

The Delgany Dispatch



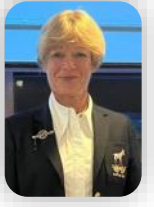
Issue 03.24

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

March 15th, 2024



Captains' Message



Hi, the last few weeks have been busy on all fronts, golf, social, One Club and much more!

The weather gods are still not shining as brightly as we would like, and over St. Patrick's weekend we will be restricted to 12-hole competitions at a time of year when we would have hoped to have moved to 15. Rest assured, Steven and his team are doing everything they can to get us up and running, it's just that the ground conditions, especially on much of the back nine, remain very sodden.

On the plus side, the Course Volunteers are back up and running, and between the downpours they have hard at work (have a look at the spinney on the 6th, a huge clean up is completed). Volunteering has many benefits, directly to the appearance and playability of our course, but also for the individuals involved, be it the physical exercise, camaraderie, and a chance to meet up with like minded enthusiasts. Following on from the great work done last year, Ian Cuddihy our Course Chair is always on the lookout for new Volunteers, so if you can give a few hours during the week, usually at 10am on either Monday or Thursday mornings or both, please contact Ian, he would love to hear from you.



On the golf front, the winter league final, scheduled for Sunday 24th March, is a repeat of the 2022 Final with John Sweeney's Sweeney Todds taking on Ian Barrett's Swords Swashbucklers. John will be looking for revenge while Ian is hoping his team can keep up the high standard they have shown since the competition kicked off at the beginning of the year. The plan is for 5 matches V 5, and as usual it should go down to the wire.



Captains' Message



On the Interclub front the Fitzgibbon Cup team has come up just short in terms of qualifying from a very difficult group, but Tom Bergin and his management team is happy that some promising partnerships have emerged, and expectations remain high that Delgany is forming a strong Barton Cup panel this year. The last match in the Fitzgibbon is also on Sunday next, the 24th, versus a strong Castle opponent, and the team and management would be delighted to do their best in front of Delgany support.

Away from team golf, big news is that the Revenue Committee has announced a major campaign to raise funds for a much-needed upgrade of our lovely avenue. The primary focus will be on drainage works, and when complete, landscaping of what is a tremendous feature of Delgany. The initiative, in the form of a President's Draw (President Kennedy has kindly allowed his name to be used to promote the campaign!), will be launched at the Drive-In on Saturday 23rd March, with full details to follow.

Congratulations are also due to our team who launched our Delgany Bees initiative, as the club recently received a Sustainable Development 2023 Award from Wicklow County Council. We have an opportunity for anyone interested in learning from our expert bee keepers, so keep reading this buzzing issue for more details!

The first of two information meetings for the One Club Framework took place on the 5th of March last, and a large turnout listened to an hour-long presentation, which included excellent insight from Neil Kilgannon of Golf Ireland. The 2nd meeting takes place next Wednesday, 20th March, in the Dining Room at 8pm.

Finally, we are looking forward to our Captains' Drive-In next Saturday and we look forward to meeting as many members and friends throughout what promises to be a fun day from early to late! The morning and afternoon timesheets are full, however, there are a small number of places still available for dinner that night, with fine fare, great music and entertainment lined up so don't delay, contact Jamie or Kevin.



Captains Ian & Alison



Course News



Greens

Our greens are cut Twice a week and to a height of 4mm. The holes are clipped daily and are changed on average two to three times a week depending on wear and tear. Aeration of the greens using a 10mm pencil tine relieving compaction and improving surface performance and the plan is to sand greens every couple of weeks in order to improve quality and achieve consistency throughout the year.

Tees

Our tee boxes are mowed when conditions will allow and are currently cut at 16mm. They have recently received a liquid feed and an iron application. We heavy divot tee boxes currently once a week and by resting the tees and using the winter mats as much as possible, they should be in good condition heading into the growing Season.

Fairways

Our fairways are cut when conditions allow and shaping of Fairways has commenced. The height of cut is currently at 19 mm walking in the rough has had huge benefits going into the golfing season. Verti Draining was scheduled for 14th March but was postponed due to the wet ground. Verti Draining and Sanding of fairways will increase over the next couple of years to improve the quality.

Miscellaneous

Thanks to **Siobhan Mooney** for organizing the spraying of all Tee Markers this month. Walkways and the blue buggy path have been sanded to increase playability on the course. Edging of the bunkers has now been complete. Strimming of the banks at the first tee box and around the chipping area has been completed in addition the tee posts have also been maintained. At the 6th tee box, we removed the rotten sleepers as a safety measure and repaired with top soil and then reseeded the area.

We need your help, Please continue to:

Bring your sand divot bag with you when playing and repair divots.

Repair all Pitch Marks

Comply with the buggy Blue Path rules

Use the chipping Green for short chips off the mats provided.

It should not be used for long pitching from one green to the other



Course News



Please note that the notice board in the hallway will be used to let you know of work planned for the coming weeks and work that was completed.

Our Course Volunteer Group pictured on the right, have started work and are doing a great job. They have already improved the probability of finding your ball in the trees in the trees at the 6th and the 2nd holes (if you are ever off the fairway of course !).



The group meet every Monday and Thursday between 10 and 12. Please contact me on 0877592305 if you would like to help out. It's a great way of meeting people and making friends. Some great work done already . Thanks to all the volunteers to date, too many to mention individually, it's a Team effort.

Ian Cuddihy

Course Committee Chairperson



Sustainable Development Award



Delgany Golf Club is delighted and proud to receive a Sustainable Development Award from Wicklow County Council. The aim of the awards is to showcase best practice in environmental protection and development.



Delgany Golf Club is playing its part in the wider sustainability agenda which in recent years has included rewilding large areas with native plants, large native wild flower areas, planting indigenous trees and encouragement of a local wild deer herd ,hundreds of squirrels, as well as over 100 species of birds and insects that are prolific on the course.

In Delgany Golf Club we have recognised the critical importance of the Sustainability agenda for the local community and our Environment. Thus as part of number of initiatives in this area we have a significant project running at the club in the following areas: (i) we have taken a serious look and made material changes in our use of fertilisers and other growth promoters to reduce the impact of trace elements within the soil (ii) we are irrigating the course using water retained locally in our reservoir. (iii) we have moved towards the green agenda with the modernisation of our machinery fleet with electric buggies and hybrid grass cutting machinery, which is not the norm on all golf courses, (iv) we are also moving to solar generation, to assist with our power needs within the coming year at both the clubhouse and machinery compound which will greatly reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

Recently Delgany Golf Course has taken another material step in our sustainability initiatives, by introducing two honeybee hives to the Course. The Bees are native Irish Bees. The initiative, sponsored by the Club Captains and supported by EY, highlights the importance of honey bees in maintaining a healthy environment.



Sustainable Development Award



Delgany Golf Club have taken on a critical new sustainability initiative that will help protect native Irish honeybees. We have introduced two new colonies of bees into purpose-built beehives on the country Wicklow course to support these essential pollinators.

As they pollinate wild trees and flowers, they will in future play an essential role in ensuring a vibrant natural ecosystem.

However, the global bee population has been under sustained pressure over recent decades for a range of reasons, most notably due to Colony Collapse Disorder, a little understood phenomenon where worker bees abandon a colony as well as reduced habitats. This has resulted in a reduction in bee numbers globally and here in Ireland.

So, we believed we should play our part in protecting this beautiful landscape and with 125 junior members we felt they could and will see the benefits in the future.

we are most proud of our bee initiative and following our research we found that according to bee experts at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, a third of the world's food production depends on bees, meaning that our food supply is highly dependent on bees and their survival.

This important initiative will see 120,000 bees spread across two beehives this year, meaning that they can continue to pollinate the flowers and trees on the course and in surrounding local community. In Delgany Golf Club they are proud to make Biodiversity initiatives like this to be at the heart of contributing to the broader sustainability agenda.



Betty O'Reilly and Tom Bergin, 2023 Club Captains, said: "Delgany Golf Club is now 115 years old, but this is first time we've embarked on a project like this, and we're really excited about this agenda for our local Community and our Club. The bees are currently looked after by two local resident Apiarists and they are offering training to anyone interested in learning more. If you would like to follow up on this offer, please contact Partick Bradshaw

5 Interesting facts about honeybees:

1. To make just one pound of honey, bees have to visit approximately two million flowers and travel a distance equal to twice around the world
2. The average lifespan of a honeybee is only six weeks.
3. Honeybees live in colonies of up to 60,000 Bees.
4. Honeybees can fly at speeds of up to 15 miles per hour.
5. The wings of a honeybee flap about 200 times per second, which is what produces the buzzing sound that we associate with bees



Handicap News



2024 Updates on the Rules of Handicapping

On April 1st we will see some changes to the handicapping system, the main changes are as follows

***THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN THE WAY COURSE HANDICAPS ARE CALCULATED**

The course handicap calculation will now take into account the difference between the course rating and the par of the course, so instead of playing to the course rating you will now be playing to par.

If the course Rating is higher than par, you will receive more shots, if the course rating is lower than par, you will receive less shots.

Our Charts will be updated shortly to reflect these changes.

***FOURBALL SCORES**

Individual scores from fourball formats will now be used for handicap purposes provided that

The team returns a net score of at least 6 points better than par, 42 points

The individual players score counts at least 9 times

The players individual calculated score is greater than or equal to 36 points.

An individual players score is calculated using the following procedure

When the players score counts they receive those points

When the players score does not count, they receive 1.5 points, except when

Their partner only scores 1 point, they score 1

If their partner scores 0 points, they score 0

***THERE WILL BE A NEW METHOD OF SCALING UP NINE-HOLE /HOLE NOT PLAYED**

Improvements have been made to the method used to handle Holes Not Played, which will now be based on a player's expected score rather than a score of net par. When one or more holes have not been played, this method takes your Score Differential for the holes you did play and combines it with an expected Score Differential for the holes you did not play, based on the scoring pattern of players with the same Handicap Index as you.

This new method will produce an 18-hole Score Differential that more accurately reflects a player's ability.

***THERE WILL BE A CLAUSE ADDED TO RULE 3.2 PERMITTING COMPETITIONS OVER A NON STANDARD NUMBER OF HOLES TO BE USED FOR HANDICAP PURPOSES**

***WHERE SOFTWARE IS BEING USED FOR COMPETITIONS, THE PLAYING HANDICAP WILL BE CALCULATED BASED ON THE FULL COURSE HANDICAP.**

Many thanks to Ann O'Dwyer for the above update.



Ladies News



(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)

GOLF NEWS AND FIXTURES



1st Photo

Winners of Fourball event 12th December - Ann O'Dwyer and Annmarie Gallagher – sponsored by Barbara Dolan.

2nd Photo

Winners of Team of 3 event on 13th February – Rachelle Nelson, Sue Archer and Debbie Barry - sponsored by Sharon Byrne, Norma O'Rourke and Ann O'Dwyer.

3rd Photo

Winners of Team of 3 event on 13th February – Pauline Burke, Avril Dowley and Annmarie Gallagher - sponsored by Siobhan Mooney, Bairbre Smith and Dee MacKay..

Fixtures:

Ladies 18 hole Singles Stableford Tuesday 26th March

Sponsors: Jackie Dowling, Eileen Broderick & Ann Boyle

Ladies 18 hole Singles Stableford Tuesday 2nd April

Sponsors: Barbara O'Gorman, Diane McHugh & Francine O'Byrne

Nine Hole Scramble

Our planned 9 hole scramble was unfortunately cancelled yesterday as the course was closed following heavy overnight rain. However, we will look for another Thursday at 4.00pm with slots until 5.00pm. This is principally aimed at higher handicap ladies who may not be comfortable entering the Tuesday competitions and the emphasis is on a relaxed format but with a competitive structure. **A golf partner is not required.** As the days lengthen the start time can be adjusted to a later time so those working longer hours get a chance to play too. It will always be 9 holes and we ask that anyone interested please let us know or check with our BRS online booking system for availability and tee times.



Ladies News



(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)

Dates for your Diary

Our next golf presentation night is Tuesday 26th March 2024. Dinner and presentation from 4.30 to 6 pm. Book your table in advance at the Bar. **This event will include a guest speaker from KS Skin Therapy who will give a talk on skincare following the dinner** All members are welcome to attend, please book your table for dinner at the bar.

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Ladies News

(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)



Easter Flower Arrangement demonstration
Tuesday 19th March at 2.30 pm
Seaview Room – all members welcome



Ladies - Remember to book your golf early if you are attending the Easter Flower Arrangement demonstration. If you are interested in attending (please bring €5 with you on the day to purchase a base). Please text Bernie Flynn as soon as possible as spaces are limited.

Bernie 0879430586



Men's Competition News



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday March 17th

St. Patrick's Day 4-Person Team Event – places still available.

Monday March 18th (Public Holiday)

Open Singles Stableford

Sunday March 24th

Winter League Final (1pm to 2pm). Ian Barrett's Team vs John Sweeney's Team – best of luck to both.

Sunday March 31st

Easter Sunday 4 person team event



Wednesday April 3rd

Start of the Wednesday 9-hole Singles –
see article on next page

Saturday April 6th

Singles Matchplay Qualifier – 64 players to qualify. Please note that this is the first event (GOY1) in the Golfer of the Year competition.

Sunday, April 7th

Wicklow Hospice Fourball Qualifier

Saturday, April 13th

April MEDAL (GOY2)

Sunday, April 14th

Scotch Foursomes

Sunday, April 21st

Fourball Matchplay Qualifier – 32 pairs to qualify.





Men's Competition News



WEDNESDAY 9-HOLE SINGLES:

We are approaching that time of year when the ever-popular 9-hole Singles is kicking off again on Wednesdays. This year, we are introducing early morning slots from 7.30 to 8.50pm, should you wish to avail of them. The normal Wednesday Invitation Fourball will run in the core part of the day, with the usual 9-hole Singles operating after the Fourball ends. Please note that the early and late tee times for the 9-hole Singles will be treated as the same Competition. Starts April 3rd.

COMPLETING A FOURBALL SCORECARD:

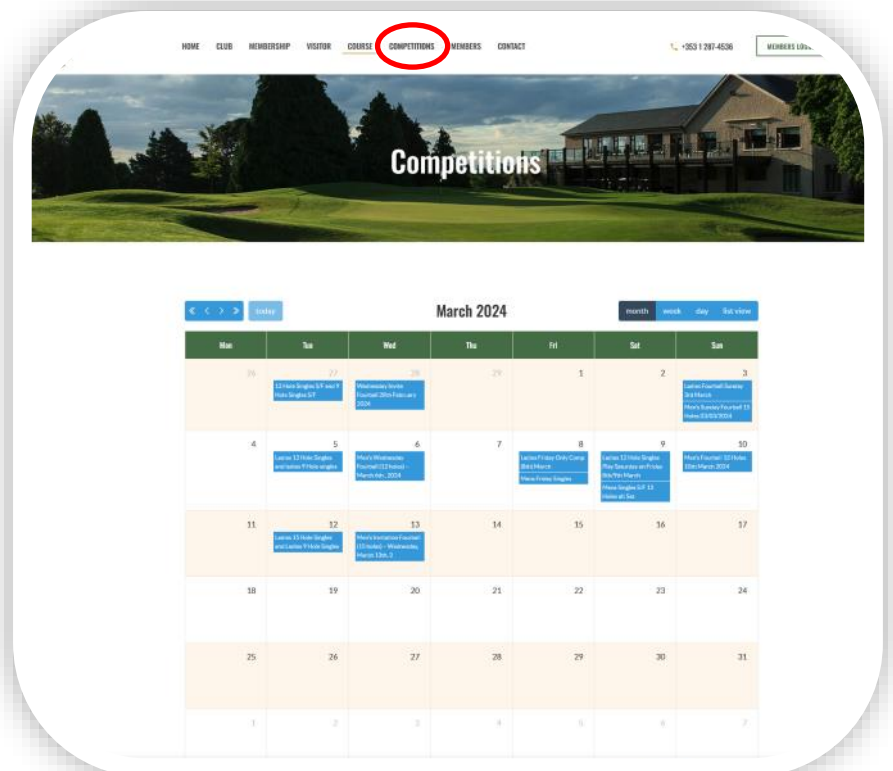
Please note that only ONE score is to be written for each hole when filling in your scorecard. Multiple scores on a line can cause confusion and lead to errors (and possible Disqualification).

Also, if playing in a "Crossover" situation, the second card must clearly be identified as such and the word CROSSOVER written at the top of the card.

COMPETITION RESULTS LINK:

<https://delganygolfclub.com/competitions/>

Either copy and paste the above link into your search bar or go to our club website and log in, then click on competitions at the top and scroll down to latest results.



John Gallagher

Men's Competitions Committee



Men's Team News



Our Fitzgibbon Cup squad has been active home and away over the last few Sundays under the astute guidance of Managers Tom Bergin and Basil Mulligan. This competition is always a good way of testing new partnerships and introducing new players to the interclub match play format and while success is never instant, valuable experience is gained throughout. Unfortunately we will not qualify for the next stage of this competition, but the teams final match Vs Castle GC is on Sunday March 24th and we would like to finish on a winning note.

While results did not always go our way, congratulations to all who stepped up to represent the Club and to the supporters (like our President Kennedy as seen below) who have encouraged everyone along the way.



Congratulations to Ciaran Mac Gabhann who aced the 5th hole on Sunday March 3rd. It was Ciaran's first hole in one since he joined the club last year and no mean feat on one of our hardest par 3's.

No doubt he will be reminded every time he steps onto the 5th tee box... no pressure Ciaran !



Here's a unique photo of our clubhouse and members preparing to play back in 1924 a mere 'century' ago.

Paddy Brock has confirmed that none of his current super seniors were playing that day !

The Delgany Dispatch is produced by the Clubs

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