



***Men's Annual General  
Meeting***

Will be held in the Clubhouse  
Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023  
at 4.30pm

**Agenda**

1. Minutes of last Men's Annual General Meeting 2022
2. Men's Honorary Secretary's Report
3. Handicap Report
4. Junior Convenor Report
5. Notice of Motion
6. Any other business
7. Election of Officers & Committee

Declan O'Toole, Men's Honorary Secretary

**COPIES OF MINUTES OF THE  
2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE CIRCULATED ON WEBSITE  
&  
ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE BY ARRANGEMENT**

## **Men's Hon. Sec. Report for 2023 A.G.M.**

The golf season has come to an end and despite a wet summer we got a full calendar of golf in 2023. The Men's Committee hope it has proven to be another enjoyable and successful year for you. In general, the matters of the club have progressed to our satisfaction this year and much credit is due to our Captain Paul McDonald, his Vice Captain Gerry McGrath and President Bronagh Stafford who have worked tirelessly to represent Courtown and its members both inside the club and beyond.

Our Professional team of Paul & Martin have done a great job in facilitating all our competitions, green fees & golf classics throughout the year and I would like to take this opportunity in thanking them for their support and assistance. Our new caterers have settled in well and are providing a very valuable service to our members.

The 2023 men's committee have put in trojan work throughout the year, organising competitions, analysing handicaps, entering and selecting interclub teams, promoting the men's section, actively seeking and welcoming new members, organising junior golf etc. All these things do not just happen at the start of the season. Each chairman has to coordinate their various sub-committees, get all relevant information, organise meetings etc. I want to acknowledge the amount of time that the committee and their sub-committees put into the club to ensure men's golf runs as smoothly as possible.

### **Teams**

Our teams may not have hit the heights we were hoping for this year apart from our Senior Cup team who performed the best of all the men's teams, resulting in an impressive run in the Leinster championship- reaching the semi-finals and a loss to the eventual winners from Naas GC. An honorable mention must also go to our Barton Shield team.

The results did not reflect the work and effort that went on behind the scenes of the managers and players who put in a big effort to represent the club both at home and away. The club has learned a lot in the last year and new structures and ideas have been put into action to build strong teams in Courtown Golf club going forward. We wish John Sheridan and Seamus Kennelly the best of luck as they will coordinate our men's interclub teams next year. Hopefully next year will see even more interest in participating on teams and allow Courtown Golf Club to be competitive across all teams and handicap levels.

### **Competitions**

After a slow start to the season competitions picked up during the summer months with a variety of competitions and a good mix of prize winners.

The Captain's prize was won by John Creagh and the President's prize by Liam Cooney. Aidan Quirke won the Summer Series and Shane Lennon claimed the Golfer of the year award. Well done to all prize winners during the year and commiserations to the runners-up.

I would like to thank all our sponsors and wish them well for the future and hope that members will support them where possible. A big thanks to all members of the competition's sub-committee for their dedication and hard work during the year and thanks to Laura and co. for their help with prizes and presentations.

Thanks also to Office staff, course staff, bar and restaurant staff and pro-shop for their help during the year. Finally, thanks to the members for returning cards and entering scores on the computer...a great help when finalising results.

## **General**

There has been a lot of work done on the course and clubhouse throughout the year. Very positive feedback was received on the condition and presentation of the course throughout the year – including from the participants in the Golf Ireland Championship which took place in June. An essential part of the programme to bring the course to this standard is sanding of greens and fairways- not popular with members but which is scheduled to lead to as little disruption as possible. Well done to everyone involved in the improvement works around our club throughout 2023. The new season will see the opening of the new practice facility – a vital part of the infrastructure of any ambitious golf club and one which will make a significant contribution to the Club for years to come.

We as a committee were delighted and encouraged by the many new members that joined our club during the year. We would like to extend a warm Courtown welcome to every one of you and we hope your membership will be enjoyable and fruitful and we look forward to your active participation in Courtown Golf Club for many years to come.

I would like to sincerely thank your Men's Committee for volunteering their time and for their hard work in 2023. Your committee consisted of Paul McDonald (Captain), Gerry McGrath (Vice-Captain), Paul Doran (Handicap Secretary), Kieran Murphy (Competitions Secretary), John Langan Murphy (Teams coordinator), Conor Flynn (P.R.O. Men's section), Joe Breen (new members liaison). Paul Doran's Handicap Report and Adrian Copeland's Junior Golf Report are attached herewith.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our outgoing Captain Paul McDonald on a great golfing year and wish our incoming Captain Gerry McGrath a successful 2024 season.

Yours in Golf,

**Declan O'Toole**

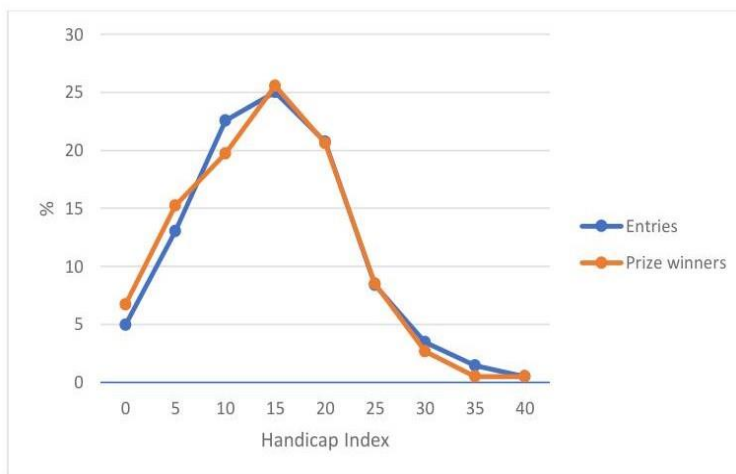
**Men's Honorary Secretary**

## Courtown Golf Club Men's AGM Handicap Report 2023

The World Handicap System was introduced in Nov 2020 and the Handicap Committee's broad approach has been to trust the algorithms within the system and also the integrity of our members to routinely record scores that reflect their playing ability. We have tried to avoid making sudden reactions to a player's recent results and have only applied manual adjustments after careful consideration. We are aware of reports that some clubs have recently adjusted a substantial number of members indexes. To some extent, this level of intervention appears to represent a lack of trust in the handicapping system, and as such, we wouldn't support that approach.

Further to our analysis in 2021, we undertook another examination of all Singles counting competitions in 2023. This involved detailed analysis of almost 7,000 entries in 61 competitions. We compared the percentage of competition entries from the various handicap categories (going up in fives) with the percentage of 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> prizes that each of those categories had won.

Handicap Index (HI) Category	% HI Distribution among 6,693 entries in 61 Singles competitions in 2023	% HI Distribution among prize winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) in 61 Singles competitions in 2023
+3.0 to 5.0	5	7
5.1 to 10.0	13	15
10.1 to 15.0	23	20
15.1 to 20.0	25	26
20.1 to 25.0	21	21
25.1 to 30.0	8	9
30.1 to 35.0	3	3
35.1 to 40.0	1	0.5
40.1 to 45.0	0.5	0.5



As can be seen above, the two distributions are very closely aligned. The results demonstrate that, contrary to some anecdotal negative commentary, the handicap system is actually resulting in a reasonably fair distribution of prizes among the various handicap categories. Some clubs have introduced category prizes but this analysis doesn't support such a move.

2024 will see a number of changes being introduced to WHS in an effort to further refine the accuracy and fairness of the system. We haven't got all the detail yet but some of the changes that are expected include:

- A change to the way Course Handicaps are calculated
- A new method of scaling up 9-hole scores or holes not played
- Using fourball scores for handicap purposes in certain circumstances
- A small change to the way a playing handicap is calculated on computer
- Additional annual handicap review resources
- The inclusion of shorter golf courses (e.g., some Par 3 courses)
- Using competitions between 9 and 18 holes for handicapping e.g., 12 or 14-hole (currently limited to either 9 or 18)

We undertook a number of tasks during the year:

1. Sixty-six new handicaps (including junior boys) were issued this year and the committee continues to encourage any member without a handicap to return attested scorecards with 54 holes in 9-hole or 18-hole format.
2. Two handicap reviews were completed over the winter months during the non-counting scoring period, resulting in a number of handicap adjustments. Both singles and fourball scores were considered.
3. A review was conducted at the end of the winter league and at the end of the club match-play competitions, resulting in a number of handicap adjustments for prize-winners.
4. A handicap review of all "team" competitions during the counting period was completed, (i.e., fourball, scramble and two-person team events).
5. The annual Handicap Review has been completed and all adjustments have been communicated to Golf Ireland – Leinster Branch. That piece of work included many considerations, including comparison between 9-hole and 18-hole scores, comparison between competition and general play scores, examination of "Handicap Change" report and "Last Played to Handicap" report.

I would like to finish by thanking the members of the Handicap Committee, and the Captain and Vice-Captain, for their contributions during the year.

Paul Doran (Handicap Secretary)

Nov 2023

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## **JUNIOR CONVENOR'S REPORT 2023**

2023 was always going to be a challenging year for junior golf without the practice ground being available. As you all know we had hoped to have this open by mid-summer, but the weather and circumstances conspired against us. Despite this it has been a largely positive and enjoyable year for junior golf. Our older group managed to get a lot of course time and the lack of a practice ground was not as big an issue. We had good numbers playing in our weekly competitions with 20-30 playing most days. This is above average for most golf clubs. The allocated junior competition timeslots are really appreciated and of critical importance for the success of the junior program. As with all golf the social element is vitally important to their enjoyment of the game and playing with their peers in these junior competitions is something that they really enjoy. I would like to thank the members for their ongoing support and patience in allowing this to happen.

On the younger side of things our Cadets section really missed having a practice ground. Despite this we held weekly practice sessions all summer with an average of 25-30 juniors in attendance. We used the trackman, putting and short game areas as well as a lot of on-course play and I would like to thank all the parents involved for their help with supervision of this. I think they still enjoyed it, but they did miss the practice ground.

Because of our limited ability to facilitate cadet members this year we limited the number of new Cadet members we took in only 25 as we did not have the space to for any more. The policy was that all girls got in and all relatives of family members also got in. Hopefully next year we can take more.

This policy on girls is a Golf Ireland recommendation. We have a lot of work to do in attracting and keeping girls in junior golf. We have 1 girl for every 10 boys in our older junior section. Golf Ireland are working hard on some new initiatives and hopefully we can introduce some of these next year. We are looking at a school's link program for girls with Creagh College and hopefully The Community School also. Having the practice ground open will be critical for this, however. I believe if we can get to a critical number of 20 playing girls, that creates its own social network and it will then grow itself. At the moment, we only have 4-5 in this category.

### **Junior Matchplay**

This year saw the reintroduction of the Junior match-play after an absence of several years. It was very popular with 43 players entering. In the final Ben Hughes defeated our Junior boy's Captain Darragh O'Toole after a marathon 23 holes. Congratulations to both of them.

### **Tom Funge Junior Open Day**

Our Annual Tom Funge day was held in July. We had great numbers playing with 77 Boys and 8 Girls. This included 42 visitors from 15 different clubs. It is great to see the numbers increasing on this every year. We also held a 6-hole Cadets competition and a further 40 Juniors played in this. Food was provided after, and it is always a great day for the Juniors. This year the boys competition was won by Aaron Gethings, and The girls competition by Caoimhe Geraghty.

## **Junior Captains**

Our Junior Captains were excellent role models for all our juniors this year and I would like to commend them for that. The Junior Boys Captain's Prize (Darragh O'Toole) was won by Michael Dillon (45 played) and the Junior Girls Captain's Prize (Aideen Geraghty) was won by Robyn O'Toole. (5 played)

The President's prize to the juniors was won by Fionn Ring and Aideen Geraghty.

***Adrian Copeland***