

Courtown Golf Club – Ladies Section
Honorary Secretary's Report
88th AGM – Tuesday 26th November 2024

The Ladies' Committee held 12 meetings from November 2023 – November 2024. Lady Captain Mairead represented the ladies at Management Committee meetings and kept us well informed of changes and projects as they progressed.

Lady Captain Mairead had a very memorable year with the absolute highlight being the winning of the All Ireland Minor Trophy in Shannon, 21st September by the ladies Minor Team! What an achievement!

However, it wasn't all about winning and teams, Lady Captain Mairead continued to build on the social aspect of golf, ensuring that golf competitions were available to people of all ages and capabilities. A new 9 hole competition was introduced on Sunday afternoons for both men and women and has proved to be very popular. This year there was a 9 hole competition on day 1 and day 2 of Lady Captain's prize and an overall prize for the two days. This was also introduced into the President's prize. This year also saw the introduction of a 9 hole competition on Open Days and this will continue.

Unfortunately golf got off to a slow start in 2024 due to the inclement weather.

This year, Golf Ireland introduced a new handicap system, where the 18 hole course handicap calculation now includes the difference between Course Rating and the Par of the course. Where the Par of the course is > than the Course Rating a person will lose shots and where the Par is < than the Course Rating they will gain shots. This means that ladies will lose 1.4 strokes from their playing handicap at a minimum in Courtown. For many years lady members have felt that the course rating for the ladies course is incorrect and should be re-rated. We have written to Golf Ireland several times requesting this. Following the new handicapping system we wrote again and have now been promised to have the course re-rated next year, 2025.

Sponsored competitions started in April and ran until September. We again had fantastic sponsors this year and a huge thanks is due to them.

Presentation nights were held once a month when all the sponsors for that month were invited to attend in order to encourage more attendance, this has been moderately successful but attendance could be improved. 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.

Lady Captain's day away was held in Coollattin on the 29th June, followed by dinner in Courtown GC. It was very well supported and a tremendous success.

Lady Captain's dinner took place on the 27th July, there was a fantastic attendance at the dinner followed by dancing until the early hours. It was a very memorable night with a great atmosphere and enjoyed by all. A great tribute to Lady Captain Mairead. Congratulations to Carole Barnwell who won Lady Captain Mairead's prize.

President Pat Donnellan's prize took place on the 20th and 24th August. President Pat's dinner was held on the 24th August and again a great night was had by all.

Congratulations to Lady Captain Mairead who won President Pat's prize.

Mary Cooper, as Teams Co-Ordinator, did trojan work in managing all the competitions that we entered as a club. She built on last year's success of the Challenge and Minor Cup teams achieving an All -Ireland win for the Minor Cup Team who beat Shannon in their home club of Shannon in the semi-final and Howth in the Final which also took place in Shannon Golf Club.

Achievements like this don't just happen, it is down to the hard work of a lot of people starting with the Lady Captain, her committee, Team's Co – Ordinator, Team Manager and the team players themselves.

Team preparation started early in the year with ladies practicing the 'Foursomes' format once a month for the Tuesday Competition and pairings formed that turned out to be really successful.

The Minor Cup Team was managed by Jackie Hamilton assisted by Ann Bernie, what can I say, Jackie and Ann showed fantastic judgement and management skills in their overall management and co-ordination of the team's pairings.

The team were fantastic and great ambassadors for Courtown Golf Club, I think I can speak on behalf of everyone and say how proud we are of each and every one of them; Ann Codd, Angie Dooley, Ann O'Shaughnessy, Elaine Fitzgerald, Mags Dooley, Mary Cooper, Mary O'Connor, Tina Smith, Gay Gahan, Kate Sheehan, Mary Osborne, Eileen Moriarty, Michelle Stafford, Mary Kilbride and Oonagh Grehan.

The Boyne Trophy team also reached the final but were unfortunately beaten by Killiney in Edenderry. Our Challenge team reached the semi-final but lost to Blessington Lakes. Both teams fought hard but unfortunately it wasn't their day.

Courtown represented by Denise Kavanagh, Catherine Bennett and Janet Ryder won the Valerie Doyle Perpetual Trophy in Carlow on the 7th August, huge congratulations to them. 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, Intermediate Foursomes, Minor Foursomes, Challenge Cup, Revive Active Fourball, Leinster Women's Trophy, Mixed Foursomes and Mixed Fourball. We were also represented at the following competitions; Australian Spoons, Granard Cup, and the Borris Cup.

Sarah Donnellan won the Silver Medal and qualified for the All- Ireland final in Headfort in October.

Huge congratulations to all our medal winners;

May – Ann O'Shaughnessy

June – Lucia Redmond

July – Michelle Stafford

August – Carole Barnwell

Huge congratulations is also due to Rosemary Ryan for a Hole in One on 11th of June on the 3rd Hole.

Lady Vice Captain Mags managed the 'Courtown Interclub Trophy' in which 16 clubs took part. This year proved again to be a tremendous success. People were hugely complimentary about the club, the course and the competition with many clubs expressing a wish to take part again next year. Our competition's secretary, Catherine Ledwidge compiled a very comprehensive volunteer rota for the competition so all volunteers knew their role and where they should be. This greatly contributed to the success and popularity of the competition. This year's competition was won by Greystones.

We again held a 'Get into Golf' programme this summer, a huge thanks is due to Mags Dooley who put a huge amount of time and effort into co-ordinating and running the programme. The programme, phase 1, commenced on the 7th May with 21 participants finishing on the 25th June. Fifteen participants progressed to the second phase which commenced on the 9th July ending 27th August. Eight people so far have joined to the end of the year. This programme has proved to be very profitable with a net Income of €5,214.50 for the club for 2024. A huge thanks also to all the lady members who helped with the on-course section.

The Christmas Hamper and Winter League competitions are now well under way, best of luck to all participants.

A big thank you to Lady Captain Mairead for a great year. Best of luck to Lady Vice Captain Mags and her incoming committee, I wish her every success for 2025.

Norma Casey, Secretary, Ladies Committee