



## Elm Park Ladies Golf Club Annual Report 2024

### We're Off!

2024 got off to a great year with over 150 ladies signing up for the "Team Panels" and the "Race to Dubai". Once our Teams Co-ordinator, Natalie O'Shaughnessy, got her head around all the new GI and Leinster competitions we had our Race to Dubai teams as well as our inter-club panels sorted very quickly

Everyone's competitiveness streak certainly appeared as they eagerly watched the 13 teams scale the heights of the "Burj Khalifa" on a weekly basis. Congratulations to **The Arabian Masters** who just pipped **The Dubai Duffers** into second place by 2 points. Dubai definitely came to Elm Park on the night of the Race to Dubai dinner and presentation - between the camels, the gold and purple beautifully decorated room, the amazing food, the fantastic dancers and everyone's Bling - it was simply a magical evening, full of laughter enjoyed by everyone.

Next came the **Captains Drive In** on 9<sup>th</sup> March which was a great day for Captain Simone and all who took part on the day including the Associates and 5 Day members who were able to play on the day for the first time. Although it turned very cold, it didn't stop members coming out to greet the Captains as they arrived on a Harley Davis. Whilst they looked and sounded good, unfortunately their golf wasn't quite in top gear as neither hit the green but a super €1,450 was raised for a local charity called The East Wall Youth Club. After watching the international rugby match Ireland vs England, everyone was ready for a gorgeous dinner and enjoyable evening amongst friends.

What energy and enthusiasm ensued across all the inter-club team panels where great friendships emerged, both new and renewed, especially during the "Secret Disco" evening! Whilst we were not too successful this year, our Senior Cup Team saved the day by winning the AIG Women's Senior Cup, Leinster South, qualifying for the All-Ireland Final in Carlow, where they were narrowly defeated in the semi-finals by the overall winners Douglas Golf Club. The Elm Park support that day was truly humbling and demonstrated how much the Senior cup panel are respected within the club and how proud the members are of their achievements, which also included winning the Darcy Cup for the first time. Many congratulations to the panel and managers Rory Butler and assistant manager Bernie Grogan.

### Competitions

All the Major competitions went off very successfully with the 1<sup>st</sup> one of the year being the **Professionals Prize** held in early May. Cora Robinson was the winner and was delighted with her prize of a very generous voucher presented by Peter Morgan. New member, Laura Dolan, was delighted if a little surprised to have won Runner-up - well done to all winners on the day.



Towards the end of May we played in **Vice-Captain Natalie's Prize** where the competition was fierce but played in good humour as usual. Ruth Skeehan was delighted to hear her name being called out as winner of Natalie's gorgeous Olive Tree. Congratulations also to Angela Moran who was Runner-up on the day. A very enjoyable evening was had by all and it was very special for Natalie to have her mum, Antoinette, sitting beside her as a very special guest of the LGC.

Next came the **Ita Butler Cup** where, in a good way, the Captain and Honorary Secretary managed to surprise Ita Butler with a presentation on all her wonderful achievements and influence on both the International and National Women's Golf stages. Everyone on the night was thrilled to learn about her amazing achievements and together with some of her invited family, Ita had a very enjoyable evening. Rosemary Ryan was thrilled to receive the cup from Ita on the night as the 2024 winner. Shauna Greely was also delighted to have been Runner-up.

In early July we competed for **President John's Prize to the Ladies** which was won by new member Suzanne Mc Kenna with 41 points playing off a WHS of 30. Suzanne was delighted to receive a beautiful Jo Malone hamper. Congrats also to Bernie Grogan who was the Runner-up. The atmosphere was buzzing and the great food and entertainment made for a very enjoyable night.

Later in July we played for the **Captains Prize** which was a 2-day event for Full/Associate members. It was great to see the 5 Day one-day competition being held again on Thursday this year. Between the lovely Captain's gifts and Mairead Weir's cookies, along with funny boxes scattered across the course topped off with a Processo & Cheese tent after the 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> hole on the Saturday, a very special atmosphere was created both on/off the course. Many congratulations to Helena Sheehan who won the 2-day competition prize of a Hanging Chair and to Yvonne Mays who won the 5 day prize of a travelling case.

Then in August it was **Captain Stephen's Prize to the Ladies**, which was also hotly contended with Antoinette Toole coming out as the overall winner with 41 points playing off WHS 26 and Grainne Hennessy being thrilled to have been Runner-up. Antoinette was delighted with her prize of a beautiful glass jug in a silver base.

All the internal matchplay competitions were successfully completed and thanks to Jenny Grier for organising and being the referee for them all and there are quite a few as you will see from the Results list below. Many congratulations to Jenny who won **Player of the Year** for 2024.

<u>Competition</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner Up</u>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Third</u>
Lady Captain's Prize (Simone Barry)	Helena Sheehan	Aoife Golden	Louise Mernagh	Suzanne McKenna
Men's Captain's Prize to the Ladies	Antoinette Toole	Grainne Hennessy	Rachel McDonnell	Deirdre Gleeson
President's Prize	Suzanne McKenna	Bernie Grogan	Louise Mernagh	Patricia O'Leary
Professional's/PGA Tankard Prize	Cora Robinson	Laura Dolan	Anna McNulty	Eimear Cowhey
Lady Vice Captain's Prize (Natalie Barrett)	Ruth Skehan	Angela Moran	Louise Mernagh	Lauren Dolan
Golfer of the Year	Jennifer Grier			
Pauline Lee Perpetual /Memorial Trophy (Cup)	Jacqueline Weldon	Barbara O'Mara	Rachel McDonnell	
Ita Butler Cup	Rosemary Ryan	Shauna Greely	Nano Brennan	
Senior Cup Matchplay	Louise Mernagh	Alice Spani-Molella		
Nutley Cup	Caroline Judge	Clare Bergin		
Fourball Matchplay	Mary & Aoife Boden	Emma Thorne & Hilary O'Driscoll		
Ria Kenny Perpetual Trophy	Clare Molyneaux	Sandra Thornton	Alice Spani Molella	
Lady Captain's Prize to 5-Day Members	Yvonne Mays	Oonagh Grehan		
Masters Competition	Bernadette McCarthy		Jennifer Grier	
Club Championship	Nano Brennan			
Scratch Cup	Louise Mernagh			
Golf Ireland Silver Medal	Nano Brennan			
Golf Ireland Bronze Medal	Jean Bauress			
Eclectic (formerly Ring) Competition	Ann Callanan			
Foursomes - Granard Cup	Nano Brennan Maureen Collins			

Australian Spoons	Clodagh Canavan & Lorna Kelly		Jane Cogan & Lisa Cogan	
Senior Ladies Trophy	Ros Linnane	Anne Clancy		
Mother/ Daughter Perpetual Trophy	Yvonne and Caroline Sheedy	Catherine and Siobhan O'Shea		
Grandmothers /Grandaunts	Marian Horgan			
Sisters Competition	Jennifer O'Brien and Sarah O'Brien			

### Other competitions

Captain Simone also introduced several fun and varying competition formats throughout the year – Shamrock Scramble, Higgledee-Piggledee, Waltz with a Twist, Greenkeepers Revenge, all which definitely provided another opportunity for “fun and inclusivity”.

For the first time in Elm Park we played in a “One Club” competition held from Thursday through to Sunday whereby ladies and men could choose to play on whichever day they preferred in the **ONE** competition. Whilst the title caused much conversation amongst members as to which “single” club they would bring, soon the message filtered through that you could play with all your clubs. Members enjoyed the competition and are looking forward to playing in future similar competitions.

The Invitationals were very well supported throughout the year and thanks to Sharon Smurfit who managed to get us sponsorship, not alone for all the Ladies Invitationals but also any Members/Mixed Invitational that the ladies were responsible for on the day. This was greatly appreciated by the Ladies committee since it was the first time for this to happen.

Unfortunately our planned Swop Day with the Castle didn't happen on the Thursday due to awful weather but those that managed to play on the Saturday enjoyed that great course.

Club Week was run very successfully by Janet Green and her committee. The weather shone throughout and the full attendance was much appreciated and created a busy yet happy feeling throughout the club. Many guests commented on how well the course was presented for which we owe a big thanks to Mark Sheridan and his hard-working team.



We went to Kilkea Castle Hotel for the Captains Away Day in November where the weather and course were kind to us and everyone had a wonderful day and evening. Many liked the fact that the course was not too far away from Dublin which enabled ladies to either play and stay or play and go.

### **Charity Day**

The Captains' choose two very deserving charities – Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind and Barnardos for their Charity Day held on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September. The atmosphere was amazing, full of energy and comradery with lots of chat and laughter from 8am to very late that night. The kindly sponsored goodie bags and Coffee/Sandwiches Van in the courtyard created such a buzz, which was definitely helped by the appearance of some of the Irish Guide Dogs with their owners. After a fabulous dinner enjoyed by so many Elm Park members and their guests, many took to the dance floor accompanied by great music. The Captains along with the Charities were overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone on the day which raised circa €80k enabling these charities to help so many deserving people.

### **Captains Dinner**

It's hard to describe what occurred in Elm Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> November at the Captains Dinner & Entertainment other than, it was simply out of this world. Certainly the men in attendance didn't know what hit them but loved every moment of it. It started with the Captain holding a drinks reception in the Rose Garden for her guests, past Captains and members of the Ladies Golf Committee with everyone admiring the new location which had yet to open. Then the magic started in the Dining room when over 180 members were in attendance and little did they know that they would be up dancing and singing after their 1<sup>st</sup> course when the superb Victory Dolls arrived and that was just the start of the entertainment which went on late into the wee hours. A fantastic night which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

### **Elite Players**

Elm Park are very lucky to have such great, young golf talent in our club, many of whom benefit from the club's "Elite Player Assistance Programme" which assists with competition and travel costs. Next year will see the introduction of another fund called the "Player Development Panel Assistance Programme" that will help with fund coaching, competition entry fees and travel costs for those on the journey to becoming elite.

It was a great privilege to watch elite player Anna Foster win The Flogas Irish Women's Amateur Championship in Woodbrook. She played in the R & A Womens' Amateur Championships held in Portmarnock where she played fantastically and got through to the Quarter-finals. She also represented Ireland in the European Ladies Team Championship in Spain just before making the big decision to turn Professional.



She narrowly missed the cut by one shot in the KPMG Irish Ladies Open. Anna has already achieved her 1<sup>st</sup> Professional Victory winning the 25<sup>th</sup> Maryland Womens' Open and has attained a European Ladies Tour card – how amazing is that!. Elm Park is so proud of Anna and have loved supporting her across all the events.

Another of our super talented young golfers is Emma Fleming who started her year by winning her maiden R&A Student Tour series in Portugal in February. Emma finished in the top 3 in The Flogas Irish Women's Amateur Championship and reached the match-play stages in the R & A Women's Amateur tournament. She was also selected to represent Ireland in the European Ladies Team Championship and in October she retained her crown as the Irish Intervarsity Championship winner.

Rachael Mc Donnell is another young lady with amazing talent and was selected to play on the Leinster Women's Interprovincial in July. Rachael achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Dunlaoghaire Scratch Cup and along with many others on the Senior Cup Panel played in many Scratch Cups throughout Leinster. Many congratulations also to Alice Spani Molella, Jen O'Brien and Jane Conan who achieved placings in some of these tournaments.

Captain Simone along with all the Elm Park ladies are so proud of all these players and congratulate them on their fantastic achievements in 2024.

### **Students & U32 Members**

Our Captain felt that this was a group a little behind other categories in terms of support and involvement, so following a review by the Vice Captains a new Student/U32 Committee has been formed whose agreed Terms of Reference include areas such as coaching, assisting players get their WHS and specific competitions. Thanks to Helena Sheehan and Darina Meagher for all their work over the last few years supporting the new female students/U32.

### **New Members**

Student to Full member categories, were invited to a 9 hole social competition with the LGC members followed by some drinks/canapes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the year. This proved to be a very successful and enjoyable evening for all. Over the year many of them have said to the Captain "how welcome and integrated into the club they feel" which is simply wonderful and exactly what the LGC wants to happen.

### **Junior Section**

Our Junior Liaison Officer, June O'Brien, along with the members of the JGMC have looked after and integrated the newly elected members into the club so well, whilst running the Junior section so efficiently and effectively ensuring it is a thriving part of the club. Many thanks and congratulations to Eimear Kenny (Chair), June O'Brien (JLO), Dave Sheehan



(JLO), Mary Sheahan O'Carroll (Treasurer), Isobel Bryson, Mark Dineen, Stephen McGovern, (child protection officer) and Ruth Hunter.( child protection officer )

It was a hugely successful year for our Junior Club with lots of individual and team success. The participation levels were strong throughout the year across weekly competitions, casual play, teams, match-plays and other events. General participation in club competitions was significantly higher than last year (average weekly turnout of 40 in competition). Congratulations to Amy O'Connor who won the girls Junior Golfer of the Year as well as the Girls Golf Ireland Junior Medal.

We fielded 19 junior teams in total this year with 7 individual boys & girls teams each and 5 mixed teams with an estimated 45 boys and 30 girls involved.

We also had lots of junior boys and girls playing on adult teams. Joanna Dunne, Kate and Emma Fleming were part of the Elm Park Senior Cup Team. Kate was also selected to play on the Leinster Womens' Interprovincial team in July, a super achievement, well done.

Our Junior Girls Captain, Emma Fleming, made sure that the scene was set on so many fun occasions ensuring everyone was going to have a great time. Our thanks and congratulations to Emma on being a super Girls Captain this year.

### **Acknowledgement**

Finally, the Annual Report provides an opportunity for the Ladies Golf Club to say a big "Thank You" to so many people who assist in making the club run so smoothly and ensure our voice is heard on the wider arena of the club.

It would be impossible to mention everyone by name but in particular we'd like to mention a few, so in no particular order, **Thanks** to - all the volunteers who do all the cards for the non-routine competitions, the Club Week committee, the Charity Day committee, our wonderful sponsors, the Sports Administrators, our Professional Peter Morgan and his team, Michelle and Mariela in the office along with the Finance section, Tim our General Manager, Alan our Chairman and the Board, as well as Sean Healy (Course & Courts Director) along with Mark Sheridan (Course Superintendent) and his super team. Not to forget Conor, Emma and Paul and his amazing Restaurant and Bar teams. Finally last but certainly not least a big Thank you to Captain Stephen and the Mens Golf Committee with whom we have all worked so well this year.

**Simone Barry**  
Captain,  
EP Ladies Golf Club

**Marie Goss**  
Honorary Secretary  
EP Ladies Golf Club