



COUNTY LOUTH
— GOLF CLUB —

125TH
ANNIVERSARY

SPRING NEWSLETTER



We wish to thank everyone who joined us and shared in our memorable Drive-In day on February 25th. We look forward to a successful year for the Club as we celebrate our 125th Anniversary. We are greatly appreciative of everyone who gives up their time so willingly to serve the Club – committees, team managers, junior supervisors and course volunteers, to name but a few.

It is a great honour to serve as your Captains in this special year and we wish all members good health, happiness and many hours of enjoyment on the golf course.

Harry Collier, Captain
Jackie Quinn, Lady Captain



Projects Update

Much of the project work undertaken over the past 18 months has now been completed, or is close to being finalised.

Club entrance, Car Park and new Short game area

We have just completed the removal of many of the trees at the entrance and boundary of the club grounds with the village. Some tidying work remains, and the fencing at the boundary also needs attention. The new Car Park is open and in full use. The Short Game area is taking shape and we await improved growing conditions before determining the best time to open it to members.

Practice Ground adjacent to Car Park

We have agreed a new lease arrangement and work is underway to have the area fit for use as a practice ground again by May 1st.

14th 'Tee to Fairway'

Once growing conditions improve we will open the new walkway area out to the fairway. Some parts of the golfing area each side of the walkway will remain Ground under Repair until deemed fit for play.

Alternate 17th Hole

The 3 new bunkers have settled in well. The clean out of much of the bramble and scrub around the hole has also improved the aesthetics. The green continues to receive attention to bring it in line with the other greens.

Course Masterplan

Course architect Philip Spogard is finalising his presentation and this will be communicated to members at a special Information Evening in the Clubhouse in the coming months, date to be advised in due course.

Proposed New Committee Structure

Most of the work drafting how to incorporate the new structure into the Rules of the Club is now complete. There will also be an Information Night to explain the changes, prior to an EGM later in the year wherein members will be asked to vote on the proposed changes.

Clubhouse Focus Group

While we have agreed to engage a firm of architects (OBFA) to help us consider options for the future we have decided to survey members to get initial views and feedback. This will issue to members shortly.

125th Anniversary

This year the Club celebrates its 125th Anniversary. While several events will take place during the year the focus will be our 125th Anniversary Celebration week which takes place from Monday 12th to Saturday 17th June, more details to follow.

Members are already receiving their commemorative calendar and diary as they pay their subscriptions, and we will shortly be distributing a new commemorative bag tag.

To mark the occasion the following is also planned:

History display/montages in the Clubhouse

Specially commissioned Monthly Medals

Course Exchange Day with the Island Golf Club on Sun 20th August

To support our '125' activities for the year we are inviting suppliers and local businesses to take part in a once-off sponsorship programme. Any member interested should contact Liam Murphy General Manager (liam@countylouthgolfclub.com) for more details.

New Appointment



Following the departure of Scott Wilson to take up his new appointment as golf instructor at the St Andrews Links Academy in Scotland, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Enda Maguire to the position of Golf Services Co-ordinator.

Enda hails from Ganderstown, Clogherhead and having served his apprenticeship at Dundalk Golf Club he qualified as a PGA Professional in 2013. In 2014 he moved to the United Arab Emirates to take up the position of Golf Operations Supervisor at the Al Ain Club, and has worked there since.

We look forward to welcoming Enda to the Club when he takes up his appointment at the end of April.

Championships

Our first major Championship this year will be the Irish Women's Open Stroke Play Championship, the winner of which will receive the inaugural Garvey/Reddan trophy. The tournament takes place 12th-14th May and is likely to attract a high-quality field from home and abroad.

Closely following this the East of Ireland takes place over the June bank holiday weekend. A change in format this year will see the field reduced to 132 players (from 156), four consecutive days of stroke play, with the top 42 players after 54 holes qualifying to play the final round on Monday 5th June.

For each event, we will be seeking assistance from members regarding ball spotting and score recording. We expect to have overseas players competing in each event and if any member living locally is willing to provide accommodation we would love to hear from you. We also encourage as many members as possible to come out and watch the high-quality golf on display.

Greens Update

We are at that challenging time of year when the busy golf season is now starting, yet we have had little growth so far to shape the course.

Under the advice of consultant agronomists STRI we have over-seeded the greens earlier than in previous years to get more fescue grass into the sward as early as possible. Over the winter months the greens thinned out considerably and this required early attention. Due to the pot-seeding process, and while maintaining a recommended height of cut no less than 5mm, there will be some unevenness until the combination of growth and light sand top-dressings provide a smoother ball roll.

To improve our pathways we will be shortly conducting trials of some gravel paving support systems that stabilize the ground resulting in less wear and tear impact, reduced maintenance costs and better presentation standards. If successful we will roll out on a phased basis where required.

To ensure we can have the course looking at its best we ask and remind members again to abide by a simple code of etiquette when on the golf course....

Carry and use a divot bag at all times.

Toss loose divots into the deep rough.

Repair Pitch marks on the green.

If using a buggy follow all directional signage, under no circumstances drive onto tees or the fringes of greens, and do not drive through the rough.

Under no circumstance take short cuts through marram grass.

Finally, we ask players when raking bunkers to do so in a manner that moves the sand back into the centre of the bunker rather than dragging the sand back out to the edges; this will ensure the body of the bunker remains levelled out.

Ladies Get into Golf

The new season for our new ladies will kick off with a series of fortnightly scrambles on Thursday evenings, commencing 6th April. Our Leaders and Buddies are looking forward to re-uniting with this vivacious group of ladies at our Welcome evening on Thursday 27th April @ 7:30 for the presentation of 2016 Certificates.

Junior Golf

Our Junior Winter League was a great success once again. A great debt of gratitude is owed to Ken and Margaret Morgan, Champion Lettings, who sponsored the competition.

Congratulations to the winners....Lucas McKeen (Boys White Course); Jay Hayes (Boys Red Course) and Orla Docherty (Girls Red Course)



Inter Club Matches

The Inter Club season has already started and congratulations to the Irish Mixed Foursomes team on winning their first match against Seapoint.

Best wishes to all competitors representing the Club and thank you to the team convenors, managers and players. To all other members, we ask that you turn out and show your support for our teams whenever possible.

Ready Golf Policy

Both Mens and Ladies Committees endorse Ready Golf to speed up play. Quite simply, whoever is ready to take their shot, whether it is their 'honour' or turn to do so, can play once they are ready. Anything that helps speed up play is a benefit to all.