

Balcarrick Golf Club

Men's Club -- Hon. Secretary Report 2015

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

Election of Officers and Committee

The following members were elected as Officers and Committee at the AGM, of the Men's Club, on 23rd November 2014. The names of those proposed for committee were listed by Richie Walsh, Captain. All those nominated were elected.

		No. of Meetings Attended
Captain	Christy O'Driscoll	12
Vice Captain	Paul Burke	Resigned
Hon. Secretary	Vincent Brereton	8
Hon. Treasurer	George Harbourne	Resigned
Ex. Officio	Richie Walsh	10
Committee	Seamus McDonnell	10
Committee	Declan McEvoy	9
Committee	Gerry Mulholland	8
Committee	James Daly	11
Committee	Willie Killeen	6
Committee	Gerry Dowling	11
Committee	Anthony Manning	10
Committee	Niall Foley	11

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 enjoyed a reputation as a fair test of golf, in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

This year we were greatly saddened at the loss of Past President, Philip Reid and Lady Captain, Maureen McEvoy. Our sympathies go to Rosaleen Reid, Declan McEvoy and their families.

Male Membership Numbers at the End of October 2015

Category	2015
Ordinary	266
5 Day	93
Senior	66
Honorary	12
Student	7
Juvenile	18
Country /Overseas	7
Total Male Members	469

10 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 treasurer of men's 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.

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.

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

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

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

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 first 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 also due to Iarlaith for his excellent work in the shop and his coaching.

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.

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 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 maintain the Clubhouse and surrounds as an agreeable space, allowing members to enjoy refreshments and a chat after a game.

A number of these activities depend on contributions from various fundraising groups - a 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