



Greenore Golf Club

Newsletter

22/12/2023

Issue 6, 2023

Honorary Secretary Column:

As we come to the end of 2023 it's time to reflect on the year just gone by.

The upgrade of our course continued at pace and by the end of the year we will have completed improvements on the front 9 holes. The rebuilding of our 6th hole, the realignment of our 7th hole and new bunkering on our 9th hole have been done on time and within budget. These works, in conjunction with the work already completed on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 14th and 18th will deliver a new challenge to members and visitors alike and rejuvenate our course. It has been refreshing to hear the positive feedback to date.

I must complement our Course Development Committee, Architect Ken Kearney, our Golf and our own course staff under the stewardship of head green keeper Oisín White for delivering the project in such a short space of time. When you think that 70% of our Course was underwater only six weeks ago it's quite remarkable what has been accomplished.

I would like to congratulate both our Ladies and Men's Captains on their year in office and the way they have represented our club during that time. Paul and Siobhan have done Greenore proud and have really thrown down the gauntlet to Lisa and Gussy to keep up the momentum in 2024. I would also like to wish their respective Vice Captains, Liam and Stephanie all the best as well.

A club can only be successful with the involvement of its members. Whether it is taking on the role of a team captain, getting involved in a team panel, being a member of the gardening committee or volunteering for a litter pick, it should not be left to the same people year in year out and new blood is always welcome, and I would encourage members to get involved.

Ultimately, we are all here to enjoy the game of golf but the amount of work that goes on in the background to achieve this sometimes goes unnoticed. From the course staff to our competitions committee, the weekly competitions are run like clockwork, but this work shouldn't be taken for granted. I wonder sometimes if we should pause for a moment and be grateful for the opportunity that we have to play Greenore week in week out.

Our Operations Manager Robert works tirelessly to attract sponsorship for our competitions, and we continue to encourage our members to support our sponsors when and where they can. It was really embarrassing however at the recent Presentation of Prizes when only 7 out of the almost 30 prize winners turned up to collect their prize. I would have to say that it wouldn't encourage anyone to get involved in sponsorship if this was to be repeated.

Finally, can I thank all our staff, Robert and everyone in the Pro Shop, the members of our Ladies, Men's and Management Committees for their hard work during the last year and wish you, your family and loved ones a happy and holy Christmas and good golfing in 2024.

David Rafferty



Captains Column:

It is hard to believe that I am writing my last column as Captain of Greenore Golf Club! Where did that year go!

I believe it has been a positive year for our club and I hope I have made a positive contribution, I have tried my best and I want to thank you all for your feedback, your encouragement, and your support. It really has been an honour and a privilege to be your Captain in 2023, I enjoyed the experience more than I ever thought I would, and I have great memories to look back on.

Since our last newsletter, we had a very successful Past Captains Outing in September, an event which is an important fixture in our calendar. Past Captains and Presidents, accompanied by Jerry McCarthy on the piano, entertained us with stories, songs, memories, and poetry. Along with the knowledge and experience they possess, there is a lot of talent in this group!

My year was topped off by my Captains Dinner on Saturday 18 November and I want to thank everyone who came and enjoyed the night, the feedback from the night was very positive. We were entertained by the Rambling String Band and I would highly recommend them.

The past couple of months have been very challenging for our course. The flooding in early November was unprecedented in our lifetime. Our greens staff have worked tirelessly since then to recover the course and although the ground is still saturated in places, we are close to having 14+ holes open.

Our current course improvement works on the 6th, 7th and 9th holes will be completed this week which will mean that our first 9 holes have been significantly overhauled this year and I want to thank Stephen and DAR Golf for their professionalism and expertise, they have been a pleasure to work with.

I want to thank the Mens Committee and the Management Committee for their support along with our sponsors, the Office staff, Bar staff, Greens staff, Catering staff and all the sub committees that work tirelessly to run our club day in day out. I also want to give a special mention to Gerry Cumiskey and the Social Committee for the great entertainment provided on Sunday evenings!

Finally, can I wish all our members and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

Paul





Chairperson's Column:

As we get ready for the festive season I firstly want to thank all my colleagues on the Management Committee who were great support to me and who gave great service to the club. We had some challenges and good debates throughout the year but with decisions being made that I believe will make our club better and stronger.

You will get updates from the different convenors in this newsletter so not going to over communicate on this.

Reflecting on the overall performance of the club in 2023 we had a good year. Back in 2020 our first year of the Management Committee structure our objective was to increase revenue to reach a €1m threshold in time. We are in a good place in doing this by getting a good balance of membership, sponsorship and increase of green fees. Our focus now is to maintain this as we go into 2024 and beyond. As outlined in our March AGM membership fees will increase slightly in keeping with cost of living increase and overall increase in costs. I want to remind you all again that Greenore Golf Club accept the Dundalk Shop Local Vouchers. If you are lucky to get these over the Christmas period, you can spend them in the club, the pro shop and against your membership fees.

As we prepare for Christmas and the new year, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

Regards

Joe Molloy JNR, Chairperson

Restaurant Festive Opening Hours:

Fri 22nd Dec – **CLOSED**

Sat 23rd Dec – **CLOSED**

Sun 24th Dec – **CLOSED**

Mon 25th Dec – **CLOSED**

Tues 26th Dec – **CLOSED**

Wed 27th Dec – 12pm – 4pm

Thurs 28th Dec – 12pm – 4pm

Fri 29th Dec – 12pm – 4pm

Sat 30th Dec – 11am – 4pm

Sun 31st Dec – 11am – 5pm

Mon 1st Jan – **CLOSED**

Tues 2nd Jan – **CLOSED**

Wed 3rd Jan – **CLOSED**

Thus 4th Jan – 12pm – 4pm

Normal hours resume from here!

Greenore House:

Following the redecoration of the dining room in 2023 we intend to bring the bar area up to the same standard, the work will involve tiling, new carpet, painting and curtains.

There will be some minor disruption whilst the work is in progress in January and we appreciate your patience during this time. Update to come on this.

Pat Phillips



View of the new bunkers on the 9th hole



Course Development Update:

Oisín and the greens staff have been carrying out some of the winter works as best as they can, weather hasn't been on our side at all. The past 3 months have been extremely challenging from all aspects due to weather, Oisín and his team have been working hard to have as many holes open as possible so members can still enjoy golfing in Greenore all year long.

He added two new drains to the 16th, in the new year he hopes to add more along with the 15th but he needs the ground to dry up a bit before doing more. He will also add one to the left of the 5th.

A new drain has been added across the 5th in front of the ladies tee, around the new mound and comes out into the water on 7th.

The greens have been pencil tined to get some air into them after all the rain. The greens are in fantastic condition, **Please remember to repair pitchmarks!**

A lot of areas around the course are still very wet making it very hard to cut fairways and rough.

We have other works we hope to get done at the start of the new year.

The New Course works have finished with the new green on the 6th now settling. We hope to have it in play for the start of the new season.

The water has been brought out on the 7th and two new bunkers added.

On the 9th we now have 7 bunkers with the old bunker at the back of the green closed in.

Hopefully 2024 will bring good golf and more importantly good weather!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Oisín, his staff and the Greens Committee for all their hard work in 2023.

Happy Christmas.

Richard Brennan.



View from the 6th tee box of our new 6th & 7th holes



Operations Manager:

Another year comes to an end at Greenore and although it ended up quite a challenging latter part of the year with the flooding, I think we have done very well to get the course playable. I would personally like to thank our greenkeeping staff for all their hard work during the challenging times. I would also like to thank all members who volunteered to help after the flooding.

Our revenue streams have been down because of the flooding with little green fee/buggy/competition revenue coming in. We also had some major expenses with the use of the pumps on the railway line for 2 weeks. Hopefully, we can recover some of the expenses through government schemes.

On the staff side of the club, we have new contracts in place, a new clock in system for 2024 for staff, Obbi golf (health/safety app) will commence shortly and The Turfkeeper app for the course maintenance will be in operation. Caolán Murphy and Adam Tuite have both signed full-time contracts, and I wish both lads the best in the future, they are a great edition to the club's full-time staff.

Your annual subscription invoice will be sent out in early January, we hope to have a new direct debit payment system in operation. We are changing the payment method for the prepayment for people on structured payments that it will be paid in the first payment and not in the last one as we have done in previous years, it will give members a better opportunity to spend their monies. You can pay your subscription in the office or through the app. We accept shop local vouchers.

Just a gentle reminder to any member who has not spent the bar and food levy that it will be retained by the club if not spent by the end of the year. You can check your balance on the dashboard on the members hub area of the app.

We recently received a grant for 1871 euro from Golf Ireland for energy overpayment in 2020 that was the 2nd one we received this year.

I have signed up to Micro for Green initiative who have done a report on how with can become greener and more sustainable/biodiverse, this is also part of our sports grant application so hopefully in 2024 we will start working on this.

We should have 2 electric charging points installed in early 2024.

I know it is unfortunate that we cannot allow buggies on the course at present, but it is important that all members with personal buggies have an up-to-date insurance policy copy handed into the office.

The renovations of the bar and foyer area will start in early January. There may be some disruption to the bar opening during this period but hopefully not.

I would like to thank all our sponsors for 2023, competitions would struggle to be as successful without their help. We are always looking for new sponsors, if any member is interested in sponsoring a competition in 2024, please let me know.

I would like to thank Captain's Paul and Siobhan for a wonderful year working with them and wish Agustine and Lisa the best for 2024.

I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and commitment to the club.

I would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and good golfing in 2024.

Robert Murphy

Operations Manager

Bar Festive Opening Hours

Christmas Eve: 12pm -5pm

Christmas Day: **CLOSED**

St Stephens Day: 12pm – 6pm

Wed 27th December: 12pm - 7pm

Thurs 28th December: 12pm – 7pm

Fri 29th December: 12pm – 7pm

Sat 30th December: 11am – 9pm

New Years Eve: 11am – 7pm

New Years Day: 12pm - 6pm

The Bar may close in advance of advertised hours if there are no members present



Hogg Trophy

This competition is played annually between teams from Warrenpoint and Greenore.

Hosted this year by Greenore ladies, the home team were victorious on this occasion.

Congratulations to Róisín and her team.

Following the golf the teams were treated to a beautiful meal and the presentation of the trophy, by Elizabeth Hogg, Warrenpoint.



Turkey Trot 2023 Presentation



Turkey trot:

It was wonderful to see that this competition was again very well supported this year.

The golf was followed by a delicious, traditional Christmas dinner, music by Sean Conroy and a lovely festive atmosphere in the clubhouse.

Congratulations to all the Prize-winners on the day.

Christmas Hamper:

Our traditional Christmas Hamper was held over 3 Saturdays in November/December with the final round and presentation on 1st December.

A very well supported competition with exceptional scoring throughout.

Following, the event the ladies were treated to the delicious traditional mince pies and port.

Congratulations to overall winner, Maria Duffy and all who featured in the prizes. Sincere thanks to member Andrew Mackin for his generous sponsorship.



Lady Captains Column:

As my term of office draws to a close, I wish to say, that it has been an honour and a privilege for me to represent you as Lady Captain in 2023.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members and staff of the club who guided and supported me in my role during the year.

Sincere thanks also to our sponsors, who have been so kind and generous throughout the year.

I would like welcome all our new and returning Lady members and wish you enjoyable golf in the New Year.

I wish incoming Lady Captain Lisa, Captain Augustin along with their vice Captains Stephanie and Liam all the very best in their respective positions in the year ahead.

Wishing you all, a very Happy Christmas and good golf in 2024.

Le gach dea ghúí,

Siobhán.

A lovely Presentation & celebration took place following the White Elephant competition, coordinated superbly by Ladies secretary, Róisín Finn. Thank you.



Presentation of
Cups & Trophies 2023



End of Year Presentation 2023

Lady Captain's
Winner 2023



Professional's Prize 2023



Ladies Presentation of Prizes:

- Hunter Moore Cup: Fionnuala Gaffney
- Roslin Cup: Ann O'Hagan
- Mansfield Cup: Bernadette Heaney
- Green Trophy: Aideen McGahon
- McHugh Cup: Ann O'Hagan
- Clarke Cup: Agie McAteer
- Centenary Trophy: Laura McSorley
- Lady Captains Trophy: Kay McCartan
- Past Captains Cup: Kay McCartan
- Silver Medal: Kay McCartan
- Bronze Medal: Siobhan Byrne
- Golfer of Year 2023: Catherine Woods

Membership:

Members please note your bill for 2024 will be issued in early January. There will be a €40 increase in all Subscriptions as agreed by The Management Committee.

- Juveniles and Competitive juveniles will **NOT** have their subscription increased.
- Family Subscription will increased by €80

Payments: You can pay using the following methods:

- Online using Stripe via the GGC ClubNet app.
- By using cash, cheque and credit or debit card at the Office.
- By using Greenore vouchers & or Shop Local Vouchers.

The Deadline for payment in full is the 1st of March 2024 after which no Adhoc payments on your subscription will be acceptable.

Members paying with pre agreed **MUST** ensure that their final payment is received **NO LATER** than the 31st of October 2024