

## **BALCARRICK LADIES CLUB AGM**

**NOVEMBER 15th 2017**

### **MINUTES**

Lady Captain Louise Stirling opened the meeting at 4 p.m. welcoming all the Lady members.

She then asked all to observe a minute's silence for our deceased members.

Lady Captain said the year couldn't happen without the team work of her Committee and thanked them for their hard work throughout the year. She made a special point of thanking Teresa Ranson and Paula McCaughan (both stepping down) for their invaluable support during their time on the Committee. She outlined the very valuable support of Lady members who sponsored team events. She thanked those ladies very sincerely and she believed they would continue to sponsor such events as they all believe in Balcarrick. She wished our incoming Captain Bridie and her Committee the very best for 2018.

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from 12 members and 29 members attended.

#### **Minutes of the 2016 A.G.M. were read and approved.**

Proposed: Patricia Daly

Seconded: Grace Conway

#### **The Hon. Secretary's Report was read and adopted.**

Laura outlined the work and activities of the ladies committee, congratulated the major prize winners of 2017 and gave a run-down on the diary of events during the year. She thanked those who sponsored events over the year most sincerely. She also thanked the ladies who adopted a pot and those who shared the cost with others and also those who sponsored the hanging baskets. She said the club surroundings are greatly enhanced by their dedication and hard work. She also thanked the ladies who did "buddy" who she said showed great dedication to the ladies of the club. She thanked the team managers and those who contributed in a professional capacity in the office, on the course and the pro-shop team. She also gave a special thanks to the Club Treasurer Neil Stirling for the trojan work he has done for the Club which has contributed significantly to the turnaround in the Club's finances. She also thanked Jacinta and her staff for the great food and service she provides. She concluded by thanking Lady Captain Louise for her hard work over the last twelve months and wished Lady Vice Captain Bridie every success as incoming Lady Captain.

Proposed: Deirdre Concannon

Seconded: Mary Connor

### **The Hon. Treasurer's report was read and approved.**

Sheila said the Income for 2017 was €15,658 which was up €1,196 on 2016 and expenditure on competitions was €4,933 which is also up €330 on last year with a profit of €10,725. She said during the year we lost out on 18 competition days due to both adverse weather and lack of numbers on a couple of occasions. She said the interclub team expenses were €1,981 which was down €118 on last year. She explained this will fluctuate depending on how many teams we enter and how many rounds we get through. She said thanks to the generosity of our lady members we had all six medals sponsored this year along with the Ann MacMullan and six of the team events. She said our Open Day this year was a great success with 75 ladies playing which generated €744 and she thanked Stephen Ennis for sponsoring the event. She also said we had a good response in the match-play competition with 14 ladies playing the singles, 18 ladies in the 2 person team and 15 ladies in the mixed pairs.

Proposed: Una Campbell

Seconded: Ann Dynes

### **Handicap Secretary/Competitions**

Jackie gave a huge thanks for our ladies for sponsoring prizes this year again. She congratulated all our major prize-winners throughout the year. She said the major competitions and medals were well supported and it was good to see the winners range from 16 handicap to 36 handicap. She congratulated the winners of our singles, mixed and fourball match-plays. The fourball match-play was a new addition to our club match-plays this year and it was great to see it well supported and hoped all enjoyed taking part. She encouraged those who did not play, to sign up next year as we are a small ladies club and it would be great to see more participate. She thanked her fellow committee members who helped her with the organizing of the Rings and Match-play competitions. She said some of our Open Competitions (apart from Sundays we only had the one in June) were very well attended this year and the fact that we had an Open Day before our very successful hosting of the ILGU Quarter Finals on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June, increased the number of ladies who played in our June Open. She suggested an extra point be given for every visitor for 2018. She explained that it is a requirement from the ILGU that all match-play competitions, team competitions, away competitions, including golf societies, that a player must bring back a copy of her score card to her home club committee. She said the ILGU has also advised us that once the Handicap Committee has decided the handicap adjustments, the individuals will be informed and once the list is displayed in the locker room, the adjustment will take place immediately rather than waiting until January 1<sup>st</sup>. She concluded by thanking all those who helped her during the year, especially Marlene Kennedy, who has always been so willing to help. She finished by thanking our Lady Captain Louise and took the opportunity to wish our Lady Vice Captain Bridie every success in 2018.

### **One Governing Body – Golf Ireland (GI).**

Lady Captain Louise explained that the ILGU and GUI have been meeting over recent years and organizing meetings with club representatives with a view to forming one union that would represent all golfers.

**Why?** Because participation rates have been falling. Since 2004 golf membership in Ireland has declined on average by over 70,000 while 30 clubs have closed. Both male and female membership has decreased significantly (25%). But in general structures for more family involvement are being put into place in other European countries and golf is growing.

**Benefits of Golf Ireland (GI)** GI will promote golf as an integrated family-oriented sport for all – male, female, average, beginner. An enjoyable health-promoting hobby.

**Improved Support for Clubs.** Club support not a core role of GUI or ILGU but brought in and now under CGI which has limited capacity. New body will have special department with this function.

**True Governing Body.** No entity really represents the game. Important that one modern body can respond to all needs of member clubs.

**Empowering clubs.** The AGMs of current bodies deal only with competitions. Change will mean clubs will have say as members of the Governing Body.

**Improved Club Structure.** New body will remove need for separate men's and ladies' clubs. GI will work with clubs to develop range of efficient management structures.

**More funding for Golf.** GI will speak on behalf of golf in Ireland and will be committed to lobbying for improved level of support.

**Great Attraction to Commercial Partners.** One simple structure fits much better with the aims and values of companies today.

**Promoting an Equal Environment.** Countries with one governing body tend to have a much healthier ratio of female to male members – reflecting the equal environment promoted by the governing body.

**Improved Media Coverage.** Media coverage for amateur golf is difficult and often focuses on negative gender difference aspects of the game. GI would have potential to improve media perception by promoting the positive aspects of the game **and** talking negative stereotypes.

Lady Captain Louise explained that the above has a way to go yet. When it comes to a decision there will be a vote by the lady members as to who is for or against the final proposal. The club's decision will then be represented at ILGU level with votes relative to the number of club members. She reiterated that the discussions are still ongoing.

**Nominations for the 2018 Committee were as follows:**

Lady Captain.	Bridie Johnston
Lady Vice Captain.	Laura O'Farrell
Ex Officio.	Louise Stirling
Committee members.	Sheila Rafter
	Jacqueline Connolly
	Mary Murphy
	Una Campbell
	Fiona Donnellan

**AOB**

Deirdre Concannon said she felt a person of a certain age should be able to apply to the ILGU at the beginning of the year to use a buggy as one might need it from time to time during the year and can be too late to apply a week before a match. She felt it should be allowed automatically to anyone 75 or over. Lady Captain Louise asked if the ladies are still happy with the team event each month as there were some team events during the year which were badly supported. Everyone agreed there should be a monthly team event. Brenda Hayes said she thought the team events should not start too early as it can make it hard to know who to pick for the interclub matches. Teresa Ranson said the 18 hole singles does not start until March so it really should not make a difference. Lady Vice Captain Bridie said she brought up at the ILGU AGM the fact that she feels AIG Cup & Shields starts too early but it was explained that the ILGU must start when they do as there are so many involved. Bridie got no satisfaction. Lady Captain Louise said that regrettably a decision had to be made not to enter an Intermediate team in 2018 due to a lack of numbers. The range is 16 – 21. We only have 8 players in the range therefore we cannot field a team. She said we have 15 players for the Minor Cup and 38 players or thereabouts for the Challenge Cup. She said the lower handicap players will be in the Revive Active, Irish mixed and O'Grady. She explained that there will be a discussion at the AGM in January to raise the handicap in the Fingal Seniors from 19 to 22. Aileen James and Mary Connor said they were struggling to get people to play. Aileen felt maybe the money would be better spent getting new members. All felt it would be bad to lose this competition. Lady Captain Louise suggested putting up a List to see how many would be interested. Aileen said even with the List invariably people have reasons why they cannot play and there is no point in putting your name down unless you genuinely are going to play. There was a show of hands at the meeting which showed a 50% interest. Lady Captain Louise said the money for the Fingal Seniors is still in the budget.

Anne Byrne said re the Ann MacMullan Cup and Maureen McEvoy day would it be a good idea to join the two together and have a "Past Captains' Memorial Prize" making it one day. Lady Captain Louise asked where did the trophy come from. It came from Ann MacMullan's family. Lady Captain Louise asked did anyone think the family would be upset to change the trophy. Patsy McCarthy said

there is no one. Anne Byrne also felt the money should be donated to charity. This can be done if there is sponsorship for the day. Teresa Ranson said as the Ann MacMullan was a major the two combined could be a major and held sometime in the middle of June. All at the meeting agreed to this.

Lady Captain Louise asked why is there a shortage of interest in Lady Captain's Christmas dinner as the numbers on the list is very low. The overall feeling was that there were more for having the dinner than against. We should encourage our friends to come. There is a tradition of Lady Captain's dinner and everyone should come and celebrate the end of her year. We cannot abandon tradition. Most said they would hate to see it die. There will be some sort of extra heat on the night.

Before the meeting ended Lady Captain Louise wished Lady Vice Captain Bridie and her team all the best for 2018. Dolores Murphy thanked Lady Captain Louise and the committee for their hard work over the year.

The meeting closed at 5.10

Signed: Laura O'Farrell

Hon Secretary