



Balcarrick Ladies Golf Club
AGM 11th NOVEMBER 2015
HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear Members

2015 is a year that will long remain in our memory as the year our Lady Captain Maureen passed away so suddenly. Her death puts golf meetings, matches and prizes into perspective. But, as has been said repeatedly over recent months, she loved our club, was a very committed Lady Captain and was enjoying her time in office, so I will report on our golfing year first.

The Officers and committee members elected for the 2015 year were:

Lady Captain	Maureen McEvoy
Lady Vice Captain	Teresa Ranson
Ex-Officio	Anne Dynes
Hon. Secretary	Louise Stirling
Hon. Treasurer	Bridie Johnston
Handicap / Competition Secretary	Marie Keegan
Committee Member	Jacqueline Connolly
Committee Member	Laura O'Farrell

Following Maureen's death Dolores Murphy was asked if she would return to committee for the remainder of the year and generously agreed to do so.

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

The club was also represented at the following ILGU meetings:

- AGM: on Saturday 17th January 2015, attended by Lady Captain.
- Hon Secretaries: on the morning of Saturday 14th February 2015, attended by Louise Stirling, Marie Keegan and Lady Captain.
- Competition Secretaries: on the afternoon of Saturday 14th February 2015, attended by Marie Keegan and Lady Captain.
- Handicap Secretaries: Meeting on Annual Handicap Review on Monday 2nd November, (to be) attended by Marie Keegan, Jackie Connolly and Laura O'Farrell.

THE COMMITTEE

- ❖ Lady Vice Captain Teresa liaised with the ILGU and Team Managers for the Interclub Competitions and was responsible for the successful hosting of the ILGU Private Home Care Interclub competition in May. She supported the Lady Captain for the first half of the year before being prematurely thrust into the leading role when the unforeseen happened. I think it is generally accepted that she has coped with the unexpected workload as few could.

- ❖ Our Treasurer, Bridie Johnston, was super-efficient as always, and kept us and the pro-shop abreast of the winners and their voucher entitlements. She produced impeccable updates on all income and expenditure for each month end.
- ❖ Our Competition & Handicap Secretary Marie Keegan organised our competitions, week in week out. A past Lady Captain, Marie was very good to come back on committee when the last-minute need arose and has devoted great energy and commitment to her role. Her assistants Jackie Connolly and Laura O'Farrell also put in many hours "aiding and abetting" her and were a great addition to the committee. Further thanks are due to Marie for running the matchplay competitions again this year - not an easy task - but a great source of fun (stress?!) and funds for the club.
- ❖ Ex officio Anne Dynes contributed her valuable experience to the committee and now steps down after a six year stint. Enjoy retirement from office, good health and your golf Anne. You deserve the break.
- ❖ Dolores Murphy rejoined us at mid year when the need arose and now steps down once again. Hopefully we can leave you to enjoy your golf this year Dolores. Many thanks again.

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

- ❖ The Drive-In took place as planned on 7th February and the St Patrick's Day Cup started the season off in earnest.
- ❖ Our first Open, on 22nd May, kindly sponsored by Embracing Beauty Salon, was a great success with 90 playing.
- ❖ June started with the Summer Lunch, which as always was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Once again we thank Brenda Hayes for organising this very sociable event – even if we did prefer to eat indoors this year!
- ❖ Later that month, 30 played in the Ann McMullan Trophy raising €210 for charity.
- ❖ Our second Open, sponsored by Sports Surgery Clinic, took place on 12th August when 42 played – unfortunately well short of the May level of attendance.
- ❖ The Captains' Charity in August for Autism Ireland raised some €1,700 for that very worthy cause and one close to our Lady Captain's heart.
- ❖ A number of competitions were cancelled in August including the Medal competition, which was rescheduled for October when, strangely, the weather was more benign.
- ❖ September saw the Club Championship a week later than originally planned due to some diary issues, and also an Invitational team event when 54 played. A further team event was held in October and the popularity of these team events suggests that there will be more of them in the future.
- ❖ Throughout the summer many took part in the Rings Competition run by Bernie King, a major undertaking given all the checking of results it entails, and the Birdie competition run by Doris Kilroy. Many thanks are due to both once again.

INTER CLUB COMPETITIONS

Success in ILGU interclub competitions eluded us again this year but the duo of Sheila Rafter and Teresa Ranson flew the flag in the Irish Mail successfully negotiating their way through to the 4th round in Powerscourt. A great result. The superb achievement of the year, however, was undoubtedly the retention of the Fingal Seniors Trophy where we beat our nemesis Malahide in the final. Once again Team Manager Maureen Meade showed how to do things and congratulations are due to her, Assistant Manager Aileen James and the entire squad for bringing back the trophy and another pennant for the wall.

MAJOR PRIZE WINNERS OF THE CLUB IN 2015

The Competition Secretary will present her report but special congratulations are due to:

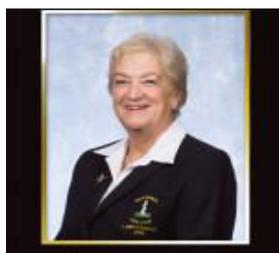
- ❖ Marie-McCormack - winner of the Ann McMullan Trophy.
- ❖ Medal winners: Rose McDonnell, Celine Sheridan, Eileen Waters, Doris Kilroy, Sheila Rafter and Bridie Johnston.
- ❖ Matchplay winners: Singles: Teresa Ranson. Runner-up - Louise Stirling.
Mixed: Bridie Johnston and Jim Robertson. Runners-up Sheila Crilly and Willie Killeen.
- ❖ Club Champion Sinead Kearney

As the Golfer of the Year and recipients of the ILGU Medals will not be announced until the prize giving preceding the AGM they cannot be congratulated by name at the time of writing but well done all concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge some extra contributions during the year. In “the ladies” Anne (Dynes) for the lovely soap and hand cream; Bridie and Dolores for the matching mirrors, and Jacinta for the mirror out on the the course – though none of the three will accept responsibility if we find fault with what we see! Many others helped with competitions, flowers, or tidying. All this help, in whatever form, is invaluable and much appreciated.

As always thanks are due too to those who contribute to the smooth operation of the Club in a professional capacity: Patricia, our Office Administrator – so much to do in so little time; Martin Sheridan and his greenkeeping team – so much to do with so little; Shane and his catering staff – so much on offer, so hard to choose; the coaching team and our club pro Stephen Ennis. So many coaches – so much to work on – where to begin?! Thanks again to one and all.



LADY CAPTAIN MAUREEN

We often save the best until last. In this case it's the worst. The loss of our 2015 Lady Captain Maureen McEvoy. I think it's fair to say that Maureen took to her year as Lady Captain as to the manor born. Her Information Day started with a team competition, carried through with lovely prizes and ended with a presentation on the rules and etiquette on the course. What a start!

On committee she continued to demonstrate her organisational skills and planned well ahead. This is evident by the wealth of prizes and goodie bag items she had ready for her Captains' Day, her Away Day and more. She was very welcoming to visitors and was a great representative for the club, as witnessed by the many lovely expressions of sympathy received on her death.

As her Honorary Secretary I had worked very closely with Maureen and the shockwaves from her sudden death reached me on holiday. I envied those of you who could offer each other support. I know you all gave her a fitting farewell. I was glad to be back in time to step in for Lady Vice Captain Teresa and present the Book of Condolences to Declan when he and Claire McEvoy visited the club at end June.

The committee then had to agree a way forward. The ILGU advice was that there was no one way to go about it, but to take the feelings of the family into consideration. We decided to cancel the Lady Captain's Day, Lady Captain's Away Day and Lady Captain's Dinner but to hold a Memorial Day when appropriate, on a date to be agreed. As a first gesture it was decided to place a planter at Maureen's parking space. The flowers came fully into bloom for the Memorial Day held at end August and have flowered brilliantly since. Patricia Maguire has kindly agreed to replant it for next year.

It was important to us that the Memorial Day be a fitting response to the tragic death of our Lady Captain. The format was a golf competition, played for Maureen's Lady Captain's Day prizes, followed by a formal dinner. Members were involved with black bows, flowers and grace before or toasts during the dinner, but I think particular thanks are due to Eileen Waters for the beautiful flower displays. Those fortunate enough to be presented with prizes on the night – Lady Vice Captain Teresa (Overall winner), Rita McNally (Gross) and category winners - Marie Keegan, Patricia Daly and Laura O'Farrell – to name but a few, will no doubt treasure those prizes above all others.

After the prize giving Declan was presented with the framed 18th flag and Claire McEvoy with what would have been the committee's present for Maureen on her day. Declan expressed his thanks and spoke about Maureen, followed by the Captain, Christy O'Donnell, and finally our Lady Vice Captain Teresa gave the keynote address.

I hope you the members were as happy with the day as the McEvoy family. I like to think that Maureen would have been pleased.

I have been happy to be your Honorary Secretary for the last two years. I will, however, be handing over to a very capable lady next year. I wish her and all our ladies continued good health and enjoyable golf in the company of friends.

As you know Maureen chose Teresa as her Lady Vice Captain. Sadly she is not here to hand over the reins but I know she would want to wish the incoming Lady Captain every success in her own year of office in 2016. I hope I can be of some help to her during her year.

Louise Stirling
Honorary Secretary