



THE DELGANY DISPATCH



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<https://delganygolfclub.com/delgany-dispatch/>

October 27th, 2023



Captains' Message



We were delighted to hear some big news announcements this week of the nominees for our two vice captains and president.



Congratulations to **Colm Whooley** on his nomination for incoming Vice Captain. Colm is our current Hon Treasurer where he is doing a tremendous job ensuring financial prudence; he has filled a number of volunteering roles in the past and also filled the role of Hon Treasurer from 2009 to 2011. We have no doubt that Colm will be a roaring success in his new role.

Siobhan Mooney was announced as Vice Captain nominee at the Ladies Club Presentation evening on Tuesday. Siobhan, a really popular choice, has provided outstanding service to the club, serving on the Course Committee for the last three years and previously serving on the Junior and Social committees. Siobhan is the daughter of our 2004 Lady Captain, Trish Kenny, who is delighted to see the family tradition carry on. Big congratulations to Siobhan.



Willie Kennedy was announced as our incoming President. Willie has been a major supporter of all our club teams and, being no mean golfer himself, has played on many club teams during his 50 years of membership, including the winning Barton Cup team. We have no doubt he will be a great ambassador for the club next year, congratulations Willie.



Captains' Message



We continue to battle the elements in our efforts to play golf, with the Ladies Tuesday competition cancelled this week, the Men's Wednesday competitions cancelled both this week and last week, last Saturday's competition cancelled and only 9 holes open on Sunday. These cancellations are hitting club finances as competition entries are an important element of our overall income plus bar and catering income suffers when members are not coming to the club to play. It would be nice to think the weather pattern is a short term issue but unfortunately it may become a permanent feature of our climate and golf clubs in general will need to find ways to adapt.

It is not surprising that the bad weather has led to the introduction of winter golf rules somewhat earlier than normal, placing is now required in the rough and on the fairways. The Course Committee are also requesting a return to walking in the rough rather than on the fairway when wheeling trolleys, further information is in the Course Update below.

Our Committee Day last Friday was also affected by the weather as the course was unplayable but we had very enjoyable alternative entertainment with a fun quiz and great conviviality in the clubhouse as well as a delicious meal prepared by Chef Simon. A big thank you to everyone involved in organising the day. Our volunteers do a wonderful job for the club and it is important that we recognise this and reward their efforts. To those who were able to attend and those who couldn't we thank you one and all.

We are looking forward to two big events over the next two weeks – the Lady Captain's dinner and show is taking place on Friday 3rd with an Opera and Masquerade theme and the Men's Award night with a musical jamboree will be held on Saturday 11th – book your tables at the bar if you haven't already done so!



On a sad note we were sorry to hear of the passing of former Lady Captain, Jane Byrne. Jane was Captain in 1981 and was pre-deceased in 2022 by her husband Peter, also a former Captain (1994). Jane's funeral will take place on Tuesday next the 31st, may she rest in peace.

Tom and Betty

Aerator

Our new John Deere pedestrian aerator has now arrived. This aerator is a pedestrian machine which is easier to operate and more efficient. We are replacing a 2007 (16-year-old) tractor mounted aerator which is obsolete at this stage, and not only slow but, more importantly, could damage the greens. In recent years, we have used a contractor to do our hollow coring and while this has worked well, it is expensive.

This machine will allow us to do our twice-yearly hollow coring & our monthly solid tining. This will enable us to do more regular tining and to include the approaches and tees. Having our own aerator will enable us to be more flexible with the weather and timing of the use of our aerator as against having to work with the set dates of a contractor.

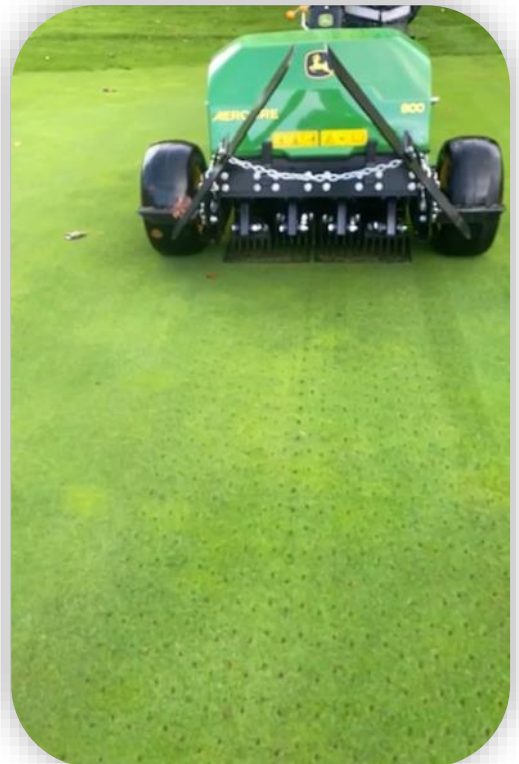
This is an absolutely key piece of course equipment. This pedestrian machine can be used through the winter months which will improve the quality and drainage of the areas we use it on.

The benefits of aeration include:

- Reducing compaction and improving surface performance
- Providing better penetration of water and air
- Allowing fertiliser / nutrients to reach into the root zone
- Improving soil structure and rooting capacity
- Extending playability
- Releasing toxic gases from the soil
- Increasing shoot growth

The arrival of this new aerator is another step in the rebuilding of our key course fleet. This builds on the new fairway mower and roughs mower that we purchased within the last 12 months. This is real progress and while we still have major capital requirements, this represents serious advancement.

I would like to acknowledge our Captains, Tom and Betty and our Treasurer, Colm, our General Manager, Patrick and the Management Committee for their support in this progress.





Course News



Avoid Walking on the Fairways

The continued wet weather, caused by 3.5 months of exceptional rain, which was a full 55% above the long-term average for the same period, has caused the course to be unusually wet and where the 'going' is soft to heavy in too many places. Delgany has experienced 136mm (or over 5 inches) of extra rain during this period and there is no letup in sight.

As a result of this rain, the fairways are in soft condition and will be damaged further until some drying and growth return. Apart from the health and safety implications where slips and falls are a risk, which are exacerbated by our slopes and hills, the high footfall due to competition entries & general play will further impair our fairways and green surrounds.

With this in mind, we are reintroducing the rules that were so well supported last Winter and which were so successful.

- 1.** All players must avoid walking on the fairways as much as possible. Therefore, we require each golfer to walk in the rough and if your ball is on the fairway, then you are allowed, at 90 degrees, to walk the shortest distance to your ball, play your shot and return to the rough. This includes bringing your divot bag so you can repair your divot.
- 2.** The ropes, white lines and hoops are there to protect the course. All players must observe these at all times as these are key defences in preventing further damage.
- 3.** The repairing of each and every divot is a huge part of keeping our course in decent condition. We have seen the huge support from our members in this regard. However, there are still many unrepaired divots that must be fixed.

Therefore, it remains compulsory for **every player** to use a divot bag and to repair each divot you take. We would very much appreciate if players would repair other divots that you come across on the course as well. There are many refill stations available to replenish the sand. Please assist your playing partners by reminding them to take a divot bag and to use it.

We need each member to take individual responsibility to reinforce these rules so that everybody contributes to the protection of our course, and this includes those who choose to carry their clubs. These actions are necessary to reduce further damage to our course while these soft conditions prevail. However, they are also good housekeeping practices which will benefit us all in the long term. The improvements that were seen this Summer prove these actions work.

Thank you all in advance for your continued cooperation and support for these measures.

Ken Greene

On behalf of the Course Committee



Course News



We committed to marking out a buggy path for use on marginal weather days over the winter period. These are days when buggies would ordinarily not be allowed due to the soft course.

This [blue post buggy path](#) is the new route designed and must be used by buggy drivers on these days. If the Club were macadam pathways, this blue track is where the routing would predominantly lie. It is unfortunate that we are entering the winter period in such soft conditions. The rain fall has totalled 334mm for the 3 months of July, August and September. This is fully 55% more than the same period last year and 63% above the long term average for these 3 months. This is a serious amount of extra rain and means the course is entering the autumn / winter period way more soft and damp than normal. Unfortunately October is not showing any change in the weather pattern and all inland courses are facing the same challenges.

We have now laid out the [blue posts](#) on the driest route available to us. This will mean crossing some fairways and to assist we have also cut the grass lower to identify this route. We have a number of directional signs as well and more will be added shortly. It is important that each buggy driver familiarises themselves with this route and tries to use it even on days when it is not called into operation. The idea is that you aim at the [blue post](#) and then the next [blue post](#). It is imperative that buggy drivers stick to this route. If there is significant deviation from this route then this buggy path will not work and all buggy drivers will lose out. Feedback on how this route works is welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all our buggy drivers, especially in the soft conditions we are experiencing, that they MUST NOT drive their buggies within 10 yards of any tee, bunker or green. Unfortunately there are many instances when this key rule is not adhered to. In addition, please use the existing tarmac paths at all times.

As you will gather, this system will require members using buggies to walk to their ball from the blue route, this is unavoidable in many places, we cannot allow buggies to cross onto fairways in places other than where the route directs. The route is designed to both protect the course and offer the buggy golfers an opportunity to play, it may not however suit everyone. This is the first time we have introduced such a blue post buggy path for the marginal 'weather' days and this will be kept under review and adjustments made as needed.

[We need the cooperation of all buggy drivers to make this work.](#)

Ken Greene
Course Chair





Course News



Notice

*On behalf of the
Course Committee*

Players must walk in the rough and avoid walking on the fairways as much as possible.

Use the 90-degree rule to walk the shortest distance to your ball on the fairway.

The ropes, white lines and hoops are there to protect our course. All players must observe these at all times.

Divot bags must be used by all players



Men's Competition News

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

15-hole competitions will operate from **Sunday, October 29th**.

Annual Prizegiving on Saturday, November 11th – commences 7pm with details to follow.

Winter League 2024 – entry book will be in the hallway from **Monday, November 20th**. There will also be an option to register your interest via email (details to follow).

WINTER RULES - PLACING ON FAIRWAYS & ROUGH:

Placing on the Fairway and in the Rough has been introduced until March 2024. The ball can be placed within 6 inches and not nearer the hole. Fringe pitch marks can be repaired but note the rule explained below before doing so!

Please note that placing does NOT include Bunkers where you must play as the ball lies.

Also, “sand and soil” can be removed from the green only but nowhere else.

N.B. If you are looking for a ball you must observe the 3-minute rule and respect other players by declaring the ball lost after this time is up.

GENERAL PLAY ROUNDS:

General play rounds for handicap purposes are suspended until after the Winter season. We will advise you when they will be reinstated in 2024.

RULES THAT PLAYERS GET WRONG:

For the next few weeks I will highlight a rule that golfers regularly get wrong...

Repairing Ball Marks:

You can repair ball marks on the green at any time but you CANNOT repair a ball mark on the fringe if it's on your line. So, for example if you are on the fringe and fancy putting it, but there is a deep pitch mark on your line in the fringe, you cannot repair that.

You can repair them if they are NOT on your line and not interfering with your line of play though.

John Gallagher

Men's Competitions Committee



Ladies News

(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)



SuperValu Hamper Prize Giving

On Tuesday 10th October the SuperValu Hamper Day Singles competition took place with 62 playing in the main 18 hole competition and 23 in the 9 hole. This was the last Golfer of the Year competition and was won spectacularly by Margaret Williams with a score of 38 points. Margaret also won the Gross prize, a super achievement, well done Margaret. Second prize went to Mags McDarby, third to Anne Marie Gallagher and fourth to Ann Boyle. All three scored 31 points with the result decided on countback. The 9 hole winner was Marion Naughton with 19 points. Well done to all and huge thanks to Ann Daly of Daly's SuperValu Greystones for an extremely generous donation of prizes.



Daly's SuperValu always surpass themselves with the quality of their hamper prizes.



Ladies News



Presentation Night 24th October 2023

And what a fabulous night it was, starting with presentations to the Junior Girls



Three prizes were awarded to the junior girls.

1. Golf Ireland Medal - Tayla Bouwer

The Medal is awarded to the player with the lowest aggregate of three net score differentials, one in June, July and August. Well done Tayla

2. Most Improved - Charlotte O'Dwyer

When the season began in April this year - Charlotte had a handicap of 41. She put in a tremendous amount of work to her golf. She has a drive that all the players envy. She lost 9 shots over the summer season and is now playing off a handicap of 32. Congratulations to Charlotte

3. Golfer of the Year - Tayla Bouwer

The fact that Tayla has won two of the three major Junior awards reflects how totally committed she is to golf in Delgany. She is exceptional and puts in the practice. She was 'Golfer of the Year' last year and has maintained her dedication again this year. She played inter-club matches on the 'Paddy O'Beirne Elm Park Trophy' competitions. Further to this, she was the only girl selected to play on the Wicklow Cup (which had 5 boys and Tayla). She stood her own with our junior boys who also played exceptionally this year. She lost a further 3 shots off her handicap and is now off handicap 20 having played off 36 two years ago.



Ladies News



Lady Golfer of the Year – Avril Dowley. Congratulations Avril, what a year you've had and given that you weren't in the country for the past 6 weeks, it's a great achievement. Well done Avril and as she jokingly commented 'at least someone in the family brought home some silverware'.



Most Improved Golfer of the Year - Sally Lynch. Congratulations Sally, what an enormous achievement in such a short space of time. Very well done.



Silver Medal Winner – Ann Cafferky. Huge congratulations to Ann. Ann was awarded the Golf Ireland Silver Medal and went on to qualify for the Golf Ireland All Ireland Silver Medal Final but unfortunately was unable to play due to injury. The Golf Ireland Bronze Medal was awarded to Dorothy Gaynor



Captain Betty receiving her Pennant from **President Ruth**.







**JOIN CAPTAIN BETTY FOR AN
OPERA THEMED EVENING AT
DELGANY GOLF CLUB**

**FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER FROM 7PM
BOOK YOUR TABLE FOR DINNER (€30) AT THE BAR**



**IN KEEPING WITH THIS
THEME, MASQUERADE
MASKS SHOULD BE WORN
WITH A PRIZE FOR THE
MOST ELEGANT**



Any queries, contact
Marian Waters
087 3291920



Ladies News



2024 DIARY

Ladies Telephone Numbers

The list of ladies telephone numbers as per 2023 Diary is on the noticeboard to the right as you enter the ladies locker room.

- 1. Please check your details and advise the Admin Office if any amendments required or if you would like your number to be removed.**
- 2. If your number is not listed or you are a new member and would like your number to appear in the diary please email Admin with your number along with permission to include it.**

Please email admin@delganygolfclub.com

by Tuesday 14th November.

Thank you



Club News



Thank You Dinner for all Volunteers on the different Committees

Captain Betty, Captain Tom and President Ruth kindly held a thank you dinner for all volunteers on the different committees in the Club on Friday 20th October. What a fantastic and fun night we all had starting with the quiz (we won't mention anybody cheating!!) We then had a wonderful dinner followed by the announcement of the incoming President Willie Kennedy and the Incoming Men's Vice Captain Colm Whooley. (Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)

Where are my quiz answers?

Phew I found them !!





Club News



2023 Remembrance Service

**Please note that the
Annual Remembrance Service**

will take place in

The Clubhouse

on

Wednesday, 8th November at 7.00 pm

Please email Admin if you wish to have a name included on the list of Members and relatives to be remembered at this year's Ceremony.

Email: admin@delganygolfclub.com



Spotted recently on Facebook and there's no mistaking that unique putting grip... it's our very own Dick Cotter playing away at Headfort GC in Kells, Co. Meath. We'll let Dick tell you if the putt went in or not !



Sean O'Rourke sent us this photo of Ex-Captain Paddy Brock two weeks ago. Flowers blooming in sunshine and Paddy blissfully unaware of the impending deluge that was about to close the course. Good to see Captain Tom was out today at the same photo location trying to test the weather Gods.... I am reminded of Eric & Ernie singing 'Bring me Sunshine' !!



We will leave you with this photo taken from a soon to be demolished English football ground that hosted England's first football loss at home to a foreign team.... namely the Republic of Ireland on September 21st 1949, where goals from Con Martin and Peter Farrell secured a famous 2-0 win.

Who would have thought such a simple message could make so much sense across all sports....

The Delgany Dispatch is produced by the Clubs

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