

ELM PARK LADIES GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2022

2022

The year started with a wobble, thanks to Covid 19. Our A.G.M. was on Zoom and Captain Celia donned her blazer in the Club House, in the company of only four fellow Committee members. However, the reception on screen was exceptionally warm. An equally fond farewell and thanks were accorded to outgoing Captain Anita.

The Captains' Drive-in, which normally follows hot on the heels of the A.G.M., had to be postponed until later in the year.

That said, to the delight of all, there followed a full year of golf and gatherings, with little restraint due to the easing of the pandemic. So, a packed Annual Report follows below.

THE EARLY MONTHS

From January to April, golf swings were dusted off and honed with the annual Spring Lamb team competition. The 2022 theme was Birds! There was a high level of participation and all participants felt a keen responsibility to play their best and bag points for their team. The competition was the focus of the first prize-giving dinner, on 3rd March, and contributed greatly to the atmosphere of the evening. The winning team was Team Starlings with 422pts, Team Sparrows finished in 2nd place with 416pts and Team Pigeons flew into 3rd place with 414pts..

A new feature of the winter season was the Winter Matchplay competition. This was aimed at keeping the swings going, but also giving potential 2023 team players the opportunity to practice matchplay format.

By April, the historic moment had arrived whereby we were able to swap score-cards in competitions. Covid was definitely in recession.

THE CAPTAINS' DRIVE-IN.

The Captains' Drive-In was finally held on a wonderfully sunny day, Saturday 5th March. The day started with a 13 hole team of 4 competition @11am. The capacity of the course was maximised, and then some! The competition was much enjoyed.

Captains Celia and Paul then took their marks on the 1st tee! Celia had an 'explosive start while Paul calmly landed 3 from 3!! How the Captains even connected the club with the ball under such pressure will remain a mystery to me! Thanks to the generosity of you, the members, €1,500 was raised for Barretstown.

Captains, players and the many spectators repaired to the bar for elegant and heart-warming key-note speeches from President Eamon and Captains Celia and Paul.

Music, food and the odd beverage were then very much enjoyed by the Captains, their families /friends and the gathered crowd, in our newly decorated clubhouse.

INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS

As ever, the Ladies Golf Club put together teams for most of the Inter-Club Competitions -

Golf Ireland competitions:

- Senior Cup
- Senior Foursomes
- Junior Foursomes
- Junior Cup
- Intermediate Cup
- Minor Cup
- Challenge Cup
- Mixed Foursomes

Other competitions:

- Mark Bloom
- Revive Active
- Maura Mc Kenna Diamonds

While all of the teams put up valiant fights on each occasion, the highlight of our golfing season was the Senior Foursomes success. They had a fabulous campaign and brought home the South Leinster Blue Pennant. They then went forward and represented Elm Park and South Leinster in the All Ireland Finals and came home with bronze medals. Thank you to the players/managers/subs for giving us this exciting campaign to follow.

A big thanks to the members of all teams who participated this season.

Many thanks also to all the team managers, assistant managers and the teams' Coordinator, Annette Burke.

CLUB COMPETITIONS

Our Competitions Secretary, Antoinette Toole, worked tirelessly to post a full schedule of competitions throughout the golfing season. There were many highlights:

Captain Celia challenged the membership to a two-day battle for her **Captain's Prize**.

A two-day event is a real test of golfing prowess, and the worthy **winner** was **Orla O'Brien** with **80pts**: 36pts on Day 1 followed by a whopping 44 pts. on Day 2! Apparently, she left her driver at home so she didn't end up under or in the trees!! Orla fought off a strong challenge from Aisling Moore who finished with a terrific 77pts. Aisling was followed closely by Suzanne Gilmore with 76pts. The 9-hole winner was Miriam Delaney with 40pts.

Captain Celia's Prize to 5 day ladies was won by Ann Roseingrave with a great score of 41pts. 9 hole winner was Mimi McDonnell with 22pts.

The Pauline Lee Perpetual Trophy was won by Deirdre Hogan McGrath and Orla O'Brien was the runner-up.

Marcella Higgins won **Lady Vice Captain Clodagh O'Donnell's Prize** and the runner up was Suzanne Kelleher.

Professional **Peter Morgan's Prize and PGA Tankard** was won by Michelle Butler and Michelle Emerson was runner-up.

The **Golfer of the Year** was **Mary Boden** and the runner-up was Jane Conan.

The **Ita Butler Cup** was won by Aisling Foley Nolan, with Madeleine Canty finishing as runner-up.

The Ria Kenny Perpetual Trophy was won by Maria Butler, with Emer O'Reilly Hyland runner-up. The **Ria Kenny Memorial Salver** was won by Clodagh O'Donnell, with runner up Anne Keys.

The **Club Championship** was won by Rachael McDonnell. Louise Mernagh was runner-up.

The Senior Matchplay was won by Jean Twohig and the runner up was Jacqui Tripp. **The Nutley Cup** was won by Natalie O'Shaughnessy and the runner up was Olwyn Ryan. Mary Boden won **The Masters Competition** and the runner up was Orla O'Brien.

Congratulations to Bill Phelan who was the winner of **Captain Celia's prize to the Men**.

The Captains' Charity Day was held on 16th September. Celia and Paul put a lot of time and thought into their Day from its inception. The nominated charity was Pieta. The event was a resounding success even before it started, with all playing slots sold well in advance of the competition itself. It was a fabulous day and thank you to the members of Elm Park, for your very generous support. The funds raised will go a long way to help Pieta continue their great work. Huge thanks to Paul Keenan, Louise English and Aisling Buckley who were working on this with us since early March and to all of the volunteers. We could not have done this without you! Thank you to those who sponsored teams, donated prizes and of course those who played and joined us on the day.

The **welcome reception** for our new lady golf members on Tuesday 3rd May, consisted of nine holes played with the ladies committee, followed by drinks and canapes in the bar. President Eamon attended and he and Captain Celia spoke. They welcomed the new members and encouraged them to get involved in the golf and social life of the club and to sign up for teams. Celia recommended that they set up a WhatsApp group so that they could contact each other to play in competitions. Subsequent feedback from new members was that the event was very helpful to them and got them well started in their participation in Club life.

Then, on 29th July we had a welcome reception for our new Student/Under 32 members. They played 9 holes and we had a drinks reception where they met other similar aged members. Many thanks to Helena Sheehan and Darina Meagher for looking after this group.

The sun shone on both evenings and both were a great success. It has been fantastic to see all the new members participating actively in our activities.

JUNIOR GOLF

This year we welcomed 17 junior girls between 11 and 17 years into the club. Our Junior Liaison Officer **Aisling Buckley**, Junior Captain **Kate Sheridan** and the Junior Golf Management Committee did a fantastic job organising introductory sessions with drills on the chipping and putting greens, 3 hole scrambles, competitions, coaching, marking cards for handicap, internal and interclub match play, as well as the normal junior golf competitions. As a result of this one of our new members, **Amy O'Connor**, won the Irish Kids Tour U10 Munster Tournament in July 2022. This year we participated in the newly introduced **Golf Sixes Competition** run by Golf Ireland. Elm Park were runners up in the South Leinster qualifiers and went on to play in the Leinster Finals in September. What an achievement by our youngest members.

Congratulations to Emma Fleming who was this year's **Junior Golfer of the Year**.

Our Student and Junior girls continue to shine. **Anna Foster** represented Ireland at the World Amateur Team Championships in Paris, The Women's Home Internationals in Ballyliffin and the European Team Championships in Wales. **Rachael McDonnell** represented Leinster on the victorious Leinster Women's Interprovincial Team. **Emma Fleming** represented Ireland at the Girls Home Internationals in Scotland, the Leinster U18 and Women's Inter-provincial Teams and she won the Leinster Girls Championship Matchplay. **Kate Fleming** represented Ireland U17 in October and **Sarah O'Brien** represented Leinster U18 Interprovincial Team. I think it's safe to say that the future of ladies' golf in Elm Park is in good hands!

A huge thank you to Aisling Buckley, Catherine Brady, Mary Sheehan O'Carroll, Ruth Hunter, Kate Sheridan, the professional staff and all involved in supporting junior girls this year.

GOLF IRELAND

Golf Ireland continues to develop its highly professional role in administration of women's and men's golf in Ireland.

It covers golfing activities such as administration of the new World Handicap System, the organisation of national and regional inter-club competitions and Ireland's participation in international golf. It promotes the playing of golf by adults and juniors, participation of and equality for women in golf, equal access for all to clubs and courses. It promotes best governance practices in golf clubs throughout the country.

Elm Park Ladies Club has further developed its very positive relationship with Golf Ireland through 2022. We participated in the inter-club competitions. The Club is well aligned with the principles and protocols espoused by Golf Ireland. We have a strong track record of involvement of women in club golfing and club management activities. We have a strong programme for our juniors. Over recent years, we have re-organised our club management in line with best practice principles.

We continue to appreciate and draw upon the services and supports available from Golf Ireland in managing and developing Elm Park Ladies Club.

CAPTAIN'S DINNER

The Club diary entry for October 7th 2022 is "Lady Captain's (Celia Morrissey) Dinner and Entertainment"- and the evening delivered, in spades, on both counts.

President Eamon Condon, Chairperson Nano Brennan, Golf Captain Paul O'Reilly, Tennis Captain Brendan O'Connor and Ita Butler, were distinguished guests from Elm Park. The Captains of Castle, Grange and Milltown Ladies Clubs were warmly welcomed as was Brenda Craig who represented Golf Ireland. Celia's daughter Gillian, her niece Emma and sister-in-law Noelita, along with her good friends Belinda, Catherine and Siobhan attended as her special guests. GM Tim O'Brien and Club Professional Peter Morgan also attended.

Brenda Craig updated us on Golf Ireland's programmes and services. We had formal toasts, not least being Vice Captain Clodagh's eloquent toast to Captain Celia. Celia, with customary warmth and wit, welcomed everyone and thanked all who helped to make the year so special for her. After dinner the Golfer of the Year trophy and prizes were presented.

The guests then awaited, with bated breath, for the entertainment for the evening! A little light opera perhaps? Never. The lights dimmed, the drums rolled, the guitar wept, and on to the stage shimmied snake hips himself – Elvis! White rhinestones, studded belt, slicked quiff and all. It wasn't long before all were up and dancing and slinking any available scarves around any available partners. It's fair to say we had a ball!

TURKEY FINAL DINNER

The Turkey Final Dinner was held on 24th November. This is a seasonal celebration in the Ladies' calendar and a presentation of serious and less serious golf awards. The other key event of the night is the announcement of Vice-Captain 2023 (Captain 2024).

The warm-up came a couple of days in advance, when our Prizes Fairy, Carolyn McArdle, and her "Santa's Helpers" (mixed metaphors notwithstanding) put together a wonderful array and display of seasonal and beautiful prizes.

The night itself was very well attended. Prizes were awarded for the winter turkey competitions and the Turkey Final competition. The cups and trophies, awarded for the more prestigious competitions of the season, were presented with Ita Butler presenting

her cup and Norma Saul presenting Junior GOY. Celia also presented the Inaugural Mother & Daughter and Senior Ladies trophies. No less than 5 holes in one were celebrated, and the best dressed lady at the summer's "Play in Pink" fund-raiser. Congratulations to Simone Barry, who will be Vice Captain 2023. The cheer on announcement of her selection by Vice Captain Clodagh left none in doubt as to the popularity of the choice.

CONCLUSION AND THANKS

The Annual Report presents an opportunity to acknowledge the members and staff who give their time and energy tirelessly, to ensure that our golfing year runs smoothly.

We thank those who helped with our Open competitions and Invitationals. Thanks to the Committee Members who did the cards, organised events, bought and presented prizes. Thanks also to Captain Paul O'Reilly and the Men's committee for all their help with competitions, results, and presentations. The generous sponsorship received for some of our competitions was, as always, much appreciated. Our thanks to John Byrne and the Caddy Masters and to our Professional Peter Morgan and his team. Many thanks also to our General Manager Tim O'Brien, Michelle Reynolds and Mariela Pritzker in the office and to Paul Dunlea and the catering / bar staff.

Our sincere thanks to our Club President Eamon Condon, Men's Captain Paul O'Reilly,, Tennis Captain Brendan O'Connor, The Management Board and our Course Director, Josh Keaveny, for the hard work they do for the Club and their assistance to the Ladies'.

Celia Morrissey

Ladies Club Golf Captain

Auveen Campbell

Hon. Sec. Ladies Golf