

**Minutes of Club AGM 2023**  
**Held in the Clubhouse 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.**

**Attendance in Clubhouse**

Marion Siggins, Eamonn Siggins, Vincent Kearney, Terry Noone, Stuart White, Pat White, John Creagh, Gaye Creagh, Donal O’Keeffe, Rodney Farrell, Eileen Cullen, Pat Kinsella, Sarah Donnellan, Ann Morgan, Malachy Travers, Paddy D’Eathe, Catherine Quinn, Gerard O’Grady, Gay Gahan, Alan Gray, Tom Foster, John Morgan, Ciaran O’Donovan, Jerry O’Riordan, Colman Doyle, Jim Peppard, Hugh Carabine, Jim French, Ann Bernie, Steven Doyle, Evan Stack, Jack Gleeson, Mary Osborne, Laura Funge, Mags Greenan, Pat Noonan, Bernard Byrne, Richard Barnwell, Fergus Rapple, Stephen Redmond, Seamus Kennelly, Pat Walsh, Keith Reid, John Fitzgerald, Vincent Lumsden, Shane Mulvey, Pat Kenny, Cathal O’Donohoe, Conor Flynn, Neville Steedman, Denise Kavanagh, Eileen Moriarty, Mary Cleere, Patsy Asple, Michael Carty, George Kilbride, Tony Kinsella, Paul McDonagh, Eoin Devlin, Seamus O’Donohoe, Ray McGrath, Gerry McGrath.

**Apologies**

Martin MacDonnell, Paul Doran, Robert O’Connor, Linda McGirr, Brian Kenny, Jill Forsyth, Cliff Forsyth, Freda Byrne, Jackie Cuthbert, Jonathan Cuthbert, Marjorie McCorduck, Dymrna Doyle, Brona Dore, Paddy Dore, Muriel Walls Madge Lillis, Sean Lillis, Daniel Parker, Mairead Sunderland, Janet Ryder, Niall Nolan, Paddy Stamp, Dermot Bolger, Celia O’Riordan, Catherine Ledwidge, Mary Cooper.

Chairperson Vincent Kearney opened the meeting. He requested permission to record the meeting and such recording be destroyed when the minutes were collated and typed. Permission granted for this by the floor.

A minute silence was called out of respect to our deceased members and friends.

**1. Agenda**

Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.

Minutes of the 2022 AGM were circulated and available prior to this meeting and as there were no matters arising these minutes were approved.

Proposed by Pat Walsh

Seconded by Malachy Travers.

**2. Agenda.**

Honorary Secretary’s Report

Honorary Treasurer’s Report.

Chairperson Vincent then called on Honorary Secretary to present his report.

The Hon Sec pointed out that this report had been circulated and posted on the website and requested that this report be taken as read. He thanked the Members for his election as Hon Sec and said it had been a privilege to serve the Club on their behalf.

## Honorary Secretary's Report 2023

It has been an honour and a privilege to be selected to serve on this Committee on your behalf for your Club, and I present for you the 2023 report.

The new Club structure, now in its second year is working well, with the various portfolios being handled by the Committee, very ably and successfully on your behalf. The distribution of these Portfolios are as follows.

Chairperson: Vincent Kearney,

Finance Hon. Treasurer: Terry Noone, Bar and Catering: Jim French, Facilities: Martin

MacDonnell, Membership and Marketing: Mary O Connor, Sponsorship and Entertainment:

Laura Funge, Greens and Course: Seamus O Donohoe.

Club President Bronagh Stafford, Club Captains Paul McDonald, and Eileen Moriarty.

I would like to thank the President, and both Captains for their attendance and contributions during their year of office, and all the Sub Committees for their hard work.

In the absence of a Club Manager a huge amount of work was covered by the office staff, Mairead and Eimear, always helpful and obliging and ably assisted by Gay Gahan. Many thanks to them for their help and support during the year.

In addition to a number of ancillary meetings, 12 full Management Committee meetings took place.

Despite the above average rainfall, a huge amount of work went into the Course this year. Additional drainage, the felling of dangerous trees on the 16<sup>th</sup>, sanding and hollow coring programmes, and general course maintenance. This is an ongoing programme from which we will reap the benefits in the future. James and his staff have kept the course in excellent condition. Big thanks to Seamus and his team, for all their efforts and work to date and not forgetting the amount of voluntary work carried out by our members.

Unfortunately, our practice area suffered at least 3 separate setbacks due to severe weather conditions. Hopefully we can look forward to reopening it early 2024. Suitable bays and safety netting are under review for this area. It must be stressed how important it is as well, that all members help to keep the course in good shape by repairing pitch marks and divots, raking bunkers and the careful use buggies. Please be aware of your pace of play and how it affects the rest of the competitors, which can necessitate the use of Course Rangers on occasions.

New buggies were purchased early in the year and a Roughs mower.

The Club has applied for an electric charging EV facility which is part of The Shared Island Sports Club EV Charging Schem. This installation is free of charge to clubs who meet with the necessary criteria and is in conjunction with Golf Ireland. This would be in a suitable location in the carpark following an inspection by the suppliers, ZEVI.

A further grant was applied for to create a short game area, as this is a Government Scheme, we will await results.

A Health and Safety inspection also took place and all areas indicated by the Fire Officer to be dealt with, have been attended to i.e. emergency lighting, fire safety upgrades etc. Most of this work was ably organised by Martin MacDonnell.

The Trackman studio helped us greatly during the bad weather conditions, and provided competitions which were well supported by our members. These will continue into 2024, and a thanks to all those who organised these, and sponsored prizes.

Our Sponsors have been very generous again this year and many thanks to them, as this is a huge support to the club and is very much appreciated. Any members wishing to provide sponsorship please contact the office.

The Clubhouse interior received a facelift with redecoration of the bar /restaurant area and with the removal of the window lower studding to create an enhanced view from the bar. In addition to this, replacement glazing and repairs to some of the upper and lower windows helped as well. Again, this work was carried out mainly by volunteers, mustered and ably assisted and directed by our Chairperson Vincent. New match play boards were also installed.

The roof on the entrance side of the Clubhouse, required considerable repair work to address some major internal leaks. This has been done but from recent inspections, it would appear further work at the rear and side will be required to totally rectify this problem.

We welcomed in our new Caterer's headed up by Mr Anslem Diaz and wish them success, and will work with them to provide a suitable Menu, and food for our Members, Visitors and Staff.

Planning permission has been granted for a new trolley shed, which will be located off the car park, work on this project will commence shortly. The exit from the course at the 18<sup>th</sup> hole is also under review, with the intention of widening it and providing a facility for the cleaning of buggies and trollies on exiting the course. Further plans for access to the Bar/Restaurant area from course side are being investigated and costed.

During 2023 a full calendar of competition events took place, both within our own Club and in addition to a number of Inter Club matches.

A huge amount of background work goes into keeping this operation going, and this is no easy job, checking cards, adjusting and controlling handicaps, setting up and closing competitions, contacting winners. A big thank you to all, for your time and effort spent carrying out these tasks.

It is a great honour to represent the Club and be picked for Club teams, and it also requires a big commitment from those involved, players, team managers and selectors. Thank you all for the efforts and the success which you achieved during the year.

A new format will be introduced this year to select, coach, and train teams well in advance of any scheduled Inter Club Competitions. Congratulations to all our Major Club competition prize winners.

Our Pro-shop Staff, Paul and Martin, with some help from Taylor, have been very good and always available for advice and help in the shop, at the Trackman, and with the coaching of Juniors. Juniors are a very important section of the Club and will hopefully compete and represent the Club in the future. Well done to the Junior committee who organised and ran a number of competitions during the year, which were well supported. Thanks to our Junior Captains of 2023, Darragh and Aideen, and wish them all the best for the future.

The Bar traded well, despite many weeks of course closure and thanks to Mick, Mary and the staff for their welcoming approach and for looking after us. Let us not forget Mary and Julie who keep our Clubhouse in excellent condition.

Unfortunately, we lost a number of Members during the year, one of which was a Trustee, and as one other Trustee will be retiring from his position, this will require the appointment of two Trustees. The Management Committee has met with the Trustees and agreed to have these posts filled.

I would particularly like to thank our Chairperson Vincent for his assistance to me, and his efforts, work, guidance, and foresight, into the future needs of the Club.

I will now hand you over to our Hon Treasurer Terry for his financial report and thank him for his management of our Clubs finances.

Yours in Golf  
Honorary Secretary  
Donal O Keeffe.

Chairperson Vincent enquired if there were any questions regarding the Hon Sec report. There were no questions in regard to this report.

Chairperson Vincent then asked the Hon Treasurer Terry Noone to present his report.

#### **Honorary Treasurer's Report.**

Terry made the point that, like the Hon Secretary's report, his report was also posted on the website and made available to the members. He requested that it also be taken as read, and was prepared to answer any questions regarding same. Terry asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Denise Kavanagh enquired about the costings for the practice area.

Have the grants we received for the practice area been reflected in the accounts?

Terry confirmed that these have been reflected in both years 2022/2023, as these grants came through. These were reflected in so far as we capitalised the costs net of the grants we received in particular years. Denise wanted to clarify the following: it was agreed to spend 180k and we were to receive grants of 96k. Cost of practice area net of grant should be 84k and in 2022, we spent 58k, in 2023 we spent 53k, which is 111k. If it is intended to spend another 20k in 2024, this would come to 131k versus 84k. This would be an overspend 47k.

Terry replied that it was decided that while the contractors were on site it would be prudent to look at the short game area too, which was not in the original costings, instead of requiring DAR golf to return, which would have cost an estimated 50k on top of that, so an executive decision to go ahead with this work was made.

Chairperson Vincent clarified that no more money is to be spent on the practice area as this is now finished. If we require bays, these were not in the original budget. He also pointed out that the area had been destroyed 3 times by the weather, and required 3 additional return visits by Dar, only one of these visits cost the club money, 8k. The base, which is for bays, was not part of the DAR contract also cost money as well.

Steven Redmond. Enquired what was the projected income for the practice area.

Terry anticipated that this income could be in the region of 10k per annum when fully operational, and when knowledge of the facilities becomes known, in our budget we are projecting at least 10k per annum.

As there were no further questions the Chairperson requested that the accounts accepted.

Proposed by: Cathal O'Donohoe.

Seconded by: Michael Carthy.

### **3. Motions**

Chairperson Vincent pointed out that there was only one motion for this meeting which is from the Management Committee.

This is a composite motion which has been circulated to members and intends to address any deficiencies we have come across with the benefit of our experience with the major Constitutional changes which were approved at our EGM in October 2021.

That Constitution has been proved to be very beneficial in the smooth running of the club over the past two years, with new roles for the Club Chairman, Club President, and Management Committee. Having reviewed the actual workings of the new Constitution we have a few tidying up amendments to better reflect the original intention of the changes with the benefit of the past two years of experience. We have also taken the opportunity to limit the term of future Trustees to a period of seven years, as this is considered best practice. The individual amendments formal composite Proposal for the AGM to consider and approve.

Chairperson Vincent,

Outlined the two new clauses before going through the actual detail.

We have looked at the duties and powers of the Club President and this is what is proposed to be put into the new Constitution.

The Management Committee shall nominate the Club President with advice from either the Gents or Ladies golf Committees on a male /female rota each year for election at the Club AGM. The position of Club President is largely ambassadorial in nature and is for a term of one year. The Club President may attend Management Committee meetings but will have no voting rights.

The Club President should be kept informed by respective Captains in relation to Golf related matters and may be invited to attend the Golf Committees as required.

The new clause regarding Trustees:

There shall be five Trustees in number in Courtown Golf Club, this number remains the same. They shall remain in office for a period seven years, from the date of appointment or until they resign, or cease to be an ordinary member of the Club, or die, or be removed by a resolution passed at a special EGM or AGM of the Club by a majority of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at such meeting. The term of the current Trustees, who are serving on the date of the AGM held today, will not be restricted to the new seven year term, but will still be subject to the other rules above as to, resignation, ordinary membership, death, or removal by resolution. These are the two main changes to the Constitution.

The other changes are very minor changes, including the role of President as part of the structure of the Club and clarifying duties and powers of the President. Changing references Lady Captain, Lady Vice Captain, Lady Hon Sec, to, Ladies Captain, Ladies Vice Captain, Ladies Hon Sec. They are basically all the changes recommended by the Management Committee which were discussed at length during Management Committee meetings and would ask the members would endorse them.

Take any questions on this motion.

As no questions were raised on this Motion we will go to a vote.

This vote was taken and was carried unanimously and there were no objections.

#### **4. Revision of subscription and entrance fee.**

Chairperson Vincent proposed that there would be no increase in the entrance fee for two reasons. Firstly, in order to qualify for grants the Club must keep this below 1k, and secondly, we wish to attract new members.

We are proposing a 59euro across the board increase in our subscription for 2024 on all adult categories. This amount just evens up the Subscription.

Vincent requested Hon Treasurer Terry to comment on the main reasons pertaining to this increase.

Hon Treasurer Terry Noone pointed out that this year's accounts show a loss for the following main reasons:

There was no government support this year, and we lost members through resignations primarily due to the age profile of our club. This situation pertains to most golf clubs throughout the country. We anticipate a similar situation for next year. While we do our best to attract new members, the resignations outstrip the new members. We anticipate that the subscription income will at best stay the same but probably fall in the coming year.

A grant of 20k was received this year to support our energy costs, we do not anticipate this will be available next year. We are looking at very significant increases in costs going forward. An example of capital that we committed to for machinery replacement, when we put in the order for this equipment, we anticipated that the cost would be in the region of 147k but they would not commit to this figure. We were notified last week that this figure had risen to 190k. This is the type of difficulties we are facing into and makes it very difficult to budget for the future needs with costs rising at this level. Unfortunately, demand has outstripped supply in relation to machinery, and they can charge what they like, likewise all other materials for the course

have increased substantially. We need to make sure we get some additional income to keep the club on a proper financial footing.

Chairperson Vincent wanted, prior to discussion, to advise the members regarding what committees had done and changes that had taken place in the last three years.

The ClubNet system was introduced to replace 5 other systems saving 3k on their subscriptions and a saving on efficiency also as one system requires only one input.

We had an external bookkeeper this is now being done inhouse in the office.

There were 2.5 staff in the office plus a manager, there are now just two staff, Mairead and Eimear, this has resulted in significant wage reduction, however this is very tight and some level of support may be required in the future.

We no longer employ a course ranger and this is now being done on a member voluntary basis.

The control of lockers, trolley shed and buggy yard have been taken over to ensure that everyone is correctly invoiced and are forensic about collection of subscriptions removing the ability of non or slow payers to put their names on the time sheets. We will also have embedded income of

approximately 20k from trolley shed, buggy park, lockers, simulator, and the practice area.

Hon Treasurer Terry has been responsible for the introduction of a new robust accounting system again improving efficiencies.

If we compare our subscriptions to other clubs, we are the cheapest in the area from Dublin down to Waterford.

Courtown G.C. gets 841e from the A1 category. This compares to,

Arklow 940, Coollattin 850, Enniscorthy 875, Wexford 890, Faithlegg 950, Tramore 1120, plus 500 levy, Waterford Castle 1220, Waterford 950.

Our proposed price increase amounts to 7% of the 841, while the consumer price index in the last 3 years were, 6.4%, 7.8%, 2.4%. that's in total 16.6%.

All grants that were available were applied for and received, however these will not be available on a continuous basis. You may say that when you add back depreciation, we are in profit to the tune of 110k but depreciation of 190k is a very real cost to the Club. Machinery constantly needs replacement, roof repairs were very expensive this year, sand, chemicals, and diesel have soared in price since the last subscription increase. The carpet in the clubhouse has been repaired but will need replacement in the next few years. We are aware that Enniscorthy are seeking an increase in subscription of 100e this year and New Ross 75e. It is our belief that Courtown is run efficiently for the benefit of the members with any expenditure heavily weighted towards the course and the golf facilities, and I certainly recommend that you endorse the Committees proposal for subscription of 59e across all adult categories.

Chairperson Vincent then offered to take any questions regarding this item before it is put to the floor for a vote.

**Malachy Travers** - He accepted everything that the Chairperson had said regarding costs etc for the last year, however he does not agree with the proposed increase and feels our biggest competitor, Ballymoney and made the comparison with this Club which has a Subscription of 571e.

Chairperson Vincent made the point that we are not comparing like for like and this is a private Club and is a totally different model.

**Hugh Carabine** - He has no problem with the Subscription increase, but has an issue with availability on time sheets at the weekend due to Society bookings and could not get his name down a number of times during weekend prime times.

Chairperson Vincent pointed out that this issue will be coming up under AOB and would welcome his views at that stage.

**Fergus Rapple** - Made the point that over the past two months Ballymoney had been closed for 4 weeks and he had played Ballymoney recently and had to come in after 8 holes due to lost balls on the fairways and the general course condition. There is no comparison with Courtown.

**George Kilbride** - Fully supports the need to increase the Subscription and would like to know what level of income that the societies bring to the Club. If the subscription was increased more would that allow a balance that the members be protected to allow the members to enjoy the golf that we have up to now. He is concerned that in the future that the drive might be, on an income basis, to increase this society income to the detriment and enjoyment of existing membership. If this is interfered with, we have to look at what we would lose if we curtailed the invitations to other people to the detriment of ourselves. This is a fine balance which is not easy and George is in support of the obvious need for this increase and its conservative nature. Chairperson Vincent pointed out that the 59e across the board is the first increase in 3 years. It is relatively modest and amounted to €1.13 per week and the committee would like it sanctioned at this meeting.

The subscription increase was put to a vote and passed by an overwhelming majority of members.

#### **5. Election of Trustees.**

Chairperson Vincent said that the committee are delighted that Denise Kavanagh and Patsy Asple have allowed their names to go forward as Trustees of Courtown Golf Club. Both have served in various positions in the Club and both with financial backgrounds which will help with continued good governance of the Club. Election is by simple majority of the floor.

A show of hands was then requested, to accept Denise Kavanagh as Trustee for a term of 7 years. This was passed by the majority of the floor.

A show of hands was then requested to accept Patsy Asple as Trustee for a term of 7 years. This was also passed by the majority of the floor.

#### **6. Election of Officers and Committee.**

The following were elected last year for a term of two years and therefore continue to serve on Committee for 2024.

Mary O'Connor.

Jim French.

Hon Sec Donal O'Keeffe.

The following go forward for election to the Management Committee.

For Chairperson Paul McDonald. Proposed by Vincent Kearney, Seconded by Donal O'Keeffe.

For Hon Treasurer Terry Noone. Proposed by Paul McDonald, Seconded by Vincent Kearney. Committee nominees.

Richard Barnwell Proposed by Paul McDonald, Seconded by Jim French.



Fergus Rapple Proposed by Vincent Kearney, Seconded by Seamus O' Donohoe.  
Gay Gahan Proposed by Terry Noone, Seconded by Laura Funge.

No other nominations have been received for any of these positions and therefore are all are deemed to be elected.

Chairperson thanked all those for letting their names to go forward and called on our President Bronagh Stafford to propose our incoming President for 2024.

President Bronagh thanked everyone who supported her during her year of office and said it was an honour and privilege to serve as President for the year. President Bronagh then proposed and introduced Pat Donnellan as our new incoming President who is a great supporter of the Club, a very good golfer, and a true gentleman. He will be a great asset to the Club

Chairperson Vincent, in the absence of, Noel McCartan, last years President, was delighted to second this nomination. Pat is an all round good guy, always has the Club at heart and will be a great ambassador for the Club.

Pat responded and thanked Bronagh for her nomination and said he was humbled, and honoured, and thrilled to be offered this position, and would do his utmost to be a good ambassador for Courtown Golf Club in the coming year.

Chairperson Vincent before asking Paul to take the chair as he is now in the position of Chairperson, would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the courtesy shown to him during his 3 year tenure, with particular shout out to the Staff, [and by the way it is Mary Cleere's birthday today]. A big thanks to all the Staff, Committees, and the band of volunteers who were always willing to put their hands up when there was a job which needed to be done. Vincent feels he has made lifelong friends through his experience and many thanks to all for making it so enjoyable. Vincent wished his successor Paul every good fortune in his role. The chair was then handed over to the newly elected Chairperson Paul McDonald.

Chairperson Paul, said it was an honour to be elected as Chairperson of Courtown Golf Club and thanked Vincent for all his innovative vision, and ambition for the Club during his term, and Paul is looking forward to carry on in that spirit of innovation and with a basic vision of trying to improve the golfing and other experience for the members of the Club going into the future. A big thank you to all the volunteers, past and present, also big thanks to the Management Committee, and in particular Captain Eileen, and also Bronagh, as President this year. Thank you for this Honour and looking forward to it with lots of work to do, but with the spirit and general air of volunteerism, and energy within the Club which we hope to harness to improve the experience of all the members of the Club.

#### **AOB.**

On the business of AOB, there was a motion originally put forward earlier this month by Neville Steedman regarding Societies on weekends, but further to discussion with the Management Committee, we requested that, if Neville agreed, we would put this down under AOB and Neville agreed.

Chairperson Paul requested Neville to speak on this issue and raise his concern regarding this item.

The situation that Neville found during the year, as did other members, was that Saturday mornings / Sunday mornings are prime golf times for our members who are most important to our Club for finance reasons. There were many times when huge Societies, on start times 10am to 12pm, and on some occasions two Societies who took up prime times. He has been approached by other members who made the point that if this continued, they would consider leaving the Club. What he is requesting is that we move back the times for Societies to 12/ 12.30 pm to facilitate members. Having checked with other Golf Clubs within the area, already mentioned this evening, and they are all going in the same mode because members are kicking up because they can't get out. That is what he is requesting the Club to look at, to move back the times and to give the members their option for morning golf.

Vincent wished to clarify the Clubs present policy on weekend golf for Societies;

The Club allows Societies out between 10am/12am on a Saturday, this is the present situation. In relation to July and August with the exception of the 3 Parks, Prospect, and Tara meadows, which are on the same day, and Tara Cove on another weekend, no other Societies are booked for July /August at weekends. Two Saturdays in July and August are all that is taken up for these Societies. And said that it was Saturdays and weekends that we were discussing.

Vincent made the point regarding how valuable these societies are to the Club and gave an example regarding a Society Secretary, whom he met in the office and had come in to settle up his bill. He gave in a cheque for 2.4k, and they had spent 7k in the bar, 150 of them ate in the restaurant and a lot of them are members.

Chairperson Paul referred to points mentioned by George Kilbride earlier on this topic regarding finding a balance, and that is what we are trying to do.

Neville made the point that in his submission he had taken into consideration these high value bookings as exceptions, but it was not these Societies he was concerned about. He made the point that it was the smaller societies who take up members times, and don't come up to the bar or restaurant and head off. This is the compromise that he wants the Club to look at.

Jim French agreed with the point that Neville made regarding the major Societies who must be put aside because we know how significant they are to the Club. He said that we should also look at Wednesday bookings for Junior sections which on occasions have taken up many lines and cause problems for regular Wednesday golfers, and there is no reason why they cannot be moved to Thursdays.

George Kilbride made the point that the financial aspect of this item should be looked at and find out how much money the Club would lose by a reduction in societies and what the consequences of this reduction would reflect on the Club finances over the year. If this was not significant and, taking account of the need to look after membership, this could be established for next year and review membership costs and create a balance to keep the privilege of having such a great course. I am afraid that this might be impinged upon by too much society golf. What would be the cost be to the Club, if we lost this source of revenue what would be the additional cost to members to compensate for this.

Stephen Doyle. Returning to the society bookings, during the summer there was a huge number of societies out and he mentioned to Vincent that on some occasions a number of their lines booked on the timesheet were cancelled and these spots were not reallocated quickly enough to our members who lose out on these lines. He hopes that this situation could be tightened

up. He gave an example of arriving on the 10<sup>th</sup> tee and there no one on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and that these times could be available for our members.

Vincent pointed out that this particular society had paid for all bookings whether they turned up or not. On that particular day a number of the society did not turn up. All societies are contacted prior to their bookings to confirm their attendance and numbers and in order to open up the time sheet for members

Malachy Travers agrees with Paul, that a balance must be struck and we need to accommodate those societies that come here every year and support our club. On those days we could open up the time sheet at 7am. Secondly even for the Wednesday competitions and on open fairways, as well as weekends competitions are very popular and we should put the burden on visitors rather than members as we are providing cheap golf here on open competitions.

Tony Kinsella raised the issue regarding the number of green fees being allowed out, that they were being allowed out in fourballs, and even on occasion in scrambles. This slows down the pace of play for members.

Chairperson Paul replied to say that a good meeting was held last week with the rangers whose main function was to help speed up play, and during that meeting all other aspects regarding society golf was discussed. Some of these points were raised and will be put into operation. We don't want societies to play in fourballs, societies are not allowed to play in scrambles. There had been an ugly incident earlier on in the summer where a society was playing in a scramble. This society will no longer be allowed to play in C.G.C.

On their booking all society Secretaries will be informed regarding our policies regarding, format, ranger on duty, slow play and confirmation of numbers. We are taking a number of steps to try to rectify any of the problems that societies create but with a balance to retain this income stream. On the issue of earlier tee times that Malachy raised, we did bring back the first tee time to an earlier time this year. If we put the first tee back to 7.30am, and we are looking at society times to start at 11.30am, we would get approx. 4 hours during those couple of months.

Tony Kinsella made the point that members also play later as well.

Vincent replied to a point Tony made earlier, and wanted to clarify the policy which the Club has regarding societies. This was issued by email to the office, and to the Pro Shop, that when they are enquiring at the time they are told that there are no scrambles, when we ring them to confirm what their numbers will be, they are told that there are no scrambles, and when they arrive on the day with Paul, in the Pro Shop, they are told that there are no scrambles. This had come through the greens committee. This however does not affect Club scrambles on bank holiday weekends.

Neville made the point that he had observed people going out without sandbags and had enquired regarding this in the Pro Shop and was informed that this was not their job. He feels that this should be moved down to the first tee and make it obligatory to bring sand bags with them.

Chairperson Paul was aware of this problem, and if we can increase our Ranger number this would help to eliminate this problem and also ensure that the Pro Shop informs societies regarding this rule.

Eamon Siggins said he would like the Club to consider the introduction of society tees, this is not a new suggestion as societies that are not familiar with the course increases the probability of slow play. He also referred to a couple of societies whose behaviour was terrible, and who he would not like to see returning to the Club.

Chairperson Paul said that we can certainly look at the society tee issue and he had already been in touch with one of the secretaries of these societies and told him that the behaviour of his society on the course was unacceptable. He had apologized for their behaviour and as it transpired, they will not be returning to C.G.C.

Hugh Carabine wished to raise the issue regarding the raking of bunkers, he felt that a lot of members do not realise that it is their duty to repair them after use and asked members to please address this issue.

Chairperson Paul pointed out that these were issues that the committees try to address on an ongoing basis, i.e., divot repair, sand bag use, and bunker raking. On the general maintenance of the bunkers, this will be passed on to the new Course Committee.

Alan Gray referred to Nevilles comment regarding sand bags and the responsibility of the Pro Shop in this area. He wanted to know what exactly their responsibility was regarding the Club. Most Club Pro's take a proactive part in the activities of their Clubs.

Chairperson Paul responded - this will be brought up at our next meeting with the Pro's and, as their contract is due for renewal shortly, any of these issues will be raised.

Neville said that he is a great supporter of Junior Golf, and the number of Juniors playing and the way it is organised. What he noticed this year was the number of Juniors going out on the course in tracksuit bottoms and sports shirts. This is not their fault, he feels that that they have not been informed regarding dress code, and if so informed, this will be good for them in future. There are also Juniors playing in the middle of competitions, playing casual golf, and this was not allowed previously.

Chairperson Paul agreed and that he had come across this himself and questioned the players who indicated that they were playing a match, and they were allowed to continue on. However, this has been a problem and also the dress code was also a problem. This will be passed on to the Junior sections to address.

Bronagh Stafford said when she started golf there was a Junior tee box, and now the Ladies tee box is being used and made the point that these tees were destroyed this year. Can this be looked at.

Pat Walsh said that as a former treasurer he is also as conscious as anybody in relation to income from societies, and pointed out that if you did not get on the "BRS" at 9pm on a Wednesday night you will not get on the timesheet and you will not be playing before 10am the following Saturday. He would like to know what mechanism is required to change this, and wants to know how the "executive" will handle this and will they come back with a solution taking into account what has been discussed here.

Chairperson Paul this is something that the Committees are very much aware of and has been discussed, and as an immediate solution we will insist that any societies making bookings from now on, we will look at how late we can push them back till at least 11.30am, that would give 4 hours. Any societies that we have booked in, we can go back to the office and see what times they may be booked in for next year. We are talking primarily April and May and will look to push them back to at least 11.30am. This is the start that we will make in regard to this

problem. Chairperson Paul put this to the floor and asked for their opinions regarding this solution for a balance, to allow for members time, and protecting the income stream.

George Kilbride asked about pushing it back to 11.30am. A lot of people play after that time. The old system was 10am to 12pm, for societies to play. There was an occasion this year when there were 3 societies out on a Saturday.

Vincent replied that in the last year he pointed out, notwithstanding what was said, that there was a strict rule that 2 hours was what was allowed for societies and what we are trying to do is get the balance for members.

Obviously, we have societies booked in for this year and if we could move them say, from 10am to 11am, these are already booked in and this will be still 2 hours. This should always have been 2 hours.

Pat Kenny said that there was a motion passed previously which was that, there was no societies allowed in July and August, and also that all outings were limited to 2 hours, 10am to 12pm. He made the point that this would have to be rescinded before any agreement can be made.

Jim French pointed out that this was rescinded during his term of office as treasurer, as he had done an amount of work on timesheets and proved that there was huge amount of down time in peak months.

Chairperson Paul - this had been dealt with, and it had been agreed that there would be 3 societies during July and August to provide income to the club.

Pat Walsh questioned the way people can book from any part of the country prior to our members and some of these who booked were not even members of a golf club with no golfing experience and could we not vet these bookings. These were online bookings which the club will look into.

George Kilbride made the point that there is no specifics here, and nobody knows exactly what the record is over the last year and we should examine the usage of societies and then decide on what changes may need to be done to improve the golfing usage for members.

Pat Kinsella feels that there is nobody there to make sure that societies adhere to their allocated tee times, and our own members don't always adhere to their times either.

Chairperson Paul felt that this topic had been well aired and discussed, and that there are a number of issues which will be looked at early in 2024. 1) Societies tee times push back to 11am, /11.30am, and restrict it to 2 hours or thereabouts. 2) Tee boxes for societies, our policy for societies and their behaviour. 3) Review the Rangers as a possible solution to slow play and their interaction with societies. We will come back to the members early in the new year by way of a meeting, or newsletter or some format like that.

Seamus Kennelly wanted to know when the practice ground would be back in operation.

This should be open in early spring 2024. Unfortunately, as Vincent pointed out, this had been plagued by bad weather this year. It was hoped that it would be open this year, but this was not feasible. This will be an important part of our infrastructure and will be part of our income stream. We are also looking at options to provide bays to weather protect users.

It will also help with our team development structure.

Michael Carty made the point that they had been here 3 hours and suggested that both the Gents and Main Club meetings be synchronised to reduce the time spent attending them. This can be done in future.

Tony Kinsella wanted to compliment the committee on cutting down on heating- he was thanked by the Chairperson.

Vincent Lumsden wanted to know if there was a plan to introduce a new additional short game area.

Chairperson Paul replied that the club has applied for a grant again, for an enhanced short game area. We will not get any information on this for at least a year.

Tony Kinsella said this sounds to him like another practice area and the fact that we over spent by €47k already on the practice area. He would also like to know going into next year, what other projects there are and how they would be financed, for example the Pros Shop area and the new trolley shed.

Vincent replied that the plans that are in offing and are all subject to finance are 1) A new trolley shed, 2) New air hose area at the exit from the course, and one of the reasons to move the trolley shed apart from lack of space, was to allow for expansion of the Pro Shop. The purpose of these plans is mainly to create a road map for the future development of the club. None of these projects have been approved by our Treasurer. It is all subject to finance, however the trolley shed will be going ahead shortly but the other items including the new practice area will not be going ahead. A proposal has gone into the Sports Capital grants for a short game area, which would be located down behind the practice nets. At this stage it is only just a proposal. A further question arose on how much the Management Committee can spend without informing the members.

The constitution may clarify this, regarding borrowing money, however it is the responsibility of the Management Committee to allocate the resources we have to direct them for the improvement of the club, with consultation to the membership. In relation to the practice area, we got 3 prices for the long game area project. Dar Golf came in at €140k and were the foremost in the field. Our grant was €96k, so we felt we could afford to do the green and bunkers behind it, and the price came in at €180k. There was an information meeting with members regarding this in the green room.

This is the manner in which these projects are processed, and it is the Management Committee's function to allocate these funds.

Chairperson Paul ended the meeting by thanking everybody for their attendance, contributions, and for the approval of the motions. The key issue which we take away is societies tee times, and we will come back to the members regarding this. On behalf of the Management Committee, he wished everyone a Happy Christmas and good golfing in 2024.