Seniors	Greg O'Neill	Four-ball ST	Over 70's
Wicklow Cup	Basil Mulligan	Scotch FS	Juniors

** Please note Golf Ireland plan to finalise the eligibility criteria for all competitions before the end of January, the information in the table above may still be subject to some change.

Ladies News



What better way to end 2022 than with a round of golf with friends.

That's what Olga, Yvonne, Marion and Isabel did on Saturday 31st December and what an enjoyable game it was.

Here's to plenty of golf in 2023.

Ladies this should be a fun event so don't forget to put your name on the time sheet for the 17th January 4 ball. The full €15 will be taken when you book on the timesheet, so there will be nothing to pay on the day... just make sure you have enough in your competition purse before you book it.

You can book any slot that morning, the starting holes will be allocated and you will find out what hole you start on when you arrive... come up a little earlier ahead of 10:30 in order to be ready to start at your allocated tee box - remember it's a shotgun start.

There is lunch and a table quiz in the club house after the competition, so you better brush up on your golf rules.

Best of luck ladies.

DELGANY GOLF CLUB
Established 1908

Q&A

**TUESDAY
17TH
JANUARY**

SHOTGUN START 10:30 4 BALL
FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AND
GOLF TEAM TABLE QUIZ

COST €15 REGISTER ON BRS
TIMESHEET ON SUNDAY 8TH
JANUARY AT 7:50PM

Ladies News

So you think you can't sing...

Whether you can sing or not, we are holding singing lessons in a group setting, starting with a 'taster session' on Tuesday 31st January and would love to see all of you there. There will be eight lessons in total and it promises to be great fun.



For more information or to participate contact Mary Corcoran on 085 8617755



International Women's Day

Ladies a date for your diary. International Women's Day is on the 8th of March. On the 7th March we're planning something special to mark this day so keep 7th March free. More details to follow.

Buddy Programme

The Buddy programme is up and running, matches are ongoing but have been hampered by the bad weather. However, we do have until the 25th March to complete so no pressure yet.

We will be having a Buddy dinner for all participants in the programme in April, this will allow everyone to mingle and get to know each other. More detail later.



Social News

**The
Delgany
Drama
Group
presents...**



Cupid wore skirts

Rehearsals are hotting up for the latest production from our drama group.

The play is set in 1970's Ireland. The action takes place in the rear of Andrew Coulter's (played by Mick O'Brien) Antique shop. When as a widower he advertises for a wife, however the respondents are not quite what he imagined.

The play runs on February 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th and the following week on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th.

Tickets are €20 and only available from Cheryl 087 2530835 or Diane 087 6374117.

Mens Competition News

1. Winter League Update

As most of you know, the Winter League got off to a flying start last weekend with about 90 players (out of the total 120) registering a score for their Team.

Whilst it's early days, here is the Leaderboard:

Team D Ian Barrett 189
Team H Fran O'Hara 185
Team G Brian McGee 180
Team F John Gallagher 178
Team C Donal Meehan 171
Team J Michael Behan 171
Team A Tom Bergin 170
Team I Shane O'Loughlin 164
Team E John Sweeney 147
Team B Paul Hautz 142



Sean Donnelly winner of the September '22 Monthly Medal was recently presented with his prize by Vice Captain Ian Barrett. Sean was on holidays for the original prize giving.

In parallel with the main League, we have introduced a new WL Gross Score League with points being awarded for the Top 5 in each round.

Current standings :

Andy Murphy 10
Fergus McDonald 8
Alex Coffey 6
Cathan McCarthy 4
Aidan Lacy 2
Best of luck in Rounds 2 & 3 this weekend!



2. Handicaps on Cards

All players are responsible for ensuring that their handicaps are showing on their card.

Strictly speaking all 3 handicaps should be shown - Handicap Index, Course Handicap and Playing Handicap - but we have decided that at the very least the card must have the Handicap Index and Playing Handicap.

Please note that should a player include a Playing Handicap which is greater than it should be and signs for a score which is higher than should have been received then the penalty is Disqualification.

If a lower (incorrect) Playing Handicap is provided then there is no penalty but the lower score will stand.

Mens Competitions & Handicap Committees

Course News

We are working away on the winter programme and will report on progress over the coming months.

The course is soft as a result of the wettest month of the year last September when 153mm of rain fell, followed by a very wet Oct, Nov and Dec (a total rainfall of 317mm).

This is 35% more than the same period in 2021 and 21% greater than the long-term average (LTA) of 262mm for the same period. It goes without saying this negatively impacts the condition of the course and of course, greatly inhibits the use of buggies.



On a brighter note, I am delighted to announce that Sue Archer and Robert Bradshaw are joining the course committee. They will join Leo Harmon, Ian Barrett, Siobhan Mooney, Ken Monaghan, Patrick Bradshaw and myself on this committee.

We are preparing for meeting with the 'interested parties' on the buggy path proposal on Friday 20th January at 4.30 in the clubhouse. Everyone welcome.

We have agreed with the Competitions Committee to rotate the 12 holes course every two weeks. This is to rest as many holes as we can (especially given the numbers playing in the Winter League), allow maintenance work to be carried out and give variety to our golfers. We will only deviate from this rota when exceptional weather necessitates this.

Finally, we are still awaiting a confirmed delivery date for our new fairway mower. This date has been moved twice already and are pushing for clarity on this. The whole supply chain of course machinery has not settled after the disruption of the pandemic. We will keep you posted on developments.

Ken Greene

On behalf of the Course Committee



Club Diary



As we start off a new golfing year, we wish to remind all members that club diaries are now available in the clubhouse.

These excellent productions contain all the relevant information about the club, its rules, who does what, as well as all the competition dates for 2023.

IMPORTANT DATES 2023

Captains' Charity Day	Sat 15th July
Captains' Drive-In	Sat 11th March
Captains' and President's Farewell Dinner	Sat 25th November
Captain's Prize – 1st Day Qualifying	Fri 11th August
Captain's Prize – 2nd Day Qualifying	Sat 12th August
Captain's Prize – 3rd Day Qualifying	Sun 13th August
Captain's Prize – Final Day	Sat 19th August
Captain's Prize to 5 Day Men	Fri 18th August
Captains' Prize to Juniors	Thurs 17th August
Captain's Prize to Ladies – Day 1	Sun 2nd July
Captain's Prize to Ladies – Day 2	Tues 4th July
Committee Day	Sun 15th October
Corporate Day	Fri 16th June
Declan Clarke Charity Day	Fri 25th August
Delgany Fundraising Team Event	Fri 21st May
Joint Club AGM	Mon 4th December
Junior Captain's Prize to Juniors	Thurs 24th August
Kilquade Cup	Thurs 4th May
Lady Captain's Dinner	Fri 3rd November
Lady Captain's Prize to Ladies – Day 1	Sun 18th June
Lady Captain's Prize to Ladies – Day 2	Tues 20th June
Lady Captain's Prize to Men	Sat 9th September
Ladies' Christmas Spirit	Tues 5th December
Ladies' Club AGM	Tues 21st November
Men's Club AGM	Wed 22nd November
Past Captains' Day	Thurs 21st September
Past Lady Captains' Day	Thurs 21st September
Past President's Day	Thurs 21st September
President's Prize to Juniors	Thurs 13th July
President's Prize to Ladies	Tues 16th May
President's Prize to Men	Sat 1st July
Professional's Prize to Ladies	Tues 18th July
Professional's Prize to 5 Day Men	Fri 9th June
Professional's Prize to Men	Sat 10th June
Remembrance Service	Wed 8th November
Visiting Captains' Day	Friday 21st April
Wicklow and Delgany Senior Scratch Cups	Sun 23rd July

Delgany Golf Club - Joint Club

President: Ruth Jenkinson

Captain: Tom Bergin **Lady Captain:** Betty Sherry

Vice Captain: Ian Barrett **Lady Vice Captain:** Alison Graham

Honorary Secretary: Tony Doyle

Honorary Treasurer: Colm Whooley

Committee :

Fergus Cardiff, Tony Corcoran, Ken Greene, Joe Nelson,

Valerie Stokes, Stuart Webster.

Trustees:

Doreen Brennan, Jim Farrell, Kate Murphy,

Michael Sinnott, Lorcan Wall.

Junior Liaison Officer : Nuala Cotton

Junior Captain: Cathan McCarthy

Sub-Committees:

Operations: Tom Bergin (Chairperson),

Ian Barrett, Alison Graham,

Tony Doyle, Betty Sherry, Colm Whooley.

Course: Ken Greene (Chairperson),

Susan Archer, Ian Barrett, Robert Bradshaw,

Leo Harmon, Ken Monaghan, Siobhan Mooney.

House: Stuart Webster (Chairperson),

Eva Doherty, John Garvey, Sally Ann Sherry, Mark Wyse.

Membership: Valerie Stokes (Chairperson),

Ciaran Lyons, Bairbe Smith.

Communications: Tony Corcoran (Chairperson),

Daragh Bass, Jason Bradshaw, Yvonne Connolly,

Dermot McCarthy, Ian McMahon, Eugene Murray, Mary O'Neill.

Development: Joe Nelson (Chairperson),

Richard Cullen, John Bailey, Irene Goodbody, Pdraig Stokes.

Sponsorship: Fergus Cardiff (Chairperson),

Gary Connolly, Aidan Lacy, Francine O'Byrne.

Social:

Jim Blake, Tara Ann Browne, Jamie Elliott, Eoin Gallagher, Oh Peng Lim, Marian Waters,

Declan O'Farrell, Phil O'Neill, Kevin O'Reilly.

DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

The groups of beech trees close to the 11th tee, 11th green and 12th tee, are among the most attractive on the course, but like some others of the same venerable age they are, unfortunately, showing serious evidence of fungal decay. The most significant of these trees in terms of play are probably the two to the right side of the 11th green. Magnificent as they are though, their shading effects, unfortunately, have some negative impacts on turfgrass vigour on the nearby playing surfaces.

Other ancient trees on the 2nd nine include a large beech to the right of the 17th fairway. The central part of the trunk of this tree, however, is in an advanced state of decay. The backdrop to the 17th green includes one of the larger sycamore trees on the course, and while its presence is not an issue from a golf stand-point, it contributes significantly to the overall shading of the 17th green by the adjacent woodland. Fine old oak and sycamore trees on the right hand corner of the dog-leg on the 18th, close to the mens 10th medal tee, ensure that there are no short cuts to setting up the third shot to this most challenging of par fives. Avoidance of the trees on the corner of the dog-leg, and the out of bounds beyond, inevitably brings the fine old ash tree on the left hand side of the fairway (close to the 9th green) into the mind of the golfer, if not into play. Of lesser significance to play is the fine old

oak, further up the 18th fairway on the left – occasionally though, this tree can be a serious barrier to an approach from short left of the 18th green.



And of utterly no significance to the golf, but probably as important aesthetically, and perhaps emotionally, are the fine Horse Chestnuts that greet us as we drive through the gates. Here also are a number of specimen Spanish (sweet) chestnuts, some with trunks exceeding a metre in diameter.

Broadleaf and Coniferous Woodlands Planted in 1933 – 1934: The golf course and clubhouse at Delgany are surrounded on three sides (South, North and West) by mixed broadleaf and coniferous woodland, the conifers in the Northern wood having been planted by the State Forestry Service in the period 1933/34. More than likely, though, the

DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

broadleaf trees have either survived from the La Touche woodland plantations or have regenerated naturally. Unlike the more recently planted spinneys on the course, each of these mature woodlands has a very definite structure comprising the Canopy (layer formed by the leaves of the largest trees), the Understory (a secondary canopy below the upper canopy, formed by smaller trees and shrubs) and the Ground Layer (non-woody plants, usually, covering the ground/soil surface).

Within the three woods there is a total of 13 different tree species in the canopy, 12 tree/shrub species in the understory and 35 plant species in the ground cover. Distribution of particular species is highly variable however, and whereas in some cases a particular tree/plant may be present in all three woods, in other cases another species may be present in one wood only. A notable example of the latter is the Douglas Fir in the Southern Wood behind the 17th green – this is the ‘bent top’ that is used by many golfers to align their approach shots to this green from the other side of the hill.

Details of the occurrence of various species in each part of the three woods are shown in the Appendix. Attention is particularly drawn to the ground cover (Table 3 in Appendix) which is of interest if only for the unlikely names of some of the 35 plants that have been identified there – Cuckoo Flower, Herb

Robert, Lords and Ladies, Pignut, Soft Shield Fern and Wavy Hairgrass to name but a few of the more esoteric ones.



Although it would be an unusual experience during a round of golf not to see somebody searching for a golf ball in the woods (especially to the right of the

DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

12th and 13th fairways), the woodlands of Delgany do not have the same strategic significance from a golfing standpoint as the mature specimen trees referred to in the previous section. Nevertheless they are an important feature because they (i) provide a beautiful scenic backdrop to the course (especially to the North) (ii) serve as a buffer against traffic noise from the N11 and (iii) afford living and breeding spaces for a wide variety of bird, animal and insect life.

Up until the mid 1970s the teeing areas for the 'old' 2nd, 6th and 12th holes were in, or bordered, the north wood, affording spectacular views of the countryside down to Wicklow Head. These views are still available but from different tees (8th, 9th, 13th and 15th). The signature feature to be seen to the south from these vantage points is Stylebawn (Harmon's Hill) with peaked summit and sentinel trees, said to have served as a useful landmark for pilots in the early life of the Air Corps: it gets its name from the family who own and farm the land there (Leo Harmon has been a member of Delgany for more than half of its existence). Just west of this is the flat elongated Drummin Hill. And to the east on very clear days, a few times a year, it is possible to see the Welsh mountains, dominated by Snowdonia (exactly 90 miles from the 13th tee).

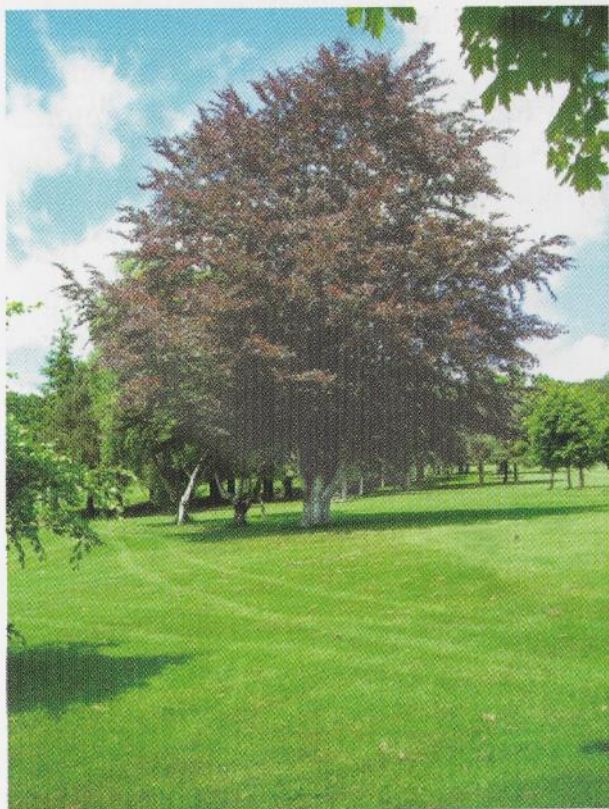
Mixed Spinneys Planted Since the 1960s: A number of spinneys consisting of mixtures of coniferous and broad leaved species was planted around

the golf course in the 1960s/1970s. Within these plantations, conifers are the dominant species, with Scots pine, Sitka spruce, Douglas fir and Western hemlock being the most common (a small number of cypresses within these plantations have generally outlived their attractive growth phase). Broadleaf species in the plantations include larch, oak, birch and cherry. Aside from the plantations, lines and small groups of poplars were planted around the course in the 1950s. Although not particularly attractive, these trees have considerable significance for golf, notably the group short right of the 3rd green and the line to the right of the dog-leg on the 4th hole.

Recent management action in the spinneys has seen the removal of some of the conifers with the objective of freeing up and enhancing growth of the higher quality broadleaf species which will, in time, become the major specimen trees on the golf course. Current management plans for the attractive block of larch to the left of the 10th fairway is to undersow with beech, so that when the larch reaches maturity in 50–60 years time, the woodland cycle will continue with a different though equally attractive species. The commitment of the club to tree planting is further seen in the fact that approximately 3000 new trees/shrubs have been planted around the course since 2005. Although many of these trees will survive for only 50–60 years, others will grow to be 250 years of age.

DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

Individual Specimen Trees: In the main, these hardwoods were planted to mark accession to office of Captains and Lady Captains at the annual drive-in ceremonies. They date from the late 1980s. The most notable are found in the area on the left side of the 3rd fairway, where there are 20 individual trees representing eight different species including six beech, five maple, three birch, two ash and one each of mountain ash, oak, red oak and sycamore.



In addition, during the Centenary year, 100 individual trees were planted in groups around the course to enhance the wooded atmosphere. These trees can be recognised from the stout stake supports and the identification number of the donor of each tree.

1.4 WILDLIFE

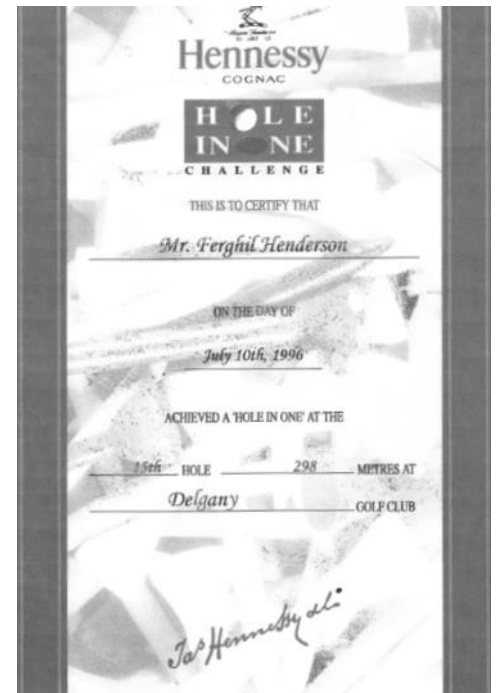
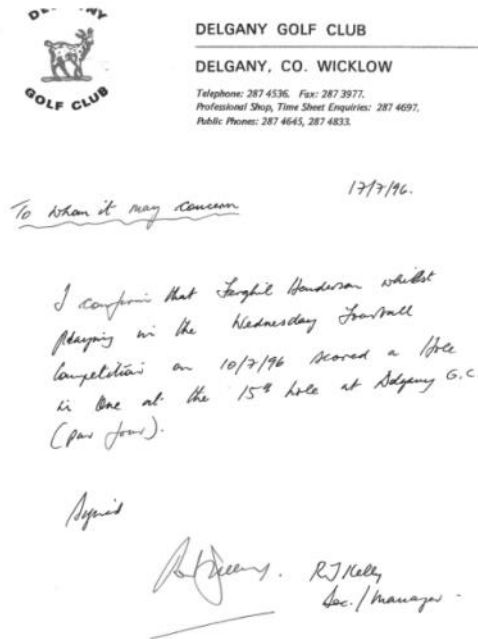
Agricultural practices in the greater Delgany region have changed greatly over the past 50 years or so, from production of tillage crops (potato, turnip, wheat, oats etc.), to mainly grassland. While it is a moot point as to which form of farming is environmentally more friendly, the transfer of land to housing and other types of development has had a negative impact on wild-life activity in the area. For the most part, however, the woodlands, vegetation, spinneys and gorse banks, and even the new clubhouse, of the golf club support and promote an active wildlife population. To this end also, a large area on the right-hand side of the 7th fairway, and various smaller areas elsewhere (for example, left of the 8th green and 17th fairway, not appreciated by 'hookers') are not mown any more and have been allowed to revert to natural species-rich grassland. Here, up to 10 different species of native plants have been identified which will inevitably increase the populations of insects, birds and mammals – biodiversity in action!



And finally...

Seen as we are in a nostalgic mood, our attention has been drawn to the Wednesday men's fourball of July 17th 1996, when Ferghil Henderson stood on the 15th tee and hit the drive of his life as he scored an impressive hole-in-one at the par 4.

Allegedly Ferghil spent his life savings at the bar that evening with his many friends and has used his 5 wood ever since !!!



And there you have it, our new look 'Delgany Dispatch' for 2023. We would like to thank all those who gave us feedback last year (always positive and constructive) and we hope you will like our new layout. There's an old saying "you get out, what you put in" and we certainly appreciate all the reports, news and photos that were presented to us for publication over the last year by various Committees and Members. If you have an idea / story or photo (especially old photos, you can use your phone to take a copy) that you would like to share, email us at delganydispatch@delganygolfclub.ie.

The Delgany Dispatch is produced by the Clubs

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