



## *Balcarrick Ladies Golf Club*

**AGM 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

### **HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Dear Members

As the end of the 2014 approaches I am happy to report on what has been another enjoyable and successful golfing year at Balcarrick. Thanks are due to our Lady Captain Anne, her committee, and those among you who volunteer your time and energy, year after year, to ensure this success.

The Officers and committee members of the Ladies Club in 2014 were:

Lady Captain	Anne Dynes
Lady Vice Captain	Maureen McEvoy
Ex-Officio	Dolores Murphy
Hon. Secretary	Louise Stirling
Hon. Treasurer	Bridie Johnston
Handicap / Competition Secretary	Teresa Ranson
Assistant Competition Secretary	Clare Cluxton
Committee Member	Paula McCaughan

By end October the Committee had met on ten occasions in 2014 with an average attendance of seven of its eight members.

The club was also represented at the following ILGU meetings:

- Hon Secretaries: Westmanstown GC on the morning of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014, attended by Maureen Mc Evoy and Louise Stirling.
- Competition Secretaries: Westmanstown GC on the afternoon of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014, attended by Teresa Ranson, Maureen Mc Evoy and Louise Stirling.

Lady Captain Anne saw the club through a great year for golf when the sun seemed to shine endlessly (well who wants to remember the odd day of rain!). She was a particularly welcoming Lady Captain and the club was very well represented by her on numerous occasions, both home and away. She saw to the introduction of the Ladies slot on Wednesdays and this has undoubtedly added to the social side of the Wednesday competitions.

Lady Vice Captain Maureen supported the Lady Captain throughout the year and I am personally grateful to her for the invaluable help she has given me as her successor in the Hon. Secretary role. As they say in the best books, any remaining errors or omissions are entirely my own. Maureen liaised with the ILGU and Team Managers for the Interclub Competitions and was responsible for the very successful hosting of the ILGU Private Home Care Interclub competition which, with the help of her team of volunteers, ran without a hitch. The course also played its part and was shown off to great advantage on a lovely June day.

Our competitions have been organised week in week out by our Competition Secretary Teresa Ranson, supported by Clare Cluxton. This requires considerable time and commitment and has been carried out very successfully by Teresa for a fourth consecutive year. I wish her every success in her new role as incoming Lady Vice Captain.

Another stalwart on the committee was our Treasurer, Bridie Johnston. Once again she kept us abreast of our finances, and the prizes due to the many winners throughout the year, with great professionalism and conscientiousness.

## **LOCKER ROOM**

During the year it was decided to set up a sub-committee to look into what could be done to improve the locker room area (now that it actually had functioning lockers!) and to highlight further requirements. Dolores Murphy and Paula McCaughan formed the nucleus of this sub-committee and Sheila Crilly and Pauline Mellinn accepted the invitation to join them. The main improvements are obvious for all to see: the floors were professionally cleaned - on advice received from a colleague of our member Rita Hamilton; the seating is now comfortably cushioned; and the area has been generally cleaned up and rearranged to make it more presentable. So a job well done and many of our blushes spared on welcoming visitors. No doubt all of us thank the committee for their work.

## **MAJOR PRIZE WINNERS OF THE CLUB IN 2014**

I will leave it to the Competition Secretary to go into the required detail on the prize winners throughout the year but some of our members enjoyed particular success:

- Top billing goes to Gladys Rodgers the undisputed winner of the Lady Captain's Prize with 45 points; Eileen Waters, our Club Champion (71 pts) and Jacqueline Connolly - our Golfer of the Year.
- Well done to Doris Kilroy, Patricia Daly, Linda Wagner, Jacqueline Connolly, Patsy McCarthy and Sheila Crilly, who struck gold this year.
- The recipients of the ILGU Medals - Teresa Ranson (Silver Medal Qualifier) and Louise Stirling (Bronze Medal Qualifier) - will go forward to the All Ireland Finals in Headfort next May. Congratulations to them and our ILGU Silver Spoon winner Sheila Crilly.
- Patricia Daly took home the Singles Matchplay trophy, with Teresa Ranson runner-up, while the Mixed Matchplay has yet to be concluded due to an issue which has taken some time to resolve. Once again Marie Keegan devoted time and energy to the organisation of the Matchplay competitions. As we all know this is often a thankless task and the club owes Marie a huge debt of gratitude for taking this on.

## **INTER CLUB COMPETITIONS**

The club entered a number of interclub competitions and thanks are due to the team managers, caddies, supporters and, last but not least, the players who put their names forward to represent Balcarrick so well. We will remember 2014 as a great year due to the seniors competition, where we beat our neighbours Donabate in the final, to bring home the Fingal Seniors Trophy. Credit is due to Maureen Meade as Team Manager (and player) and her entire squad, who all played their part in bringing home a fine piece of crystal to add to the trophy cabinet.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR**

- ❖ The course was closed on a number of occasions over the January-February period and the 2014 Drive-In was postponed until 1<sup>st</sup> March as a result. However, there were remarkably few weather issues thereafter and the St Patrick's Day Cup started the season off in earnest.
- ❖ Our first Open, on 4<sup>th</sup> June, sponsored by Sports Injury Clinic, was a great success with 90 playing. As a bonus many went home well exercised following the free physio advice provided by the sponsor before their game.
- ❖ Also in June, 34 of us played in the Ann McMullan Trophy raising €238 for charity.
- ❖ A few days later the Summer Lunch took place on a June day so hot and sunny that we decamped outdoors to eat, drink and lap up the vitamin D while we could. Once again Brenda Hayes is to be thanked for organising this very enjoyable event. Keep arranging that sunshine Brenda!
- ❖ Lady Captain's Day on 12<sup>th</sup> July was another great day. The lovely prizes were oohed and aahed over and 46 of us played our hearts out to greater or lesser effect in our attempt to win them. As already mentioned, it was Gladys Rodgers who was the most successful at rising to the occasion.
- ❖ The Captains' Charity in August was another well-supported event and raised €925 for each of charities – *Jack and Jill* in the case of the Lady Captain.

- ❖ The second Open took place on 18<sup>th</sup> August when 46 played. Prizes were sponsored by Blue Moon (generous once again), Halpenny Golf and McGuirks Golf.
- ❖ The Lady Captain's Away Day took us to Mount Wolseley in August. The course was enjoyed by all, although initially it was one of the infrequent "soft" days. Apart from the golf those present enjoyed everything from the scones on arrival to the "death by chocolate" dessert.
- ❖ Throughout the summer many of us took part in the Rings Competition run by Bernie King, quite an undertaking with all that card checking. Many thanks Bernie. Thanks are due too to Doris Kilroy for running the Birdie competition. We look forward to all the results in December.
- ❖ Also throughout the summer the social life of the club benefitted greatly from the "Nine and Dine" events run by Pat and Clare Cluxton. Not only were these very well attended but they raised over €1200 for the club. Many thanks to both Clare and Pat.
- ❖ Many thanks too to Maureen Meade who provided more bridge classes this year with the income going to the club. While there is still a considerable degree of head scratching at least some of her protegées have celebrated their first wins!

### **THANKS**

I would also like to thank the two outgoing committee members. Dolores Murphy, our ex-officio, will finally be able to concentrate on enjoying her golf. She has given great service to the club and was a very experienced voice on committee. Paula McCaughan had the creative touch providing the new Birdie Tree, showing prizes off beautifully, and has also agreed to put together the Christmas Hampers for presentation next month. Thank you both.

As I mentioned at the outset there are many among you who contribute hugely to the smooth running of the club. So I would like to thank those of you who worked behind the scenes, who did administrative work, closed competitions, checked cards, who sponsored prizes, who painted, who planted or watered or arranged flowers. In short, did whatever you could to show the club at its best. I will resist the temptation to name names for fear of leaving someone out but I thank you on behalf of the club.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Sincere thanks are due too to all who contribute to the smooth operation of the Club in a professional capacity: Patricia, our Office Administrator, always so approachable; Martin Sheridan and his greenkeeping team, who keep the course looking incredibly well despite the tight finances; Shane, our chef, and his catering and bar staff. It's so nice to be able to come in to a nice meal, especially with visitors; Stephen Ennis our Pro and his much-improved Pro-shop, and Iarlaith Keane, the Assistant Pro.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

In closing, may I on your behalf, say a sincere thank you to our Lady Captain Anne Dynes for leading us so successfully through 2014 with great energy and enthusiasm, and wish her well in a her ex-officio role next year. I wish every success to our incoming Lady Captain Maureen McEvoy in her year of office during 2015 and hope she enjoys her year.

I am happy that I accepted the nomination to join the committee and have enjoyed my first year, due in no small part, to the team involved. Thank you one and all.

I wish you all a successful golfing year in 2015 and the good health to enjoy it.

Louise Stirling,  
Honorary Secretary,  
Balcarrick Ladies Golf Club