

Balcarrick Golf Club

Men's Club Hon. Secretary Report 2014

On behalf of Richie Walsh, Captain, please find below a brief report on the Men's Club activities for 2014.

Election of Officers and Committee

The following members were elected as Officers and Committee at the AGM of the Men's Club on 17th November 2013. The names of those proposed for committee were listed by Richie Walsh, Vice Captain. All those nominated were elected.

		No. of Meetings Attended
Captain	Richie Walsh	10
Vice Captain	Christy O'Driscoll	9
Hon. Secretary	Vincent Brereton	10
Hon. Treasurer	Richard Caffrey	9
Ex. Officio	Ray Crilly	2
Match & Handicap Sec.	Seamus McDonnell	6
Clubhouse	Declan McEvoy	8
Committee (Course)	Gerry Mulholland	7
Committee (Team Mgr)	Paul Burke	9
Committee (Societies)	James Daly	9
<i>10 Committee Meetings were held from January to the end of October 2014 (Incl.)</i>		

Membership

Maintaining membership numbers remained difficult due to the economic climate. In response, a number of membership offers were introduced during the year.

I take this opportunity to welcome all our new members. The Club has always enjoyed a reputation for enjoyable golf in a friendly atmosphere.

Male Membership Numbers at the End October 2014

Category	2014
Ordinary	260
5 Day	91
Senior	60
Honorary	19
Student	3
Juvenile	30
Total Male Members	463

21 members were granted leave of absence for 2014.

Finance

The Hon. Treasurer's report indicates that the Men's Club makes a significant contribution to the finances of Balcarrick Golf Club.

The Members, Captain and Committee offer their sincere thanks to Richard for his prudent management of the Clubs finances during the year.

The Committee introduced a number of membership recruitment drives during the year. Great effort is made to ensure that Balcarrick Golf Club maintains its reputation as an attractive and challenging course. Members are urged to promote the Club to friends, family and work colleagues.

Golf

Our Captain thanks Seamus McDonnell, Competition and Handicap Secretary, for his tireless work during the year. Seamus and his team, Gerry Dowling, Tom Mangan and Paul Burke work hard to ensure that results are posted as quickly as possible after each competition.

Paul Burke deserves special mention for all his work as Inter-Club Team Manager. Thanks also to the Team Managers and players who represented Balcarrick Golf Club, so well, in Inter Club events.

Hosting the DUGSA (Dublin United Golfing Societies Association) Annual Challenge Cup, in August this year, was a great honour for the Club. Despite inclement weather the day was a great success, due mainly to the work of Christy O'Driscoll, Vice Captain.

Course

Martin Sheridan, Green Keeper, and his team deserve great credit for the excellent condition of the course. Despite the best efforts of our rabbit and crow population, the course is constantly praised by members and visitors. The collaboration of Gerry Mulholland, Club President, and Martin ensures that the course is maintained to the highest standards.

Juniors & Juveniles

Eoin Manning is this year's Junior Captain. The Junior/Juvenile Members are the lifeblood of the Club. Stephen Ennis, Club Professional, through his encouragement and coaching, is a great support to the juvenile membership. Balcarrick Golf Club thanks parents, sponsors and supporters for their commitment to juvenile activities.

Gavin Fitzmaurice was selected, this year, for the Leinster U18 panel - a great honour for Gavin and for the Club – many congratulations.

Pro Shop

Stephen Ennis continues to provide a first class service to our members. The Club has a professional and a pro-shop that it is proud of. It is the envy of other clubs in the area. Continued support from the members will enable Stephen to maintain his high standards.

The Office

Patricia Fennelly, Office Administrator, delivers exceptional service to the members and the Committee. Her invaluable knowledge of the workings of the Club is vital to the efficient running of Balcarrick. I would like to thank Patricia for her help during my first year as Hon. Secretary. A special word of thanks to the volunteers who man the office on Patricia's days off and when required.

The Bar & Kitchen

The bar and restaurant are important to the social life of the Club. The Committee continually receive compliments from visiting teams, societies, and casual golfers on the quality and variety of the catering provided by Shane and his team.

The Clubhouse

Improvements to the Clubhouse and its environs are on going. Apart from re-decorating the entrance hall, upgrading the photo display, and plumbing repairs, a considerable upgrade to the electrical and security systems was also undertaken. Thanks to all those members who helped with these upgrades, in particular Declan, Richie, and Sheila. Thanks, also, to all members who volunteer their time and assist in the maintenance of the Clubhouse.

A number of these activities depend on contributions from various fundraising groups - a huge thanks is due to those who organise fundraising events.

Philip Higgins updated the Club website - his time and considerable effort is much appreciated.

Looking Forward

The recession has placed financial constraints on all golf clubs. However, with limited resources Balcarrick Golf Club has maintained its course and clubhouse, in a condition that members can be proud of. For financial reasons some improvement projects have had to be put on hold. On a positive note it is planned, in the near future, to replace a number of on-course bridges. This is possible mainly due to the efforts of Christy O'Driscoll who applied, successfully, on behalf of the Club for an interest free emergency funding loan from the GUI.

Retaining and increasing membership numbers remains an on-going goal of the Committee. The incoming Committee must continue to be pro-active and inventive in this regard.

Finally

All members are invited to attend the AGM. If you want your voice to be heard, on any matter, this is the forum to express your views.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Vincent Brereton

Hon. Secretary