



# THE DELGANY DISPATCH



Issue 23.6

March 24th, 2023



## Captains' Message



Having postponed our Drive-In date from two weeks ago to next Saturday 1st April we have been watching the weather charts with bated breath. The March winds are blowing, but at least we have more Spring-like conditions and we have all fingers crossed for some fine weather on the day. We were very gratified to see that the new time sheet was booked up almost immediately and we hope it will be a fun and memorable day for all. If you haven't done so already please make your dinner booking at the bar and if you don't have a table organised Jamie and Kevin will be happy to assist.

The hollow coring exercise has been ongoing over the last few weeks and while playing conditions have been less than ideal the longer term benefit for the course and our enjoyment of it will make the effort worthwhile. Many thanks to the Course team for all their hard work in getting this difficult job done.

We were delighted to see the 'Famous Faces' of Delgany move to a new and prominent position on the stair wall where they make a wonderful impression on anyone walking down the stairs and also bring the rich history of our club right into the heart of the clubhouse. Many thanks to the House Committee for this very welcome initiative. The Faces will be joined very shortly by the restored Bernadette Madden artwork which has been absent for some time undergoing repairs for sun damage.

Sadly, there have been a number of bereavements of current and former club members in recent weeks. Deepest sympathy to Honorary Life member and former President Cyril O'Loughlin and family on the sad loss of his son Conor and to Shane on the loss of his brother. We also extend our sympathies to the Urell family on the loss of Donal, the Anderson family on the passing of Peter and to Catherine Ruth and family on the loss of her husband Alan.

Tom and Betty



# Social News



**Three Delgany stalwarts recently celebrated major birthdays, all are worthy of a special mention thanks to our on the spot reporter.**

Top of the class must be our much-loved **Maura Devereux** who celebrated her **100th birthday** in the Club on Saturday, the 4th of March.

99 guests were invited and 99 duly turned up for a wonderful evening of food, drink, and music. **Maura's son John was the main organiser and MC for the evening, the highlight of which was him accompanying Maura (John on the flute and Maura on piano, without glasses or music!) as they played a melody of tunes wonderfully received by an appreciative audience.**

**Phil O'Neill gave a special rendition of McCarthy's Party to great applause and**

the guests enjoyed a beautiful meal thanks to our catering team. Your social and personal correspondent, who left a full house at 11.30pm, was reliably informed that **Maura remained with her guests until 1am!**



**Very special birthday wishes to a beautiful person in every sense of the word.**



The secret is out, **Billy Meagan and Ken Burgess** were born in the same year, as both celebrated a big roundy birthday beginning with a 9 and a decade behind Maura!

Billy invited his close Delgany friends to a soiree in the Club, who all wished him many more happy birthdays.

A look at this photograph of Billy taken on the night shows he has fantastic genes or some other magic formula for looking so well (**or maybe we undervalue the hills of Delgany!**).





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# Course News

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## Update on our Hollow Coring

This undoubtedly is a very invasive process as you will see from the series of photos that show the operation in detail. The coring process that removes the cores and the collection process that lifts the cores are reasonably straight forward and not overly weather dependent. It would be fantastic if we had our own machinery to do this rather than relying on a contractor where we have to stick to the dates we book this on. That's a story for another day.....

Once we have the cores removed and lifted, the really tricky bit starts. The spreading of the sand and the 'brushing in' is very weather dependent as we must have dry (and windy) weather. We have to spread 120 tonnes on our greens. Ideally we do two heavy spreading sessions, where we spread 40 tonnes each time among all of the greens.



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# Course News

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The coring was completed on Tuesday morning 14th March. At that stage the forecast was for wet and continuous potential rain over the next week. Actually it was so wet we had to postpone the Verti draining until the fairways dried out somewhat. We got lucky with this Monday and Tuesday morning as it turned out to be excellent spreading conditions and we have completed the 80 tonnes of heavy spreadings. Now we just have to do a couple of light spreadings to complete the job but this is much less intrusive for our golfers. I am highlighting this just to emphasise that we can be at the mercy of the weather and plans can be disrupted from time to time.

Thanks for your patience and support.

Ken Greene

Course Committee Chairperson





# Ladies News

Many thanks to Centra Delgany, Liz Cuddihy, for sponsoring the Ladies Open Australian Spoons, Foursomes Qualifying and the Ladies 9 Hole Singles Stableford on Tuesday last. What fabulous and very generous prizes.

Competition details    Date: March 21

Players: 64 played in the Australian Spoons,  
22 played in the 9 Hole.

Sponsored by Centra Delgany

Thanks to Liz Cuddihy.

## Results

### Winner **Australian Spoons**

B. Murtagh / E. Jennings 18 35pts

2nd E. McGrath / N. Rigley 19 34pts c/b

Gross P. Burke / A. O'Loughlin 9 24 gross pts

3rds D. McCarty / H. Kane 27 34pts

### **Nine Hole**

1st Marion Waters 24 16 C/B

2nd Marion Naughton 23 16





# Ladies News



Get into golf



Our new Ladies Golf Ireland sanctioned course commenced on Thursday 23<sup>th</sup> March – the Golf Club got a great response and a large number of Ladies applied to attend this programme. We wish them all well and look forward to seeing them on the Golf course during the summer. Photos thanks to Catalina.



## Captains' Drive in

**Captains Drive In Reminder - takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> April and if you are not competing in the competition you are welcome to join for dinner**

Dinner with entertainment will follow at 7.00pm and will cost €32.





# Congratulations



## Six Nations success for Hugo

While the whole nation was celebrating Ireland's Grand Slam win last Saturday, our former Captain Avril Dowley and her family were also celebrating the nomination of her son, Hugo Keenan, for Six Nations Player of the Championship. Hugo was one of only six players nominated, three of whom are Ireland players with Caelan Doris and Mack Hansen also receiving nominations. The winner will be announced on the 24th just after we go to press with the Dispatch – **go Hugo!**

Ireland's 29 - 16 win over England was a fitting reward for all the effort and hard work that the squad had put in as they recorded Ireland's fourth Grand Slam. Our photo on the right, shows Hugo holding the Triple Crown with Mum Avril and Dad Paul just after the game finished. Below we have the Six Nations Championship Trophy safe in Hugo's hands surrounded by his proud parents and brothers Robert and Andrew.



Well done Hugo ..... onwards and upwards to France in September and the World Cup.

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# Men's Competition News

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## 1. Singles Matchplay Qualifiers - March 25th

This coming Saturday is an important date in our diary with the Singles Matchplay Qualifier for Ordinary Members and Intermediate Members, with 64 and 16 to qualify, respectively. There are still a few slots available in the last hour of the timesheet if you are interested.

## 2. Winter League Final - Sunday March 26th

**This Sunday sees the much awaited clash between Donal Meehan's Team and Ian Barrett's Team.** Sadly, Donal 'the Don' Meehan is not available, but he has passed the Team Captaincy to another Don...Don Berkery. The tee is reserved from 1pm to 2pm and with all the experience in both teams it's sure to be a titanic series of matches. Best of luck to both teams!

## 3. Wicklow Hospice Charity Qualifier - March 26th

On Sunday next, we have the Wicklow Hospice Fourball Qualifier which is a very worthy charity. There are plenty of slots available before and after the Winter League Final.

## 4. April Medal - now moved to April 15th.

Those of you who were due to play in the Captains' Drive In (on March 11th) will have seen that it is now being played on April 1st. As a consequence, the April Medal has had to be moved to April 15th. Watch out for the booking slot on April 2nd.

## 5. Men's Foursomes Matchplay Qualifier

Unfortunately we have also had to move the qualifying date for the Foursomes Matchplay qualifying from April 2nd to April 30th.

16 pairs can qualify out of this event.

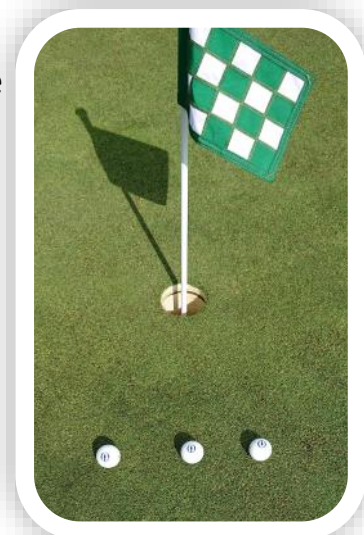
If you were booked for the original date please accept our apologies.

## 6. Fish Friday Open - April 7th (Good Friday)

We have a 4-person team event lined up for Good Friday with the entry fee covering both the golf and fish & chips meal afterwards. Entry Fee is €20 for Members and €30 for Visitors.

John Gallagher,

Men's Competitions Committee





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# Team News

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## Fitzgibbon Cup 2023

Delgany v Bray – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – **Final Result**

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### Home

Aidan Lacy (6.6)	Danny O'Hara (7.7)	(14.3) <b>Won 5&amp;4</b>
Alex Coffey (0.5)	Terry Day (14.2)	(14.7) <b>Half Match</b>
William Walshe (3.1)	Kevin Bouwer (11.0)	(14.1) <b>Won 3&amp;1</b>

### Away

Conor Tiernan (3.0)	Evan Lenehan (11.9)	(14.9) <b>Lost 3&amp;2</b>
Fergus McDonald (6.2)	Jim O'Riordan (8.3)	(14.5) <b>Lost 3&amp;2</b>
Kevin Nolan (1.3)	Tiernan Lane (13.2)	(14.5) <b>Lost 3&amp;2</b>

### **Overall Result**

**Bray Won 3.5/2.5**

Managers:

Jason Bradshaw

Paul Hautz, Basil Mulligan & Donal Meehan

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**Are you going to be 'good' on  
Good Friday, April 7th ?**

**Why not enter our Open 4 person Team Event**

**Members €20 / Visitors €30**

**includes Golf with**

**Fish & Chips meal afterwards.**

**Timesheet opens Friday March 24th at 8pm.**





# Cupid is online



Thanks to Eugene Murray (our TV Producer extraordinaire), we can all watch the Delgany Players 2023 version of "Cupid wore Skirts" on Youtube.

Simply highlight, then copy and paste the address below into your search engine or just type it out yourself.

[https://youtu.be/dMTuKIGTe\\_E](https://youtu.be/dMTuKIGTe_E)



## Ian's Cryptic Quiz

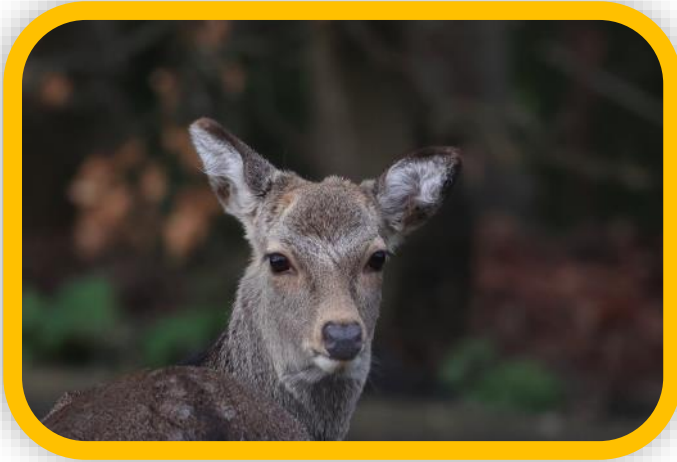
Answers from last issue:

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





# Our Sika Deer



Thanks to **Ronan Moore** for these excellent photos of our Sika Deer.

Given the deer are long standing visitors to our course and feature quite a lot in this Dispatch issue (obviously they enjoy watching the madness), we thought they were worthy of some background information, Thanks to the **Irish Deer Commission** for

Sika deer are our most common non-native deer species and originated from North eastern Asia (Japan). There are six subspecies of Sika deer with the Japanese Sika deer the common subspecies present in Ireland, there is also evidence of Manchurian Sika in the North West of Ireland. They were introduced by **Lord Powerscourt** in 1860. A few years later some Sika deer from Powerscourt were moved to enclosed parks in Fermanagh, Kerry, Limerick, Down and Monaghan. Our present wild deer herds mostly originated as escapees from these parks in the early 20th century during the Irish Civil War. While some claims have been made, the number of Sika and their hybrids in Ireland are unknown as no national deer census has been carried out. **Sika / Red hybrids are most common in Wicklow** (where pure sika still occurs too) but examples have also been found in Carlow, Dublin and Cork, the latter poses a threat to our native Red deer found in Co Kerry. It is easiest to see Sika deer when they are actively grazing, mainly at dawn or dusk. Sika are extremely shy and one should take great care to approach carefully from downwind. Sika deer are primarily grazers but will eat herbs, heather, young tree shoots and farmed root crops as the opportunity presents itself. The mainly feed in the morning and late evening.

Group size in Sika is usually up to ten animals, consisting of females, follower offspring and non breeding males. Stags on the other hand only join the herds during the rut. Antler development in stags usually reaches it's potential in 7-8 year olds. They will shed antlers in spring and growth starts immediately. A skin covering called velvet covers the antlers while growing and is scrapped off to reveal hard antlers before September. Sika have a preference for acidic soils and will quickly establish in young pine plantation. **Sika are protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 and may be hunted under a section 29 licence granted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service**





# DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

of the club was marionetted and guided by 'wise men'. J.M. Calvert and P.J. Stokes have already been mentioned but J.B. (Connie) Conroy and Hugh Coyle were two more.



*J.B. (Connie) Conroy*

When dealing with thorny issues, it was always the case with these men that the glass was half-full rather than half-empty. Wisdom was put to the test when my application to become a junior member of the club was made – back in 1959. This was a grey area then, arising from the lack of clear rules covering such an application, including the requirement (apparently) that a parent or relative of the applicant had to be a member. The wise men resolved the problem by deciding to confer Honorary Life Membership on my mother, who had been an active playing Lady Associate in the early days of the club, but was no longer

playing. Arising from this I was admitted as a junior, at a charge of one guinea (€1.33). Suddenly it was no longer necessary for me to hop over the wall from my house beside the 1st green to play in what was widely seen in the village to be a 'public playground'!

In the ensuing years, I have played a lot of golf at Delgany and was lucky enough to see, first hand, a number of



*Exhibition Match (1958)*

exhibition matches played there. These matches involved Harry Bradshaw, Christy O'Connor Snr., Joe Carr, Tom Craddock, Max McCready, David Sheehan (until 2007, the last amateur player to win a Professional event in Europe) and Declan Clarke (arguably the best amateur golfer Delgany ever had). From a spectator stand-point, a lot was to be learned about the game of golf here, as was also the case when Delgany hosted the Leinster Youths Championship in which such great players as Darren Clarke, Pádraig Harrington, Paul McGinley, Ronan Rafferty and Philip Walton came to early prominence



# DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK



*Declan Clarke*

## **5.4 THE FEMININE SIDE**

I, Anne MacKeogh, joined Delgany in 1945 after my sister had joined the previous year and my brother a few years prior to that. We lived in Bellevue, beside the course, and before joining we used to sneak in and play. We joined at a guinea (€1.33), the same price as the annual membership fee. In 1947, I won my first prize of two guineas (€2.66) and bought a length of material to make a costume, as it was called then. It was a 'Flag competition' in which you played the holes until you had used up the par of the course plus your handicap: a flag was then pushed into the ground where your last shot rested. I had eleven shots still to play after the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, and finished on the 20<sup>th</sup> green. My handicap was reduced from 36 to 25 in one day.

The late, great Harry Bradshaw used to give me lessons. I remember how he used to always walk with his arms

wrapped around a club held across his back, a gentleman's trick to keep a straight back. There were many exciting competitions back then. Eclectic involved playing the back nine twice – it wasn't as hilly – and taking your best score from each hole. In Bisque you played off half your handicap and took your shots on whatever hole you liked, playing against par. In a Sealed Holes competition, the prize donor left an envelope with her choice of nine holes from the eighteen and you received half of your handicap. We ladies had great fun competitions in those days. Now it has all become very serious. It seems boring only playing strokes, par and stableford competitions.

The fun was not just on the golf course.



Mrs. George Valentine, the famous Scottish golfer and former British Women's Open Champion, whom Phil Garvey beat in this year's championship final, is at present on holidays at Greystones. She is seen on the putting green at Delgany Golf Club last Sunday during the St. Mary's College Golfing Society's annual outing. With her are Mr. Pat Nolan, president of the Society; Mr. Tom Tierney and Mrs. McKeogh, Lady Captain, Delgany.



# DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

During the late forties, fifties and sixties we had social nights, usually on Saturdays. We had great sing-songs with pianists like Maura Devereux, Gussy Sheridan, Ray Baker and Liam Murphy. We had a Delgany Dinner Dance each year in one of the local hotels; long dresses for the ladies were the order of the day, with tuxedos for the men. The Glencormick Hotel close to Kilmacanogue was a favourite place until it burned down. In 1965 we held our first Lady Captain's Dinner in the clubhouse. Before that we used to make do with 'high tea', with lots of savouries and fattening cakes.

In the 1960s we decided that it was time to start taking part in inter-club

competitions. In 1968 the ladies entered in the Autumn Team matches. We had no success until 1971 and 1972 when we won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Cup for those with handicaps 11 to 16. In 1974 we won the Townsend Foursomes Cup. In that competition we beat Howth, Woodbrook, Milltown and Hermitage before beating Killiney in the final – quite an achievement, considering that these clubs were able to select teams from a much larger panel of players than we were!

In 1974 our Lady Captain, the late Olive Wallace, started the choir for Christmas carols and I am glad to say it is still going strong. While ladies have always felt welcome in the Club, they also felt



*One of Our Choirs*



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# DELGANY GC CENTENARY BOOK

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a bit barred. From the beginning, ladies were not allowed into the bar. There was a very small lounge next to the bar with a hatch door through which ladies could order drinks. We used to call the division between the bar and the lounge the Berlin Wall – we had to wait a long time for it to come down. In the early 1970s there was an extension added to the lounge with a small dispenser bar. But this was not our own space and it was as much for men as for ladies. Later it was decided to put a dartboard beside the bar, so that when the men were at darts, ordering drinks could often be dangerous. As Peggie Hearne used to say, you could get your ears pierced for free if you got in the way. In those days there was still a partition in the lounge separating the ladies from the men.

The Berlin Wall eventually fell and a set of accordion doors was put up in its place. These could be opened after the presentation of prizes to the men, but only at the discretion of the Captain. The accordion doors were dispensed with a few years later but the rail on which they ran was left. This was still an effective barrier, for while ladies could now look into the bar, they still could not go in. We christened it the Eye Line. It was a great source of amusement to the vast majority of people. Change takes place slowly in golf clubs and it was a painful struggle for the ladies to be treated as equals. Some men were reluctant to cede an inch (even a millimetre!). There was often a strong sense of division particularly when it came to men's

competition days on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

I remember during the period of the Eye Line, I invited my daughter and her future husband to the Club for a meal on a Wednesday evening. The bar was empty so we went in. We were keeping an eye on the 18<sup>th</sup> green waiting for my husband to finish. After about 30 minutes, three men came in and then the bar manager came down and asked me to move across the Eye Line into the lounge area. He was embarrassed and apologised. I was equally embarrassed and thought to myself 'am I a man or a mouse', and will I stand up against this male chauvinist attitude? Finally, I said I would stay until my husband came in and we were ready to go to the dining room. Other men drifted in but nothing more was said or done. It was one small step on our road to freedom. Some months later Peggy Hearne and Cherry Finn sat at the bar and were glared at by men, but one man (Dave Fox) joined them, bought them a drink, and that seemed to confirm a new attitude in the club. I think it was in 1986 that ladies' emancipation came to Delgany and we were at last allowed into the bar.

There was also a struggle to get equal rights on the golf course, a common experience in all clubs throughout the country in those days. They eventually came about after a series of small but important breakthroughs. In 1977, it was proposed by Paddy MacKeogh, and seconded by Kenny Johnston, that



## Ask the expert....

Deer Paul,

Last Tuesday I was playing golf and on the 3rd hole, as my partner drove the ball, there was a deer in the middle of the fairway. The animal moved slightly, then my second partner drove and her ball landed very close to the animal. On this occasion the deer sniffed the ball, took it in his mouth and dropped it in the same spot.....

What is the ruling???

Ann Nulty, Bernie Jones and Sandra Doyle

### Clarification 11.1b/3

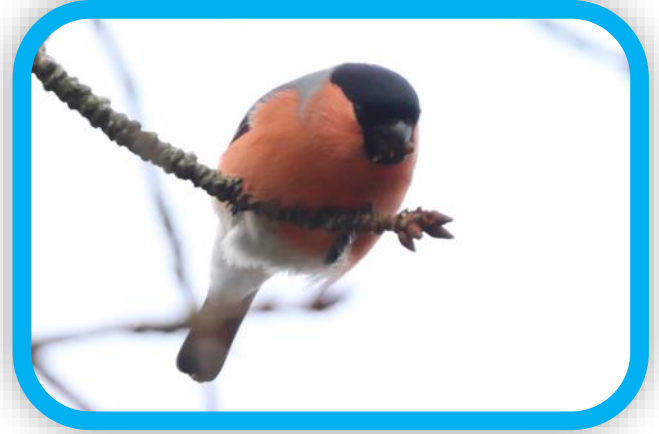
If the ball was picked up by a deer on the fairway or general area, a ball must be dropped within one club length of and no nearer the hole than the point where the deer picked up the ball.

Regards

Paul Hautz



## “Photo of the Week”



Thanks to Ronan Moore for capturing this Bulfinch which was feeding on the Silver Birch in the car park ..... and proving that he is not just a deer stalker ! (Ok I'll get my hat)

We would encourage all members to use their cameras when the occasion permits as we build a record of our time at Delgany GC for future generations.

Email your photos to

**[delganydispatch@delganygolfclub.ie](mailto:delganydispatch@delganygolfclub.ie)**

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