



THE DELGANY DISPATCH



Issue 23.4

February 24th, 2023



Captains' Report



Delgany is buzzing.....

The last two weeks have been very exciting. We had great weather for golf and by the look of the winning scores members are thriving in the kind conditions. However don't get too complacent, we will soon be moving to 15 hole competitions, then 18 holes and then back to our permanent tee boxes. Bring it on !! It is also great to be off to a winning start in our interclub team competitions. Congratulations to our Fitzgibbon Cup team and management on their two wins in their first two matches against Killiney GC and Old Conna GC. The **Men's Winter League** is down to the final round, and in the history of this event it is unlikely that the teams were ever so closely packed. Only 10 points separate the third placed team from the team in 8th position. With four teams qualifying for the semi-finals, it's still all to play for. Best of luck to all the teams this weekend.

Our **Poker Classic** on 10th February was a roaring success. Our Tournament Director, Alan Grace did a great job ensuring the tournament was enjoyed by all. We had sixty players, with the top twelve winning a prize. The big attendance ensured that all the winners received a generous prize. The overall winner Colm Whooley, our Honorary Treasurer, had mixed feelings in accepting his substantial first prize. In the end, Colm reluctantly accepted his winnings. There are unconfirmed reports that he bought a few drinks at the bar. Jamie is checking CCTV footage to confirm if this did in fact happen !! Another indicator of the success of the night was that the bar ran out of Guinness. One of the Captains has accepted responsibility for his or her part in this shocking outage!



Poker night: Alan, Captain Tom, Colm and Captain Betty



Captains' Report



The Delgany players production of **Cupid wore Skirts** is playing to full houses since it opened last Wednesday. The play is a total hoot ! The performances from all the cast are just amazing. The relentless work of the entire production team under the direction of Bernard Doyle is there for us all to see. The buzz of excitement builds up each evening when the pre-theatre diners arrive at 6pm, and continues right through to the post performance drinks in our Green Room (Ryder Cup Bar renamed for the duration of the play !) until near midnight. The atmosphere around the clubhouse is simply electric.

We are both looking forward to the **Captains' Drive In** on 11th March. Fingers crossed that the weather gods will be kind to us. The format of the golf will be a team of four rumble. The Drive In dinner is shaping up to be a great night, with a couple of surprises in store as well as music entertainment after the dinner. The BRS will go live this Sunday for the golf bookings and the bar staff are already taking bookings for the dinner. As in previous years we will be running Guess the Combined length of the Drives in aid of charity. Our nominated charity is Wicklow Rapid Response. We know of at least one member of the club who had a very positive experience when his family called on the services of WRR. We are delighted to support this worthy cause.

If that wasn't enough of 'buzzing' around the club, as part of the Drive In we are introducing **beehives** to Delgany. We already have wild beehives throughout the course (trees to the right of the 12th fairway) so hopefully they will welcome their new friends. We are taking lots of professional advice from beekeepers as to how we do this properly. We are pleased that so many members are supportive of us embarking on this sustainability initiative. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress. At this early stage we must note our gratitude to Paul Ryan for all the work he is putting into this project.



Course News



Volunteers Required

Your Course Committee needs you!!!

We are planning to spruce up the avenue and car park to make them more presentable as the new golfing season approaches.

To do so, we require 6 able bodied members (a very loose description given I will be volunteering!) to assist with sweeping, weeding, and spreading large quantities of bark mulch. The plan is to work on a Monday morning (or two if necessary) for a few hours as the avenue and car park are not as busy on Monday mornings.

The dates will be agreed shortly and are subject to the spraying of the weeds in advance, delivery of the bark mulch and of course, the weather forecast.

Coffee, buns, the necessary equipment, and lots of encouragement will be provided.

Separately, our excellent 'Chain Gang' will continue to do their good work on the flower beds.

If you are willing, able, and available, drop us an email at course@delganygolfclub.ie or send me a text and we will be in touch.

Thanking you in advance

Ken Greene

086 2555170

On behalf of the Course Committee



Reminder

The temporary greens are designated NPA – Non Playing Areas and not Ground Under Repair and so it is compulsory to drop off these areas at the nearest point of relief.



Get Into Golf.... GIGs



A new **Ladies Golf Ireland sanctioned course** for beginners starts in March and it is a great stepping stone for those starting or wishing to play on a more regular basis.

If you have a friend or a family member who would like to take an eight-week taster course run on either a week day morning or weekend afternoon, there are still a small number of places free.

The course will have 24 participants learning the game with Catalina and Geoff every week from 23rd March onwards in a very relaxed social atmosphere.

It starts from March 23rd and there will be a break for the Easter holidays, so those with children won't miss out...continuing through until the end of May.

The basics:

8 Week course.

6 weeks tuition included plus 2 weeks of play on the course.

€90 pp.

6 pupils per class max.

Each lesson 1.15 hrs with tea and a scone following play included in the price.

The schedule:

Two days – Thursday & Saturday

Thursday 10-11.15 and 11.15 – 12.30.

Saturday 2-3.15 and 3.15 – 4.30.

Contact admin@delganygolfclub.com for an application form.





Ladies News



Gentle reminder for all players on scoring

As we approach qualifying season a reminder that all players are responsible for submitting their score once they have signed into a competition or registered their intent to play a general round for handicap purposes.

If they fail to do so without providing the committee with a valid reason, an automated penalty score will be applied to their scoring record.

Birthday Celebration

Congratulations to Clare Henderson who celebrated her birthday recently in Delgany Golf Club. Clare is a member of DGC for 20 years. Catherine Ruth also celebrated her birthday recently with friends (not in the Photo).



International Women's Day



**Unleash the power of your
Emotional Intelligence**

Meeting to celebrate International Women's Day will be held on Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 6 pm
in the Seaview Room in Delgany Golf Club

Register your interest at the Bar in advance in order to gauge the numbers attending.

It promises to be a fascinating presentation and discussion

Presenter: Eva Doherty (one of our esteemed club members)



Ladies News



Captains' Drive in

The **Captains' Drive In** will have a four person team rumble format with shotgun starts in the morning and afternoon at 8:45 am and 2:00 pm.

We are aiming to play 18 holes, course and weather permitting. The timesheet for booking will open on Sunday 26th February for Ordinary and Lady Associate members and February 28th for Intermediate & Student members.

Entry fee is €15 to include lunch and will be taken from the Competition purse.

Lots of team and individual prizes will be provided. Dinner with entertainment will follow at 7.00pm and will cost €35.

We recommend booking early at the Bar for dinner to avoid disappointment. For members not taking part in the competition please do join us for dinner – all welcome.



Review of the Delgany Play by two members in Cognito

From the moment Andrew Coulter (Aka Michael O'Brien) came on Stage the laughter started and did not stop until 10.20 pm. We don't want to give too much of the storyline away as the play runs until Saturday 25th February. Every single cast member was outstanding in their role.

The Cast: Michael O'Brien, Margaret Williams, Liam Kelly, Alison Graham, Teresa Thompson, Fiona Whooley, Geoff Dolly, Mary Molly Heffernan & Jim Blake.

Produced by: Eugene Murray..... .Next Stop the West End!! A thoroughly great night was had by all.

If any of the Lady members would like any news items or pictures featured in the Dispatch please sent them to Mary O'Neill Willis (Marydelgany161@gmail.com) or Yvonne Connolly (delgany2@icloud.com)



Men's Competition News



Winter League:

Its not so chilly this year as the competition is red hot !

The penultimate round (Round 9) of the Winter League was played last weekend. There were some significant moves this weekend...see the leader board below.

Team C (Donal Meehan) increased their tally by 24 points and closed the gap to Team D (Ian Barrett) to just 2 points! While Team J (Michael Behan) gained 24 points and moved up 4 places.... A big score this weekend and everything could change, the same applies to the Individual placings, so its all to play for !!!

TEAM POSITIONS AFTER ROUND 9

Team D	Ian Barrett	819
Team C	Donal Meehan	817
Team A	Tom Bergin	797
Team F	John Gallagher	794
Team J	Michael Behan	794
Team H	Fran O'Hara	793
Team E	John Sweeney	791
Team I	Shane O'Loughlin	788
Team G	Brian McGee	752
Team B	Paul Hautz	751

Best Individual comp.		Jan 7th	Jan 14th	Jan 15th	Feb12th	Jan 22nd	Jan 28th	Feb 4th	Feb 11th	Feb 18th	Feb 25th	Score
Player	H/cap	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Peter O'Toole	13.1	25	27	24	0	29	24	22	29	0	0	110
Jonathan Nolan	11.4	24	22	0	0	0	25	27	30	27	0	109
Paddy Donohoe	10.8	20	26	0	0	25	30	0	26	27	0	109
Tony Bennett	20.1	20	16	24	23	0	19	28	29	27	0	108
Tony Corcoran	20.2	18	0	0	28	25	28	27	20	23	0	108
Jason Bradshaw	8.0	25	26	20	29	0	0	21	28	23	0	108
Don Berkery	11.0	26	22	23	26	28	19	26	26	22	0	106
Ian Barrett	11.8	21	23	26	27	26	20	26	27	23	0	106
Geoff Rooney	9.0	0	0	24	0	0	26	28	28	0	0	106
Mark Doyle	20.5	26	23	25	24	25	24	26	28	0	0	105
John Michael Gallagher	22.2	25	0	0	19	21	25	29	25	26	0	105
Phil Farrell	14.2	23	22	19	25	30	0	21	17	27	0	105
Ray O'Toole	15.7	16	18	25	24	19	0	25	29	26	0	105

Best Gross comp.		Jan 7th	Jan 14th	Jan 15th	Feb12th	Jan 22nd	Jan 28th	Feb 4th	Feb 11th	Feb 18th	Feb 25th	Score
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Cathan McCarthy		4	8	10	8		4	8		8		50
Alex Coffey		6	10	8	2		6			6		38
Jason Bradshaw			4	6	10				10			30
Paddy Donohoe			6			2	10		4	4		26



Inter-club Competition News



Fitzgibbon Cup 2023

Delgany v Old Conna – 19th February 2023 - **Final Result**

Home

Alex Coffey (0.5)	Terry Day (14.2)	(14.7)	Won 1up
Aidan Lacy (6.6)	Danny O’Hara (7.7)	(14.3)	Won 2 & 1
Fergus McDonald (6.2)	Jim O’Riordan (8.3)	(14.5)	Won 8 & 7

Away

William Walshe (3.1)	Kevin Bouwer (11.0)	(14.1)	Lost 1 Down
Brian Fitzpatrick (3.9)	Don Berkery (10.5)	(14.6)	Lost 3 & 2
Conor Tiernan (3.0)	Evan Lenehan (11.9)	(14.9)	Won 4 & 3

Overall Result Delgany Won 4 - 2

Next match: March 12th Vs Bray GC

Managers;

Jason Bradshaw

Paul Hautz, Basil Mulligan & Donal Meehan



Condolences



Our thoughts and prayers are with our ex-professional Eamon Darcy and his family on the tragic loss of his son Leigh. Also with Christy and Phil O'Neill and their family on the loss of their brother John and with Neville and Basil Hodgins and families on the loss of their mother, Joan.

All will be remembered at our Annual Remembrance Mass later this year.



Green Fee Vouchers



The 'Concession Green Fee Vouchers' for early payment of subs may now be collected from the Pro Shop by Members eligible to receive them.



Ian's Cryptic Quiz



Last editions quiz answers:

- 1) Golfer of the year 2022 (6+6) **Alison Graham**
- 2) BRING ME TO your leader (3+6) **Tom Bergin**
- 3) Treading the boards in February (5) **Cupid**
- 4) Ryder Cupper 1957 (5+8) **Harry Bradshaw**
- 5) She looks out for the kid's welfare (7+7) **Mairead Coghlan**
- 6) The oldest cup in Delgany (7+3) **Bellevue Cup**



Ian McMahon.



Delgany Golf Club

In partnership with



2023

Corporate Day

Friday June 16th

Funds raised in support of
Delgany GC 'Fairways Aeration Project'

9.00am & 2.30pm shotgun starts.

Teams of 4 players.

Stableford competition.

2 scores to count on each hole.

Buffet Lunch / Dinner 1pm & 8pm.

Pre dinner drinks 7.30pm.

**After dinner special Guest Speaker
interview with Sean O'Rourke.**

Why not treat your friends and clients
to a fun day of golf.



**LONGEST DRIVE &
NEAREST THE PIN
COMPETITIONS**

in aid of

Wicklow
Rapid
Response



Booking application

Cost: €500 per team of four

Why not promote your business and sponsor a tee box for the day @ €100

Team name: _____ Team contact name: _____

Contact email: _____ Phone: _____

Preferred tee time: Morning Afternoon

Completed booking forms should be left into the Club office or Emailed to admin@delganygolfclub.com

For further information contact DGC General Manager Patrick Bradshaw @ 01 -2874536



CPR TRAINING

will take place on

Wednesday, 1st March 2023
at 6.30 pm
in the Clubhouse

There are a limited number of spaces available on the above course.

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile training please email your name to:

admin@delganygolfclub.com



Social News



Greystones Community First Responders would welcome our support for their major fund-raising event of the year. They have provided training to our Club members previously and are scheduled to do training on 1st March (see separate notice). They have also attended emergencies in the Club and on the course and gave vital assistance in advance of the arrival of the ambulance and paramedics. Sounds like a good night out for a great cause.

Greystones Community First Responders

QUIZ NIGHT

Greystones First Responders
Annual Fundraiser

Friday
31 March
Greystones Golf Club
8pm till Late!

€10
per person /
table of 4

Featuring Quizmaster, Mike Morrissey, Also, Spot prizes for the Raffle plus BINGO!

For more information or prize donations:
email: GreystonesCFRGroup@gmail.com
or Find us on Facebook

DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

4. ADOLESCENCE

4.1 POST WORLD WAR I

If the Club's founders showed what could be achieved through determination and courage, their successors in the immediate post-war period revealed that they certainly were not lacking in these qualities either. They quickly got down to business and began by establishing a greens committee to bring the course back to good condition. They invested in new machinery, and Ned Bradshaw, the professional, was 'allowed necessary expenses to enable him to compete in the professional championship competition at Portmarnock.' In addition, more than 60 new members were admitted shortly after the war had ended. Within a short while the Club again became a very popular place for outings, so much so, that the Committee was forced to decide in July 1919 that 'no competitions except those that are connected with the club be allowed on Sundays or bank holidays.' Life throughout the country in 1919 and in the early 1920s was unsettled, and at times chaotic and dangerous. Although there was serious unemployment, increasing the membership continued to be an important, if not the chief objective, and from the end of the Great War to the end of 1923, the Club attracted over 400 new members.

Not surprisingly, the addition of so many members created a few problems, at least for some. A letter to the Committee said that 'the numbers using

the course at weekends are altogether unwieldy and the result of this is that several members will not play weekends because they spend the entire day waiting.' The complaint, however, was rejected and the Committee continued to encourage more and more people to play on the course. In January 1925 it decided to 'write to the Dublin press, drawing attention to the dry condition of the Delgany course and pointing out that, when, owing to the wet season several of the links around Dublin could not be played over, the Delgany course was always dry'. Later (1927), the following appeared in an article ('Golf Links in Vicinity of Dublin') in Dublin Guide: 'Delgany – From Westland Row or Harcourt St. Station, by G.S.Rlys. to Greystones, thence by car to Delgany (car return journey, 2/6). 18-hole course finely situated. Visitors, 1/6 per day. Saturdays, 2/-. Sundays and public holidays, 3/-. Phone, Greystones 65.'

The story of Delgany from 1919 up to the early 1930s, then, was one of steady growth in the face of extremely difficult external circumstances. Indeed the membership growth was such that the clubhouse (then located to the right of the current 1st fairway) was no longer adequate, and in 1935 the Club moved into a brand new building on the site of the current one.

4.2 TWO SPECIAL INDIVIDUALS

In any account of the growth of Delgany,

DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

particular mention must be made of two individuals, J.M. Calvert and P.J. Stokes, both of whom are still commemorated by fine trophies played for by the membership. Calvert was Captain in 1921 and those who remembered him said that he was a stern-looking man who 'seldom said no to a ball of malt'.



Stokes and Calvert

Calvert (who died in 1939) was succeeded as Captain by Stokes, who was also elected as Life President in 1931. On a voyage to America, Stokes fell on one of the gangways and never again played golf. Sometimes he did not attend his own President's Prize, but would post the prize to the club. It never varied – a five pound note (€6.35) in an envelope. He died in 1953.

The contribution by the pair was immense. It started with the leading role they played in arousing a spirit of enthusiasm immediately after the World War I. They served on every Committee throughout the 1920s and played a big part in the erection of the new clubhouse in 1935. Their biggest contribution,

however, lay in establishing, and encouraging by example, the unique 'mix' of people which was to become the hallmark of Delgany. It is this 'chemistry' that makes the Club so special, and to Calvert and Stokes, generations of Delgany members are deeply indebted.

DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

5. MATURITY

5.1 POST WORLD WAR 1 (THE 'OLD' DAYS)

In the commemorative booklet marking the 75th anniversary of the Club, the late Vincent Byrne wrote:

'I remember Delgany Golf Club in the years immediately after the war when the green fee was only half a crown (€0.16) and one year's membership was two guineas (€2.67). Paddy and May Cullen had just arrived, with May in charge of the catering and Paddy acting as general everything. A good day's outing could be had for less than a pound (€1.27). There was the green fee of half a crown (€0.16), lunch, half a crown (€0.16) and dinner five shillings (€0.32). You could have losing bets of half a crown (€0.16) on each of two rounds and have enough left for ten bottles of stout at six pence (€0.03) each. There were very few cars to be seen in those days. Most came by bus and carried their clubs from the terminus at Sweeney's pub in the village – now the Delgany Inn.'

'The equipment was not of the standard we see today. My first collection of clubs was purchased from Ned Bradshaw for the huge price of 7/6 (€0.48). They were all hickory-shafted clubs with rusty heads. There was a brassie (2 wood), spoon (3 wood), mashie (5 iron), mashie niblick (7), niblick (8) and putter.'

'Ned Bradshaw was the professional and his workshop was at the back of the

clubhouse (a memorial stone now marks this spot). In the winter, it was nice and cosy from the heat of the pot-bellied stove, and before setting off, we would call in for a chat and warm-up. During the summer Sunday evenings old Ned, as he was affectionately known, would arrange a fourball sweep at half a crown (€0.16) per person. He would make the draw and give what he considered fair handicaps. He would check the cards and would dole out the prize money. He would also adjust your handicap as he would deem just.'

'Your game of golf was not as easy as it is today. You had to contend with sheep on the course and wire surrounds to protect the greens from sheep droppings. Greens were rock hard, the fairways very narrow with rough up to your knees.'

'During the turkey competitions, it was not unusual to see a player entering a second, or even a third time, after playing only two holes. Most competitors had caddies and you had to apply to Jackie Mahony for a caddy. Jackie would pay the caddy and give him a tip and then collect from the member.'

5.2 THE GOAT MASCOT and CLUB COLOURS

The following is a bit of speculation that may start a conversation or finish an argument.

There is no certainty about the origin

DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

of the 'goat' as the central figure on the flag and on the crest that is carried on Delgany clothing apparel (sweaters, tops, ties etc.). The same can be said about the combination of colours (black, red, green and white) that forms the background for the goat on these items.

A possible explanation for the colour scheme is that it replicates the colour scheme of the necktie worn by many graduates of Trinity College Dublin (Dublin University). In the early life of the golf club it is likely that Trinity College would have been the more popular third level centre of learning for many members. It is understandable that many of these would have liked to maintain some form of connection between their university and their club.



That such a feeling was prevalent is implied in the fact that a golf match between Dublin University (Trinity College) Golf Society and 'Delgany Mountaineers' was played at Delgany in 1944. A black and white photograph of the Trinity visitors hangs in the main hallway of the clubhouse: a prominent figure in this photograph is R. M. (Bertie) Smyllie, editor of the Irish Times, who at that time had not yet served as Captain of the Club (he was to be Captain in the following years—1945 and 1946).

Also, in the hallway of the clubhouse is a Harry Kernoff pastel portrait of Smyllie, resplendent in a Trinity graduate's tie!



It is conceivable, then, that the colour scheme of the Trinity tie, with a white goat worked into the overall design, became the Delgany tie around this time (1945/46) because of the association of Trinity golfers with the club. One suggestion for the goat is that a statement (perhaps even a snide comment) by a Trinity visitor to the effect that 'you'd need to be a goat to climb the hills of Delgany' was the catalyst for the adoption of the goat as the mascot of the club. Such a suggestion becomes all the more plausible given the group name for the Delgany golfers—Delgany Mountaineers.

And finally...



Our play was sold out for all eight nights and we had many disappointed members contacting Cheryl Ball looking for tickets.

In response to this, Eugene Murray has announced that there will be a DVD of the play available for purchase behind the bar in a few weeks time.

I was recently asked by one of our esteemed members about my work on the Dispatch and how I approach it. Having applied the 24 hour rule (that has turned into three weeks!), I wish to assure him I want the Dispatch to be....

Pertinent

Readable

Accurate

Varied

Descriptive

Attractive

The ability to read between the lines helps of course



The Delgany Dispatch is produced by the Clubs

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