

Ladies Annual General Meeting

Monday 11th January 2021

The annual General Meeting was held by Zoom Webinar on Monday 11th January 2021 at 7.30pm. The meeting was well attended, and apologies were received. The Honorary Secretary Celia Morrissey read the Notice convening the meeting. A minute's silence was observed for Past Captains and Members who died during the year.

MINUTES OF AGM 2020

As copies of the Minutes have been available on the website, they were taken as read. Their adoption was proposed by Marie Maybury and seconded by Anne de Lacy.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2020 AGM

There were no matters arising from the Minutes from last year.

OFFICERS FOR ELECTION

LADY CAPTAIN	ANITA O'NEILL
LADY VICE CAPTAIN	CELIA MORRISSEY
HON. SECRETARY	AUVEEN CAMPBELL
HON. TREASURER	DEIRDRE GLEESON
HON. HANDICAP SECRETARY	CLODAGH O'DONNELL
HON. COMPETITION SECRETARY	ANTOINETTE TOOLE

Captain Helena deemed these candidates elected

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Jean Twohig, Carolyn McArdle, Darina Meagher and Aisling Buckley were returned for another year.

The new candidates for election for Committee were Aisling Foley Nolan, Mary Frances McKenna and Lisa Matthews and they were deemed elected.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary Celia Morrissey's report was taken as read and the update to her report was read out and is attached hereto.

The adoption of the report was proposed by Mary Crowe and seconded by Patricia Moran.

THE HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the Treasurer's report was available on line and Deirdre Jones presented this report and summarised the income and expenditure figures of the Ladies Golf Club for 2020.

Deirdre thanked Rosalind Kilduff for her generous sponsorship of our August Invitational. Unfortunately, the Home Instead Invitational could not be played but Frances Shiels has kindly said she will organise it for later this year.

Deirdre thanked Aueven Campbell for attending the Club finance meetings on behalf of the Ladies Club. She also thanked Michelle, Mariela and Therese in the office, Peter, Amy and Conor in the ProShop and the caddy masters John, Lee, Rogelio and Martin for all their help and support. Deirdre wished Anita and her Committee the best of luck and also wished her successor Deirdre Gleeson all the best in her new role

The adoption of the report was proposed by Emer O'Malley and seconded by Jean Twohig

THE LADY CAPTAINS ADDRESS:

THE GOLF CAPTAIN HELENA SHEEHAN'S ADDRESS: Golf Captain's Speech at A G M, 11th January, 2021

WELCOME

Vice captain Anita, Officers, Ladies Committee and fellow members, welcome to our Annual General meeting for 2021. Thank you all for your attendance on

zoom this evening which marks the start of another year for Ladies Golf in Elm Park. It has been a huge honour and privilege to have been your Lady Captain for 2020 and I want to sincerely thank Aisling Moore for asking me to be her Vice Captain and for all of her support and encouragement throughout the year. Vice Captain Anita has been a great supporter to me and I wish her and her family the very best for her year and I know she will be a fantastic Golf Captain. I also want to wish Anita's Vice Captain Celia the very best of luck for the year ahead.

COMMITTEE To the Ladies Committee of 2020 you have been a very hard working supportive group of ladies and it has been a pleasure to work with you all. When my Captains prize day in June was cancelled you took me out to play golf. It's not very often a captain gets to play on their prize day but Anita and ladies thank you for a very memorable evening. 2020 was a year when the diary didn't run according to plan. Mary Crowe our competition secretary had great patience. Every Covid announcement changed the rules, and Mary, you rose to meet the challenge every time. Our Honorary Treasurer Deirdre, has done a terrific job as steward of our finances over the last year and we have ended the year in good financial shape in spite of all the challenges. Both Mary and Deirdre are retiring from the Committee and I want to thank them for their huge dedication, enthusiasm and commitment. Thank you to Honorary Secretary Celia for all her hard work over the last 3 years in a very demanding position. Zoom meetings were new to us all but never upset her good humour and organisational skills. I am delighted to see her taking over the role of Vice Captain and wish her well in her new role. Our Honorary Handicap Secretary Clodagh has done a fantastic job this year overseeing the introduction of significant changes to the Handicapping system. Aisling Buckley took on the role of junior liaison officer and did a tremendous job with all our new recruits. I also want to thank Deirdre Gleeson, Darina Meagher, Carolyn Mc Ardle, Antoinette Toole, Auveen Campbell and Jean Twohig all of whom have multi-tasked during the year, for their help and support.

HIGHLIGHTS Timing is everything in golf and indeed in life. As Captains John and I were fortunate to hold our drive in in early January. Many 2020 captains never had a drive in and those attempting to have a drive out have even had those attempts thwarted. The Drive in in January was probably the only major golf competition with members milling around each other, keeping close to keep warm in the cool winter sunshine. In the bar, relaxed conversation and toasts for the year ahead filled the air with a sense of expectancy and

excitement as a new decade dawned. 2020 vision was the butt of many a joke. I was delighted to be joined by my family and friends mingling in close proximity sharing hopes for the golfing year ahead. On the 26th January I received a suggestion from a member Frances Shields that we should put sanitising gel at entry points and toilets to protect members in case the Coronavirus spreads to Ireland. It was agreed at our management board meeting on the 27th. At the annual ILGU meetings in Westmanstown it was announced that there were going to be 8 regions instead of 5 for interclub competitions. Little did we know that it wouldn't matter in 2020 as ladies golf clubs voted overwhelmingly not to proceed with interclub competitions. Our Spring Lamb competition had an agricultural theme with teams named after various sheep breeds. Might Merinos took on Sassy Suffolks Barbados Belles, Trendy Texels and Cheerful Cheviots. Teams sat together on presentation night on the 5th March. However, there was a sense of care in the club. Handshakes were gone from the presentation replaced with elbow or toe taps. It was probably the most normal presentation of 2020. Lock down arrived to be followed by casual golf. Then we witnessed the most marvellous spectacle. People returned to golf that hadn't been seen on the fairways in many years. There was little else to do in lockdown. Students returned to the fairways to discover that golf isn't just an oldies sport. Demand for golf increased enormously and we played in any free slot available. When competitions resumed I received a number of letters and emails stating that people had really enjoyed the 9 hole casual golf and the friendliness and comradery it generated in Elm Park. My rescheduled captains prize qualifying round had challenging conditions especially on the Thursday. 27 finalists competed over the final 9 holes on Saturday 22nd August and I was delighted to present my prize to Fiona de Lacy a very worthy winner and my 5 day prize to Clodagh Nolan O Connor. Congratulations to our prize winners throughout the year particularly the Majors and of course to the Golfer of the Year Anne de Lacy. Well done to all who participated in our match play and congratulations to Annette Burke and Kristine Lawlor for emerging victorious. The Captain's Charity Day this year was in support of Special Olympics Ireland and we were delighted to invite Oisin Jordan to Elm Park and present him with a cheque for €32,415 .m We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our members and friends and renewed thanks for your support and to a dedicated Committee of Ann Nolan, Diarmuid Burke and their helpers including Darina Meagher, Mairead Lynch and Sharon Smurfit. My prize to the men was played in mixed

conditions and won by Michael McNulty. I feel very fortunate to have been able to hold most of the majors this year and our Captains charity. However, Club week, Afternoon teas, Swap days, Lady Captains Dinner and many of the more social events in Elm Parks calendar did not proceed.

TEAMS A special word of thanks to our Teams Coordinator Ros Linnane who again did fantastic work getting teams out to practice in the cool Spring weather. She even had Karl Morris lined up to assist us with the mental aspects of the game. Unfortunately, it did not proceed.

JUNIORS Special mention must also be made of our Junior Girls who had a fantastic year under the guidance of our Junior Liaison Officer Aisling Buckley and all of the JGMC including Carmel Keenan, Grainne Clohessy, Karen Gunnell, Shauna Greely Nikki Foley and Catherine Brady Walsh. We had a huge number of new junior girl members this year. It is a very well organised Committee and deserves our full support. Huge time and effort are being put into the girls and they are being rewarded. Participation levels improved enormously and this translated into significant drops in handicaps for a large number of girls at all levels. We are so proud of our Junior girls' and the future is looking very bright. I want to congratulate Caroline Sheedy on a great year as Junior Captain. She was a great role model for the girls and I want to thank her for her time and effort. May I take this opportunity to wish this year's junior captain Emma Thorne the best of luck in her year.

President Clive Redford support was greatly appreciated by all. He has been a wonderful President and very supportive of all the Ladies activities in 2020. On behalf of you all, I would like to sincerely thank our Board member and Company Secretary Nano Brennan for the phenomenal work that she has done over the last year. Thank you to Monday Captain Marie Goss and her Committee who have looked after and entertained us all so well this year and I wish the best of luck to Natalie for the year ahead. There were so many people who contributed to the Ladies Club during the year. Thank you to Marie Keaveney for looking after the flowers in the Clubhouse. We really appreciate all she does. I must also mention the group of ladies who were kind enough to help the Committee with the cards during the golfing season and I want to thank them for their assistance. I would like to thank our Professional, Peter Morgan, Amy, Alan and Conor in the pro shop and the Caddy Masters John Byrne, Lee, Rogelio and Martin, for being so supportive and helpful to me and our Committee during the year. Our thanks to Michelle, Therese and the office

staff and their help and to Paul Dunlea and the catering and bar staff who looked after us so well. I would like to thank our new General manager Tim O'Brien for his help and assistance since joining us. He is very visible around the club (when it is open). Adrian McCormack guided us with his experienced hand during most of the year. I was extremely lucky to have had John Sheedy as my opposite number. He and his Committee have been very supportive of me and the Ladies Club and I thank him for the professional relationship we had during the year. I wish Clive Redford, John Sheedy and Paul O'Reilly the very best for the year ahead. To Tom Ryan, Mark and his team for continuing their wonderful presentation of the course all year and thank you to Margaret McCann for representing us so well on the Green's Committee. To my family Martin Annemarie, Martin Junior and Catherine thank you for all your patience, support and help during 2020. It's only when we can't play golf that we appreciate how much it and all our golf friends really mean to us. Finally, and I am very grateful to you the members for the tremendous support and warmth which you have shown me during the year as Captain. It has been a wonderful experience, different from what I was expecting and one that will never forget. Thank you for making it so special. Now I am delighted to invite Anita O'Neill, the Golf Captain for 2021 to put on her blazer and badge of office and address us.

INTRODUCTION OF INCOMING GOLF CAPTAIN:

Captain Helena introduced the incoming Captain Anita O'Neill. Due to the current restrictions, Anita put her own Blazer on! It had her Badge of Office on it too. Helena invited Incoming Captain Anita O'Neill to address the meeting.

INCOMING LADY CAPTAINS ADDRESS:

Incoming Captains address at AGM 11 Jan 2021

Captain Helena, Officers of the Lady's committee and ladies

I joined Elm Park in 1988 as a tennis member and in 1989 as a golf member.

I did not come from a golfing family like Helena, but I married into one. My husband put my name down on the waiting list the year we got married which was 1979 and it took 10 years for me to get in as a golf member. It then took me another 10 years to start playing golf regularly because I was very busy

working and raising children. I would like to remember my late mother-in-law, Frankie O'Neill, who encouraged me to join Elm Park and to take up golf. She was Lady Captain in 1990 and some of you may remember her. It is a huge honour and privilege for me, my family and the extended O'Neill family to be captain of the lady's golf club in 2021.

Thank you, Helena, for asking me to be your Vice Captain. It was an honour which I never expected and as I've said before, I was actually shell shocked when I got your phone call.

You have been a wonderful captain in 2020 which was an unprecedented year for us all. As you can imagine, there was a lot going on behind the scenes and you worked very hard on all of our behalf's and you always had the lady's best interests at heart. You were always in good form and always had a lovely smile on your face. You could not have the social side of golf which you had anticipated but you never complained, and you were quite happy to do whatever you were allowed within the restrictions.

On a personal note, you were always there for me and you were great at helping me understand the challenges of the role I have undertaken. I wish you well on your retirement from the committee, and now you can relax and enjoy your golf and time with your family.

Golf clubs require a lot of volunteers to run smoothly and the ladies club is very fortunate to have a hard-working committee for 2021. I look forward to working closely with you all. I am delighted to have Celia Morrissey as my Vice Captain and I know she will be a wonderful support to me.

To Mary Crowe, Deirdre Jones and Celia Morrissey, our retiring officers, thank you for your dedication and commitment over the last few years. You have all worked tirelessly on behalf of us all and no job was too difficult for you.

To Clodagh O'Donnell our handicap secretary – thank you for all your hard work. You have brought us through the new World Handicapping System and the adjustments to all of our handicaps, and you put an amazing amount of time and effort into this.

Thank you to Aisling Buckley, Darina Meagher, Carolyn McArdle and Jean Twohig for agreeing to continue on committee this year.

A very warm welcome to our new officers - Auveen Campbell as Honorary Secretary, Antoinette Toole as Competitions Secretary, Deirdre Gleeson as

Honorary Treasurer and to our new committee members: Aisling Foley Nolan, Mary Frances McKenna and Lisa Matthews. Thank you all for agreeing to come on to my committee this year.

Nano Brennan is continuing as Club Secretary on the management board this year and she also works extremely hard on behalf of all members of Elm Park and I wish her well for the coming year. We are lucky to have her there.

There is a vacancy on the management board for an ordinary member this year and 2 members have put their names forward – Simone Barry and Ronan Godfrey. I would encourage anyone who has a vote to register for the club AGM on Friday and to exercise your vote.

I am delighted that Annette Burke has agreed to act as Teams Co Ordinator for 2021.

Due to the current health guidance and restrictions around sporting activities and associated gatherings, Golf Ireland has decided, that this year, All Inter Club matches will be played on a Home and Away basis until the Area Final. This will mean that where there are 5 matches - 3 will be home and 2 away or vice versa. It is felt that this approach is prudent and appropriate due to the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Area finals will feature quarter finals, semi-finals and finals across the entire suite of interclub competitions. Subject to the evolving public health situation, the intention is to stage these All-Ireland finals over 5 weekends in August and September, with a mixture of male and female competitions held over each weekend.

Because of the matches having home and away legs this year, we feel that there will be considerably more pressure on our Sunday timesheets with men's and ladies matches, so for this reason, we may not be able to enter as many teams as in other years. So, while I had spoken to some people who agreed to act as team managers this year before I knew of Golf Ireland's change, I am not going to give you the team managers names tonight until we hear more details from Golf Ireland. If there is any member who thinks they would like to manage or assist in the running of a team, feel free to let one of the committee know and I would encourage you to put your names down to play on teams also. It is a great way to improve your golf and there is great camaraderie and team spirit to be gained from it.

As you know, I was originally to be captain with Paul O'Reilly and I was looking forward to working with him, but Covid put an end to this so I am now looking forward to working with John Sheedy. He is my neighbour and I know him well and we both look forward to working hard on behalf of all golf members of Elm Park.

Congratulations to Emma Thorne who is taking over as Junior Girls Captain. I first came across Emma when she was about 11 or 12 and we both played on the Challenge Cup together. That was about 8 years ago and needless to say, we are no longer eligible for the same teams! She will be captain with James Maguire as Junior Boys Captain and I hope they will have an enjoyable year.

Best wishes to Natalie O'Shaughnessy who is the incoming Mondays captain and I certainly enjoy getting out to play my Monday 9 holes and I wish Natalie and her committee well for 2021.

Aisling Buckley has kindly agreed to continue with her role as Junior Liaison Officer. She is being assisted on the Junior Golf Management Committee by Catherine Brady, Nikki Foley, Shauna Greely and Karen Gunnell.

Aisling had 47 new junior girls to look after last year and as someone said to me, she treated it like a full-time job. Her enthusiasm was incredible, and she put hours of work into nurturing these girls and giving them the same love of golf as she has herself. We are in a unique position this year with the number of girls that are engaging with golf and there is a really good vibe coming back from the girls and their parents. Aisling and her committee would love some volunteers from the Ladies Club to maybe take these girls out for a few holes on summer evenings, to manage teams or to supervise events. If anyone has free time, they would love your assistance. Please talk to Aisling or me if you are available to help out.

John Sheedy and I have postponed our drive in until St Patricks Day when we had hoped we might be over the worst of the pandemic. At the moment, we don't know whether this will be possible or not, but we will keep you posted.

Because of the success of the Wednesday Members invitations last summer, both the men's and ladies' clubs have agreed to have 4 men's invitations & 4 ladies' invitations, thereby allowing us to have an additional 4 members invitations. Frances Shields has kindly organised Home Instead to sponsor our first Lady's invitation and this is due to take place on 5 May. Rosalind Kilduff has kindly agreed to sponsor our last Lady's invitation on 25 August and if

anyone would like to sponsor either a lady's or a member's invitation, please contact either myself or Celia. Thank you also to Ann O'Driscoll who organises some retired committee members to help with the cards on invitation and scramble days.

My Captains Day is going to be a one-day event on Saturday 19th June and the 5-day competition will be on Friday 18th June. Hopefully, there will be a dinner and presentation on Saturday 19th June. Celia's vice captains prize will be on 22nd, 23rd and 27th May. The team of 3 swap day with Castle is on Tuesday 27th July and a sweep on Saturday 31 July. I will give you all these dates again in the weekly bulletin.

This year for the captains outing I am hoping to do an overnight away on Tuesday 14 September. I think we are all due some fun after the difficult 2020 & start to 2021 which we have had. The golf will be played on Tuesday from about 11 onwards and dinner will be in the evening and we hope as many as possible will be able to travel and stay over. The venue will be within

reasonable driving distance of Dublin and people could drive home if they did not wish to stay. I have 3 possible venues on hold but unfortunately, due to all the travel restrictions since October, I have been unable to go down to view them yet. I will let you know further details as soon as the venue has been decided.

On Wednesday 27 January at 7.30pm, Karl Morris, a well-known golf psychologist, is going to hold a Breakthrough Lockdown Workshop via zoom. You may remember Karl was due to come to talk to us last April, but it was cancelled due to the first lockdown.

Among many things, his talk will include one indoor exercise which we can all do during lockdown, which could transform our golf in 2021. This workshop is open to all golf members of Elm Park and it promises to be most interesting and I would encourage you all to tune in to it.

I am really looking forward to being your captain in 2021 and I hope you all stay well in this difficult time and I look forward to seeing you back playing golf in the not so distant future. If there is any member who is in need of any help over the next few weeks or months, please give any member of our committee a call. We must all look out for each other and we have a very willing committee who would love to help in any way we can.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

DRAFT

Elm Park Ladies Club A.G.M. 11.01.2021

Minutes of A.O.B.

Question 1. Bernie Grogan

Is there any remedy for slow play?

Helena's response:

- Your place is behind the players in front, not in front of the players behind.
- Arrive at the tee box on time. Tee off on time – neither early nor late.
- You have MAX. 40 seconds from arrival at your ball to the taking of your shot.
- If there is any doubt about the fate of your ball, take a provisional shot.
- You have 3 minutes to search for a ball. One player in the flight should not the start time of the search and call the 3 minutes.
- On arrival at the next hole, one player should tee off immediately rather than marking the card.
- Each flight should be max. one hole behind the flight in front.
- On receipt of a complaint, the caddymaster will examine the start and finish times of the field and will note flights with long playing times; players will be contacted and asked to speed up.
- The World Handicap System has given some players shots back, resulting in extra time playing.
- Competition format has an impact. V.Par is the quickest format, as each player plays one shot less per hole than handicap allowance. While the format is not liked, it is in fact a fair format, with higher handicap players as likely to win as low handicap players. Foursomes are fast, but not possible in Covid times. Fourballs are slow.

Question 2: Anne Cooke

Who is eligible to play 9-hole competitions?

Helena's response:

- Traditionally, 9-hole competitions were players who might have difficulty playing 18 holes.
- During returns to golf after Covid lockdowns, 9 holes became popular players of all standards and capabilities.
- The ILGU recommended that all players should be allowed to enter 9-hole competitions.
- 9 hole competitions encourage juniors to play, and will help to overcome the low transition of juniors to full golf membership.
- The incoming Ladies Captain Anita encourages all members to play in 9-hole and 18-hole competitions, as long as space on the time-sheets supports increased entry to 9-hole competitions.

Contribution from 2019 Lady Captain Aisling Moore:

On behalf of the Club, Aisling expressed her thanks to Helena for her fantastic Captaincy. She noted Helena's impressive capability and her ever-smiling disposition, despite the extraordinary difficulties with which she was presented through her year. She wished Helena every happiness and good golfing in her retirement. She wished the incoming Captain, Anita, the best of luck in her year.

Helena thanked Aisling very much for her kind words. She then wished everyone a good golfing season and declared the meeting closed.