The Delgany Mispatch



Issue 06.24

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

June 28th, 2024



Captains' Message



It has been a busy few weeks in Delgany and things are set to get busier!

First and foremost, the President's Prize to the men was won last Saturday by Noel McMahon with a fine score of 64. Well done, Noel! Darragh Spain won the Intermediates prize with a 63 (well done Darragh!) and we are looking forward to celebrating their success when the prizegiving takes place on Friday evening the 12th of July next. That promises to be the busiest day of the year as there is a 6 person 'mix and match' scramble that afternoon, followed by food and entertainment to mark the occasion of President Willie's prizegiving and if that isn't enough, the President's Draw will also take place!

Rumour has it that Willie is more popular than Taylor Swift so to avoid disappointment, book your place for golf, food, or both, or just come down on the night to see if you win the grand prize in the draw, a €5,000 gift voucher from Flanagan Kerins Furniture Store on the Southern Cross Road in Bray. There are still tickets available for the draw from the usual outlets and apart from the fantastic prizes on offer, you will be investing in the essential remedial drainage works required on our Avenue. So, if you haven't done so, €50 buys you 3 chances to win!

Staying with prizes, Captain lan's prize to the ladies takes place over the coming days, with the 2nd round next Tuesday. Good luck to everyone taking part and we are looking forward to sitting down for dinner at the prize presentation on Tuesday evening. We are delighted with the number of members who have approached us recently to say how well the course is playing, both in terms of its condition and presentation. Steven and his team are doing great work, it's as simple as that, and the members and our guests have certainly taken notice. Well done to all.



Captains' Message



Other news is the Corporate Day which takes place today with 100 or so golfers playing a shot-gun scramble with fine dining afterwards, followed by our after-dinner speaker, in the form of Vice Captain Sean O'Rourke in conversation with the legendary broadcaster, George Hamilton. This is a key fundraising event organised by our hardworking Revenue Committee, with a special word of thanks to the Main Sponsor for the day, Pure Networks, through the good offices of our member, Gerry Sheldrick. The Ladies GiG's programme is continuing at a pace and another 36 ladies completed the 6-week initiation this week. A huge thanks to VC Siobhan, Breda Murtagh, and our General Manager Patrick for all their hard work in setting it up and to all the volunteers who gave up their time to walk with the ladies. Finally, for everything he does for the GiGs, a special thank you to Gavin, the star of the show!

On the team's front, suffice to say our men are going through a difficult patch, but well done and thanks to the management and players on all teams, so much effort goes into preparing for these matches, but you'll always need a bit of luck, and it has been in short supply this year.

Better news on the ladies' front, and while the minor foursomes team was narrowly beaten in their quarter final match V Old Conna, the Revive Active Fourball team is fighting fit for their 3rd round match V Powerscourt on the 7th July.

Finally, we said a sad goodbye to three cherished long serving members in the past week or so; Andy Byrne, a great golfer and a top class gentleman and past Lady Captains, Ann Gaynor and Daphne Walshe Tynan. A tribute to Ann by her great friend Doreen Brennan is included in this issue.

Captains Ian & Alison





Course update



Greens

Our greens continue to perform well in June, height of cut is continually being cut to 3.0mm and will remain at this height for the summer season. The greens are true and smooth and are now consistently running at 9.5 feet on the stimpmeter. Once a week we are using our trail brush to sit up the vertical and horizontal grass growth and then mow afterwards giving a clean and uniform cut. The holes are clipped daily and are changed on average two to three times a week depending on damage. We have also aerated the greens using a 10mm pencil tine relieving compaction and improving surface performance. We are sanding greens every 14 days and the results are quite evident in the putting surfaces.

Tees

The tee boxes are mowed 2-3 times per week now depending on requirements and growth rate the height of cut has been reduced to 12mm they have recently received a liquid feed and an iron application. Divoting of the tees takes place once a week or during the setup of the course when needed. Sanding of the boxes takes place on a 14-day cycle to improve surface levels and improve drainage.



Fairways

The fairways are cut 3 times per week at 15mm.

Other Work to note

All bunkers edged and Flymo work completed in areas such as the banks at the first, strim the 10th/18th dyke, strim right hand side 12th tee box, sprinkler heads edged around greens and approaches.

Install mulch around tee posts. Mulch back of the 18th green.

We continue to receive feedback from members which is very much appreciated and if you notice anything that you feel needs some attention please let us know.

Reported by Ian Cuddihy and Steven McDonald



Leinster Boys U 18s



Top 4 for William in Leinster Boys!

William Walshe put in a tremendous performance finishing 4th in the Leinster Boys Open Championship in Royal Tara Golf Club this week.

Played over 54 holes, over 100 golfers took part and on this tough par 72 lay out, William's final score of two over was steadiness personified, an opening 74 followed by two rounds of level par 72. William's achievement is even more praiseworthy as he was conceding two years to most of the field.

The provincial championships bring together the top juniors from throughout the island of Ireland, and William's performance meant that Delgany featured alongside clubs such as Royal Portrush, Baltray, Royal Belfast, Tralee Golf Club and Douglas Golf Club in the top 10 placings.

Congratulations William, it's not long since our then Captain Denzil Jones invited you to be the youngest Pro-Am player in Delgany and probably Ireland...... we are very proud of you.









(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)

Super Prizes Sponsored by McManus Jewellers

McManus Jewellers family business was founded in 1928 by Sean MacManus. Sean's son Don & daughters Aileen & Stephanie and daughter in law Maura Mac Keogh all work in the business. Maura's mother, Anne Mac Keogh also worked there on a part time basis for many years. Anne encouraged all of the family into golf including her grandson Daniel. Only Aileen & Maura are still in Delgany GC and Stephanie plays in Greystones.

The McManus sponsorship in Delgany GC began during 2011, during Bernadette Harmon's captaincy, and has continued since. Golf at Delgany was a regular lunchtime topic at work along with all the gossip! In Aileen's words their open day "is always a magical day enjoyed by all".



We are very grateful to all the McManus family for their fabulous contribution to the Club, one of the most popular days in the ladies' golf calendar. This year's open, held on 28th May being no exception.







(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)

Citizen's Information Centre



On Tuesday 18th June, we had two officers from the Bray branch talk us though the services offered by the Centre. They will help with any type of form filling, talk you though health insurance, point you in the right direction for advice with dispute resolution, let you know what benefits you might be eligible for depending on your circumstances...

In short they are a fantastic resource that offer their services for free. They have over 220 locations nationwide.

Health, Social Welfare, Employment, Money and Tax, Moving Country, Returning to Ireland, Housing, Education and Training, Travel and Recreation, Environment, Consumer, Government in Ireland, Death and Bereavement, Family and Relationships, Justice.

If you have a problem in any of these areas and more, give them a call on 0761 07 4000







(Reporters: Mary O'Neill, Yvonne Connolly & Captain Alison)

Well done to our Ladies team who beat Blainroe GC on Sunday 9th June in the second round of the Revive Active Fourball.

Our away team managed by Mags Mc Darby, Pauline Burke, Siobhan Mooney, Valerie Stokes and Grainne Moran and sub Ann Nulty.





At home we had Eileen Bates, Barbara Dolan, Ann Boyle and Anne Prior and sub Niamh Rigley.

Mary Corcoran managed the home team.







(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)

kenneth hodgins



A great day was had on Tuesday 11th June at the Ladies 2 ball rumble kindly sponsored by Kenneth Hodgins. Kenneth Hodgins Interiors is a family owned furniture store in Sandyford Business District. In business since 1979 they specialize in high end branded furniture and beds. They have a wide range from traditional to modern European styles in store. Their many wonderful loyal customers include members of Delgany Golf Club and Thelma gets great pleasure hearing them tell stories of how they are enjoying their furniture after many years.

We are very grateful to Thelma and Neville who have been fabulous sponsors of the Club for many years with fabulous prizes and their competitions always guarantee a great turnout from the ladies.

















(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)

Our Girls into Golf (GIGs) success story continued recently as our latest graduates celebrated at the end of their programme.

Many thanks to everyone involved in this excellent initiative.















(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)



Ann Gaynor RIP: An appreciation

Tuesday June 18th marked the passing of a wonderful lady, Ann Gaynor, who was Lady Captain of Delgany Golf Club in 1970. An industrious and gracious Captain, she set up the Ladies Constitution during her term of office.

A very competent golfer, Ann had a classical golf swing (which I tried to emulate, but never managed) and played to a handicap of six. I was lucky enough to partner her as the Irish representatives in the Daily Mail Foresomes in Formby, Liverpool in 1975.

Ann's Delgany Golf Club history goes back a long way to her Father (a Doctor in Enniskerry), her brother Bill, sisters Breda, Maura, Kay, Peggie and her niece Judy. A truly great friend and wonderful companion, I will miss her greatly, may she rest in peace.

Doreen Brennan



Delgany Golf Club Drama Group



The title of next years play is Widows Paradise. Yet another classic comedy by last year's play write Sam Cree. It has a cast of 10 people, 5 female and 5 male roles. For a variety of circumstances new actors are required each year and we would appeal to members not to be shy and come forward to read for this year's play.

The readings will take place on Tuesday July 9th in the Seaview room in the Clubhouse at 7.30pm.

Please come and see what it's all about. Don't be bashful as none of the cast in the recent plays had previous acting experience before starting with the Delgany Group. Rehearsals can be good fun and will start early October with the play taking place in Mid February.

Just turn up on July the 9th or if you would like to find out more about our inner workings email Briege on admin@delganygolfclub.com and one of us will get back to you.

Regards

Jim Blake

Chairman DGCDG.





AARBEE Golf Society



One of our most loyal long standing golf societies had another great day with us recently and thanks to Captain Ian and our GM Patrick Bradshaw, we can give you some background on their fascinating association with Delgany GC.

Traditionally since its creation in 1871, the General Synod of the Church of Ireland has been held in the month of May, marking the focal point of the Church's administrative calendar. May is also the month for another traditional event, perhaps less auspicious, but eagerly awaited for by the hardworking staff of the Representative Church Body (the Church's civil service): their annual golf outing. Since 1926, members of RCB staff have enjoyed a day out of the office to socialize with colleagues at Delgany Golf Club. Fondly referred to in–house as the "Delgany Day" (to which each individual makes a monthly contribution from their salary) it is normally timed at Ascension tide in and around the time of General Synod as a just reward for the additional hours incurred in preparation for the Church's general AGM.

The day was the brainchild of **George Booker Butler** (pictured on the right), Secretary (later Chief Officer and Secretary) of the RCB from 1935 to his retirement on 1 August 1949. Butler had come up through the ranks of the RCB, first employed as a junior clerk from 1903; then becoming chief accountant, before his promotion as secretary in 1935. He had observed that there was not so much opportunity for staff at management and lower levels to engage with one another, and so, as he put it in an effort 'to break down the walls which separated us', and 'in a spirit of sportsmanship', initiated the annual golf outing to Delgany.



As a result of research on the Delgany GC membership lists kindly carried out some years ago by former President, **John Berkery**, we now know that George B. Butler became a member of the club on the 3 May 1919, explaining the personal connections with it being the chosen venue to host the 'AARBEE Golf Society' as it soon became known. Butler and other serious golfers, then as today, played singles in the morning – for the AARBEE Cup from 1927 onwards, while following the lunch break the real fun began when golfing members of staff were paired up with non–golfers for the four–ball competition. The pairings and handicapping system applied depended on the strengths and weaknesses of each pair, on the prevailing weather conditions, and often led to a vast number of golf shots played, but generally it proved a fun day out for all.

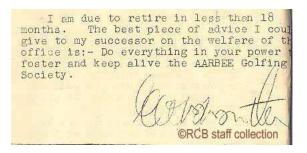
By all accounts, Butler's aspirations to bring people together and build his team were fulfilled. Writing in 1947, to mark the 21st anniversary of the outing, he reflected positively on what the outing had achieved:

'I am due to retire in less than 18 months. The best piece of advice I could give to my successor on the welfare of the office is: "Do everything in your power to foster and keep alive the AARBEE Golfing Society".'



AARBEE Golf Society





Above:

G. B. Butlers original note to his successor.

Right:

Delgany Day photo from 1926



However, there was also a poignant and deeply personal reason why George Butler wished the annual event to continue for future generations. In June 1941, less than a month after the 15th golf outing had taken place, Butler's younger son Leslie had been killed in action as a result of an air crash during the Second World War. George married Annie Hamilton in the early 1900s and they had two sons, Arthur (born 1912) and Leslie (born 1916). Arthur entered Trinity College to pursue theological training for the priesthood following an education at the High School Dublin and Friar's School Wales, He was ordained in 1935, serving initially as curate in Monkstown Dublin (1935–37) and Minor Canon of St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin (1937–38), before transferring to London where he soon signed up as a temporary chaplain to the forces (1939–45), also serving as a senior military chaplain (1939–45) for which he was awarded the MBE (Mil.) at the end of the War. He returned to Ireland as rector of Monkstown in Dublin from 1945–58, when he was elected as bishop of the diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, 1958–69, and finally as bishop of Connor, from 1969 until his retirement in 1981.

Leslie, his younger brother, was born on the 15 May 1916, and baptized a month later in Sandford Church on the 14 June 1916. After his schooling was completed, he followed his father into the service of the Representative Church Body, entering Church House as a junior clerk on the 14 March 1934 – a month before his 18th birthday. He was a keen sportsman, considered by colleagues to be game for the fun of the day, and on his third attempt, he won the ARRBEE Cup in 1937. Three years later life would take a more serious turn, when he made the decision to sign up for service in the Royal Air Force on the 12 August 1940, following the outbreak of the War. Initially he served as a wireless operator, then as an air gunner and also progressed to the rank of sergeant.



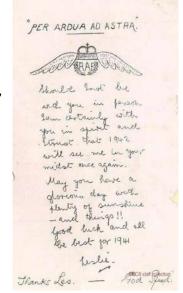
AARBEE Golf Society



Back in Dublin, the following year, on 22 May 1941, the 15th annual staff golf outing took place, but according staff memoranda, had to be 'held in restricted fashion' — owing to the petrol shortage, which involved many of the participants cycling all the way down to Delgany. Leslie's father, George, who won the ARRBEE Cup that year, had arrived to the first tee 'in cycle spats with clips'!

On the eve of the outing from the RAF base in Killafrana (now Kalafrana), Malta, Leslie sent the following goodwill message to all his colleagues back in Dublin, which has been preserved amongst staff memorabilia.

Sadly, however, expectations that Leslie could rejoin his colleagues by 1942 were not to be fulfilled. In early June 1941, his family had learned that he



was reported missing in action. A few days later the family's worst fears were confirmed when it was learned that Leslie Booker Butler had been killed on active service from Killafrana on the 16 June 1941 – within three weeks of sending his goodwill message to colleagues at the RCB and just a month after his 25th birthday. The staff of the RCB chose to remember their lost colleague and in 1942, the Leslie Butler Trophy was presented 'in proud and happy memory...by his colleagues on the staff of the Representative Church Body for annual competition'. The trophy is poignantly also inscribed with the key dates of Leslie's life, and, as well as the names of all the winning golfers of the trophy in the 78 years since its presentation. On behalf of all at Delgany Golf Club, our thanks to all at the RCB and long may our association continue.



As an aside, our Men's Captain Ian Barrett informs me that he used to caddy at these outings and that they played 18 in the morning and adjourned for lunch. They then played a 'fun' 9 holes in the afternoon.

He was paid a fiver for the 27 holes, which given that the 18 hole rate at the time was £1.50, it was a great day's work and that's before he probably went back and picked up all the lost balls to sell back to them as they left!



When Jack met Darren





How many golfers get to put their arm around the 'Golden Bear' himself, Jack Nicklaus's shoulders? less than one in a million, I'd wager.

In this photo Jack was meeting up with Darren Reynolds, Shane Lowry's caddy, at his Memorial Tournament that finished on June 9th Last.

Darren is a past member of Delgany and his family have great Delgany connections. Darren was a Junior, and one of our first intermediate members when that category was introduced. His brothers Mark and Alan were also members, as was his Dad Tony, and those of us who go back a bit, will remember his uncle Eddie.

Darren has been a caddy for many years now and is considered a veteran bagman amongst the caddying fraternity. He has had a very successful career, working alongside Paul McGinley and Paul Dunne, and more recently Antoine Rozner, notably when the Frenchman won twice in the Middle East on the DP World Tour in 2020 and 2021. It was this track record, and the fact that they have known each other for many years, that led Shane to reach out to Darren in early 2023 after he separated with his previous caddy, Bo Martin.

Since then, Darren is a regular presence on our TV screens as Shane contends in the Majors and all the big tournaments worldwide. A career highlight must be caddying for Shane at the Ryder Cup in Rome last year, and his recent good form on the US Tour, including a win with Rory McIlroy in the Zurich Classic, is evidence that the vitally important relationship between golfer and caddy is working well for Shane and Darren.

Here in Delgany we are delighted to see Darren doing so well and wish him (and his Boss!) continued success, with special best wishes to his Dad, Tony.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday, June 29th

June Medal (Strokes off WHITE tees) – GOY 6.

N.B. - Please note that the Junior, Intermediate & Minor Scratch Cups will be running within the same competition.

Wednesday, July 3rd., 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

Invitation Fourball (Stableford off GREEN Tees).

9-hole Invitation Singles (Stableford off WHITE Tees).

Saturday, July 6th

Stephen's Green Cup (Stableford off WHITE Tees) -

Sunday, July 7th

HolmPatrick Cup Qualifier in aid of Vision Ireland (formerly NCBI) - Stableford off GREEN Tees.

N.B. All proceeds go to Vision Ireland. The leading pair will go on to represent Delgany in the Leinster Regional Final (on Monday, August 26th in Wicklow GC).

Monday, July 8th

Men's OPEN Singles (Stableford off GREEN Tees)

Friday, July 12th

Professional's Prize to the 5-Day Members (Stableford off GREEN Tees)

N.B. The Presentation of President Willie Kennedy's prizes to the Ordinary, Intermediate and 5-Day Members will take place this evening (July 12th time to be agreed). Prize winners will be contacted beforehand to confirm their availability.

Saturday, July 13th

Professional's Prizes to the Ordinary & Intermediate Members (Strokes off WHITE tees) – GOY 7.

Saturday, July 20th

July Medal (Strokes off WHITE tees) – GOY 8.



Men's Competition News



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday, July 22ND

OPEN SENIORS (Stableford off GREEN Tees).

N.B. This monthly Open will now run as a Seniors event with age-related category prizes. The Super Seniors League will run as part of this competition and the league table will be collated separately.

Friday, July 26th

Delgany Pro AM



COMPETITION TEES:

In response to a number of incidences where players played off incorrect tees (primarily on Wednesdays), we are highlighting a few key messages regarding competition setups.

All Monthly Medals (& major Singles Competitions) – WHITE TEES & STROKES (unless advised otherwise).

Weekday Competitions are normally played off GREEN TEES & STABLEFORD.

Wednesday 9-hole Singles - always WHITE TEES & STROKES

N.B. - The labels printed when entering each competition will have the relevant colour tees printed.

Confirmed final competition results are only found on our home web page:

Competitions - Delgany Golf Club

Please remember 'Howdidido.com' only shows scores as entered by players and NOT final results.

John Gallagher

Men's Competitions Committee





Men's Competition News



Presentation of President's (Willie Kennedy's) Prize

The presentation of the prizes for the President's prize played on June 21st will take place on Friday July 12th. It will be preceded by a 6-ball shotgun starting at 5.00pm.

The time sheet is open. Members may invite guests. The time sheet can only accommodate 3 names. so when filling in your names only put one name down for each pair.

The entry fee is €10.00 per player so €20.00 will be deducted from the leading player's purse.

As the President has been the champion of the club draw, it has been decided to use these entry fees to purchase tickets for the club draw which will help with the fund raising. These tickets will be raffled between everyone who plays on the day.

Food will be served when we come in followed by the presentation of prizes after which the lucky winners will be drawn for the large array of prizes in the club raffle.

Should be a great night. The Time sheet is filling up quickly so if you would like to play get your names down as soon as you can.

As we anticipate a busy evening in the restaurant, could all teams please conform before tee off of their intention to dine and we will organise a table reservation.





and finally...



Something different, as we take a look back in time to when Delgany GC Captains Paddy Brennan and Peggie Hearne along with President Percy Wallace were in their prime.

It's 1976, let's see what Dublin had to offer for your entertainment.....



All errors in this issue are specifically 'their' to test your powers of observation.