

OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR AGM 8TH JANUARY 2023

Hon. Competition Secretary's Report for 2022

Thank you to Lady Captain Oonagh, Vice-Captain Marie & members for all your support throughout the year.

The Competitions Committee - Lucy McConnell, Mags Brennan, Anne McClean, Ina McCrumlish, Miriam MacQuillan, Jackie Quinn (our techie queen), Mary Joy, Eileen Tully, Anna Mulroy, Mary Upton, Bettina Jeffers. Their dedication & support was invaluable to me - much appreciated. Thank you.

The Winter League Team - Team leader Sharon Grace, supported by Jane McCabe, Therese Callaghan, Bettina Jeffers. There is great interest in this competition. Thank you for all your hard work over the winter months. The Winter League competition commenced on 18th November with 7 teams of 11 players. It will run to mid-February 2023.

2022 was a normal year in golf terms, at last. A busy year with lots of competitions. Only a few days were lost because of bad weather.

All the charities competitions were played & donations of green fees were sent to them. LC's Charity - Autism Dogs was very well supported throughout the year through the summer 9 holes charity box + 2 dedicated days.

18 hole competitions	32 days
Average number of players	65 (consistent with previous years)
Voucher prizes - 3 divisions 1st & 2nd	

9 hole competitions	32 days
Average number of players	27 (same as last year)
Voucher prizes 1st & 2nd	

9 hole Winter Programme. This has been very supported by the members and the prizes were increased in value from last January.
January/February - 89 played on average per day: 3 divisions 1st & 2nd
from October to December - 96 played on average per day - 3 divisions 1st & 2nd prizes.

The Sheila Walsh Trophy was played in Baltray this year on Tuesday 12th July – it is the annual match against our neighbours Laytown/Bettystown GC. There was a good turnout and 41 teams played. We are delighted to say that Baltray GC were victorious with Frances Stanley and Mary Upton coming out as the top team. Next year's match will be in Laytown & Bettystown on Thursday 13th July.

Cup Winners	Athlumney Cup	Fleur McCloskey
	Patricia Copas Cup	Vanessa Reddan
	PGA Tankard	Susan McGuirk
	Peter Lyons Trophy	Joan Cullen
	Queensboro Cup	Marie Maguire
	McDowell Trophy	Francis & Karen Stanley
	Morington Cup	Fleur McCloskey
	Golfer of the Year	Thomasina Murphy
	Josephine Connolly Cup	Orla Briscoe
	Cona Cup	Ciara Moore

GI Silver Medal <20	Therese Callaghan
GI Bronze Medal >20	Joan Cullen
GI Junior Medal	Molly McGuire

We would like to thank all the donors who so generously gave prizes for 2022. The vouchers have been very well received. A big “thank you” to Geraldine Donegan for coordinating all these ladies into their groups. Most of the vouchers arrived on time. The Donor book will be in the locker room soon for next year 2023.

Thank you all.
Carlos McDowell, Hon Competitions Secretary

2022 ANNUAL HANDICAP SECRETARY’S REPORT

It has been a tumultuous year for many worldwide, with the ongoing war in Ukraine and the effects of global warming giving us all pause for thought. 2022 has seen us manage the coronavirus and learn to live around its inevitable presence.

Golf has been a savour for many and an escape from a world that seems to contain so much negativity and challenges to everyday living.

2022 sees the World Handicapping System (WHS) into its second full season and in general, players have adapted very well to the changes it has brought.

15 new handicap indices were issued in 2022 from the start of the active season in March. These players are starting out on their golfing journeys and we wish them many years of enjoyment and competitiveness and hope that lifelong friendships will be forged along the way.

The Handicap Committee comprising of Christine Carolan, Joan Cullen, Anne Marie Daly and Jane McCabe recently completed the Annual Handicap Review. A total number of 344 playing handicaps were reviewed in this process. Our findings included the following statistics:

During the active season (Mar-Nov) 34 players (10%) lost 2 or more shots.

59 players (17%) gained 2 or more shots. The remainder (73%) stayed within 2 shots (greater than or less than) their Jan 1 indexes.

General agreement among the handicap committee would suggest that players’ handicaps are now more accurately reflective of a players’ playing ability. This we feel is due mainly to the fact that ‘consistency of play’ is a critical criteria in maintaining and improving a players’ handicap index.

Two significant changes happened this year within the WHS, one concerning the Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) and the second dealt with the Eligibility Requirements for the Inter-club Competitions in 2023.

We received this update and statement from Golf Ireland on 18th August, 2022

PCC Update:

Since the launch of the World Handicap System (WHS) in November 2020, Golf Ireland has received feedback from golfers, and clubs on a wide range of topics. One of the most talked about aspects of WHS has been the Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) and its lack of movement compared to the old Competition Scratch Score (CSS).

We have been analysing this very carefully across GB&I and have presented this to The R&A to help with their own research and that of other countries on this topic. As a result of this work, we can report that a change will be made to the algorithm that calculates the PCC.

Statement from The R&A/USGA:

Analysis of scoring data provided from 24 countries around the world indicates that a change to the rounding method used within the current PCC algorithm would increase the instance of an adjustment for abnormal conditions by an average of 5%.

For example, in countries where an adjustment for PCC only occurs on average 10% of the time on eligible days, this change will increase the average to about 15%.

This small change, recently approved by the Handicap Operations Committee, is in response to feedback from national associations that the current PCC algorithm is too conservative.

While this may feel like a small change, we expect the impact to be significant in highlighting days where a player's performance was significantly different from that expected by the system.

Please note that there will be no change to the visibility of the calculation. This is an algorithm built within the WHS and is not available to clubs.

This change will come into place from Monday 22 August and will not affect scores submitted retrospectively.

Eligibility for Inter-Club Competitions in 2023

Golf Ireland also send a communiqué to clubs regarding eligibility requirements for Inter-Club competitions for 2023 and stated that in order to be eligible to compete for their club, a member MUST have a fully developed handicap record (i.e., 20 or more scores recorded on their record). There will be no requirement initially for a set number of these scores to have been achieved in the previous calendar year – just for the player to have 20 scores from any date on their record. However, these 20 scores must be on players' records prior to the end of 2022 for eligibility in 2023. This will facilitate all players having a 'Low Handicap Index' calculated on their record (i.e., the lowest handicap index achieved by a player during the 365-day period (one year) preceding the day on which the most recent score on their record was played).

Notices relating to the PCC Update and the Eligibility Requirements for Inter-Club Competitions for 2023 are posted in the Ladies Locker Room.

My thanks and appreciation go to all of the above members of the Handicap Committee for their help and assistance throughout the year.

Due to the introduction of mats on Dec 1 the course is no longer in Acceptable Score condition. Scores returned from this course, during this time will not affect your handicap index.

On behalf of myself and the Handicap Committee, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year that is full of hope, good health and happiness, bringing us into 2023 with a renewed energy and eagerness, for the game we love so well.

Seasons' Greetings

Rosemary Hayes

Ladies Handicap Secretary.

Junior Report 2022

With so many positive events over the season, the following provides a snapshot of the past year.

Minor Golfers, aged between 5 and 10, completed their 7-week coaching program over the summer. This would not have been possible without our volunteers, who were the senior Junior girls and boys.

On average 38 juniors competed in each competition day this year. Which demonstrates a successful turnout for the summer league, Captain's Prize to the Juniors and Junior Captains' Prize. As more Juniors transitioned into the 18-hole competition, the junior committee endeavoured to create a fun golfing environment whilst building on their skills.

The Junior Fundraiser Day was a very successful day, which would not be possible without you, our members and our sponsors. The junior committee thank you for your continued support.

The Junior committee would like to thank Eimear Hughes our Junior Captain for 2022. Eimear was a great role model, for all our juniors and was always on hand to volunteer her time in any way she could. Our Junior Captain for 2023 Hollie Murphy will no doubt follow, in Eimear's footsteps.

The Girls interclub U18 competition, didn't disappoint again this year with the team coming home from Tulfarris golf club with another North Leinster title. This unfolded under the watchful eyes of Team Captains Deirdre Gray and Catherine Gray. The girls were invited to Ballina for the All-Ireland Final. With an incredible display of golf, the girls brought the match to the 19th hole. These girls are wonderful ambassadors for our club, and we look forward to their many years to come. This team consisted of Holly Kirkpatrick, Hollie Murphy, Elizabeth Sharkey and Molly McGuire and Abbie Kierans.

Ellen O'Shaughnessy was flying the flag for Co. Louth at the Leinster girls' Championship, once again making her club very proud.

What a year for Emily Murray! At the end of the summer Emily competed with the Leinster Women's Interprovincial Team and they came home with the silverware, with Emily contributing to their win. Emily has now travelled to Delaware State University to start the next chapter on her golfing adventure. We all wish her the very best with this venture.

With more juniors than ever competing on a regional and national level, County Louth has a great future of golf ahead. The junior girl who returned the lowest aggregate of two net score differentials, one in July and August was awarded the Golf Ireland Girls Junior Medal, this junior was Molly McGuire.

We ended the summer with a trip to Blackwood Golf centre where Scott Kirkpatrick rolled out the red carpet and gave the Juniors an incredible day out. With plenty of activities to pick from, such as the interactive driving range to full par three course and a full course, the juniors had a great day.

There are not enough words to thank the following ladies for all their hours of commitment and dedication throughout the year; Jackie Quinn, Susan McGuirk, Cathryn Collins and Susanne Sharkey. Not forgetting Mary Lennon while not on committee also gives in incredible amount time to our junior girls.

The junior committee would like to thank Lady Captain Oonagh Purfield-Goulding, Lady Vice Maire Maguire, Lady President Judy McQuillan and the ladies section for their support throughout the year. On a final note, congratulations and best of luck to Fleur McCloskey and Margo Quinn in their new roles.

Linda McGuire