



Elm Park Ladies Golf Club Annual Report 2023

2023

The year started Covid-free, and we could therefore welcome a large group to our AGM. Our out-going Captain Celia Morrissey was thanked for all her hard work during 2022. Our new Captain Clodagh O'Donnell donned the blazer, and her year began.

THE EARLY MONTHS

From January to March, the annual Spring Lamb Competition took place, signed up to by a large number of members. The Spring Lamb competition is a great way for teams of members of varying handicaps, to connect over a number of weeks during the winter months, in a keenly fought and highly enjoyable competition. The theme of this year's Competition was fabric types, and everything from sequins to denim was on display at the prize-giving evening. Team Ribbons came 1st with a whopping 353 points, followed by Teams Denim and Lace.

In February, we introduced exercise classes aimed at mobility and fitness for golf. Pilates and more general Golf Fit exercise sessions were introduced from mid-February and were enthusiastically attended by some 50 members, with very good feedback.

CAPTAINS' DRIVE IN

The Captains' Drive In took place on 4th March, commencing with a full timesheet for a most enjoyable Team of 4 competition. This was followed by the Drive In, an early dinner and dancing. It was a wonderful day, with Captains Clodagh and Greg arriving in full Bonny and Clyde regalia in a fabulous vintage car! The event was really well organised and supported by lots of enthusiastic members. €1,470 was raised for UNICEF (Turkey and Syria fund). Sincere thanks were extended to all involved in making it a day to remember.

INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS

The Ladies Golf Club submitted teams for many Inter-Club Competitions this year. Our team Co-ordinations Linda Clarke and Natalie O'Shaughnessy facilitated all the teams and managers throughout the 2024 Campaign. Teams were entered for:-

AIG Women's Senior Cup
AIG Women's Senior Foursomes
AIG Women's Junior Cup
AIG Women's Junior Foursomes
AIG Women's Intermediate Cup
AIG Women's Minor Cup

AIG Women's Challenge Cup
Revive Active Women's Four Ball
Flogas All Ireland Mixed Foursomes
Mary McKenna Diamond Foursomes
Bloom Cup Fourball

In February a team from Elm Park made it through the pool stage of the Eamonn Darcy Trophy, to the Semi Final in Woodbrook. 2023 was the first year the Trophy was run for ladies' teams. They were defeated in the semi-final by Woodbrook after a terrific match.

All of our teams played their hearts out, and we are very grateful to all the managers, players, subs and caddies who put in a huge effort to represent the Club.

Notable teams successes include:-

- The Senior Team reached the Ladies Leinster South Final on July 8th. They beat Castle in the semifinals in the morning but unfortunately were defeated by Woodbrook in the afternoon. We are so proud of their achievement and very appreciative of all the efforts put in by team managers Rory Butler and Bernie Grogan, players, subs and caddies
- Our Senior Foursomes Team reached the Leinster South Semi Finals in Druid's Heath and put up a wonderful fight but were defeated on the 20th hole. Huge thanks to managers Helena Sheehan and Lisa Matthews, together with their great team of players and subs

CLUB COMPETITIONS

Our newly appointed Competitions Secretary, Maureen Collins, worked hard to arrange a full range of Competitions throughout the golfing season. In addition to the weekly competitions, here are some of the highlights and winners, from the year:-

Captain Clodagh O'Donnell's Prize:- Anne Marie Allen
Captain Clodagh's Prize to 5 Day Ladies: Deirdre Howett
Vice-Captain Simone Barry's Prize: Sharon Smurfit
Professional Peter Morgan's Prize: Jean Bauress
President Auveen Campbell's Prize: Kathy White
Pauline Lee Perpetual Trophy: Mary Frances McKenna
Golfer of the Year: Jean Twohig
Ita Butler Cup: Aisling Buckley
Ria Kenny Perpetual Trophy: Mary Poland
Club Championship: Jane Conan
Senior Cup Matchplay: Louise Mernagh
Nutley Cup: Kathleen Biggar
4 Ball Matchplay: Clodagh O'Donnell and Sandra Thornton
Scratch Cup: Madeleine Canty
Congratulations to John Kelly who won Captain Clodagh's Prize to the Men

CLUB WEEK

Elm Park's very successful Club Week was held at in the last week of June. It continues to be a highly popular week in the Club calendar. Competitions for members and their guests were run over six days and four evenings. Club Week is a wonderful way to showcase Elm Park, where so many visitors see the course and enjoy the Clubhouse facilities, at their best. The weather was kind to us - an added bonus. Our enthusiastic members supported the Week in great numbers.

CAPTAINS' CHARITY DAY

The Captains' Charity Day held on 15th September, was a huge success. The chosen charities were Alzheimer's Ireland and Downes Syndrome Ireland. There was a full timesheet and in addition, great support in donations, tee sponsorship and prize donations. Despite the heavy rain, many teams of hardy members and their guests gave it their all in the Competition. Winners Paul, Oonagh and Louis O'Reilly and guest Willy McDonald, won with an amazing 102 points. Competitors and Dinner guests were enjoyed a delicious dinner and dancing to the fantastic "Duvet". A very successful raffle and auction augmented the fundraising effort and the Captains were thrilled with the final result which raised over €20,000 for each of the charities.

WELCOME RECEPTION – NEW MEMBERS

The Welcome Reception for our new lady golf members including Students and Under 32s was held on 18th April. It consisted of nine holes played with members of the Ladies Committee, followed by drinks and canapés in the Bar. President Auvéen attended. Captain Clodagh spoke, welcoming new members and encouraging them to get involved through competitions and teams.

EGM – RESOLUTION PASSED TO AMEND LGC CONSTITUTION

On November 27th, the LGC held an EGM to approve a number of amendments to the LGC Constitution. The resolution was overwhelmingly approved (96%) by voters at the meeting. The key effect of the resolution is that members in the Lady 5 Day Golf and Lady 5 Day All Sports categories now have the following rights:-

- To convene a General Meeting of the Ladies Club
- To give notice of or propose any motion at a General Meeting of the Ladies Club
- To vote at any General Meeting of the Ladies Club
- To be elected to any Office (bar Captain or Vice-Captain) or be members of the Ladies Committee

At any one time, there will be no more than combined three Lady 5 Day Golf and Lady 5 Day All Sports members on the Ladies Committee

There were a small number of additional amendments to the LGC Constitution, also approved.

The LGC was delighted that the resolution was passed so successfully.

CAPTAIN'S DINNER

This year's Captain Clodagh O'Donnell's Dinner was held on 3rd November. It was attended by President Aueven Campbell, Chairperson Nano Brennan, with a number of other distinguished guests including Tennis Captain Caroline O'Reilly, Ita Butler, and Captains from Foxrock and Edmonstown Golf Clubs. Personal guests of Clodagh included her husband Conor Finegan and sister-in-law Maeve O'Donnell.

Captain Clodagh was escorted in by Men's Golf Captain Greg Moore who warmly spoke about Clodagh and all the hard work she had put in for her Captaincy year. There were formal toasts, and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal followed by a fantastic Irish dancing group who persuaded a few brave volunteers to join them in the final reel. A great night was had by all!

TURKEY FINAL DINNER

The Turkey Final Dinner was held on Thursday 23rd November. This is the final major celebration of golf in the Ladies Calendar. Various cups, trophies, prizes, and Christmas hampers are presented for major Club competitions and Winter competitions. This year, we were happy to include the presentation of three prizes to Junior Girls were announced by Girls Captain Sarah O'Brien, together with the name of next year's Junior Girls' Captain (Emma Fleming). GI Bronze and Silver medalists were announced, together with Golfer of the Year (Jean Twohig). See under Club Competitions for list of winners. Beautiful hampers and prizes were awarded for the final major competition of the season – the Turkey Finals. Natalie Barrett was announced as Vice-Captain for 2024 by Vice Captain Simone.

ELITE PLAYERS

Emma Fleming topped the women's order of merit on the Bridgestone Tour following her wins in the Zara Bolton Scratch Cup, the Royal County Down Scratch Cup and the Lahinch Scratch Cup with a run to the quarterfinals of the AIG Irish Women's Close at Connemara Golf Links. In July, Emma continued her winning streak adding the Hermitage Scratch Cup to her Trophy cabinet. Her rich vein of form was sustained with a three-shot win in the Connacht Girls' Amateur Open Championship at Castle Dargan Golf Club in Sligo. We watched her in awe at the KPMG Ladies Irish Open. She made us extremely proud as she finished her 4 days after qualifying, to play the weekend ending +6 on the Sunday. We were delighted to see her proudly wearing the Elm Park colours on Day 2!

Emma also represented Ireland on 4 occasions - playing for girls' international team in France and the women's international team in Spain, Wales and the USA. Emma has been included in Golf Ireland's High-Performance Squad for 2024.

Anna Foster qualified to play in The AIG Women's Open, also another amazing achievement and a first for an Irish Amateur. Anna also represented Ireland in the European Ladies Team Championship in Finland.. Anna has been included in Golf Ireland's High-Performance Squad for 2024.

Rachel McDonnell represented Leinster for the second year in a row in the Inter Provincial Championships in Moy Valley Golf Club.

JUNIOR GOLF

This year, 24 new Junior Girls were elected to join the club. Our Junior Liaison Officer June O'Brien together with her fellow JGMC members, arranged Golf Sixes and casual golf evenings for beginners and they were a huge success. These events are key activity to getting the juniors up and running, their first foray into Elm Park for many of them. It also builds parental engagement with the club.

It was a hugely successful year for Elm Park's Junior Club with lots of individual and team success. June O'Brien, our Junior Liaison Officer, along with her fellow members of the wonderful Junior Golf Management Committee, worked hard to improve.

participation levels across weekly competitions, casual play, teams, matchplays and other events including introductory sessions and ongoing coaching. It was wonderful to see so many younger players enjoying their golf, particularly during the Summer months.

19 junior teams in total were fielded this year, with 7 individual girls and boys teams each and 5 mixed teams. Some Junior girls played on adult teams, including Joanna Dunne, Kate Fleming and Emma Fleming who were part of the Elm Park Senior Cup Team.

Junior Girls

Alannah Moran won the Gross Prize at Golf Ireland Leinster Ladies Trophy in Moate in July. The Girls' Golf Ireland Junior Medal was presented to **Amy O'Connor** who had the lowest aggregate of three net scores in June, July, and August. Elm Park's Junior Girls Golfer of the Year 2023 was **Emma Fleming**. The Club's Most Improved Junior Girls Golfer was **Amy O'Connor**.

Thanks to our outstanding Junior Girls Captain Sarah O'Brien who together with Junior Boys Captain Matthew O'Brien, worked very hard during the year, and were a great support to all of the juniors and to the team managers. Thank you also to their Junior Committee.

The 2023 Junior Golf Management Committee were Catherine Brady, June O'Brien, Dave Sheehan, Mary Sheahan O'Carroll, Isobel Bryson, Eimear Kenny, Stephen McGovern, and Ruth Hunter. Sincere thanks to all.

GOLF IRELAND

Golf Ireland continues to be a very effective and efficient administrator of women's and men's golf in Ireland. Elm Park Ladies Golf Club is very grateful for its assistance and support in the administration of inter-club competitions, which we enthusiastically support. We are mindful and respectful of Golf Ireland's aims and priorities, and its work to enhance women's participation in golf and in the encouragement of junior golfers. Golf Ireland is a much appreciated and valuable support to Elm Park Ladies.

CONCLUSION AND THANKS

The Annual Report presents an opportunity to thank our members who give their time and energy tirelessly to ensure our golfing year runs smoothly.

Thank you to those who helped with Club Week, Open Competitions, Invitationals, and special days in our Calendar such as the Captains' Charity Day and Play in Pink Day. We thank those who did the cards, organised events, bought and presented prizes. Thanks also to Captain Greg Moore and the Men's Committee, for all their help with competitions, results, and presentations. We had generous sponsorship for some of our invitational competitions from Aisling Moore, Home Instead, Newcastle Design and Rosalind Kilduff, and for this we are so grateful. Thank you to the Sports Administration Team led by Alex Byrne and to Professional Peter Morgan and his team. We also say a big thank you to our General Manager Tim O'Brien, Michelle Reynolds, Marisela Pritzker, Therese Aherne and the team in the Office; and also, to Paul Dunlea and his catering/bar staff.

Finally, sincere thanks to Club President Auveen Campbell, Men's Captain Greg Moore, Tennis Captain Caroline O'Reilly, the Management Board and our Course Director, Josh Keaveny. We salute the hard work they do for the Club and the support they give to the Ladies' Golf Club.

Clodagh O'Donnell
Captain, Ladies Golf Club
Club

Natalie Barrett
Honorary Secretary, Ladies Golf