

Courtown Golf Club – Ladies Section
Honorary Secretary's Report
87th AGM – Tuesday 28th November 2023

The Ladies' Committee held 12 meetings from November 2022 – November 2023. Captain Eileen represented the ladies at Management Committee meetings and kept us well informed of changes and projects as they progressed. President Bronagh, having been invited by Captain Eileen, attended many of the ladies' committee meetings.

Golf got off to a great start in January and I think we can all agree that Captain Eileen had a very successful year. We had our first social day of the year in February with 57 ladies playing a shotgun start waltz competition with presentations and food in the clubhouse afterwards.

Early in the year a proposal to change the title Lady Captain to Captain with lady's name eg. Captain Eileen was discussed and approved by the ladies' committee and then brought to the management committee where again it was discussed and approved. This echoes a movement that is happening in other clubs and is thought to show equality. It was felt that this would be another step forward for our club and therefore would encourage new members to join.

Captain Eileen continued to build on the social aspect of golf by having waltzes, scrambles and introducing our very own Solheim Cup which was very successful and great fun was had by all. She also put a lot of work into ensuring that people understood the different formats of team events e.g. foursomes and fourball better ball. She ensured that the 9 hole competitions were the same format as the 18 holes, and this proved to be very successful.

Sponsored competitions started in April and ran until September. We again had fantastic sponsors this year and a huge thanks is due to them. One of our own members gave very generous sponsorship which allowed the introduction of the monthly medal which is given for the winner of the strokes competition and has proved to be very popular.

Presentation nights were held once a month when all the sponsors for that month were invited to attend in order to encourage more attendance and this was definitely a success. We all feel that it is really important to show our thanks to our sponsors and know that we are very lucky to have them.

Open competitions continued to have their own presentation night and these were well attended.

Captain Eileen's day away was held in Coollattin on the 2nd July, followed by dinner in Courtown GC. It was very well supported and a tremendous success.

Captain Eileen's night was held on the 22nd of July, there was a fantastic turnout showing huge support for Captain Eileen. Dinner was followed by dancing until the early hours.

President's Bronagh's competition was held over two days; 22nd and 26th August, again a great two days of golf were had followed by a great night on the Saturday.

A huge thanks to President Bronagh for her very generous sponsorship and all the hard work she puts into decorating the club house and grounds for special occasions. She makes these occasions great fun and it is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to Eileen O'Brien who won Captain Eileen's prize.

Congratulations to Frances Kavanagh who won President Bronagh's prize.

Mairead Carty, as Teams Co-Ordinator for the second year running, did trojan work in managing all the competitions that we entered as a club. She built on her previous year's success and our Minor and Challenge teams really did us proud. The Minor Cup Team reached the Leinster Semi-Finals but were unfortunately beaten by Baltinglass. The Challenge Cup team won the Leinster Central Finals but were unfortunately beaten in the All-Ireland Quarter Finals by Ballyneety. They were a fantastic team; Mags Dooley, Ann Morgan, Dympna Doyle, Mary O'Connor and Angie Dooley. Subs; Ann O'Shaugnessy and Ann Codd, Aine Roche, who was one of the initial team members and contributed hugely to the initial success of the Challenge team, unfortunately was unable to continue as part of the team due to injury.

It was a fantastic achievement to get to that stage, hopefully next year we will continue to progress further and further. Many thanks to all our very committed managers and players who give their very best to the club.

This year we entered; The Boyne Trophy, AIG; Junior Foursomes, Intermediate Cup, Minor Cup, Challenge Cup, Revive Active Fourball and Mixed Foursomes.

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

VC Mairead Carty also managed the Courtown Interclub Shield in which 18 clubs took part. This was re-introduced last year and again was a great day of golf. It also generated a lot of income for the club as many clubs took the competition very seriously and came to practice. It has proved to be a very successful competition with all clubs expressing a wish to take part again next year.

We again held a Get into Golf programme this summer, a huge thanks is due to Anne Kearney, Janet Ryder and Mags Dooley who put a huge amount of time and effort into co-ordinating and running the programme. The programme ended on the 29/8/2023 and to date 7 ladies have now joined until the end of the year. The profit for the club after expenses is €3290. A huge thanks also to all the lady members who helped with the on-course section.

The committee decided to trial a change this year to the format of the Turkey Competition as it wasn't very well supported last year. This year it is in the form of a Christmas Hamper Competition with a one-off fee of €10. The Winter League is the same format as last year.

A big thank you to Captain Eileen and President Bronagh for a great year. Best of luck to Vice Captain Mairead and her incoming committee, I wish her every success for 2024.

Norma Casey, Secretary, Ladies Committee