



THE DELGANY DISPATCH



Issue 23.8

April 21st, 2023



Captains' Message



What a relief that the long period of heavy rainfall has finally come to a halt and given way to a good run of fine weather which has helped to dry the course and allow buggy users to get out playing again. At last some normality is coming back into our golf and we can look forward to a fun and busy golfing season. While the course may appear dry, the water table remains high and we encourage players to continue to wheel their trolleys in the rough where possible and to remain vigilant with sanding divots. This will ensure that the hard work put in by the course team and the members will reap long term benefits.

The inter-club matchplay season is getting into full swing and we were delighted with a number of Delgany successes on Sunday 16th when the Men's Pierce Purcell team beat Wicklow Golf Club and our Junior boys' team beat Woodbrook in the Irish Junior foursomes. A big shout out also to our Junior Captain, Cathan McCarthy, who won Gross Prize in the prestigious Irish Times Shield played on Powerscourt East Course. Sadly, our Ladies Junior Foursomes team were unsuccessful in their match against Old Conna, though they put up a great fight. We wish all team players the best of luck in the next round of upcoming matches and we encourage members to come along to the home or away venues and give your support. You will see some great golf played at these events, far more gripping than anything you will watch on TV. Full details of fixtures are in the Teams News section.

On a sadder note we bid a last farewell to the great Maura Devereux, honorary life member, who passed away just before the Easter weekend, having celebrated the great milestone of her 100th birthday a matter of weeks earlier. Maura was legendary throughout the club for her zest for life and her great prowess as a pianist. She was a beacon of light for the Ladies Club in her enduring ability to play golf to a very advanced age, her great style and her cheerfulness. She will be very keenly missed by all who knew her and especially by her family (many of whom are also club members) and her numerous friends. We offer our deepest condolences to all. May she rest in peace.

We have been delighted with the positive feedback we are getting on the new WhatsApp Captains Noticeboard. It's a great way to get messages out to members rapidly particularly on important matters which might be overlooked in an email message. If you haven't received a message via the Noticeboard do let us know and we will ensure your name is added to the Mens or Ladies Club groups.

Betty and Tom



Ladies News



LADIES TEAM UPDATE – JUNIOR FOURSOMES

The Junior Foursomes team put up a great fight on Sunday 16th April, but unfortunately lost to Old Conna Golf Club.

Hard luck to all players and Managers Avril & Caroline.



This is the group that played away in Old Conna GC – Well Done Ladies!!!



Assistant Manager Caroline Tobin with Mags McDarby & Elaine McGrath
The Home Team in Delgany GC



Ladies News



Upcoming team fixtures for the Ladies

Junior Cup v Powerscourt GC

April 22nd

2 home

Bernie Jones
Bernie Clarke
Sub Ann Boyle

3 away

Margaret Williams
Cliona Lyons
Pauline Burke
Sub Eileen Bates

Manager Mags Mc Darby
Assistant Manager Mary Corcoran

Matches tee off at 3.30pm in both venues
All support would be greatly appreciated.

SUMMER MATCHPLAY EVENTS

We have put the entry sheets for signing up for our summer matchplay events on the notice-board on the way to the locker room. These are our big summer events and we encourage you to enter.

The Ronnie Stephens Trophy is for those with handicaps 1-20, the Summer Challenge is for players with a handicap of 21 plus but you must play off a max of 40 (ie 40 + can still enter, but they play off 40 for this event). If anyone wants to enter our Summer Foursomes and does not have a partner, please put your name down and we will put teams together. It's a great opportunity to get to know people in the club and matchplay is good for your golf. If you have any questions on the Challenge Cup and Summer Foursomes, please contact Pauline Burke on 087 2336785.

Ann Cafferkey & Pauline Burke, Ladies Competitions.

Carton Cup

Vs Dun Laoghaire GC

April 28th

Mary McKenna Diamond Trophy

Vs Powerscourt GC

May 4th

Revive Fourball

Vs Stackstown GC

May 7th

Boyne Trophy

Vs Old Conna GC

May 14th

Challenge Cup

Vs Arklow GC

May 20th



Men's Team News



Thanks to Tadhg Dolly for the following team updates:

JB Carr

Vs Druids Heath
May 2nd 13.00

Pierce Purcell

Vs Macreddin GC
May 7th @ 14.50

Junior Cup

Vs Grange
May 7th @ 14.00

Jimmy Bruen

Vs Wicklow GC
May 13th @ 15.15

Irish Mixed Foursomes

Vs Edmondstown GC
May 13th @ 14.10

Barton Cup

Vs Woodenbridge GC
May 21st @ 13.00

The Delgany Juniors won on Sunday away at Woodbrook GC in the Junior Interclub Foursomes, manager Robert Walshe, Juniors William, Evan, Alex and Jack.



The Pierce Purcell team won 3:2 on Sunday against Wicklow, manager Fran O'Hara.



Your support is very much appreciated at all our interclub matches.



Men's Competition News

MEASURES TO TACKLE SLOW PLAY

We continue to receive reports of persistent slow play.

Therefore, over the month of May, we are considering the following measures for Saturday Singles Men's Competitions on a trial basis. Please note that a more detailed communication will issue in due course.

- Official 'Starter' on 1st Tee.
- Introduction of 10-minute intervals in certain competitions as soon as is practical to do so – likely to be May 1st at earliest.
- Players will not be permitted to tee off before their allocated tee time.
- Course 'Spotters' who will observe playing behaviours and report back to this Committee.
- Nomination of a "timekeeper" in each playing group (person with lowest handicap).
- Recording Start Time/time finishing on 9th/time finishing on 18th on sheet attached to card.
- Stricter local rules on "playing through".
- Communication of a Delgany 'Slow Play Etiquette' document.

With your cooperation in supporting these measures, we expect them to make a difference. It is in all our interests to make this work. Consideration should be shown to others on the course at all times. We estimate that with small changes in behaviour each group should comfortably improve their playing times by 1 to 2 minutes per hole so that a maximum playing time of 3 hours 50 minutes (max.) for a Saturday Singles is achievable.

The following are guideline times for playing out the hole:

Par 3's - 11 Minutes Par 4's - 13 Minutes Par 5's - 15 Minutes

So, do your bit for your fellow members and remember...

- **Keep Up**
- **Use your "rear view mirrors"**
- **Stick to your 3-minute search window**
- **Play a Provisional Ball if in any doubt**
- **Mark cards on the next tee**
- **Move On & walk briskly between shots**
- **Play Ready Golf**
- **Talk while you walk**
- **Pick Up (in Stableford competitions) if not going to score at a hole**



Men's Competition News

MIXED FOURSOMES ENTRY:

Our Club Mixed Foursomes is a popular, well fought competition. The entry sheet for the Club Mixed Foursomes is on display on the notice board in the hall. To enter the competition just put your name(s) on the sheet - if you don't have a playing partner we will find one for you.

The entry fee is €14 per pair and will be deducted from your competition purse. The draw will take place at the end of April.

MENS FOURSOMES MATCHPLAY QUALIFIER – SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH.

The qualifier for the Mens Foursomes Matchplay was moved from its original date to Sunday, April 30th. There are 16 places up for grabs so why not try and see how you fare at this challenging format. For those of you involved in teams, this is a great way to sharpen your course management skills as a pair.

Booking is available now...

John Gallagher

Mens Competition Committee



Winner winners, well done lad's

Congratulations

Honorary Life Membership for Eddie Bradshaw



A highlight of the Captain's Drive In a few weeks ago was the announcement at dinner that our much-loved member, Eddie Bradshaw, was granted Honorary Life Membership.

Eddie was led to believe that the large gathering of Bradshaw's in attendance was there to celebrate a big birthday for Jason, but the MC for the evening Vice Captain Ian Barrett announced that the Man of the Moment was to be Eddie himself.

Ian recalled Eddie's fantastic life in Delgany, which uniquely began when he was raised in the family home located in the woods to the right of the 16th green. He caddied from an early age and quickly showed the Bradshaw prowess for golf, and he was already a top player when he joined Delgany in 1972. He represented the Club on various teams, including two Barton Cup winning sides and victorious Cullen Cup and Fitzgibbon Cup teams. Eddie also played on the Wicklow county team, along with fellow Delgany members and great friends Declan Clarke and Paddy Mulford, when Wicklow won the All-Ireland Inter-County Championship in 1981. Notably, playing with Tom Conlon, Eddie had a hole in one on the 14th in the final of the Barton Cup, a big man for the big occasion!

We also found out that in his day Eddie was one the longest drivers of a golf ball in the country, regularly topping the charts in the long driving competitions that were popular in the 1970's and 1980's. A multiple winner in Delgany of scratch cups and various club matchplay competitions, Eddie also managed various teams, including the Senior Cup and Barton Shield. Eddie has also always been a great contributor to the social side of the club, and the announcement of his Honorary Life Membership was made against the backing music of Johnny Cash's 'Ring of Fire', one of his party pieces in Delgany. Finally, Eddie worked as part of a dedicated team of greenkeepers in the Club for 23 years, retiring in the early 2000's.

After taking a deserved ovation, Eddie, in his own modest way, regaled us with stories from his early days, up to the present, including acknowledging "The Boss", his sadly departed wife Kathleen. Celebrations went on into the night, with Eddie being joined by his wide circle of relatives and friends, with a special mention for his children Eddie Junior, Douglas, Melissa, Louise, and Rosie. Hopefully, with the weather and his body improving, we'll see Eddie back on the fairways soon with this great friend Terry Day. If you get the chance, put your name down on the BRS with him, you won't regret it!

Ourhanks to Ian Barrett



We are looking to add to our green keeping team,
please feel free to share this advert.



Qualified / Trainee Greenkeeper Required

The successful candidate will work as part of the green keeping team, who maintain the highest standards across our exceptional golf course.

This position is open to those with previous turf experience or wish to begin a career in this Industry. As part of the role, limited weekend work is completed on a rotation basis.

Preference will be shown to applicants with previous experience and salary will reflect that experience.

A current driving licence is required for the position.

Benefits include:

- ◆ Competitive Wage
- ◆ Excellent educational and other benefits package
- ◆ Excellent Training provided

Applications in strictest confidence to:

General Manager,

Delgany Golf Club,

Delgany,

Co. Wicklow.

A63DX32

Email: website@delganygolfclub.ie



New members, new friends..



This week we welcome Grainne Kennedy....

What is your golfing background?

My golfing background is extremely limited! My friend is a member in Blainroe and is a passionate golfer, she kept pestering me to get into golf, so I eventually succumbed, and I joined the Delgany GIG's initially in 2021. Whilst I really enjoyed it I did find it quite challenging and felt a bit out of my depth. However, I came back to the GIG's in summer of 2022 and it all just fell into place. I was more confident and could see the improvements week on week. I also invested in clubs which made a huge difference. Bernie was fantastic and really encouraged us and made us feel really welcome. I also met some lovely girls who weren't taking it too seriously and were up for a bit of fun as well.



Why did you join Delgany?

I have really enjoyed the atmosphere in Delgany (in fairness I don't have experience of any other golf clubs) but from doing my research the feedback was really positive. This was mainly from the wonderful lady members who gave up their evenings to come out and bring us for a few rounds so we could get some practical experience, and also my overall experience from being around the club was that it was a very welcoming and friendly environment. It makes such a difference when people acknowledge you, simply say hello and generally make you feel welcome. We had some great coaches in Gavin, Catalina and Geoff– who really are miracle workers. Bernie was fantastic too and really encouraged us and made us feel really welcome. I also met some lovely girls who weren't taking it too seriously and were up for a bit of fun as well. So eventually I took the plunge with a few of my fellow GIG's members (Sinead, Barbara, and Sharon) and joined in January of this year.

What are your golfing ambitions?

Presently Sinead, Barbara, Sharon and I play every Sunday afternoon – we're still doing scrambles (but loving it!). So currently my ambition would be to start being able to complete a score card (more challenging than I would have thought) and possibly by the end of the summer have a handicap (any handicap). We took some additional lessons with Catalina (brilliant coach) which made a huge difference so we're signing up for a few more lessons to try and improve further.



New members, new friends..



Grainne Kennedy continued.

Who are your sporting heroes?

I'm a rugby fan so my current sporting hero is Johnny Sexton and Mack Hansen. I also enjoy watching golf so I'd be a fan of Leona Maguire and Rory McElroy. Also, since joining Delgany I would also include Catalina and Bernie and my three-golfing amigos.

What other sports are you interested in?

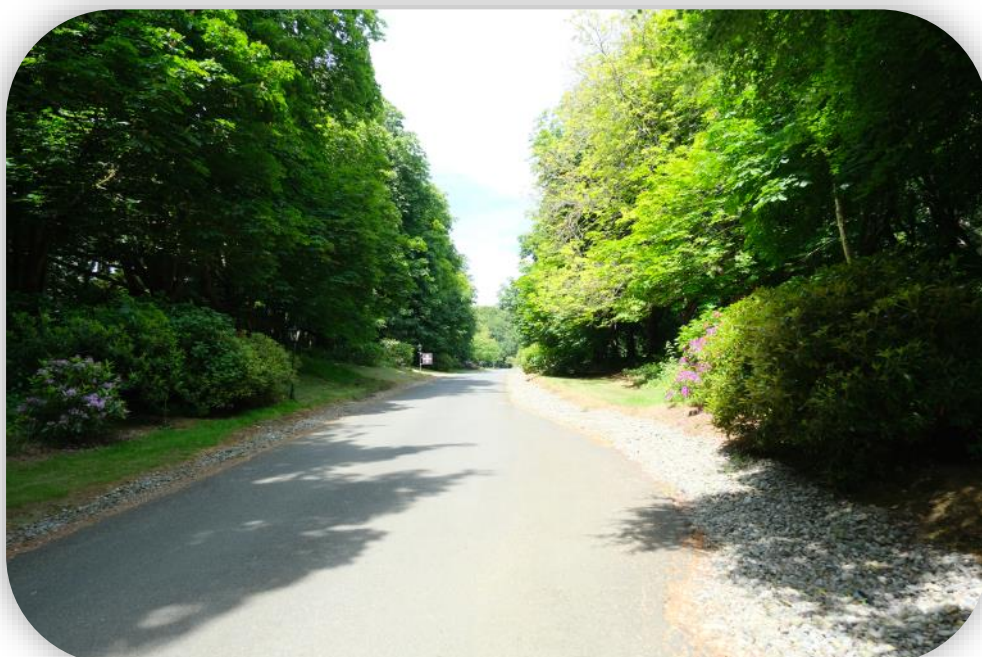
I was big into athletics when I was younger and also played hockey and basketball. I later did a lot of skiing but had to give up due to a knee injury, so now I'm the 'chalet girl' when we go on family ski holidays.

What are your golfing successes so far?

I have no prizes or golfing successes to speak of – yet! However, I am very proud of myself for rocking up on my own to Delgany not knowing anybody or how to hold a golf club to now being able to enjoy nine holes once or twice a week and not only hit the ball but occasionally have a few cracking shots and very occasionally the odd good putt.

Interesting facts you would like to share?

I'm originally from Belfast but moved to Bray when I was ten. I'm the HR Director for a large food services company and travel a bit with work so it's pretty full on and golf is a welcome diversion – also I have a Leaving Cert student this year so it is also helping with the stress levels. I enjoy music and I'm an avid reader. I like travel particularly in Spain and France not sure if it's for the culture or the wine – let's just say I enjoy them both in equal measure!





New members, new friends..



Next up, we welcome **Keith Real** to tell us a little about himself...

What is your golfing background?

I played quite a bit of golf when I was young in Limerick and Kilkee in Co Clare but it took a back seat for a long time after that. My family are avid golfers still and there's plenty of conversation about golf.

Why did you join Delgany?

We live locally and I joined the Horse & Hound golf society a while back. Those are great days out and it definitely reminded me how much enjoyment can be derived from golf. I had played Delgany before and being only 2 mins away from the course made it a really easy decision.



What are your golfing ambitions?

It would be great to be playing consistently again and just enjoy the days out.

Who are your sporting heroes?

I wouldn't say I have any really but have spent quite a bit of time in Thomond Park and following Munster throughout Europe for the good days and not so good!

What other sports are you interested in?

Most really and I have played many sports through the years. I still run, swim, ski when I can and love being outside.

What are your golfing successes so far?

It has been many years since I had any golf successes – it has been more around enjoying the day out. My father, sister and brother in law did play St Andrews a few years ago and that was a bucket list achievement we all wanted.

Interesting facts you would like to share?

My family and I live nearby and my son, Jack is also a Delgany GC member. My wife Lorna is currently taking lessons here too and so we just need to get my daughter Sarah started and the whole family will be here!

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definition of holes etc.) should be improved. In 1971, also, forest land to the right of the old 12th fairway (short, and over, the gorse) was bought from the State Forest Service (Coillte).

The outcome of all of this was a re-design of the course with the English course architect Fred Hawtree and Sons in attendance – some ‘old’ greens and holes (1st, 4th, 5th, 6th and 17th) being decommissioned and ‘new’ greens and holes (3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 11th) being introduced. The revised lay-out sought to minimize the amount of ‘climbing’ to be done, by playing ‘across the slopes’ rather than ‘up and down.’ At this time also, an automated watering system (with reservoir) was introduced. The record for this course (63) was set by Johnnie May on 23/7/1978. Bernadette Harmon set the ladies record with a score of 68 on 16/7/1991.

Further development took place in the 1980s when the land and house to the right side of the old 4th and 5th holes were purchased by the club. The house was sold on shortly after purchase, but the land was retained and now constitutes the main practice area in the club. In the 1980s also, the ESB informed the club that it (the ESB) would be supplying electricity to a proposed new industrial complex near Charlesland – this would necessitate the construction/erection of pylons carrying high voltage cables at two locations on the course, one close to the existing 6th green and the other

in the wooded area to the right side of the current 1st fairway. The cables were to be 9 metres above ground level, and were carried from a third pylon (still standing) located in the wood at the north-eastern corner of the course. The possibility that the cables be run underground down the course was not negotiable (except at the Club’s expense). Rather than compromise the natural beauty of the golf course, or indeed the playing of golf itself, the members voted unanimously (1985) to have the cables laid underground (at a cost of £60,000). The cables were duly laid – they run on a line (approx) from the old 5th green, down the current 6th fairway and across the current 2nd and 1st fairways into the wooded area right of the 1st hole. In the event, the proposed new industrial complex near Charlesland never materialized. The cables still lie underground and are now part of the national grid.

There was much discussion about course design again in the late 1980s and in particular that the 10th tee should be located as close to the clubhouse as the 1st tee. This particular concept, with attendant complications and alterations, was incorporated into a suggested course layout designed by Tom Craddock and Pat Ruddy: the design was a little too radical for the members, however, and was eventually shelved.

About this time too, the northern woodland stretching from the old 5th green to the back of the current 13th

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tee was purchased by the club. While the main objective here was to protect a significant length of course boundary, additional land was now available for course extension and development. Further improvements, however, were not made until the early years of the new millennium: and it came with a vengeance, amounting to a total expenditure of €5.5 million for course, clubhouse and facilities.

That there was a general mood for improving facilities and amenities was demonstrated in the response to a questionnaire circulated to members in 2000. It revealed support for both course and clubhouse improvements but with improvements to the course to be given priority. Preliminary steps at upgrading some greens and tees were taken in the period from Autumn 2001 to Spring 2002. In the same period a small area of woodland behind and to the right of the 13th tee was purchased from Coillte. Later in 2002, following two Extraordinary General Meetings, the members agreed by a large majority to spend €1.3 million on remodelling the rest of the greens (including the practice putting green) to USPGA specifications, building two new tees and constructing a modern course maintenance complex. From a management standpoint, the critical and courageous strategy employed was to suspend golf at the Club for the bulk of the summer to allow the construction team uninterrupted access to all parts of the course.

On 7th July 2003, the course was duly closed for golf and given to the appointed contractors SOL. Remarkably only 12 weeks later, the course was vacated by the contractor, the bulk of the construction work having been completed. The course was re-opened in October 2003 with an 18 hole 'temporary' course in play. During a two-month period in Spring 2004, the final phase of the course re-development work was

FAIRWAY MARKERS ARE MEASURED IN METRES TO THE CENTRE OF THE GREEN
Red Disc = 100 Yellow Disc = 150 White Disc = 200

Competition	Date	Official Use
Player A	H/icap	Last 9
Player B	H/icap	6
Player C	H/icap	3
Player D	H/icap	1

No.	Mens's Scores	Mens's Metrics	Par	Yards	A	B	C	D	Yds	Ladies Metrics	Red	Par	Index
1	365	357	4	8	4					345	4	4	
2	274	265	4	16	3					251	4	14	
3	352	347	4	2	4					336	5	18	
4	342	337	4	14	4					329	4	8	
5	170	163	3	8	5					151	3	12	
6	364	350	4	10	4					349	4	6	
7	304	301	4	4	5					299	4	2	
8	135	124	3	18	4					116	3	18	
9	359	353	4	12	4					346	4	10	
OUT	2685	2607	34	OUT						2522	35	OUT	
Please: Repair Pitchmarks • Replace Divots • Avoid Slow Play • Rake Bunkers													
10	451	327	5	4	1					315	4	1	
11	147	139	3	9	2					126	3	15	
12	386	372	4	1	5					362	5	3	
13	290	285	4	11	4					276	4	9	
14	167	163	3	13	3					158	3	11	
15	342	339	4	15	5					286	4	17	
16	164	156	3	17	4					148	3	13	
17	377	364	4	3	5					320	4	7	
18	484	480	5	7	6					414	5	5	
IN	2808	2825	35	IN	38					2405	35	IN	
OUT	2695	2607	34	OUT	32					2522	35	OUT	
TOT	5473	5232	69	TOT	75					4927	70	TOT	

Strokes	V Par	Statelord	SS White 69	SS Green 68	SS Red 72
Tot 75	Won	1st 9			
H/c 7	Lost	2nd 9			
Nett 68	Result				

Masters Signature
Player's Signature

completed, while the 'temporary' course continued in play. Finally in June 2004, the 'temporary' course was decommissioned and the reconstructed course was officially opened. The new mens' course measures 5473 metres (par 69 from medal tees) while the ladies equivalent

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COMPETITION		DATE	
SEPTEMBER MEDAL			
START TIME			
FINISH TIME			
PLAYER A	GARY FLYNN	HC	2
PLAYER B		HC	
PLAYER C		HC	
PLAYER D		HC	
STROKES	V PAR	STABLEFORD	SSS
IN	31		69
OUT	31		
GRAND	62		69
HC	2		72
NET	60		

Marker's Signature: *Gary Flynn*

PLEASE... REPAIR PITCHMARKS - REPLACE DIVOTS

HOLE	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	A	B	C	D	IN	OUT	TOT
1	365	367	4	8	4				345	4	4
2	274	283	4	16	3				231	4	14
3	352	347	4	2	3				330	5	16
4	342	337	4	14	4				329	4	8
5	170	163	3	6	3				181	3	12
6	364	360	4	10	4				349	4	6
7	394	391	4	4	4				290	4	2
8	135	134	3	18	3				116	3	15
9	359	355	4	12	3				346	4	10
OUT	2665	2697	34	131	31				2322	35	103

AVOID SLOW PLAY - PLEASE... RAKE BUNKERS

HOLE	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	A	B	C	D	IN	OUT	TOT
10	451	427	5	6	5				413	4	1
11	147	189	3	9	2				126	3	13
12	386	372	4	1	4				362	5	3
13	290	285	4	11	4				276	4	9
14	167	163	3	13	2				158	3	11
15	342	339	4	16	2				290	4	17
16	164	156	3	17	2				138	3	13
17	377	394	4	3	4				320	4	7
18	484	489	5	7	4				414	5	5
IN	2808	2825	35	131	31				2495	35	131
OUT	2665	2697	34	131	31				2322	35	103
TOT	5473	5522	69	262	62				4817	70	234

MEAN BUNKERS ARE IN YELLOW TOTALS OF GREENS: RED DISC = 100, YELLOW DISC = 100, WHITE DISC = 200

is 4927 metres, with a par of 70. In September 2006, Gary Flynn established the current course record with a superb round of 62. The ladies' record score (75) was achieved by Teresa Thompson in May 2007.

An unfortunate condition attaching to the Club's application of the Standard Scratch Score and Handicap Scheme for the new course was a ruling by the Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI) and the Royal and Ancient (R&A) that the 16th and

17th holes be played consecutively in all singles (qualifying) competitions. This ruling, which became effective in May 2005, set aside the long-standing and otherwise unique situation in Delgany whereby players drove from the 17th tee after finishing the 15th hole, and 'later' picked up their drives after playing the parallel par-3 16th hole. The Club has responded to the ruling by introducing a return buggy-shuttle between the 16th green and 17th tee for qualifying singles and Open competitions. It is already clear that those who would prefer to take the punishing walk from the 16th green back up the steep hill to the 17th tee are but a tiny proportion of the membership.

Finally, on the issue of the new course, the huge support of neighbouring golf clubs in Wicklow and South Dublin throughout the period of the course reconstruction must be acknowledged. During the Summer of 2003 when Delgany was closed for golf, much of the ensuing frustration and inconvenience was relieved by their generosity in providing playing facilities and hospitality that were judged by our members to be overwhelming. A sincere debt of gratitude is extended to all who were so helpful.

5.7 From VARDON to MERRIGAN

In 1909 Harry Vardon played an exhibition match in Delgany and advised the committee of the newly formed club

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on the layout and design of the course: Patrick Merrigan applied modern thinking in his makeover of the greens and course over 90 years later. How has course design evolved in this time and how has it impacted on us, the club golfer? To explore this, let us take three of the 'old style' holes, the 7th, 8th and 9th and compare them with the current versions of the same holes: incidentally Patrick Merrigan considers these holes to be his most successful ones in terms of his aims and philosophy in remodelling Delgany.

Three years after playing Delgany, Harry Vardon put down his views on course design in his book 'How to Play Golf' (Methuen, 1912). Amazingly, even then, the world of course design was grappling with technical advances which were making it too easy for players to score well! A century ago this was caused by the development of the 'rubber-cored' ball which had replaced the 'guttapercha' or 'guttie' ball. Because of this (*'driving has been made so simple by comparison with ten years ago'*) Vardon recommended that there should be five par three holes on a course 'to restore some of the demand for skill.'

Vardon's overriding approach to golf course design was 'to combine efficiency with enjoyment'. He had a somewhat puritanical approach to the game and did not like a golfer to be rewarded for a bad strike or escape punishment for an error in choice of shot. He stated 'there

must be no mercy for the errant player'. Bunkers and hazards were 'agents of retribution'. Four holes on every course should be short (330 to 370 yards) which would allow the shorter driver 'a periodical land of promise.' To prevent a topped shot from going the same direction and distance as a well struck one, he advocated 'a good carry from every tee' and this advice was followed in Delgany on the 'old' 8th hole which had a carpet of gorse between tee and green. And also on the 'old' 12th (now 13th) hole.

Long carries from tees have a disproportionate effect on golf scores, particularly those of middle to high handicap players. It is too easy to lose a ball from the tee, with the same tee shot having to be attempted again, with a further one shot penalty. It is now believed to be fairer to concentrate on protecting the green rather than the fairway: in this way a golfer's short game can come to the rescue of a short drive/tee shot. That is why the gorse has now been cut back on the revised 8th and 13th holes, so that shorter and less consistent hitters have a more reasonable chance of successfully negotiating these holes.

On a similar theme of justice and reward for better shots, the marvellous changes to the 7th hole by Mr. Merrigan and his team help illustrate how course thinking has developed since Vardon. The original 7th hole was quite short, uphill to an almost level and unprotected

Congratulations to our very own **Cathan McCarthy** on winning the gross prize at the recent Irish Times Shield at Powerscourt East.

This report is from the Golf section of the Irish Times:



Our members **Course update meeting** took place last night with Course Chairperson Ken Greene talking us through the issues in detail and educating us as he went along. The meeting was very well attended and Ken has agreed to give us a full report for our next Dispatch as he reviews the meeting and follows up on some very positive ideas that were proposed from our members.

I think its fair to say that the efforts made over the winter by our greenkeepers and members has really paid off. we are looking at our course with pride as we move into the summer golf season. "Read all about it" in Ken's report next issue.

The Delgany Dispatch is produced by the Clubs

Communications Sub-Committee:

Tony Corcoran (Chairperson), Ian McMahon, Dermot McCarthy, Daragh Bass

Mary O'Neill, Jason Bradshaw, Eugene Murray & Yvonne Connelly

with technical support from Briege Burton.

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