



COUNTY LOUTH
— GOLF CLUB —

Winter Newsletter 2017

Welcome to the Club's Winter Newsletter wherein we outline important changes to the Committee structure and Club rules, when and how the changes come into effect, and key dates for your diary.

We also have other news updates and reports on recent and forthcoming Club activities.

New Committee Structure, Constitutional Changes and Forthcoming AGMs

At the recent Special General Meeting held on Friday 27th October members approved the introduction of a new Committee Structure and the adoption of a new Club Constitution.

The new Constitution came into force on **1st November**. The document can be viewed in the Members Area of the club website (www.countylouthgolfclub.com) or a hard copy can be requested from the Club Reception.

The **key changes** in the constitution are:

- Formal recognition of the Mens and Ladies Clubs
- A new Management Committee Structure and procedure for election of Officers
- Introduction of a term of office of 5 years for Trustees
- A limit on capital expenditure that the Committee can incur, without prior approval from members: this was previously unlimited
- Suspension, expulsion and disciplinary procedures in line with best natural justice and legal practice.

The matter of most imminent importance now for the Club is the election of a new **Management Committee for 2018**.

Six Officers will be elected directly by the Ordinary members of the Club at the main AGM, which will take place on 19th January 2019. A further four positions on the Management Committee will be filled by **the Captains and vice-Captains** of the Mens and Ladies Clubs elected at their respective AGM's in advance of the main AGM. All ten members of the Committee will have a vote.

The **Officer positions** on the Management Committee to be elected are:

Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Course Convenor, House Convenor and Junior Convenor.

The **term of office** of the six Officers will be 2 years, except in the case of the House and Junior Convenors in who will initially be elected for one year. The sole purpose of this is to ensure that vacancies on the Management Committee are staggered. Any Officer may seek a second term of two years but will need to be elected at AGM again. Nominations for each Officer position **open on 1st December and close on 31st December**. Candidates must be fully paid up Ordinary members of at least 5 years standing and must be proposed and seconded by two Ordinary members. Each proposer will be required to outline at the AGM their nominee's suitability to the role for which they are being proposed.

The **AGM of the Ladies Club** will take place on **Sunday 7th January** and the **Mens Club AGM** will take place on **Friday 12th January**. At these meetings the President, Captain and vice-Captain of each club will be elected. As stated earlier, the two Captains and two vice-Captains will form part of the Management Committee.

Any Motions being proposed for the AGM must be received by the Honorary Secretary on or before 22nd December.

Formal Notice with respect to each of the AGMs will issue from the relevant Honorary Secretaries in due course.

Greens

We are delighted to welcome **Wayne Murray** who has now taken up duty as our new Course Manager, and we wish him the best of luck in his new role.

As we now enter the winter in earnest the ambition is to preserve the course in its current fine condition. As normal, Fairway mats will be introduced on **December 1st**. Members are requested to continue using divot bags as this has undoubtedly contributed greatly to a marked improvement in the condition of our fairways. We thank sincerely the members who volunteer on a weekly basis to undertake a comprehensive divotting of the entire golf course.

The new **Short Game** area was warmly received while it was open during the month of October. It is now being rested for the winter and will re-open in 2018 when adequate growth conditions prevail.

The alternate **17th Hole** is now in play for a protracted period over the autumn and winter months to allow members to be fully familiar with the playing of the hole. The Committee hopes to bring proposals to the AGM in January that will deal with the future of the 17th

The Club wishes to acknowledge the committed service of **Paul Malone** over more than 33 years in the upkeep and maintenance of the golf course. Paul has now left the Club following the Committee's decision to reorganise its greenkeeping affairs in a significantly different way. We wish to thank Paul for his hard work and commitment to the club and wish him all the best in his future career.

Carr Mara Tournament

A group of members from County Louth Golf Club recently took part in the 2017 Carr Mara Tournament, held at Oakmont Country Club in the U.S. on October 23-25. In total 14 golf clubs compete in the event, seven from Ireland and seven from the U.S. The Irish Clubs participating are Ballybunion, Portmarnock, Royal Portrush, Co. Sligo, Lahinch, Co. Louth and Sutton. The U.S. Clubs are Winged Foot, Pine Valley, Olympic Club, Oakmont, Bel Air, Garden City and Oak Hill.

The Tournament takes place every two years, rotating between Ireland and the U.S. County Louth GC will host this prestigious event in 2019 (30 Sept – 2 Oct) and we look forward to welcoming members of all the participating clubs then.



Junior Boys' St Andrews Trip

In 2015 County Louth GC and St. Andrews struck up a relationship thanks to Scott Wilson and his friendship with Fintan Bonner, Senior Instructor) at the St. Andrews golf academy. A Tri Series Boys' match between SALJGA , St Leonards (both based in St. Andrews) and County Louth Golf Club was established in 2015 when County Louth GC hosted the matches. St. Leonards won the inaugural Series, while SALJGA took the trophy in 2016. This year it was County Louth's turn to travel to St. Andrews and the six-boy team led by Junior Captain Jamie Leech did the Club proud by winning the Series. The other team members were Todd O' Reilly, Alex Smith, James Farrell, Matthew Breen and Karl Meegan. Enda Maguire and Barrie Breen accompanied the team. Congratulations to all!



Junior Girls inaugural visit to Enniscrone GC

While the boys were preparing for their St Andrews foray our junior girls were on their way to Enniscrone Golf Club, Co. Sligo. This is the first exchange that Co. Louth Junior Committee have organised for our Junior girls. Through the good offices of Maureen Dodd, Junior Conveyor of Enniscrone Golf Club a party of four, Catherine Gray, Emily Murray, Amy Maguire & Katie McCabe set off early in anticipation of playing a links course akin to Baltray, albeit on the Atlantic Coast. Golf was played over two days and many new friendships were forged. We look forward to February 2018 when the Enniscrone girls will visit Baltray for the second leg of this Junior girls' initiative.

Clubhouse

The former Secretary/Manager's office upstairs has been used very infrequently in recent years. As the room offers unrivalled views across the golf course and beyond it is proposed at very little expense to make the room available to members on a trial basis for use in a social capacity. Depending on the use and the feedback received a decision can then be made on whether further investment would be justified.

Making better use of the room was one of many suggestions that came through in the survey of members earlier this year. Other matters highlighted are also under review by the Building Focus group, of which there will be further communication in the New Year.



Social Calendar

A Quiz night will take place in the Clubhouse on **Friday 17th November at 7.30pm**. Cost is just €10 per team of 4.

Santa's visit will take place on Sun 10th December.

Award from Irish Golf Tour Operators

Each year the Ireland Golf Tour Operator Association host a Business Conference and Awards Ceremony which, as an Industry Partner, the Club regularly attend

This year the Club was very pleased to receive the award of '**Links Golf Course of the Year**', which was accepted on behalf of the Club by the Captain Harry Collier and General Manager Liam Murphy.





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