



THE DELGANY DISPATCH



Issue 23.5

March 10th, 2023



Captains' message



It is with regret that we had to make the very difficult call on Thursday to postpone our Drive In, which was scheduled for Saturday 11th, to a new date of 1st April.

After much agonising we decided that in view of the horrible weather forecast and with so many moving parts – weather, condition of course, kitchen considerations – it was better to make the decision with a few days' notice and shift the event out a few weeks to when we hopefully will have significantly improved conditions. We are aware that some of you who had booked for the original time may be unable to play on the new date and for that we are sorry, but we hope that in the round it will be a much better experience for most. Please ensure that you go on the BRS on Sunday 12th to book a new time slot on April 1st and that you also book in for dinner with the bar and catering team. The timesheet for Saturday 11th will be open for casual golf weather permitting.

Before the weather became so inclement you may have noticed that the car park area and the driveway trees have been looking significantly smarter this week. A huge thank you to the volunteers who carried out a big clean-up on Monday. Other volunteer groups will carry on this good work in the coming weeks. Big thanks also to the ladies gardening group for wonderful planting at our driveway 'goat' and at the back of the 16th green, also to our regular chain gang for their superb maintenance work on the flower beds over a long number of years. It is great to see such enthusiasm and commitment from members to making the very best of our beautiful course.

The phenomenally successful Delgany Players production of Cupid Wore Skirts had its final performance on Saturday 25th ending a great run to packed houses. The cast are now packing their bags to head off to the Oscar ceremonies and each and every one of them deserves a gold statue. Thank you all for giving us the best laughs we've had in years.

Best of luck to our Fitzgibbon Cup team in their match against Bray this Sunday at 11am. Hopefully we can continue the winning run. Supporters at both venues would be very welcome.

Tom & Betty.

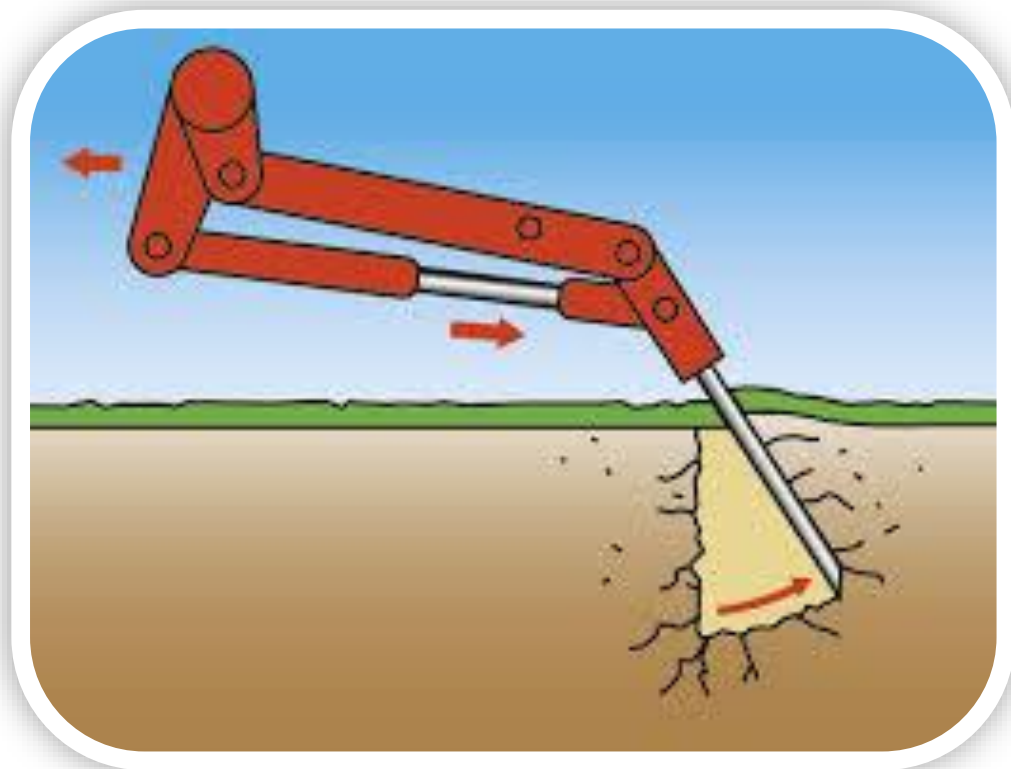
Course News

Verti draining of our fairways and semi rough

What is it and why do it?

Verti draining is the most effective process to overcome aeration challenges on playing areas such as fairways by penetrating the soil to break up the compaction layer.

This is accomplished through a patented parallelogram heaving action in which each solid tine (3cm diameter) is forced downwards and backwards shattering compaction at depths of up to 30cm, depending on the soil conditions. A fairway verti drain machine which is mounted on a tractor has up to 48 tines.



As shown above the tine enters the ground and penetrates down to the predetermined depth as set by the operator. Whilst underground the tine is forced backwards to a set angle which breaks up the compacted layer which enables the root system to grow downwards towards the previously hard to reach nutritional areas in the soil.

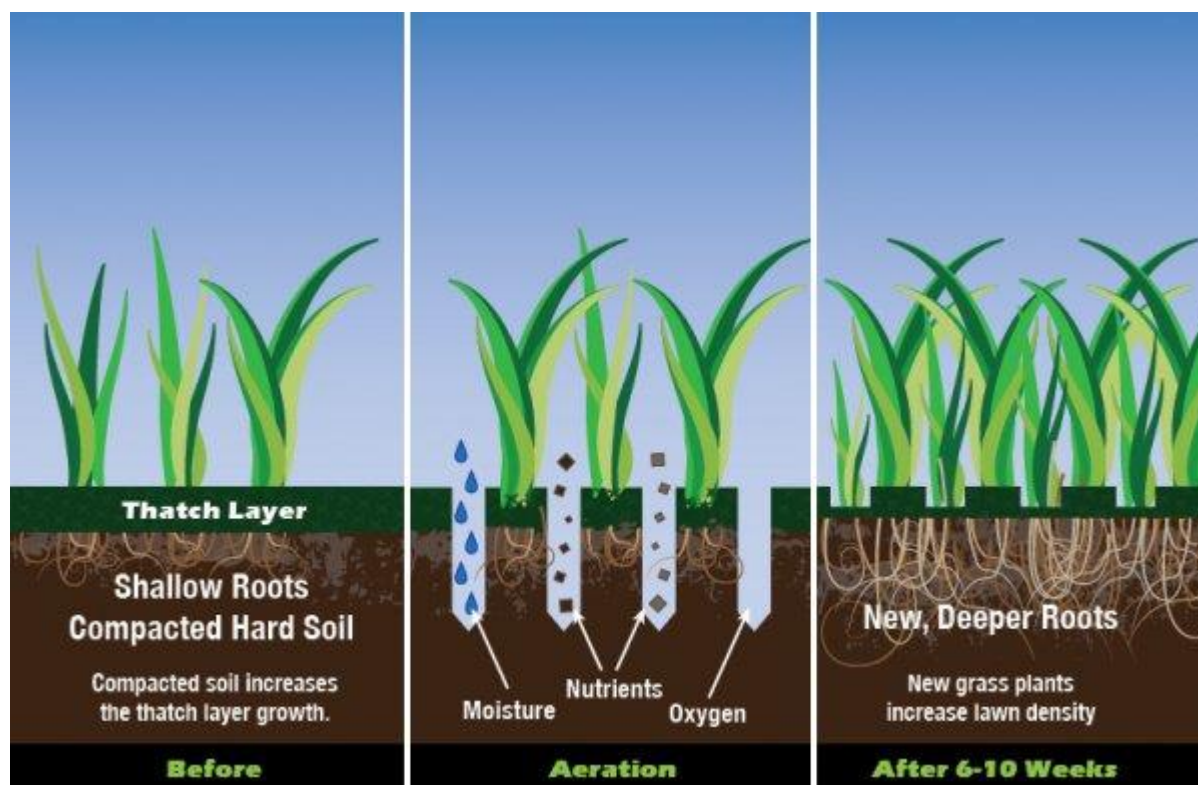
What causes compaction?

Compaction is caused by consistent use of an area by golfers and their trollies, buggies, and course machinery. Our decision last month to rope off areas and insist that golfers walk in the rough was made to reduce compaction, especially as the ground was soft and we were about to enter the growing season.

Course News

Verti draining of our fairways and semi rough...

Relieving the compaction problem through Verti draining allows air, water, and fertilizer to be effectively dispersed throughout the soil which leads to a healthier turf that is better able to resist stress and requires less costly maintenance, including watering.



Delgany Fairway Aeration Project

This Verti draining operation is the first part of the Fairway Aeration Project we are undertaking this year. We will be applying a shockwave process (details to follow) later in the year to further assist in reducing compaction to improve the health and drainage of our fairways. These processes are minimally invasive with very low impact for golfers.

The number of rounds played annually in Delgany has grown significantly over the years and enhanced fairway maintenance processes such as Verti draining are an essential aspect of modern golf course maintenance. To that end we are grateful to the Management Committee who agreed to allocate the proceeds of the Corporate Day to this essential project.

Course News

The necessary evil of hollow coring of our greens and tees

Why, when our greens have come through the winter in good condition, do we disfigure them for a few weeks by hollow coring (actually, it's done twice a year, usually again in early September), and, if it must be done, can it not be put off until the end of the golfing season?

The answer to the first question is given in some detail below. The answer to the second question is that the hollow coring process is very stressful to the grass plant and for the greens to recover quickly it must be done in the growing season when plant growth is still strong. Too early or too late in the growing season and you could well be left with poor bumpy greens well into the playing season. So, a little pain now to avoid a lot of pain later!

What is hollow coring and why is it needed?

The primary purpose of hollow coring is the removal of organic matter (commonly referred to as thatch) from the root zone of the grass plant on greens and tees. To keep the organic matter content in the root zone of sand-based greens below 3 to 4 %, the optimum for healthy turf, the USGA recommends twice yearly aeration treatments. Prior to the hollow coring this surface thatch is verti-cut, which as the name suggests is cutting vertically into the green's surface, to a depth of 3.5cm. This procedure is used to remove surface thatch, which is a layer of dead grass stems, roots and clippings.

If this thatch is left in place it will result in a very soft top layer that starves the plant of oxygen and is a rich breeding ground for numerous fungal diseases. Removal of this layer, coupled with the hollow coring, allows the turf to breathe and absorb nutrients and facilitates the application of a top dressing of sand which keeps the green surfaces firm and dry. Hollow coring also reduces soil compaction and facilitates better water infiltration, which is essential for healthy plant growth.

Golfers hate to see their pristine putting surfaces damaged and the green keeping industry has been trying for years to come up with less surface disruptive practices that deliver the same results, but to no avail. So, much as we all hate it, hollow coring is a necessary evil that must be endured both for our greens and tees. The good news is that recovery shouldn't take more than two to three weeks depending on the weather and the temperature.

These two processes, to aerate the fairways, tees and greens (which includes the sanding of the tees and greens) begin on Sunday 12th, at 3.0 pm and with some reasonable & dry weather, we hope to complete the main work by Wednesday 15th.

Save the date in your diary:

The Course Committee is hosting an information evening on Thursday, 20th April at 7.30 pm. Its purpose is to share the key plans, challenges and expectations as we head into this golfing season. **We really hope as many members as possible can attend.**

DGC Course Committee email – course@delganygolfclub.ie

We have launched this new email address to encourage our members to share their views, feedback and comments on course related matters. We suggest that where possible you include a picture if that is appropriate. We will monitor this email as regularly as we can and reply as soon as possible. We hope this will ensure a better and more efficient communication between our Course Committee and our members.

Thanks in advance for your patience and support,

Ken Greene, Course Committee Chair.

Ladies News

Celebrating International Women's Day

“Unleash the Power of your Emotional Intelligence” by Eva Doherty



Eva is a member of Delgany Golf Club and very kindly gave a presentation on

“Unleashing the Power of your Emotional Intelligence”

Eva is the Director of Human Factors in Patient Safety in the Royal College of Surgeons.

Eva presented to the well attended club members an overview of emotional intelligence both on the Golf Course and in everyday life. We even found out why we cry at movies!.

This was followed by numerous questions from a very enthusiastic audience.



Ladies News

Prize giving for ladies 4 Ball Rumble



Prize giving for ladies 4 ball rumble Tuesday 7 February, kindly sponsored by **Stillorgan Podiatry Solutions (Blanaid Farrell)**. Competition winners Sue Archer, Siobhan Mooney, Carol Newlove and Patricia Wyse receiving their prizes from Blanaid and Captain Betty.



Congratulations to the Winners of the Waltz Competition 28th February

Ladies News



Amber Mealia, a granddaughter of Kate and Jim Hurley (45 year Members of DGC), has been selected to play for Ireland on the Under 16 Hockey Team.

They have upcoming matches in Germany and Spain in the European 4 and 8 Nations Tournaments.

Amber plays her hockey with the Holy Child School in Killiney, with Monkstown Ladies Hockey Club, Leinster and now Ireland. Amber is also a highly proficient Tennis player.

An Evening for Golfers that will focus on the prevention of common golf injuries.

This might be of interest.....

SSC
SPORTS SURGERY CLINIC
*Specialists in Joint Replacement, Spinal Surgery,
Orthopaedics and Sport Injuries*

AN EVENING FOR GOLFERS 2023

Sports Surgery Clinic is hosting an Online Evening for Golfers in March.
This event will focus on the prevention of common golfing injuries and how to improve general strength and fitness for golf and life.

DATE
TUESDAY
MAR 21
TIME
7 pm to 8 pm

ONLINE EVENT
FREE OF CHARGE

SPEAKERS



'Management of common golf related injuries'

Dr Ronan Kearney
Consultant Sports & Exercise
Medicine Physician



'How fit is fit enough for golf?'

Dr Neil Welch,
Head of SSC Lab Services
and Research

This event is open to the public and not restricted to golfers. It is suitable for anyone interested in keeping strong, flexible and active as they get older.

To register please visit <https://sportssurgeryclinic.com/events>

Men's Competition News

Winter League Semi-Finals

The Winter League Semi-Finals were played last Sunday, March 5th and the bookies were proven right again with the two teams in Numbers 1 and 2 positions prevailing!

In Semi-Final 1, Team C (Donal Meehan) played Team F (John Gallagher) who had finished 1st and 4th respectively in the qualifying phase. Donal sent out his 5 pairs which included no less than 7 players who had contributed an average just shy of 106 points each!!

John's team were unfortunate to lose a few players (the day before and on the day) so ended up with only 9 players available. This meant having to send one player out on his own to play two. Andy Murphy volunteered for this unenviable task and gallantly held out until the 12th. He was doubly unfortunate to come up against two "sharks" who played fabulous golf. The 4 other matches were just as hard fought but Donal's pairs were unbeatable on the day with the eventual result as 4 and a half to a half.

In Semi-Final 2, Team D (Ian Barrett) played Team A (Tom Bergin) who had finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in the qualifying phase. Under normal circumstances, a Vice-Captain would be expected to allow the Captain to win but Ian had other ideas. In keeping with his visionary zeal and his stated aim to be the tallest Team Captain to win the Winter League, Ian's team prevailed with a hard fought 3:2 win over his (former) friend...

The best of luck to Donal's and Ian's Teams on March 26th.



Team C with Captain Meehan at the helm, unfortunately our photographer went out in the first match and that was that !!! Anyone want a job at the final?

Social News



Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Is every member aware that there is a defibrillator in the Golf Club?

It is situated directly behind the bar, so please make sure you check it out on your next visit.

The CPR trainer advised calling the Emergency Services Dial 112

as there is a quicker response than dialling 999

Best of luck....

To Paul Mescal at the Oscars this Sunday night. Here is Paul with Colm and Marie Molloy, his proud grandparents and members of Delgany Golf Club.



Ian's Cryptic Quiz

- 1) SWAB HARD to reveal this famous family name. (8)
- 2) TRAIN the BEAR to be next years Captain. (3&7)
- 3) Our 'sage' honorary treasurer. (8&4)
- 4) One is worth more than two in the bush. (6)
- 5) L.A. rockers scoring '2's on the 9th. (3&6)
- 6) He designed our course . (5&6)

Answers next issue.





St. Patrick's Day Golf



INVITATION TEAM OF 4
RUMBLE

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 08:45-14:25

Each member can book 4 players. Members can book up to 3 guests. Member entry fee €7. Guest entry fee €17 charged to the member's account.



DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

5.3 MORE ABOUT the 'OLD' DAYS – And LATER

The following recollections are those of a current member, Richard Sherriff,

who lived in Delgany village during his early childhood. The formation of the club by a 'breakaway' group from Greystones Golf Club was a tangible way of putting Delgany village on the map. This is highlighted by an old saying in the village that 'Greystones people look down on the sea, the people in the Burnaby look down on the people in Greystones, but the people of Delgany look down on everyone!'

In the early existence of the golf club, the population of the village was about 300, being served by three public houses, two churches, two hotels, three grocery shops, two butcher shops, one auctioneer (part-time), one funeral undertaker and one petrol pump station. To some in the village, the generosity of the La Touche family might have seemed commercial and self-benefiting, but this was far from the reality. In fact, the village benefited greatly from the La Touche influence, ranging from the employment opportunities on the estate itself, to housing on and off the estate, to employment in the La Touche-owned hat manufacturing business in the village and to the presence in the village of Christ Church (built by Peter La Touche I in 1789).

It is interesting to note that the consecration of this church was not the formality that such ceremonies usually are. This was because of reservations by the Bishop about the composition and location within the church of a monument that depicts some members

of the La Touche family on their way to heaven – in various stages of undress! The church was eventually consecrated, the monument is still in the church, but the altar was moved to another wing! Presumably some of the congregation of the church were the 'Delgany gentry' who with other invited locals, often played cricket matches against teams from other big North Wicklow estates: these matches were played on ground that is now part of the golf course.



Growing up in Delgany village was a wonderful experience, with the rivers, valleys, woods and golf course as readily accessible playgrounds – it was the freedom that any child would want, and it also helped in learning about 'the birds and the bees' at an early age.



DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

Like most villages, there was great support and friendship among families. There were many rivalries too – like trying to win a prize at the annual village fair by growing better vegetables or better flowers than the late Paddy Fitzpatrick, father of Paddy and Seámus Fitzpatrick. The widespread absence of Dublin-based members from the golf course during the weekdays also provided plenty of space for tobogganing – snow in winter, and shiny trays on scorched grass in summer. In all of this, the great challenge-run was from the current 13th teeing area, down the course, and out the front gate. In the village, the front gates were known as the Dog's Gates/Dog Gates because a 'replacement' head for one of the lions that had been accidentally damaged or vandalised was considered to look more like a dog than a lion – the head of the 'dog' was subsequently replaced/re-worked into the head of a 'proper' lion. The alternative view on this is that both lions looked more like dogs than lions! One way or the other, the entrance gate was always an issue, and a note in the Club Minutes of April 8th, 1940 reads 'Lions gate to be repaired if possible by Davis' – Murt Davis, presumably.

Contact with the outside world (Dublin) in the early years was by train from Greystones, having got to Greystones by the pony and trap service provided by Frank Kelly's father, or by the Wicklow Hills bus that ran from the village to Dublin, through Greystones and Bray. This service, which was

privately operated, also ran between Enniskerry (its base) and Dublin, via Sandymount. It was the 46A of its time, and pre-dated the introduction of the No 84 bus service by C.I.E, which also ran from Delgany to Dublin, via Greystones. The Wicklow Hills bus was well known to Delgany members as it often had to be held in the village to take members to the club, or less frequently drive up to the clubhouse to collect them. The service discontinued in 1935 when the company was taken over by the Dublin United Tramway company which in turn was taken over by C.I.E. As for the No 84, the 10.30 a.m. bus for Dublin never left the village until special locals were on board. The best known of these was Bertie Smyllie, editor of the Irish Times and a former Captain of the club, who lived in Killincarrig.

It is remarkable that a GAA club was up and running in Delgany village in 1887, only three years after the GAA was founded. Sadly, though, the club disbanded in the 1930's. Local sporting success, however, was available through golf. The Artisan club was formed in 1949 by Joe Mulford (father of Paddy Mulford) and Charlie Byrne, who had lived in one of the lodges close to the Dog Gates. During the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, there was a number of outstanding Artisan teams. Many of these players later became the backbone of winning Barton Cup, and other, teams representing the club. Like the children on the toboggans, the golfing skills of these players were greatly helped

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by the availability of the course from Mondays to Fridays. For many years, Christmas morning was a very special time, as the Artisans ran a four-ball draw with the attractive possibility of being drawn to play with professionals like Eddie Bradshaw, Harry Bradshaw, Jimmy Bradshaw or Ray Hayden, all of whom would have been 'home' for the Christmas holiday.

Sunday afternoons during Summer were quite special when the Artisan heroes played a match, and if the match was against Greystones, excitement went to great heights. The village closed down and 'the whole parish' came out in support. At times, this support reached 150-200. 'Apres match' was held in the Irish National Foresters Hall (now the house immediately to the right of the 1st green) or in a local private house, where traditional singing and entertainment went on into the early hours of Monday morning. Whatever the outcome of the match on the day (or the previous day), the players were heroes in a village where golf was essentially the only passion.

Underpinning all of this was the continuing presence in the club of 'the Pro'. Since 1908, the club has had eight professionals on its books, starting with P. J. Doyle who was followed by Willie Gilbert, Eddie (Ned) Bradshaw, Harry Bradshaw, Eddie Bradshaw, Jimmy Bradshaw, Eamonn Darcy and Gavin Kavanagh, the present incumbent. Of these only Gavin is not native to the

immediate area.

Two well-known caddy masters were also in attendance, Ned Bradshaw (the Pro) and Jackie Mahony. Jackie's great ability to multi-task throughout the years has long since been recognised and acknowledged. Another not to be forgotten multi-tasker was a quiet man from Willow Grove - Murt Davis. Murt milked his cows morning and evening, delivered the milk to his customers (including the club), then worked a full day on the golf course, including tending to the sheep. Finally, Murt sometimes had to return at night to work in the bar. In all, Murt Davis worked for the club for 42 years (1931 - 1972). He was elected an Honorary Pavilion Member for Life in 1973. As if 42 years were not long enough, Jackie Mahony worked for the Club for 47 years (1946 - 1992) and was elected to Honorary Membership for Life in 1992. And to trump everyone, Paddy Moore, a quiet man from Kilcoole retired in 1972 having reached 70 years, of which 50 were spent in loyal service to the Club.

The husband and wife team of Paddy and May Cullen succeeded the Barrys at the 'business-end' of the golf club in 1951. Paddy was uncommonly efficient in his many duties in the club, especially from behind the bar. He read the needs of the club and its members very well. In the mid-1950s the attractive category of Life Membership came on offer. At that time, a lively poker school was in existence in the club, usually on week-end

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nights and despite the 1908 club rule that prohibited card playing. For some of the poker players at least, opportunity had knocked and poker winnings were set aside for saving towards the Life Membership fee. In this scheme, it was said that Paddy Cullen played a critical role, first in promoting the concept of saving rather than blowing the winnings, and secondly in acting as banker for the lucky poker winners (Paddy held the money on account!)

May Cullen in the meantime had achieved a reputation throughout Wicklow and Dublin as an outstanding caterer, her afternoon teas of homemade brown bread, scones and strawberry jam being a particular speciality. On occasions however, preparations for 'afternoon tea' had to be set aside. For it seems that there was more than a keen interest in horse racing among the Delgany staff, and it was May Cullen who organized for the bets to be placed. All the bets had to be given to her before 1.30 pm, so that the chosen 'courier' had time to catch the 1.45 pm bus from the village to the nearest bookie shop in Greystones. After this had been organized, cooking could commence.

Delgany has always been renowned for its hospitality and sociability – 'yez are welcome to stay until the bar closes in November' was an invitation often issued by a current member and former Captain. Key social events have always been the Captains' and Lady Captains' Prizes and dinners. Stories and events

associated with these occasions are legion, but they need not be put to print. However, there is the one about the member who had recently become a father and who had been assigned to his home on baby-sitting-duties. It was Saturday, and the morning of the Captain's Prize. The solution to the father's dilemma was quickly found – the infant was transported to Delgany in a Moses basket and left in the care of the bar staff as the new daddy tried to negotiate his way around the 18 holes. The daddy did not win the Captains Prize!

Among the visiting golf societies, perhaps the biggest was the Irish Motor Traders Association outing. This was held every year, over two days. Marquees were erected for dining and serious drinking, extra staff were brought in, and caddies came from everywhere with a guarantee of two days work. It was bonanza time! While walking the dogs on the morning after one of these outings, I tumbled on a car parked precariously on a tee box in the vicinity of the 13th tee, doors wide open and radio blaring. There were four people in the car, all well-dressed in suits, starched collars and ties: they were asleep! Obviously, they had missed the left bend/elbow on the avenue when driving home the previous night – or else it was a conscious effort on their part to by-pass the 'busy' Glen of the Downs route back to Dublin.

Here is how another difficult problem was solved. For many years, the running



**Spotted in the bar before
the Winter League semi final...**

We all know Willie and Ken can lay claim to the most elegant golfers at Delgany GC in their plus fours, however our mystery man* has challenged their sartorial supremacy with his **plus eights**. All we can say is 'Close, but no cigar'.

*Note: we never mentioned his name or his Glen of the Downs jumper !

"Photo of the Week"



Our thanks to **Ann Boyle** for this great photo of Ronnie with Mary De Chaumont and Mary Brennan. Smiles all around as they work away on our flower beds.... a big 'thank you' and well done to all.

The Delgany Dispatch is produced by the Clubs

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