



Newsletter – March 2018

Club News

Annual Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions were due by 28 February 2018. If you have not paid your annual subscription, please do so immediately by contacting the office. If you have a query regarding your membership, please contact the General Manager directly.

1st tee Complex and Car Park Surrounds

Final work is being completed on improving the aesthetics around the clubhouse entrance and the old car park. The creation of some natural shapes with translocated marram vegetation, coupled with the work completed on the 1st tee complex has improved the first impression of the club and the course. Further work will be carried out during the year to finish the tidying process on the walk to the clubhouse and 1st tee.

The new 1st tee complex is growing in well as we go through the grow in process. It is expected that this tee complex will open for play after 1 May 2018 however, it is subject to the prevailing weather conditions in the coming weeks and months. Further updates will follow as the season progresses.

Use of mats

It is expected that normal playing conditions will resume after 17 March and that golfers will return to playing off turf. For the period 17-23 March, a number of areas will be staked with blue stakes and golfers must play from a mat within this area (placing outside of this area is not permitted). When play resumes from turf, Members are reminded of the importance of taking divot bags on the course and repairing divots. As full growing conditions have not yet resumed, this process is particularly important to ensure good turf quality for the summer ahead. Following the harsh winter weather, particular care should be given to repairing pitchmarks on greens and your assistance with this is greatly appreciated. Please look for any pitchmarks, apart from your own, and repair them also.

St Patrick's Weekend

The following arrangements are in place at the Club for St Patrick's weekend:

A weekend menu will be served all day on Saturday (17th) and Sunday (18th). The 6 Nations rugby international between England and Ireland will be available for viewing in the bar. Kick-off is at 2.45pm and there will be a special on the day of traditional Irish stew or boiled bacon with cabbage and a pint of your choice for €13.95.

On 19 March, there will be a special menu served all day with traditional Irish dishes. To book a table, please contact the catering staff. A Céilí band will play in the clubhouse from 4.30pm onwards.

Mother's Day

There will be a special Mother's Day set lunch available in the restaurant from 12.30pm on Sunday 11 March. Each mother will receive a complimentary glass of wine and a rose. There will be a children's menu available on the day also. Please contact the catering team directly to reserve a table for this day.

Men's Club News

Inter Club Golf

Team	Manager	Venues	Date
Senior Cup	Paul Cullen	V Hollywood lakes	23 June
Barton Shield	Paul Cullen	Qualifier in Balcarrick	26 May
Junior Cup	Mark Fitzpatrick	Qualifier in Forest Little	9 June
Barton Cup	John Gartland	V Beaverstown	before 15 April
Jimmy Bruen Shield	Tom Kelleher	Qualifier in St Anne's	16 June
Pierce Purcell Shield	Eugene Reilly	Qualifier in Balbriggan	12 May
Metropolitan Cup	George Hurley	V Corballis	before 22 April
JB Carr	Paul Corkery	TBC	TBC
Uden Cup	Paul Goti	TBC	TBC
All Ireland Fourball	Pat Desmond	V Links Portmarnock	before 31 March
Mc Donnell Cup	George Lowe	TBC	TBC
Fingal Seniors	Fred Plunkett	TBC	TBC
Irish Mixed Foursomes	Dermot O'Meara	V Swords	before 8 April
Juniors	Willie O'Rourke/ Gerry Sinnott	TBC	TBC

March Fixtures

[2 x 9 holes]

Saturday 3	Two Man team
Sunday 4	Two Man team
Wednesday 7	Singles
Saturday 10	Singles
Sunday 11	Singles



[18 Holes]

Wednesday 14	Fourball
Saturday 17	Fourball
Sunday 18	Fourball
Monday 19	Semi-Open > Fourball any combination & Fourball Mixed
Wednesday 21	Team of Four
Saturday 24	J Cullen Trophy > Singles
Sunday 25	Singles
Wednesday 28	Fourball
Saturday 31	Jameson Cup > Foursomes

Winter League

The winter league is progressing to a conclusion and all class prizes are up for grabs finishing on 11 March. Our qualifying competitions are due to commence on 17 March when the winter rules will end and the full 34 Golf Rules of the R&A will apply.

With the 10 and 11 March counting competitions to go, the leader boards are very close. Overall Leader is Derek McNamara (10) with a massive 98 points closely followed by Niall Wallace and Rob Stanley both on 95, Ian Barbour (19) on 93 with Captain Denis Gaffney (12) and Ian McMullen (17) on 92 pts. However, overall scores are so close that any player in the top 15 could conceivably win with a late run.

The Classes are equally tight with Class 1 headed by Dave McBride (6) on 91 pts followed by Richard O'Dwyer (7) on 88, Robert Kennedy (4) on 87 with Anthony Delahunty (6) just a point behind on 86. Class 2 has Derek McNamara (10) on 98 pts followed by Captain Denis Gaffney (12) on 92 with John Killeen (11) and Jim Duggan (12) on 88. Leading Class 3 is Rob Stanley (13) with 95 pts two ahead of Ron Keane (14)

at 91, Mick Kelly (15) on 90 and Conor Hurley (13) 89. Class 4 is led by Niall Wallace (18) with 95 pts two better than Ian Barbour (19) on 93 with Ian McMullen (19) on 92. Remember, the Overall Winner, Second and Third places will result in other players in that class being promoted to class winner so it's clearly all to play for over the next two weekends. Let's hope the weather gods are kinder to us than of late.

A number of cards have had to be disqualified in the winter league due to either

- a) not being signed by the player or his marker OR
- b) the player not having entered the equivalent main competition of the day.

Please ensure you follow these basic conditions, return your cards as soon as possible after play and good luck to all.

Winter League as at 25 February 2018	
Class 1 (0 - 8)	Class 3 (13 - 15)
Class 2 (9 - 12)	Class 4 (16 - 28)

Name		H/C	Best 5 scores
Derek	McNamara	10	98
Niall	Wallace	18	95
Rob	Stanley	13	95
Ian	Barbour	19	93
Denis	Gaffney	12	92
Ian	McMullan	17	92
Ron	Keane	14	91
Dave	McBride	6	91
Mick	Kelly	15	90
Conor	Hurley	13	89
John	Killeen	11	88
Richard	O'Dwyer	7	88
Jim	Duggan	12	88
Robert	Kennedy	4	87
Anthony	Delahunty	6	86
Alan	Cash	10	86
Alan	Mulligan	16	86
Stephen	Craig	7	84
Dan	Moynihan	19	83

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Golfer of Year

Note modification to Golfer of the Year 2018 counting competitions.

This competition is run to acknowledge the most consistent golfer of the year. It will be based on the results of the competitions throughout the year listed below. The player with the highest aggregate score at the end of the competition year will be declared the winner. This competition is open to all full members of The Island Golf Club.

The Golfer of the year competition begins on 24 March with The Johnny Cullen Cup Singles Stableford (Green Tees). This is the first opportunity to win points under a new revised system. Competitions are categorised with more points to be won in the more prestigious events. The Captains Prize, The Club Championship and Presidents Prize offer the most points - 20 points for the winner, 16 points for 2nd, 13 points for 3rd, 10 points for 4th, 9pts for 5th, 8pts for 6th, 7pts for 7th, 6pts for 8th, 5pts for 9th, 4pts for 10th, 3pts for 11th, 2pts for 12th and 1pt for 13th (all net scores).

All 7 Medals, PGA Tankard, Professionals Prize, Johnny Cullen Cup, Billy Brambrick Trophy and Trustees Prize will be awarded 15 points for the best net, 12 points for 2nd, 10 points for 3rd, 8pts for 4th, 6pts for 5th, 5pts for 6th, 4pts for 7th, 3pts for 8th, 2pts for 9th and 1pt for 10th.

The points for the Matchplay Silverware (The Island Cup & The Webster Cup) are slightly different with points awarded according to rounds reached by competitors. 15Pts - Winner, 12Pts - Runner Up, 8pts - beaten Semi-Finalists and 4Pts - beaten Quarter Finalists.

With 17 competitions available for Golfer of The Year it should produce a great finish.

- In the event of a tie, a player's 3 best finishes will be added.
- If it still remains a tie, the 2 best finishes will be added.
- Failing these the best individual finish as per count back.
- If players are still tied after all these stages, the player with the most points and least events played wins.

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A Note from your Handicap Committee

One of the reasons why golf is a popular sport is that golfers of differing abilities, men and women alike, can compete on a fair and equitable basis. This is because a handicap is allotted to all members of affiliated golf clubs which reflects their standard of play and provides a level playing field. It is important for us all to realise that in our Club each individual player's handicap is connected and influences every other member's handicap via the Standard Scratch Score (SSS) and Competition Scratch Scores (CSS).

Previous Handicap Committees have put a lot of hard work into administering members' handicaps and your support and assistance is much appreciated. Here is a link to the CONGU guide to players' responsibilities for your perusal.

<http://www.congu.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Players-quick-guide-2018.pdf>

Non Returned Score Cards (NR'S) - A Few Important Points to Consider

- It is expected that every player who enters a qualifying competition intends to complete the round.
- An NR is a card which is not returned or which has been returned but has "no score" recorded for all holes.
- An incomplete card is where "no score" is recorded for one or more holes.
- There are very few if any valid reasons for an NR and sympathetic consideration may be given to a player who has had to discontinue play for any cause considered to be reasonable by the organising committee, (e.g. illness or no marker). This would mean that a player would not have to get 0.1 back.

What is the impact of not returning score cards from qualifying competitions?

- As all cards must be accounted for, more work for the committee (who are volunteers)
- An incomplete card and an NR card might have the effect of increasing a player's handicap.
- Since an incomplete card and an NR may have the effect of increasing a player's handicap, the committee would be justified in refusing to accept a card or record an NR when the player has walked in after playing only a few holes.
- A player who frequently enters a qualifying competition and either walks in after a few holes or fails to return their card is liable to be perceived to be "minding their handicap" irrespective of their intentions.
- Clauses 23 and 24 of the Unified Handicapping System (UHS) give committees the discretion to deal with players who persistently submit incomplete cards or make NR's if they consider they are attempting to "build a handicap". This could result in a suspension of handicap.
- It is normal practice for players to be contacted by the handicap committee following a NR to ascertain the reason for the non return.
- If a player has played in his buffer zone but does not return his card, the computer puts it down as poor result which could lead to a wrong CSS. This impacts on every other competitor's handicap.

CONGU update 2018

As you may be aware, CONGU has issued a number of changes to the handicapping system including the retirement of the Congo Club handicap and replacing it with category 5 for men for handicaps ranging between 28.5 to 36.4. A new handicap category 6 has been introduced for handicaps ranging between 36.5 and 54. These new categories will certainly have the potential impact on club golf and we look to the future with interest as regards handicapping.

Please see link below for full details of the CONGU changes. <http://www.congu.co.uk/congu-changes-2018>

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Reminder winter Local Rules

Course Protection 2018

Players please note that putters may be used from any part of the links.

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Our member John Horan has commenced a three year term as President of the Gaelic Athletic Association having been chairman of the Leinster Council from 2011 to 2014. He is a member of the Na Fianna club in Glasnevin, and becomes the first Dublin-born GAA President since 1924.

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

Best wishes to our Junior Boys versus Skerries in the first round of the Andy Desmond trophy in Balbriggan on 26 March. The Club is also competing in the Jimmy Hackett singles competition in Newlands on 29 March.

We are holding an Easter Competition for the Junior boys on Tuesday 27 March from 10.00am-11.00am, with a junior meeting beforehand at 9.30am.

Junior coaching will commence on Saturday 12 May, with more details to follow in subsequent newsletters.