



ELM PARK LADIES GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2021

2021

In 2021, the gods smiled and the gods smote, but the ladies of Elm Park got on with it and delivered a highly successful year on all fronts, with historic success on the golfing front.

THE EARLY MONTHS

From January to April, the gods were unkind, and we were in lockdown due to the world pandemic. No golf, no sociability in the clubhouse, all meetings on Zoom. Our annual spring lamb team competition could not take place this year. Your Hon. Sec. (on Club business) walked the course on a stunning St. Patrick's Day, entirely alone. Beautiful, but surreal.

However, it was all in the interest of our health and safety. We were released at the end of April. Club competitions started on 10th May and full activity returned on 7th June.

THE CAPTAINS' DRIVE-IN.

The tone of the year is normally set in January, with the Captains' Drive-In. This year the event was on June 20th, but no less memorable for the delay. The sun shone. Those who played in the day's golf competition joined a fine crowd of supporters for our leaders' evening shoot-out at the first hole. Anita and John hit impressive shots that found the green. They each succeeded with what must be the most difficult shots of the year – the crowds, the pressure! And they made it look easy.

Anita wanted a low-key affair. The Ladies were having none of it. The Proclaimers' stomping beat pulsated and Mary Grier's glitzy troupe of cheerleaders took to the fairway on the 1st hole. They soon had all swaying and foot-tapping in unison – or nearly so. "I'm Gonna Be (500 miles)" will never sound the same again.

INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS

We were delighted simply to be back to country wide, inter-club competitions this year, as last year they had to be abandoned.

Early in the season, on 20 June, our student member, Anna Foster, won the 2021 AIG Irish Womens Amateur Close in Ballybunion. This was an incredible achievement as it was the first time an Elm Park member won this All Ireland competition.

On 20th – 22nd August we had a historic weekend for Elm Park. From early July we were blown away by the steady march of the Ladies Senior Cup Team to eventual, national victory at Castle Golf Club on 22nd August. It was wonderful to win both a blue and green pennant for the ladies club and to see manager Mary Frances McKenna lift the Senior Cup Trophy on behalf of Elm Park. Club members were out in force each day over the weekend to support our young team. Congratulations to Mary Frances McKenna, Jane Conan, Jenny Grier, Anna Foster, Leah Temple Lang, Louise Mernagh, Rachael McDonnell,



Emma Fleming, Kate Fleming and Emma Thorne, on a historic, first national victory for Elm Park.

The sweetness of the win was enhanced when it was matched by the Men, who brought home the Barton Shield and were runners up in the Pierce Purcell.

The Junior Foursomes team reached the Area Final and were narrowly beaten by Dun Laoghaire and the Mixed team also reached their Area Final and were narrowly beaten by Castle.

Many thanks are due to all the team managers, assistant managers and the teams Co Ordinator, Annette Burke. This year all matches were played home and away for the first time and this involved additional work in organising all the various matches and venues.

CLUB COMPETITIONS

Once we were open for golf, our Competition Secretary worked miracles and squeezed regular, medal and major competitions into a curtailed diary space.

Anita was led a merry dance on the day of her **Captain's Prize**. The morning weather was testing, with some rain, but the doughty competitors brought in their scores. The afternoon players thought the gods were favouring them as the weather cleared up. They couldn't have been more wrong. In the time taken to play three holes, stair-rods caused such floods that play was impossible. The hooter sounded. After much consultation with the redoubtable Anne de Lacy regarding what should happen to the competition, the rump of the field finished out the following week in a shot-gun format. Patricia O'Leary was the worthy winner of Anita's beautiful pearls, with a fantastic score of 46 points. Runner up was Sophie Moore and the winner of Anita's prize to the 5-day Ladies was Breige Fanning.

The Pauline Lee Perpetual Trophy was won by Dervila Keane and Jennifer O'Doherty was the runner-up.

Kathy White won **Lady Vice Captain Celia Morrissey's Prize** and the runner up was Michelle Butler.

Professional **Peter Morgan's Prize and PGA Tankard** was won by Cathy Gavigan and Simone Barry was runner-up.

The **Golfer of the Year** was **Geraldine Scaife** and the runner-up was Natalie O'Shaughnessy.

The **Ita Butler Cup** was won by Claire Hickey , with Shauna Greely finishing as runner-up.

The Ria Kenny Perpetual Trophy was won by Miriam Ryan, with Geraldine Scaife runner-up. The **Ria Kenny Memorial Salver** was won by Maire O'Connor, with runner up Antoinette Toole.



The **Club Championship** was won by Madeleine Canty. Deirdre Hogan McGrath was runner-up.

The **Senior Matchplay** was won by Mary Boden and the runner up was Jane Conan. The **Nutley Cup** was won by Marie Goss with Jean Bauress finishing as runner up. Mary Poland won The **Masters Competition** and the runner up was Mary Frances McKenna.

Congratulations to Tom Walsh who was the winner of **Captain Anita's prize to the Men**.

The **welcome reception** for our new lady golf members on the 25th May consisted of nine holes played with the ladies committee, followed by drinks in our temporary outdoor coffee dock, instead of the usual formal reception. On 29th July we had a welcome reception for our 9 new student and 9 new Under 32 members. They played 9 holes and we had a drinks reception where they met other similar aged members. The sun shone both evenings and they were a great success. It has been fantastic to see all the new members participating actively in our activities.

The **Captains Charity Day** was held on 17th September. The gods smiled, thankfully, and the weather was balmy. A highly organised team created a festival atmosphere from the get-go, with copious coffee, croissants and goodie bags. A strong number of golfing teams focussed hard, in the hope of bagging one of the many prizes. There was the great pleasure, in these Covid times, of a lively dinner in the clubhouse. The event was a huge success, raising €46,950 for the Maire Keating Foundation. Great thanks is due to all who sponsored and played and also to the Charity Committee for all their hard work.

Junior Golf

We welcomed 9 new junior girls aged between 11 and 17 into the club this year. Our Junior Liaison officer **Aisling Buckley**, Junior Captain **Emma Thorne** and the Junior Golf Management Committee did a fantastic job this year organising introductory sessions with drills on the chipping and putting green, 3 hole scrambles, competitions, coaching, marking cards for handicap, internal and interclub match play as well as the normal junior golf competitions. The **Junior Golfer of the Year** was Kate Fleming.

The major successes of 2021 were with our students Anna Foster, Leah Temple Lang, Rachael McDonnell and Emma Thorne representing the club on the winning Senior Cup team and Anna Foster's win in the 2021 AIG Irish Womens Amateur Close. Leah and Rachel also had a successful season with Leah winning the AIG Irish Womens Amateur Close plate competition and Rachel reaching the final of the Leinster Womens Championship.

Anna Foster, Emma Fleming and Kate Fleming all represented Ireland in 2021 and Anna and Leah also continue to play varsity golf in the US on scholarship.

Some other notable finishes were:



- Sarah O'Brien was beaten in the Irish Girls Close plate final, she also represented Leinster Under 18 in the August Interprovincials.
- Emma Fleming was beaten 2&1 by Beth Coulter in the Irish Girls Championship Final; she finished 2nd in the Connaught Senior Womens and was third in Leinster Girls Championship.
- Kate Fleming won the Leinster Under 18 Ria Kenny Trophy, she was a finalist in the Ulster Girls McLeod Cup.
- Joanna Dunne made her debut in competing in the Golf Ireland regional tournaments and had some really positive finishes.

Participation levels amongst juniors and students rose significantly. Thank you so much to Aisling Buckley, Catherine Brady, Helena Sheehan, Darina Meagher, Carmel Mullan, Yvonne Sheedy, Anne Cooke, Tony and Catherine O'Shea, Emma Thorne, the professional staff and all involved in supporting junior girls this year. The future looks very bright for Elm Park Ladies section.

CONCLUSION AND THANKS

While the gods can be fickle, there are stalwart members and staff who give their time and energy tirelessly to ensure that our golfing year happens.

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 are due to John Sheedy 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, Professional Peter Morgan and his team. Thanks also to our General Manager Tim O'Brien, Michelle and Mariela in the office and to Paul Dunlea and the catering and bar staff.

Our sincere thanks to our Club President Clive Redford, Men's Captain John Sheedy, Tennis Captain Sunniva McDonagh, The Management Board and our Course Director, Josh Keaveny, for their hard work for the Club and their assistance to the Ladies'.

But special thanks are due to the members of the Ladies Golf Club, for playing, for participating in social events, for support and friendship, for being there. 2021 has been a good year. Let's do it all again in 2022.

Anita O'Neill

Ladies Club Golf Captain

Auveen Campbell

Hon. Sec. Ladies Golf