

**Courtown Golf Club
Ladies 86th AGM - Minutes
29th November 2022**

It was noted that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of taking minutes. The recording will be deleted when the minutes are signed off at the next AGM in 2023.

Lady Captain Mary Cooper opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking all for attending the meeting. She wished everyone all the best for the rest of 2022. A minutes silence was held out of respect for deceased members.

Attendance:

LC Mary Cooper, LVC Eileen Moriarty, Gay Gahan, Mags Greenan, Elaine Fitzgerald, Mary O'Connor, Jan Cullen, Catherine Quinn, Mairead Carty, Norma Casey, Andrea Godkin, Denise Kavanagh, Ann Morgan, Bronagh Stafford, Angela Merrigan, Anne Kearney, Noreen Caulfield, Janet Ryder, Irene Poole, Pat Kinsella, Sarah Donnellan, Mary Cleere, Gaye Creagh, Frances Swords, Cecilia O'Riordan, Maeve Duke, Margaret Jones, Mary Halford, Kate Sheehan, Ann Bernie, Ita Finnerty, Brona Dore, Madge Lillis, Carole Barnwell, Jan Cullen, Catherine Ledwidge, Pat Walters, Mairead Sunderland, Sue Phillips, Brenda Foster, Frances Swords and Laura Funge.

Apologies:

Catriona Ryan, Ann Wade, Annie McMahon, Janice McDonald, Norma O'Neill, Therese Steedman, Freda Byrne, Mona Moynihan, Denise Burke, Sara Killen, Bernie Collins, Eileen Cullen, Marcella Jones, Margaret Dooley, Anne Smyth, Ann Codd, Ann Deacon, Sorcha Howell, Ingrid Ashmore Butler, Mary Kilbride, Patricia O'Connor, Phil Clancy and Catherine Lysaght.

Minutes 2021: previously circulated and taken as read.

Proposed by: Pat Kinsella Seconded by: Mairead Carty

Matters arising: None

Correspondence: None

Secretary's report: previously circulated and taken as read.

The ladies Committee held 12 meetings from December 2021 – November 2022. The January meeting was held via ZOOM and all the others were in person in the Clubhouse. Golf got off to a great start in January and luckily there were no more lock down's due to COVID 19.

I think we can all agree that Lady Captain Mary had a very successful year. Success doesn't just happen, it is through hard work and commitment that it is achieved and Mary certainly worked hard and ensured that everything was well planned and co-ordinated well in advance.

LC Mary ensured that golf throughout the year was for everyone and while matches and competitions were very important so was the social aspect. She ensured that there was something for everyone, starting in March with a 9 hole, shot gun start – Champagne Scramble followed by lunch. People really enjoyed this format and found it a very social and enjoyable occasion. Quite a lot of people had never played any other competition other than the regular 18 / 9 hole competitions.

She introduced 2 new match-play competitions; one for people with a handicap over 30 and a 9 hole competition for people who play 9 holes only.

Lady Captain's day away was held in Coollattin on the 2nd July, followed by dinner in Courtown GC and it was a tremendous success, it was very well supported and a great day and evening was had by all.

LC's night was held on the 23rd of July there was a fantastic turnout showing huge support for LC Mary. Dinner was followed by dancing until the early hours. A lot of thought had gone into her selection of prizes which was greatly appreciated by everyone.

LC Mary attended the Management Committee meetings and did a great job representing the ladies and keeping us well informed in regard to discussion and proposals throughout the year.

Sponsored competitions started in April and ran until September. We had fantastic sponsors this year and a huge thanks is due to them. Presentation nights were held most Tuesdays for sponsored competitions unfortunately they were not that well supported and it has been suggested that we may hold a presentation night once a month next year where all the sponsors for that month will be invited to attend. This will be discussed at the AGM on 3rd December.

Congratulations to Mary Russell who won Lady Captain Mary's Prize.

A Survey Monkey was sent to all members inviting expressions of interest in playing on teams. Mairead Carty as Teams Co-Ordinator did trojan work in managing all the competitions that we entered as a club. Whilst we weren't successful in any, it was a very good season for the club teams, as we progressed much further in the competitions than other years. The managers and the players fought hard and gave of their best for the club. We entered; The Boyne Trophy, AIG; Junior Foursomes, Intermediate Cup, Minor Cup, Challenge Cup, Revive Active Fourball and Mixed Foursomes.

We did not have enough eligible players to play; Senior Cup, Senior Foursomes or the Junior Cup.

We were also represented at the following competitions; Australian Spoons, Granard Cup, Valerie Doyle Perpetual Cup and the Borris Cup.

LVC Eileen Moriarty managed the Courtown Interclub Shield which was a great day of golf for our club. This was a very successful competition with 18 clubs entering and all expressed a wish to play again next year.

We again held a Get into Golf programme this summer, a huge thanks is due to Catherine Quinn who put a huge amount of time and effort into co-ordinating and running the

programme. 8 ladies have now joined the club. The profit for the club after expenses is €3975. A huge thanks also to all the lady members who helped with the on-course section.

Finally the Winter League has been revived, sponsored by Cois na hAbhann, it is a short competition with only 4 matches. A lot of interest was expressed with 48 people taking part. It got off to a great start on Saturday 22nd October with the majority of players socializing in the bar afterwards in keeping with what Lady Captain Mary started back in March. If it is successful this year the competition may be extended next year.

A huge thank you to LC Mary for a terrific year, she will be remembered! Best of Luck to Lady Vice Captain Eileen and her incoming committee, I wish her every success for 2023.

Handicap Secretary's report: delivered by Gay Gahan

The World Handicap Index systems has now been in place for a few years and we are all getting to understand how it works. It is acknowledged that it's a fair system and accurately portrays a players' current ability as a player's index can move up or down depending on their performance. Though there are restrictions in place to slow the increase in a members Handicap Index after 3 points of an increase and it caps it at 5 points for any one year. The Club's Handicap committee still has the responsibility to ensure that a Player's Handicap Index is reflective of a player's demonstrated ability.

During the year the Handicap Committee conducted a review of members handicaps by reviewing all of the team competitions (fourball, 2-person team, waltz etc) along with match play which resulted in a number of members receiving adjustments to their handicaps. This process will continue throughout the year and adjustments made as necessary rather than all happening at year end. During this year we had 46 players receiving adjustments. All Year End Handicap Reports have been submitted to Golf Ireland as per guidelines. Each players have a responsibility to ensure that their Handicap Index is correct and part of this process is to ensure that they return all better than scratch score cards from other competitions that are not captured on the Handicap Master scoreboard as they are used in the continuous handicap review. Your handicap index is calculated on the scores you enter on qualifying competitions and on general play scores which can be entered by way of the Golf Ireland app.

During the year 40% of our members with fully developed handicaps improved their handicap index. In 2022 we issued 15 new handicaps to Ladies and 5 to Junior Girls and with more working on getting their scorecards completed. We will continue to develop our review process in line with Golf Ireland guideline and instructions, as this is still developing since the introduction of the new World Handicap System. I would like to thank my Handicap Sub-Committee of LC Mary Cooper, LVC Eileen Moriarty, Ann Codd and Mags Greenan for all of their help during the year.

Competitions

2022 has been a good year for competitions with qualifying competitions running from 5th April to 15th October. During the year we ran 45 - 18 Hole competitions of which 28 of them were qualifying, we had an average of 49 players with a high of 131 during the summer to a low of 9 during the winter. On the 9 Holes side we ran 42 competitions of which 27 were qualifying with an average of 21 players with a high of 31 and a low of 3 due to bad

weather. We brought back a bit of variety in the competitions by including scotch foursomes, waltz and fourball. There was also 11 Senior Open days and another due in December along with the weekend competitions. I would like to thank the Men's Competition Committee for all of their work on the weekend competitions.

Thank you to all of the committee members who helped with card checking and the closing out of the competitions every week and weekends, it is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank Margaret Jones for her tutoring and patience as I got to grips with the Rules of Handicapping.

We have completed some analysis on handicap categories and prize winnings. The winning score on the qualifying 18 Hole competition during the year was 40 on average with a high of 48 and a low of 33. On the 9 Hole competition we had an average of 20 with a high of 24 and a low of 17 very similar to the 18 Hole competition.

The chart below details the number of members in each handicap category along with % winnings per handicap category. This gives an interesting insight to the distribution of prizes between categories.

Handicap Category	Number of members	% Distribution of Members	% Distribution of 1st Prizes	% Distribution of 2nd Prizes	% Distribution of 3rd Prizes
0 - 9	6	3%	8%	10%	8%
10 - 19	7	3%	8%	14%	18%
20 - 29	66	28%	40%	44%	34%
30 - 39	92	39%	24%	20%	26%
40 - 49	52	22%	20%	12%	12%
50 +	10	4%	0%	0%	2%
	233				

I would like to congratulate our Lady Captain Mary on a very successful year and thank her for all her help in my getting up to speed on my job. I wish Eileen every success in 2023.

Junior Convenor's report: delivered by LVC Eileen Moriarty

The junior section in Courtown continues to thrive. It is heartening to see so many enthusiastic junior golfers in the club but the main challenge is to retain the numbers and to attract new members especially girls as we have 138 boys but only 48 girls.

With our younger junior cohort, we reached capacity this year with membership numbers in that any further increases would have presented challenges in terms of being able to safely deliver coaching. 35 of those girls were in that cohort.

Overview of the Junior Program in Courtown

The coaching and competitive elements of the junior golf program are tailored for each cohort.

The junior golf season started in early April this year.

The junior golf program in Courtown splits junior golfers into two different cohorts based on a combination of age and golfing ability.

The first cohort is the Junior Cadets (Stage 1 & 2), which caters for novices and less experienced junior golfers. Junior Cadets can start from age 7 and typically progress to the next stage of junior golf by age 12 or 13. Progression to the next stage can be brought forward if a junior golfer shows advanced ability relative to their peer group.

The second cohort is the Stage 3 & 4 juniors. The children in this group are typically aged 12 or 13 and up, and are generally more experienced and more advanced golfers than the Junior Cadets.

Coaching for junior cadets focuses more on golfing fundamentals combined with fun games and activities. The competitive aspect is more relaxed, with scramble events as opposed to individual competition, and a more relaxed approach to the rules.

Coaching for the Stages 3 & 4 juniors is more advanced and sessions tend to be targeted on specific aspects of the game. Stage 3 & 4 juniors have also had extensive access to the trackman technology in the bungalow throughout the course of the year. A full schedule of competitions (both 9 & 18 holes) runs throughout the summer and during school breaks.

We had a girls U-18 team that competed in interclub competitions but unfortunately weren't successful.

A full schedule of Competitions was held during the year for our Stage 3 & 4 golfers. Our Cadets played a number of 'Golf Sixes' competitions; this is a fun team format played in a team of 6 (three 2-ball scrambles) over 6 holes shortened to 150 metres.

The Thomas Funge Memorial competition was played in August. Congratulations to Robyn O' Toole on winning the girls section. Congratulations to Caroline McGarry who won the Junior Captain's prize. Theodora Lande was our Junior Girls Captain. Well done to Theodora.

Caoimhe Geraghty enjoyed a fabulous year of golf also. Caoimhe won one of the junior majors for 2022, topped the order of merit for the year, and as a result of her golfing achievements, qualified as one of 60 to compete in the Girls Junior Medal Qualifiers at Woodbrook Golf Club in early November. Huge congratulations to her on coming second: having only been beaten on countback with a great score of 42 points. Well done to Caoimhe on all of her achievements this year. Her older sister Aideen is also an enthusiastic golfer and will be the new Junior girls captain for 2023. I want to wish her all the best and I'd ask all of you to encourage these young girls, make them feel welcome, ask them to play or put your names down with them for competitions.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Junior Committee, the parents of our junior members, and our Club Pro Paul Morris, for all they have done to make this another successful year of junior golf at our club.

Lady Captain Mary's Address:

Lady Captains Report For AGM 2022

Lady Vice Captain Eileen, trustees and members you are all welcome here tonight to our AGM.

I first wish to thank Ann Morgan for inviting me to take this post as Lady Captain. She must have had great faith in me.

2022 has been a good year in lots of aspects of our club. After 2 Years of partial closure, we were full steam ahead for the full year.

This also was our first year as "One Club System" ie one president President Noel. Thank you Noel.

The captain's drive was a great success back in March when I arrived in on my Honda 50 to a great welcome from a large number of members and enjoyed a great social evening in the club.

Behind every Captain is a very good committee

LVC Eileenyou were my side kick for the year I think everything I did was run by Eileen.

Thank you Eileen for your support. Eileen ran the inter club trophy very successfully in August with 20 visiting teams. There was a great buss around the club that day. Well done and thanks

Our Hon Sec Norma well what can I sayI knew the day Norma said she would come on committee I knew I had a great sec.

She was a very quick learner and took on the job willingly and was always there for the call on Sunday night planning the week ahead. When I said we I would like to revise the winter league Norma said she would set it up and that she did very successfully with help from Carol Barnwell Thank You Carol and a huge thank you to you Norma and continued success for the coming year.

Handicap Secretary Gay Gahan..... Well again new to the committee and was really in at the deep endthe first full year of the new handicapping system and really took it in her stride and did a fantastic job. Gay was constantly in contact with Golf Ireland updating herself well with the new system Thank you Gay For a wonderful report here tonight and for all your time and effort for the year.

Teams Manager Mairead No job is too much for Mairead she oversaw all team managers and managed the challenge cup. She organised coaching from Paul and match play games between the panel themselves. For this I thank you.

I wish to thank all the managers this year and all their teams for representing our club with pride. unfortunately, we didn't reach any final this year but one thing sure we travelled the country for the various matches and enjoyed the matches. Thank you all.

Competition Secretary Mags GreenanMags was a great ambassador for the club. She went to all the sponsors in a very professional way and got great prizes all year for our Tuesday competitions.

Thank you Mags for the help you gave me with purchasing all the prizes for my day and I have also heard back from the sponsors what a great person you were and I also agree with that

Thank You

Pauline Millar was assisting Mags in her shopping thank you Pauline.

While I am on the sponsor I cannot stress how important it is for all winners of prizes acknowledge them in sending a little thank card to the business (I am sure you all do)

Catherine Quinn ..Catherine has run the get into golf program for the last few years in a very enjoyable manner and as a result we gained a number of new members. A lot of hours go into organising and running this programme. It was is a great success.

Thanks Catherine Also thanks to all the volunteers who helped in oncourse experience every Tuesday evening.

Elaine and Mary our photography and PR ladies Again two willing ladies to promote the club on social media Thanks to you both

Jan Cullen new to committee this year and was on the bar and catering and entertainment. Jan managed to get lovely music for the party nights etc in the club. Thanks very much Jan. I would like to stress that the amount of work undertaken by the committee is enormous and when making a decision for the ladies section at committee level everything possible is taken into account before finalising any decision.

So a huge thank you for all your hard work and commitment for the year.

To the management committee for their continued hard work under the direction of chairman Vinny, Hon Sec Mary Osbourne. thank you all.

Captain Adrian We had a good year together and had good sociable days away in the neighbouring clubs with the visiting captains events. Thanks Adrian

Thanks James Timmons and all his very hard working greens staff for maintaining our course in such a fantastic condition all year

To the **office staff** Mairead and Eimear more pleasant and helpful ladies you could not have ... Thank you both for all the assistance to me during the year

To the **bar staff** Mary and Mike thanks for your pleasantness and welcome always

To the two ladies whom most people never see and they are always **Mary and Julie** here early in the morning and late at night cleaning the club thank you.

Thanks to **Paul and Martin** in the pro Shop who answer all questions and complaints in a very pleasant manner before one goes out to play.....

A huge thanks to **Rita Mahoney** who enhanced the club with flowers for the last 11 years. Rita decided to hand in her notice and retire this year. Thank you Rita and well done Now you can focus more on your golf.....

So in general it has been a great year for our ladies Our website was regularly updated during the year including uploading and updating policies including **Pace of play** and **Code of Conduct** these are well worth reading now during the winter holidays.....

Also R&A have Announced 2023 Rules update and this will be available to download from mid-December. They **will not** be issuing new books, it will all be available online only.

So this is another bit of light reading in the winter.

I wish Lady Captain Eileen and her new committee the very best for 2023

Thank You

Motions / Suggestions.....

AOB

NOW GOING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR,,,

“It will be necessary for ladies to have a fully developed handicap (i.e. 20 scores)”in order to be eligible to enter the majors ie captains or president prize

Looking back on Tuesday presentation evening and taking into account the numbers attending I propose going forward that our presentations could be grouped by 3 or 4 and then all prize winners would be able to attend and more respect and gratitude shown towards our great sponsors.....

Next year’s committee decision.....

Should we Cap our opens competitions...????? Discuss

Motions/Suggestions: None

AOB: LC Mary advised that the Conditions of Competition will be revised next year to incorporate a new condition which states that ladies must have a fully developed handicap i.e. 20 scores in order to be eligible to enter a major competition e.g. President's or Captain's prize.

LC Mary suggested, that having reviewed the attendance at our Tuesday evening presentations this year, that next year's presentations would be grouped in weeks of three or four so that all prize winners would be able to attend, showing respect and gratitude towards our sponsors. LC Mary has discussed this possibility with a lot of the sponsors and most of them are in agreement. It will obviously be up to the incoming committee to decide but she wanted members to be aware of this possibility in 2023.

Andrea Godkin raised an issue regarding the Winter League and Pace of Play. She said that it was very late finishing and wondered if anything could be done about it.

It was explained that the ladies play after the main competition of the day as we are only playing nine holes and that also people were playing the Christmas Fare as well as the Winter League which slowed play down. Hopefully the next outing will be much better as people will be playing earlier, playing the Winter League only and will be more aware of their pace.

Pace of Play is being addressed by the main committee.

Mags Greenan requested that people who have entered a competition always return their cards. It is very time consuming for the people who are checking the cards, when they have to look for missing cards. She also requested that people enter their total score in the box provided on the score card.

Catherine Ledwidge raised the issue of the toilets on the course and asked if there is any plan to revamp them. It has been an on-going issue now for years and it lets the club down especially when we have an open. Mary Osborne (Honorary Secretary) explained that the management committee have a plan in place to address the issue if we could just bear with them for a bit longer. LC Mary said that it had been suggested to her that it might be a possibility to build new toilets between the 4th and 16th holes. Mary Osborne said that this could be suggested to the management committee.

Irene Poole raised the issue of the removal of the cabinet between the bar and the dining area and asked if it had been proposed to the members as she wasn't aware of it. Irene felt it should have been proposed at an AGM first. Mary Osborne explained that it was discussed at management committee meetings and that notices had been placed all over for people to read. LC Mary advised that the wood would be reused to build a new trophy cabinet beside the lift.

LC Mary raised the issue of capping handicaps for open competitions. A long discussion ensued and a show of hands was asked for to indicate for and against capping of handicaps.

As the result was 50:50 it was decided that the incoming committee would make the decision following further research on the subject.

Election of Officers and Committee for 2023

Position	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Lady Captain	Eileen Moriarty	Mary Cooper	Norma Casey
Lady Vice Captain	Mairead Carty	Eileen Moriarty	Mary Cooper
Hon Secretary	Norma Casey	Gay Gahan	Jan Cullen
Handicap Secretary	Gay Gahan	Eileen Moriarty	Mairead Carty
Competitions Sec	Mags Greenan	Mairead Carty	Mary O'Connor
Member	Jan Cullen	Gay Gahan	Mary O'Connor
Member	Brona Dore	Mary Cooper	Norma Casey
Member	Janet Ryder	Norma Casey	Gay Gahan
Member	Anne Kearney	Mary O'Connor	Jan Cullen
Member	Bernie Collins	Jan Cullen	Mairead Carty
Member	Maeve Duke	Elaine Fitzgerald	Mags Greenan

All nominees were deemed elected.

LC Mary welcomed our incoming President Bronagh Stafford.

Transfer of Pin of Office: Lady Captain Mary passed the Pin of Office to Lady Vice Captain Eileen Moriarty.

Eileen acknowledged what a wonderful captain Mary was and thanked her for nominating her to the position of Captain of the Ladies in Courtown. She said that it was a great honour and that she felt humbled and privileged to serve in this role. She hoped that with everyone's co-operation we would have a very successful and enjoyable 2023. She wished Mary all the best.

LC Eileen then presented Mary with a memento of her year as Lady Captain.

Pat Walters as trustee and 'passed ladies everything' wished on behalf of all the members present to extend their thanks to Mary for being such a lovely pleasant Lady Captain who got on and did her job, Mary was given a standing ovation.

L.C. Eileen thanked everyone for coming. She brought the meeting to a close wishing everyone a happy Christmas and good golfing for 2023.