

The Delgany Dispatch



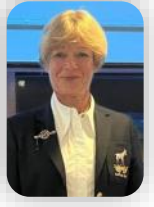
Issue 09.24

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

September 27th, 2024



Captains' Message



We've had a busy few weeks both on and off the course.

Literally, on the course, as a huge number of necessary improvements have taken place recently, primarily concerning aeration and sanding, to improve the playing surfaces of our fairways and greens. Our course team, with the help of hired in machinery, has done a great job and our objectives were achieved in full. The weather also played ball, as a dry spell immediately after the works is ideal, while the recent rain was also timely.

Our recent notable golfing achievements include William Walshe qualifying for the North of Ireland Championship, Jenny Copperstone and Sally Lynch represented Delgany with distinction (and a great time was had by all!) in the Coronation Foursomes International Final in St. Andrew's and of course, Christy O'Neill winning the Singles Matchplay Final, only 57 years after his last victory in 1967!

Our new member initiatives have also started very well, with applications for Full and 5 Day members received, and Patrick and his team are dealing with several enquiries, with the focus over the coming weeks also on the Corporate Membership package designed by John Mullane and his Revenue Committee.

We can also advise that the Management Committee has decided to introduce a new diary in 2025. The pocket-sized version (A6 format) is more user friendly and cost effective. Details including graphics to follow over the coming weeks. Our Chef Simon is heading to pastures new with our best wishes and thanks for all he has done for us. His role as Head Chef will be taken by Kim and we wish her every success in her new role. We are making some changes to the catering arrangements during the winter months, particularly on the quieter weekdays, Mondays and Thursdays, and more details will be provided soon.

Finally, although the nights are closing in, there is still a lot of great golf to be played, Golfer of the Year and other major competitions have yet to be decided, and the course is in marvellous condition. So, whenever you can, put your name down and play, hopefully when the winter arrives you'll be able to look back on the great golf you played in October!

Captains Alison & Ian



Course update



Your Greens Committee and Our Team Charter

Team Members	Team Charter
<p>Ian Cuddihy (IC), Siobhan Mooney (SM), Susan Archer (SA), Rachelle Nelson (RN), Patrick Bradshaw (PB,) Capt. Ian Barrett (IB)</p> <p>Steven McDonald (SMcD), Donal Lennon (DL) Shane O’Loughlin (SOL) Sean O’Rourke (SOR) Leo Harmon (LH) Green Keepers Team</p>	<p>Our overriding objectives is to work with our course staff, our management committee, our General Manager and our members to produce as playable a course as is possible within our resources.</p> <p>Course committee is overseen by the Management committee, consisting of the Chair (appointed by Management), Green keeper, Men Captain/Vice, Women’s Captain/Vice, General Manager, 2 members from each of the Men’s and Women’s Club.</p> <p>The Course committee is committed to providing an environment that will allow all golfers play golf and our employees work safe that adheres to all Health and Safety guidelines when carrying out work and making decisions.</p>

Recent Agronomist Visit -

Continued progress from Steven and Team on Course presentation
 Confirming winter plan that can stand to us in new golf year
 3-5 yr planning – WIP

Course Report – August – Steven McDonald – Course Manager

The greens were hollow cored on the 2nd of September with a 10mm hollow tine with inch spacing's .

The next step was to apply 30 tons of washed sand onto the surface, this was then brushed in. We then rolled the greens with the turf iron to regain surface smoothness. Due to our soil testing in February and the data we received we were able to reduce the diameter of the hole and the greens recovered in a short 2-week period.

Verti draining of the greens to a depth of 6 inches took place on the 3rd this is essential for root depth and health of our greens. renovations to the 4th and 11th took place in this period the high spots were scratched back and sand with peat was added to hold moisture in these areas.

We are now into our 14-day cycle liquid feeding program to enhance colour and growth. We are sanding greens every 14 days and the results are quite evident in the putting surfaces.

Mowing height is now raised to 3.5mm and will remain here under advisement from the agronomist this will require more inputs going forward.

The tee boxes are mowed 1-2 times per week now depending on requirements and growth rate, the height of cut is 12mm and remain here under advisement from the agronomist.



Course update



Divot work on 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. Solid tinning

took place on the teeing surfaces with a 19mm tine and topdressing took place afterwards.

The fairways are cut 1-2 times per week at 15mm we will be gradually increasing the height over the next few months. Shock waving and sanding took place for the first time in Delgany golf club, and this should improve surface moisture levels and drainage issues this is a great start and continue to be budgeted for annually. 300 tonnes of sand was applied to the surface. We should look to increase this to 500-600 tons in future years. Unfortunately, recovery is slow due to the very high soil moisture deficit on the east coast, but I am not concerned as we move forward into wetter conditions.

A lot of other work completed with regards to trimming and tidying of course.

Winter Golf Plan – Currently working on a plan to play more golf over the winter than last year and limit the closure of the course and facility.

Winter works plan - Listed below is other work outside of the basics of Grass cutting etc that Steven and the Team will complete before Golf Season 2025

Avenue Clean Up – Grass/Trees/Shrubs etc

Tree Pruning on Course

Tee Box Surrounds – Tidy and Shape

Tidy up areas back of 6th and 9th Hole

Right Hand Side of 12th Hole and 1st Hole

Resurface of Paths – Tidy up

Collect Leaves – New this year rather than blow to side of holes and leave for winter

Removal of Dead Trees

New Winter Tee renovations (Sod Etc)

Aeration of Course and Sanding

Resurface 15th tee box, shade resistance sod

Resurface 10th green sand and sod

Finish off irrigation heads around greens

Finally, don't forget to continue to rake, fill sand in divots, fix plug marks and please return the sand bags to the stands.

Thanks for your continued support.

Ian Cuddihy, on behalf of the Greens Team and Committee



Membership offer



All members are reminded that our Membership drive for 2025 is underway and **we are pleased to say that any full member referring a new member will receive a bonus social credit of €250.** This is a limited time offer, please talk to our General Manager Patrick Bradshaw for all the details....

LIMITED MEMBERSHIP OFFER FOR 2024/2025 SEASON



Your chance to join one of the finest clubs in South Dublin and North Wicklow and enjoy membership for the remainder of 2024 at our expense!

ONCE OFF ENTRANCE FEE

- Individuals: €3000 on the date of joining
- Couples/ Partners: €5000 on the date of joining

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

2025 annual subscription falls due in January 2025

For more information, contact our General Manager,
Patrick Bradshaw at **085 2526320**





Ladies News



(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)

Who would have thought way back on April 9th that their usual game of golf would have turned into a great trip to St Andrews to represent Republic of Ireland.

But so it was that Jenny Coplestone and Sally Lynch did just that.

After having the best qualifying score on that day Jenny and Sally went down to Wicklow Golf Club to play in the area final. They achieved a great score of 39 points winning on the back 9.

Little did they know that the next stage of the competition involved a trip to St Andrews (Eden Course) practice round and competition round and 2 nights in the Old Course Hotel, flights and transfers included.

Monday September 23, the ladies stepped onto the 1st tee to applause from the supporters. The day was grey and without a wisp of wind but perfect for golf. And they did themselves and Delgany Golf Club proud scoring 38 points. If they had won the next and final day would have been to play in the British Women's Open Pro Am in Wales, maybe better luck next time.

Reported by
Chery Ball

[More photos online at Delgany Golf Club's Flickr page.](#)





Ladies News

(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)



Ladies Lunching with Captain Alison on Captain Alison's Prize to the Ladies Day

Pasty Burns & Ann Mc Keogh



Alison with Olive Jones



Mark Wyse Rumble

27th August

Well what a day we had on 27th August – over 200 Ladies played throughout the day and the rain didn't dampen anyone's spirits.

A huge thank you to Mark Wyse and family for a wonderful day out with prizes galore.

First Place – Grainne Moran, Geraldine Magrane, Tanja Junghenn, Mairead Coghlan with 99 pts on C/B.

Second Place – Patricia Wyse, Margaret Fanning, Ruth Raymond, Julie Keane with 99 pts.

Third Place – Caroline Tobin, Denise Byrne, Sally Lynch, Geraldine O'Reilly with 96 pts on C/B.

Fourth Place – Mary Corcoran, Mags McDarby, Regina Walsh, Rosemary Keogh with 96 pts.

Fifth Place – Teresa Thompson, Anna Land, Valerie Stokes, Eileen Bates with 96 pts.

Winners 9 Hole – Breda Murtagh, Barbara Dolan, Marian Judge, Pearl Shimmins with 52 points.

Nearest the Pin - On the 8th was Niamh Rigley

Hole in One on the 16th – Diane Reid.

Longest Drive on the 3rd – Bairbre Smith

Longest Drive on the 10th – Teresa Thompson

Congratulations to all the Winners. Pauline Burke, Competition Secretary



Ladies News



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

Rumble photo's





Ladies News



(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)

Rumble Photo's



Rumble Photo's



18 Hole
Competition
Winners



9 Hole
Competition
Winners





Ladies News

(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)



We are looking forward to seeing everybody on Tuesday at what promises to be a great evening as always.

PLAY IN PINK DINNER & FASHION SHOW

TUESDAY OCTOBER 1 AT 7PM

**FEATURING CLOTHES FROM
MUMU BOUTIQUE
(BRAY & BLACKROCK)**



**PRIZEGIVING AND RAFFLE AFTER DINNER
BOOK YOUR TABLE AT THE BAR - PRICE €25**





Ladies News



(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)



We were all very sorry to hear that Simon our chef was leaving, he brought a new dimension to our culinary expectations and always delivered. However, we are delighted to know that Kim is staying on and thrilled that she has been appointed as our new Head Chef.

We wish Simon every success in his future career .





Ladies News

(Reporters: Mary O'Neill & Yvonne Connolly)



Save the date!

Christmas Fair

**ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH
AT DELGANY GOLF CLUB**

**ARE YOU A
CRAFTER/BAKER/KNITTER/JEWELLER? WE ARE
LOOKING FOR SUPPLIERS OF CHRISTMAS
GOODS TO DONATE TO OUR CHRISTMAS
FARE. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE TEAM IF
YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP**

**ALISON 087 2058640, CHERYL 087 2520835,
FRANCINE 087 2547187, MARIAN 087 3291920**

Proceeds will go towards the buggy fund

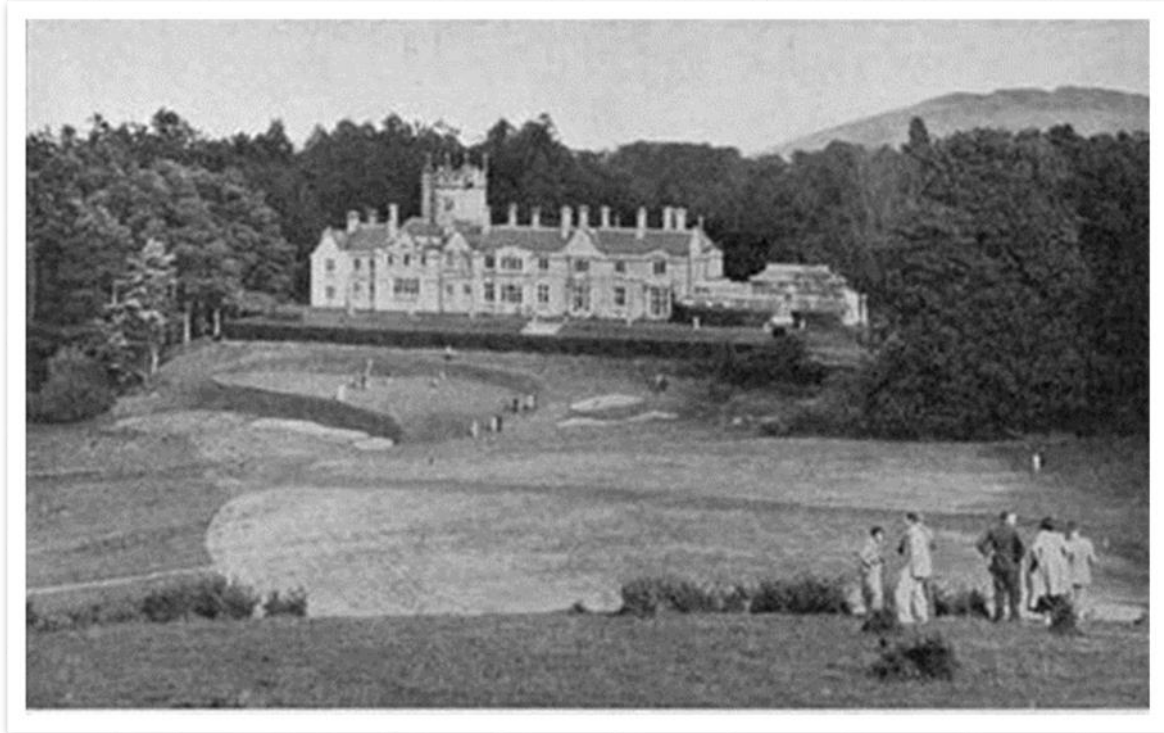


Cock of the Walk 2024



Last Thursday, on a beautiful sunny day, 78 Captains and ex-Captains from 13 Wicklow clubs descended on Delgany to play in the annual 'Cock of the Walk' competition.

Originated in 1948, the competition is for current and ex-Captains of Co. Wicklow clubs only, with teams of six consisting of three pairings playing Scotch Foursomes (with the best two cards to count).



It appears that Kilcronee Golf Club (photographed above) with some assistance from Woodbrook, started the 'Cock of the Walk' in 1948. Kilcronee itself was founded in the 1930's and following WW2 it was purchased by Sir Basil Goulding and renamed Kilcronee Golf and Country Sports Club, one of the earliest country clubs in Ireland and arguably, way ahead of its time.

Apart from the golf course, its facilities included a swimming pool, tennis courts, ballroom, and fishing on the River Dargle. Our own Harry Bradshaw was the professional at Kilcronee until 1950, at a time when he was arguably the leading professional in the country, having been beaten in a playoff for the British Open at Royal St. George's in 1949. In 1953 the clubhouse was put up for sale and alas, by the early 1960's, Kilcronee was no more.

Anyway, with the benefit of home advantage, Kilcronee won the first two stagings of the 'Cock of the Walk', followed by Delgany who were successful in 1950! In fact, over the next 20 years Delgany were the team to beat, winning on several occasions (clearly, in those days, the calibre of golfer who occupied the high office of Captain was considerably better than today!).



Cock of the Walk 2024



Back to the present day and Captain Ian did his research to try to identify the best six golfers Delgany might muster to help bring the Cock of the Walk back to the club after a long absence. He was able to establish that most Clubs select their team using a method based on the current Captain, then last year's Captain, the previous year and so on. Remarkably, the 2024 Captain of Bray GC, using this method, was able to confirm that each captain of the past 5 years (only going back to 2019), and himself, made up their 6-person team.



Read into this what you will, but Ian's intrepid journey took him back a bit further, only securing the 6th and final representative in 1987, Phil O'Neill! "It's just as well it wasn't a 7-man team", said Ian.

As for the golf itself, well, it seems all Interclub golf is extremely competitive, no matter the competition or the players. Delgany's best 2 cards included a marvellous 63 net from Dermot O'Brien and Jim Blake, for a total of 131. At this stage Ian was already thinking where in the Clubhouse the handsome 'Cock of the Walk' trophy might be situated. He needn't have worried, as Baltinglass came in with a 121 total, consisting of a 65 nett and a 56 nett! In foursomes! To show that score wasn't a flash in the pan, the aforementioned Captain from Bray and his partner shot 59 nett, on their way to a 126 total!

As the venues are selected by rotation in alphabetical order, Delgany will not host the competition again for 13 years and last Thursday's prize presentation concluded with all 2024 Wicklow Captains presented with their 'Cock of the Walk' tie, and an ID card that entitles them to complimentary golf in all participating Wicklow clubs in perpetuity!

Now where would you get it!



Men's Competition News



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday September 28th.

PJ STOKES MEMORIAL (Stableford White).

Sunday, September 29th.

Team of 4 Texas Scramble (Invitational).

Wednesday, October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th.

Invitation Fourball (Stableford off GREEN Tees).

9-hole Invitation Singles (Stableford off WHITE Tees) will operate for the first four Wednesdays in October but not on October 30th. If daylight becomes a factor as we move through October we may have to end Wednesday 9-hole competitions until next season.

Saturday, October 5th.

October Medal (final one!)

Sunday, October 6th.

Fourball Stableford

Saturday/Sunday October 12th/ 13th

Singles Stableford

Monday, October 14th

OPEN Singles Stableford

Saturday, October 19th

Singles Stableford

Sunday, October 20th.

Fourball Stableford

Monday, October 21st

OPEN SENIORS Singles Stableford (Final qualifying event in Super Seniors League)

Saturday, October 26th - Singles Stableford (Final Qualifying Singles)

Sunday, October 27th - Team Event – to be confirmed.

Monday, October 28th (Public Holiday) - OPEN Singles Stableford





Men's Competition News



GOLFER OF THE YEAR UPDATE (courtesy of Conn Loy):

With just one big opportunity left to score in, this year's Golfer of The Year has heated up since our last update.

You probably recall that Jonny Nolan and Christy O'Neill had a share of top spot on 25 points with David Fogarty (23 points) stalking the two leaders. Well, the last number of weeks has seen some interesting developments.

A great run in the Singles Match Play saw Christy O'Neill win that competition (congratulations Christy) and take the lead outright in the 2024 Golfer of the Year on 29 points. Andrew Burke gained some ground when he picked up 9 points in the Lady Captain's Prize To The Men, which placed him on 23 points with the rescheduled September Medal yet to be played.

However, when none of the other top contenders added to their points tally, a great round of 65 from David Fogarty won him 9 points to move him clear at the top, passing Jonny & Christy in turn. David now sits on 32 points with just the October Medal and the final points from the Bellevue Cup to be registered.

	SINGLES MATCH PLAY	APRIL MEDAL	MAY MEDAL	BELLEVUE CUP	JUNE MEDAL	PRESIDENT'S PRIZE PRIZE	PROFESSIONAL'S PRIZE	JULY MEDAL	AUGUST MEDAL	CAPTAIN'S PRIZE	SEPTEMBER MEDAL	LADY CAPTAIN'S PRIZE	OCTOBER MEDAL	TOTAL
Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
David Fogarty	6				7		10					9		32
Christopher O'Neill	12	8					9							29
Jonathan Nolan	4	10	6				1	4						25
Richard Spurgeon				6	10			8						24
Andrew Burke							7					7	9	23

At this stage there are 5 contenders for the title. Andrew Burke can match 32 points with a second-place finish in the October Medal or move to 33 points with an outright win.

Richard Spurgeon is in the final of the Bellevue Cup and could pick up an extra 2 points if he wins it. That would put Richard on 26 points with the Medal points still to play for.

Jonny is well within range on 25 points. While Christy is in second place on 29 points and could easily take the 2024 Golfer of the Year title.

Lots of permutations to consider there.

However, a top 3 finish for David will close the door on the rest of the pack and see him crowned Golfer of the Year 2024!!

Watch this space..... **John Gallagher, Men's Competitions Committee**



Juniors report



The long days of summer are well behind us and its now that the Junior Section typically goes into a long 'hibernation', waking up occasionally (when school is out and the weather plays ball!), before the weekly Thursday competitions resume in June.

Those Thursdays are busy, typically with up to 50 or more children and young people playing a variety of 18-, 9- and 6-hole competitions that cater for our Junior Select players (HI up to 20), our ambitious 'Rockets' (HI 20-54) and our fabulous 8-12 year olds (Scramblers). A special 'shout-out' for our dedicated member and parents 'helpers' – Saints we call them – who give an hour or two to walk with up to 5 or 6 Scramblers on the back nine, guiding them as they take their first steps on the course and learn about the game. Would you like to help? We would love to have you along.

On the subject of helpers, we are hugely grateful to those members who have very generously sponsored occasional competitions throughout the year and to those who have donated much-loved golf clubs and many semi-retired balls for the used of our players on Thursdays. Thank you!

A vital element in developing our youngest players is our coaching programme and, despite having to arrange cover in the Pro Shop this year, Gavin, as always, has been very generous with his time on the practice ground (and on the course with the stronger players) in teaching and honing skills for almost 60 Juniors across the summer, with thanks also to Colette Doyle who organised the Monday evening 'fun with golf' sessions for our girls. Developing our coaching programme is a key objective for future years.

Here's our Wicklow Cup team pictured on September 7th ahead of their match Vs Bray GC.





Juniors report



As ever, Michael Behan (Junior Foursomes) and Basil Mulligan (Wicklow Cup) put so much work into our inter-club competitions this year, and we are immensely proud of our young players who, win or lose, represented Delgany with dignity and good grace. Here's to better fortune in 2025! And speaking of our Club, we were delighted to host the Golf Ireland Boys' Inter-Club Qualifier (South Leinster) this year and were not far off qualifying again! Of course we are also proud annual hosts of the Co. Wicklow Father & Son competition (generously sponsored by Frank Finan) and the Delgany Schools' Cup (organised by Jason Bradshaw) and our Relative & Child competitions are very popular.

We will celebrate our many prize-winners later this year but it would be remiss of me not to congratulate our own William Walshe who has travelled widely this summer to compete in international boys' tournaments and who just recently qualified for the North of Ireland Amateur Championship, missing the final 30-player cut by 1 stroke in Portrush GC where Shane L won his Open Championship! Well done, William!

Finally, my thanks to our Captains – special mention for Junior Captain Charlie Fox - Club Officers, Members and staff, and not forgetting our Juniors' families, for all you have done, however modest, to make golf in Delgany an experience our Juniors of all ages will cherish. There is such enthusiasm to participate that we want to harness Members' interest in supporting our Junior section and we look forward to telling you about our future plans and developments.

Pat Kitterick (Junior Convenor)



**REMINDER
TO ALL :**

**As we head into
winter,
be happy to be
out playing and
don't forget
your sandbag !**



Volunteers



Your CLUB needs you....



The inaugural meeting of the newly established Nominations Committee was held earlier this month. **The Committee members are Betty Sherry (Chairperson), Tom Bergin, Siobhan Mooney, Sean O'Rourke and Tadgh Dolly.** The Committee will assist in identifying suitable candidates to fill roles on the various committees that arise from time to time. The Club is built on the ethos of volunteerism, so it is the job of this committee to find these volunteers.

The Club has a wide variety of committees, including Revenue, Membership, Course, House, Social, Governance, Handicaps, Competitions, Communications, Juniors, and Development. So you can see the need is great. Whatever your skillset there is a role for you. The most important skill is the willingness to get involved.

Please contact any member of the Committee (above) or email nominations@delganygolfclub.com and let them know of your availability/interest. Whether you are a long serving member or new member we will be delighted to hear from you. You don't have to wait to be asked!





Mix and Match



Huge congratulations to Jim Blake, Terry Day and all those who contributed and/or played in our recent fundraisers for Greystones Cancer Support. The GCS is a dedicated support service for those in the Greystones, Charlesland, Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and Newtownmountkenedy areas and recently celebrated thirty years of helping people deal with the shock and trauma of a cancer diagnosis.

The Delgany GC connection does not stop there as we host the Two Mary's Golf Classic every year. This has been a significant event for over two decades, contributing a substantial sum of almost €110,000 to Greystones and District Cancer Support. This year they donated €9,020 to GCS and as you can see, our own Jason Bradshaw was part of the fundraising team.

Well done to all, the world is a better place thanks to your generosity.



An 80-year-old golfer moved to a new club. When he first showed up a lot of its members looked at him eagerly: an old man, someone we can win some money from!

The man did nothing to dispel that notion. "I hit the ball pretty good," he said, "but I have a lot of trouble getting out of deep bunkers." "Aha!" thought the club sharks. "Our course doesn't have many deep bunkers, but there are tons of shallow ones and if he struggles getting out of the sand, we'll take his money for sure."

When the 80-year-old showed up for his first round at his new course, Harvey was waiting.

"Would you like to play?" he asked the old man. "And maybe we can make it interesting; what do you say, put a little money on it?" The 80-year-old agreed and he and Harvey set out to play.

"How many strokes do you need?" asked Harvey, who was only 55. "Oh, I don't need any strokes," the old man said. "My game is really good. The only problem I'm having right now is getting out of deep bunkers." Harvey was a pretty good player, but the old man was really good. He was straight down the middle and if not for Harvey's 25-year age advantage, the old man would have been far ahead. The old man even hit the ball great on a couple bunker shots.

"Hmmm," Harvey thought, "he said he had trouble out of deep bunkers, and we haven't really got to one of those yet ... just be patient, I know he'll find one of the deep bunkers around the 17th green." Sure enough, Harvey and the old man reached the par-3 17th hole tied, and the old man promptly put his tee ball right smack in the middle of the big, deep bunker in front of the green. "I've got him now!" Harvey thought. The 80-year-old slid down into the bunker and took his stance over the ball. Then he took a perfect swing and floated the ball up out of the bunker. It hit perfectly on the fringe, took one little hop and rolled to within two feet of the cup before stopping. Harvey had seen enough. "Dang it!" he shouted at the old man, who was still in the bunker. "I thought you said you had a lot of trouble getting out of deep bunkers!"

"Oh, I do," the 80-year-old said, reaching out to Harvey. "Can you give me a hand?"

The Delgany Dispatch is produced by the Clubs

Communications Sub-Committee:

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

Mary O'Neill, Jason Bradshaw, Yvonne Connolly

with technical support from Briega Burton.

Email: delganydispatch@delganygolfclub.ie