



Newsletter – February 2018

Course News

Winter works are progressing well. To date, we have completed various projects, throughout the golf course and playing surfaces are performing well.

The first tee complex received its first cut and topdress last week, as we take it through its growing in stage. It is important the new turf is allowed to settle and bed in before the onset of busy play. All fairway bunkers have now been changed to a natural style instead of the previous revetted style and visually look more in keeping with our natural surroundings. As with the first tee, these will take a period of bedding in and will remain GUR until the turf has knitted properly and the bases are prepared for sand and sand installed.

Work is due to progress over the next couple of weeks on the old car park, which will be a shaped sandy waste area, with low dunes, chunks and sprigs of marram being installed throughout. Such areas are important to local on-site flora and fauna, as they provide excellent habitat. Some further low dune work will be installed to the rear of the clubhouse to enhance the true links feel in this area.

As of 2 February, fairway protection measures are now in place until St Patrick's Day. Currently growth and recovery is extremely low and it is important to protect our surfaces and have them in excellent condition for the main competition season ahead.

Recently, we have seen wind directions switching to the North and East. If these continue for any period of time, it is inevitable, that strong spring growth could be held back into the months of April or even May.

Ladies Club News

Firstly, it was such a pleasure, when at the ILGU AGM at Red Cow Moran's Hotel on Saturday 20 January, seeing our own Gertie McMullen receive the ILGU 2017 Award for "Senior Woman's Order of Merit". Congratulations to Gertie.

AIG Matches:

It is that time of the year again and hereunder is a list of match play Competitions The Island has, so far, entered for 2018.

We would earnestly ask everybody, where possible, to please put their name down on the panel for selection, on any team where their handicap is eligible. It is, and should be, such an honour to represent your Club for those matches. Each team has a Captain and Vice Captain and it would make their lives so much easier and in the interest of the Club, if Members put their names down for selection for teams applicable to their handicap.

The various Competition Sheets will be displayed on the noticeboard in the Ladies Locker Room immediately after our ILGU Fixture Meeting on the 3 February.

Matches:

Senior Cup:

Senior Foursomes: Min Combined Handicap 14
3 pairs = 6 players. No Caddies.

Junior Cup Handicap 9 – 15
5 players/ 5 Caddies

Intermediate Cup: Handicap 16 – 21
5 players/ 5 Caddies

Minor Cup: Handicaps 22- 27
5 players/ 5 Caddies

Challenge Cup: Handicaps 28 – 36 (Max limit for shots 33)
5 Players/ 5 Caddies

Junior Foursomes Min combined Handicap 35. Max 41.
3 Pairs = 6 players. No Caddies

Revive Active Fourball Match Play: Team of 5 = 10 Players. Combined handicap no less than 19. Max 46.
3 Away, 2 At Home, depending on home status.

Irish Interclub Mixed Foursomes:

Fingal Seniors: Over 60's. Handicap 19 and over.

Following our Fixture Meeting 3 February, we may enter more teams, so please keep your eye on the noticeboard for further info.

As you will see from the aforementioned matches – quite a lot of caddies are also required. Later on, a list will go up on the noticeboard requesting names of people who might kindly caddy.

Finally, I would really ask all the Ladies to take a few extra minutes **weekly** to check and read the **noticeboards** for info on Matches/Competitions, names of Captains/Vice Captains of various teams and general snippets of relevant information.

Men's Club News

Captain's Drive In

Our Captain's Drive In took place on Sunday 7 January with a 9 hole shotgun start after the Drive-In. We all wish Denis all the best for his year.



Captain's first of many words

Inter Club Golf

All managers are now in place and players are required to fill the following teams:

Please note the eligibility criterion and format has changed for some teams

- **Senior Cup & Barton Shield** > Manager Paul Cullen
- **Junior Cup** > Manager Mark Fitzpatrick > no lower than 4 in 2017
- **Barton Cup** > Manager John Gartland
- **Jimmy Bruen Shield** > Manager Tom Kelleher > no lower than 5 in 2017 combined at least 15.
- **Pierce Purcell Shield** - > Manager Eugene Reilly > no lower than 11 in 2017 combined at least 25.
- **Metropolitan Cup** > Manager George Hurley > handicap limit 9
- **JB Carr** > Manager > Paul Corkery > age limit 60+
- **Uden Cup** > Manager Paul Goti > Handicap minimum 14
- **All Ireland Fourball** > Manager Pat Desmond > no lower than 15 in 2017 Age limit 30+
- **McDonnell Cup** > Manager George Lowe Handicap minimum 16
- **Fingal Seniors** > Fred Plunkett
- **Irish Mixed Foursomes** > Manager Dermot O'Meara > combined no lower than 19
- **Juniors** > Manager Willie O'Rourke/Jerry Sinnott



Captain Denis with his vice Captain John Prendergast.

Protection of the Links

Members are asked to respect and care for our links by observing the following guidelines:

- Areas that are freshly turfed or seeded are roped off or protected using metal hoops. This is to allow grass to establish before golf traffic goes over them. Unfortunately on a number of occasions, ropes and hoops have been taken down by golfers and newly turfed and seeded areas have been walked on. This can set the grow in process back. Please avoid walking on any areas that are roped off or have protective hoops in place.
- The artificial mat is the only surface currently in operation on the driving range. No play is permitted from grass until the grass tee is re-opened.
- Unfortunately there have been a number of frost delays over the winter and it is vital to protect our course when these occur. Please be aware that the putting greens and chipping greens are out of play and should not be walked on when there is a frost delay.
- When raking bunkers, make sure to leave a surface that is fair for the next golfer. The greenkeeping staff take time every day to ensure that the bunker is presented ready for play.
- Please do not use the links for practice. On a number of occasions, multiple divots have been found around certain areas where practice has been taking place. Please use the practice facilities for all practice.
- Please repair your divots, pitchmarks and use the bins provided around the golf course for any rubbish you have.



Winter League

We have commenced the winter league with a simplified format where the top five singles cards will accumulate a total score over the period 13 January to 11 March. We have over 90 competitors and will award four category prizes as well as an overall winner.

Saturday 20 January was the first day of the new Winter league we remind all entrants to please ensure:

- You have entered the normal competition for the day.
- You have separately entered the WINTER LEAGUE competition
- Remember to keep a separate card for the Winter league score
- Please calculate your Stableford points on your Winter League card.
- Upon completion of play, please enter your scores in the computer for BOTH competitions.



Captain's first of many shots - goes dead straight

Please note winter Local Rules

- 1) **Course damaged by machinery**
- 2) **Newly designed bunkers**

- 1) Through the green, damage to the course caused by machinery is deemed 'ground under repair' from which relief is permitted.
This ground will not necessarily be so marked 'GUR' however relief is available if the ball lies in or touches the damaged ground.
- 2) Areas of the course where newly designed bunkers have been formed which includes areas where sods have been placed around the bunkers are also deemed 'GUR' from which relief is permitted.
Relief may be taken as follows: A ball resting in an area of the course damaged by machinery or an area of newly sodded bunker may be lifted and placed within one foot from the affected area. The ball may be cleaned so when lifted.

This rule will apply until 16th March 2018



Captain Denis surrounded by friends

Handicaps

Two appeals have been referred to the appeals committee.

February Fixtures

	[All 2 x 9 holes]
Saturday 3	Fourball v Par
Sunday 4	Fourball v Par
Wednesday 7	Singles
Saturday 10	Pinehurst foursomes
Sunday 11	Pinehurst foursomes
Wednesday 14	2 man team
Saturday 17	Singles
Sunday 18	Singles
Wednesday 21	Fourball
Saturday 24	Fourball
Sunday 25	Fourball
Wednesday 28	3 Man team



Captain Denis takes congratulations from outgoing Captain Fergus



Junior Captain Glen Francis drives in

Men's Committee 2018

Denis Gaffney (Captain), John Prendergast (Vice Captain), Finbar Gaffney (Honorary Secretary), Dermot Moran (Honorary Treasurer), Gerry Sinnott (Junior Convenor), Jim Duggan (Competition Secretary), Andy Nolan (Handicap Secretary), Pat Desmond (Greens Committee) & Ron Keane (Match-Plays).

Correspondence to gaffneyfin@gmail.com

Junior Golf Update

The 2018 Programme for Juveniles and Juniors is in progress and will be confirmed in February. The Programme will be put on the Junior noticeboard and on the noticeboard in the locker room and on the Website.

Following on from the last 3 years, the Junior Girls Programme will include Coaching, Golfing, some fun activities and of course our Drive, Chip and Putt Competition which is a highlight of the year.

We would like to congratulate Lucie Mullen as Captain of the Junior Girls this year. Her introduction to her new role was taking part in The Drive In! Lucie is from Donabate and she joined the Girls Academy at The Island in 2015. She will have lots of support from her fellow golfers, quite a few of them joined at the same time and they have become firm friends.

Girls from Age 8 are welcome to join us. If you have a daughter or granddaughter playing golf or who would like to take up golf, please contact me.

There will be a junior competition on 27 March from 10am-11.30am and all Junior Members are welcome to attend. Junior coaching will be starting shortly after Easter on Saturday afternoons. More information will follow on this. Junior Members are reminded of the importance of wearing Club jumpers if they are representing the Club in competitions.