

Balcarrick Golf Club

Joint Club -- Hon. Secretary's Report 2015

On behalf of Christy O'Driscoll, Captain, please find below a brief report on the Joint Club activities for 2015.

It would be inconceivable, in any report on the Club's activities, not to make reference to the sad loss of Past President, Philip Reid, and our Lady Captain for 2015, Maureen McEvoy. Maureen's sudden passing in June cast a great shadow over the Club and she will always be fondly remembered by everyone who knew her. I would like to pay a compliment to Lady Vice Captain, Teresa Ranson, the Ladies Committee, and all the ladies in the Club – they coped with the loss of their Captain in a dignified and sensitive manner. In Maureen's memory, they carried out the responsibilities of the role, with quiet efficiency and respect.

The members extend their sympathies to Rosaleen Reid, Declan McEvoy and their families. The Committee would also like to express thanks to Declan for returning to his duties on Committee, despite his grief and great loss.

Election of Officers and Committee

The following members were elected as Officers and Committee at the AGM, of the Joint Club, on 30th November 2014. The names of those proposed for committee were listed by Richie Walsh, Captain. All those nominated were elected.

		No. of Meetings Attended
President	Seamus McDonnell	11
Captain	Christy O'Driscoll	13
Lady Captain	Maureen McEvoy R.I.P.	
Vice Captain	Paul Burke	Resigned (Ill health)
Lady Vice Captain	Teresa Ranson	11
Hon. Secretary	Vincent Brereton	8
Hon. Treasurer	George Harbourne	Resigned (Ill health)
Ex. Officio	Richie Walsh	10
Committee	Declan McEvoy	10
Committee	Gerry Mulholland	9
Committee	James Daly	12
Committee	Willie Killeen	6
Committee	Gerry Dowling	11
Committee	Anthony Manning	11
Committee	Niall Foley	11
Committee	Sheila Crilly	7

Louise Stirling was co-opted onto the Joint Committee in June.

Membership

Maintaining membership numbers remained difficult due to the economic climate. In response, a number of membership offers were advertised. These offers yielded a good return towards the end of the year.

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

Membership Numbers at the End of October 2015

	2015	2015
Category	Men	Ladies
Ordinary	266	51
5 Day	93	7
Senior	66	6
Honorary	12	1
Student	7	
Juvenile	18	
Country / Overseas	7	
Total Members	469	65

13 members were granted leave of absence for 2015.

Finance

With regret, Captain Christy accepted the resignation of George Harbourne from the position of Hon. Treasurer. George tendered his resignation for health reasons. Captain Christy and the Committee wish him all the best and thank him for his enthusiastic contribution while he was on Committee. A number of people came on board to assist in the management of the Club's finances, most recently, Niall Foley, elected Treasurer Mens Club, and Neil Stirling. Captain Christy sincerely appreciates the time and valued contribution of all.

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 golf course. We urge members to promote the Club to friends, family and work colleagues.

The Office

Patricia Fennelly, Office Administrator, delivers exceptional service to the members and the Committee. Her knowledge of the workings of the Club is vital to the efficient running of Balcarrick. On a personal note I thank Patricia for all her help during my last two years as Hon. Secretary, her support and advice have been invaluable.

A special word of thanks to the volunteers who man the office on Patricia's days off and when required.

Golf

It was also with regret that Captain Christy accepted the resignation of Paul Burke from the position of Vice Captain. Paul tendered his resignation for health reasons. Captain Christy and the Committee wish him well and thank him for his valued contribution. Captain Christy proposed Gerry Dowling as his new Vice Captain and this appointment was enthusiastically welcomed.

Hearty congratulations to the Ladies who successfully defended the Fingal Seniors Title, beating Malahide in the final, held in Clontarf.

Christy thanks Gerry Dowling and his team for the tireless work they perform with Competitions and Handicaps.

A comprehensive review of Senior Membership Rates was completed by Louise Stirling, Seamus McDonnell and Anthony Manning.

Niall Foley, Teresa Ranson and Marlene Kennedy all deserve mention for their work with inter-club competitions. Thanks also to all the Team Managers and players who represented Balcarrick Golf Club, so well, in Inter Club events.

Hosting the GUI Leinster Boys Tournament in July was a great honour for the Club. A big thank you to all who helped make this event a great success.

Course

Two new bridges were constructed, utilising funds from an interest free GUI loan. A number of trees were planted, at various locations on the course.

A big thank you to the group of volunteers who have been busy clearing vegetation, in particular, on the right side of the 14th fairway. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

Despite budgetary constraints, Martin Sheridan, Greenkeeper, and his team deserve great credit for the excellent condition of the course, throughout the year.

Juniors & Juveniles

Gavin Fitzmaurice 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 was selected for the Leinster U18 panel - a great honour for Gavin and for the Club – many congratulations. Gavin also competed with great distinction in the Irish Amateur Close Tournament – well done Gav.

Pro Shop

Stephen Ennis continues to provide a first class service to our members. The Club has a professional and a pro-shop to be proud of. The construction of a top class indoor training facility is a great addition to the club. Stephen recently recruited Tadgh Harrington to the coaching team – this ensures that the Club has a comprehensive coaching programme available to members. Thanks are due to Iarlaith for his excellent work in the shop and also with his coaching role.

The Bar & Kitchen

The bar and restaurant are vitally 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 Hamill and his team. An upgrade to the kitchen area and equipment is long overdue and is a current priority.

The Clubhouse

Improvements to the Clubhouse and its environs are on-going. Financial constraints limit what can be spent on upgrades. However, the ongoing work of volunteers, who perform general maintenance, helps to keep the Clubhouse and surrounds as an agreeable space, to enjoy refreshments and a chat after a game.

A number of these activities depend on contributions from various fundraising groups - huge thanks is due to Gerry Mulholland, Pat and Clare Cluxton, Sheila Crilly, and all those who organise fundraising events.

The Club website is excellent - a big thank you to Philip Higgins for his ongoing commitment and time.

The Club owes all its volunteers a huge debt of gratitude.

Looking Forward

The recession has placed financial constraints on all golf clubs. However, with limited resources and the goodwill of its members, Balcarrick Golf Club has maintained its course and clubhouse, in a condition that members can be proud of.

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