

## **Report of Ladies AGM Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

The members had been notified that due to Covid 19 health guidance and restrictions there would not be a meeting in the Club house as normal. Instead, all reports were available to view on the club website on 10<sup>th</sup> January at 4.00pm.

There were no matters arising notified to the Hon Secretary, from the 2020 AGM minutes which had been circulated to members.

The minutes of AGM 2020 were proposed by Dorothy Collins and seconded by Eimear Matthews.

The following are the reports from last year.

### **Committee Report**

The Ladies Club Committee has pleasure in presenting its report for 2020.

It would have been very hard to imagine how the year would progress at our last AGM on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Lady Captain Carmel was very much looking forward to her time in office.

Twelve meetings were held during the year, some via conference call and others via video links and all committee members attended regularly. Thank you to Lady Vice Captain Oonagh for arranging those meetings which were not held in the Club.

Everyone was very shocked and disappointed when the lockdown was announced in the middle of March. Suddenly, the Captains' Drive-in was cancelled. The drive-in is always a great day for our Captains, their families and friends as well as for members. Because of Covid 19 and due to the restrictions, the golf course was closed and when reopened it was initially only for casual golf. The decision was taken at committee level that there would be no qualifying competitions until August.

The Committee would like to thank all those ladies in 2020 who had generously committed to sponsor the weekly competitions, the cups, memorial trophies and Past Captains' prize and thank you to Geraldine Donegan who agreed to act as prize-co-ordinator.

Again, all our main sponsors from last year had agreed to sponsor prizes although none of these prizes were played for this year. The sponsors were written to and thanked expressing the hope that they will continue their sponsorship in 2021. Those competitions which did take place were the Kevin Garvey Memorial Trophy, won by Liz McCormack and sponsored by Western Motors. Play in Pink took place but not in the usual format and the money raised was forwarded to National Breast Cancer Research Ireland.

Eileen Tully was Honorary Competitions Secretary again this year. Weekly competitions continued along with alternate days and lamb boxes until the lockdown was announced. Details of competitions held, once some sort of normality returned in July, are in the Competition Secretary's report. Thank you to Eileen and the competitions committee. The executive committee would like to sincerely thank Eileen for her time as Competitions Secretary. It was a difficult two years for her personally and we wish her well in the future. Thank you to Lorraine for her help with the on-line booking and the purse payment system. Very many thanks to all involved in this busy section of the club.

No Major/Officers' competitions were played. The Sheila Walshe Trophy was to have been played in Laytown and Bettystown GC and this competition has been re-scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Hopefully Co Louth GC will retain the beautiful trophy.

Handicaps were tracked this year by Honorary Handicap Secretary, Rosemary Hayes and her sub-committee. Rosemary has been busy keeping the committee and members up to date on the changes coming down the line with the World Handicap System which has come into operation. Many thanks Rosemary for your work and commitment.

In 2020, no Inter-club matches were played although we had entered for the AIG Senior, Junior, Minor, Intermediate and Challenge Cups as well as the Junior Foursomes, North Leinster and Irish Mixed Foursomes. Thank you to all who agreed to give their time and commitment as Team Captains, the Team Convenor and the Liaison Officer for Inter-club matches.

There were no Women's and Girls' Inter provincials this year nor were there any Irish Championships, so there was no opportunity for our previous interprovincial players to play. Congratulations to Emily Murray, Junior Girls' Captain on being selected on the Under 17 Irish Development Squad.

As with other sporting casualties of Covid 19, the Irish Women's Open Strokeplay Championship for the Clarrie Reddan and Philomena Garvey Trophy was cancelled in May. It is planned that we will host both this prestigious competition and the Irish Girls' Championship at the same time next May, following a request from Golf Ireland.

The Social Committee was able to plan very little this year. Susie McCulloch reported to the committee on its behalf. When the evening nine-hole competitions commenced they were extremely popular. They were fully booked each week and afterwards socially distanced rules applied in the restaurant for those who wished to enjoy a meal. This year there has been no Easter Egg Hunt, Remembrance Sunday, no Santa Claus and no Christmas Carol Service. The popular Nine, Dine and Style also fell by the wayside because of Covid 19.

The Bridge club continues despite these strange times! At a zoom committee meeting, it was decided that Marie McGuirk should continue as President until next year. In the meantime with the help of their director Peter Byrne, they have managed to continue the Tuesday night bridge sessions through BBO which is an online forum. On average at least 20 players play online each Tuesday night. It keeps them in contact with one another and also keeps the club alive for when they can return to normal sessions. Sinead Kennedy is the Vice President and hopefully life will have returned to normal by next September when she is due to take up office. While this has been a strange Presidency for Marie, she has been very honoured and enjoyed the experience very much.

Brianne McHugh very generously continued her bridge lessons throughout the year right up until lockdown. There was a large attendance at the lessons - a tribute to her excellent instruction. It is good to see Brianne back on the golf course following her recent surgery. We wish her well.

Many thanks to the floral committee and when lockdown restrictions were somewhat lifted, the ladies were very generous with their own garden flowers. Marie McGuirk, who co-ordinates the flower rota, said that this kept their budget streamlined and the club house remained fresh and colourful. They are a very enthusiastic and talented group of ladies and we are very grateful to them for their commitment.

Anne O'Brien also continued her art classes and all are looking forward to the day when they can return. The art group had permission from Liam Murphy to use 2 rooms upstairs so that

they could be socially distant but with the continued lockdown this arrangement did not materialise. They did try art outdoors but that was weather dependent.

Anna Mulroy did manage some of her popular Pilates classes earlier in the year. Unfortunately she could not resume in September due to the current lock down. Anna said that to her knowledge the group really enjoyed the classes and they feel it has helped them immensely with their golf. She has seen an enormous improvement in all of the group's flexibility, stamina, balance and energy. Flexibility being the ultimate goal. Thank you very much Anna for giving your time.

The Special Olympics year under the guidance of Geraldine Collier, started in September 2019, so they had a good run at it up to the last week in February. It did not resume this year and Geraldine says that the Thursday mornings are missed both by the golfers and the volunteers alike. Great friendships have been formed over the years!

The GIG programme which started in 2019 continued and this year it has again been extremely successful. Many of the GIGs have become full members. They are most welcome to Co Louth GC and we hope they will enjoy their membership and golf. Many thanks to Jackie Quinn and Christine Carolan, assisted by the Buddies for all the organisation and success of this terrific programme. (see their report).

The Ladies Club committee would like to sincerely thank the General Manager Liam Murphy and the office staff, Professional Paddy McGuirk, Course Manager Wayne Murray and all the greens staff and Michael Devine and all the staff in the restaurant. This has been a very difficult year for Michael and the restaurant.

## **Decisions made in 2020.**

1. Arising from A.O.B at the AGM in January, the Committee agreed that the Nine and Dine day would continue and that members, if they wish, could invite up to three guests.
2. It was agreed that Maximum Score Rules would apply to all Medal competitions except the four Major Competitions.
3. It was decided to hold a lady's Invitational Day on two Tuesdays over the summer months, which would be overseen by the Ladies Committee.
4. It was decided that the entry fee for competitions would increase to €5 from €4 for eighteen holes and to €3 from €2 for nine hole competitions.
5. It was agreed that there would be no turkey boxes or Winter League this year due to Covid 19 Restrictions.

The Lady Membership over all categories now stands at 392 at the end of October 2020.

### **Lady President**

Thank you Pat for being our President this year. Unfortunately you didn't get the opportunity to represent Co Louth but we look forward to you continuing as Lady President for 2021 when we hope you will see more action!

### **Lady Captain Carmel.**

We know that Lady Captain Carmel has been quite frustrated by Covid 19 and how it has impinged on her year as our Lady Captain. All her best plans went astray. We appreciate how

she has coped with the difficulties and remained positive, calm and encouraging to us members. Hopefully 2021 will bring better times for us all and that next year will be much busier. We have Golf Ireland and the World Handicap System to look forward to.

Finally, the Ladies Club committee wish everyone a healthy, happy and better New Year in 2021.

Honorary Secretary: Sheelagh Bowers

Proposed by Catherine O'Brien

Seconded by Sarah O'Hagan

## **Financial Report**

In her report, Liz McCormack made the following comments:

As shown in the statement of affairs there was a surplus of income over expenditure of €965 recorded in the 12-month period to 31 October 2020. This compares to a deficit of €698 the previous year. However, the two years are not comparable with competitions cancelled and course closures in 2020. €8,635 was taken in income and €7,670 in expenditure.

The main highlights are as follows:

- In accordance with a decision of the committee, our Lady Captain and officers of the committee, did not receive any honorarium in the year.
- €2,175 was redeemed in vouchers and an additional amount of €1,045 of vouchers issued was redeemed since the end of October. With the cancellation of presentation nights, a decision was made by the committee that vouchers would be issued directly by the club's office. A decision was also taken to limit any new vouchers issued to be used within the Club (purse, pro-shop and restaurant) in order to support the club during this difficult year.
- We had two sponsors in the year - Approved Leinster Windows and Sports Surgery Clinic (Santry) both donating €500 each. We thank them for their support.
- The sum of €2,725 was donated to our 2019 Lady Captain's Judith's charity – The Oncology Unit in the Lourdes Hospital. In addition, €370 was donated to Breast Cancer research from the proceeds of the 'Ladies in Pink' competition and a donation of €150 was made to the National Council for the blind.
- Floral Expenditure - €384 was spent on flowers but Lady Vice Captain Oonagh has reached an agreement with the club that they will contribute to the cost of flowers going forward. It was agreed to contribute €350 for the period to the end of October 2020.

### **1. Reserves**

The balance of reserves at the end of October was €20,035.

### **2. Bank**

The balance of reserves of €20,035 held are in current account €8,724, Deposit accounts €10,204 and €1,088 and a bond of €19.

Honorary Treasurer: Liz McCormack

Proposed by Carlos McDowell

Seconded by Linda Maguire.

## **Hon. Competition Secretary's Report**

Thank you to Lady Captain Carmel, Vice-Captain Oonagh and members for all your support throughout the year. A special thanks to Eileen Tully who is stepping down as Competition Secretary after two years. We send her all good wishes.

Thank you to Competition Committee - Eileen Tully, Lucy McConnell, Anne Keane, Anne McClean, Jackie Quinn, Mary Joy, Niamh Darcy, Catherine O'Brien and Carlos McDowell. Their dedication & support over the year is highly appreciated. A well deserved thank you to you all.

What a strange year 2020 has been for everyone! One had to get used to varying degrees of lockdown, stay within different kilometres of one's home and county, shopping queues and closures etc. Similarly, with golf — the course was closed from mid-March till May 21<sup>st</sup> and then again from mid-October till December 3<sup>rd</sup>. As a consequence, all competitions and majors were cancelled except for a few games during the late summer.

Winter 9 hole competitions in January/ February	8
Average number of players	59 per competition
Spring Boxes X3	9 winners
18 hole competitions:	14
Average number of players	59 per competition
Vouchers prizes 3 classes	
9 hole Qualifying Competitions	10
Average number of players	12 per competition
Voucher prizes	
Play in Pink competition	64 players
Donation sent to Cancer Research	

The Granard Cup was not played, but a donation was sent NCBI.

We would like to thank all the donors who offered prizes for 2020 - see the 2020 diary. We are hoping that the same donors will remain in their bubbles for 2021. Should anyone wish to withdraw please contact the Competition Secretary in confidence.

**Carlos McDowell,**

**Acting Competition Secretary**

Proposed by Marie McGurk

Seconded by Judith Clarke

## **Handicap Secretary's Report**

2020 has been a very strange year and golf has not been our main focus.

Staying safe and well have been our priorities and will continue to be so, for the foreseeable future.

We certainly did not know, when we all sat down at our AGM in January 2020 that the year would unfold as it did. I took on the role of Handicap Secretary and was looking forward to getting to grips with all that that entailed. The playing year was just about to get underway in March when those fateful words were issued by An Taoiseach – we were in a lockdown.

We did enjoy a short season of competitive golf during the summer months and it was a welcome social outlet for us all. Unfortunately another lockdown loomed large and came into effect in mid- October. Once again the golf clubs closed their doors.

Regardless of all that the pandemic threw at us, the World Handicapping System (WHS)

rolled into town on schedule on Monday, 2nd November. CONGU handicaps are now a thing of the past and you now have a handicap index that can travel the world with you. All golf courses are now operating on a slope system which determines the degree of difficulty of that particular course.

When you visit another club you will be able to check your handicap index against the slope of the course you are playing and get your course handicap. The more difficult the course, the higher your course handicap will be. There are no more .1's. No more buffer zones. No more Reduction Only. Your handicap index will go up or down based on the best 8 scores of your last 20 scores. Also the CSS has been replaced with the PCC which is a Playing Conditions Calculation, which takes into account the conditions on the day (course conditions and weather conditions) and adjusts score differentials as appropriate. The general consensus is that the WHS is a fairer system and more accurately demonstrates a player's golfing ability. Use the link below to see a very user friendly player's guide to the WHS, which should prove very helpful in understanding the new system.

<https://www.congu.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Congu-Player-Ref-Guide.pdf>

The Handicap Committee have been working hard on your behalf and have become well acquainted with Zoom meetings to discuss issues as they arise. All the new handicap indexes have been reviewed by the committee and adjusted as felt appropriate. An up to date Handicap Index List will be posted in the Ladies Locker Room prior to the resumption of play. I hope you have all been able to sign up to the MyGolf App which keeps you up to date with your handicap index and well as a variety of Golf Ireland news and information. If you have not logged in, you can do so on [www.golfireland.ie/my-golf-login](http://www.golfireland.ie/my-golf-login). You will need your membership number and pin (can be found on the back of your card). If you have difficulties with this or any general queries regarding the WHS, please contact the Handicap Committee at [ladies@countylouthgolfclub.com](mailto:ladies@countylouthgolfclub.com).

We look forward to a new year with a new handicap index and hopefully a new world out there. Stay safe and well.

**Rosemary Hayes**

**Ladies Handicap Secretary.**

Proposed by Geraldine Meegan

Seconded by Oonagh Purfield

## **Junior Committee Annual Report**

Our year started with a visit to a Rules, fitness and nutrition demonstration in Royal Tara GC on 20<sup>th</sup> February which was attended by 22 juniors accompanied by 4 adults. The presentation of the Junior Winter League prizes, sponsored by Champion Letting, was well attended on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Our activities were then suspended when COVID-19 restrictions were introduced.

Despite the disruption of COVID-19 the Junior Committee, in collaboration with both Paddy & Enda, designed and delivered a comprehensive Junior & Minor coaching program and golf activities whilst strictly observing the return to golf protocols. We are thankful for the wonderful support from parents and family who volunteered throughout the summer months which contributed enormously to the enjoyment and fun which our junior & minor members experienced this summer.

### **Summary of 2020 coaching activities**

Date	Participants	No of Participants	Cost €	
Feb	Competitive juniors	10	neutral	
Jul & Aug	All juniors	70	1540	

Jul & Aug	minors	30	neutral	
Summer camp	3 day camp fully subscribed	30	neutral	
October	All juniors	18	neutral	
Halloween	All juniors	44	140	
Total cost			<b>1680</b>	

### Summer Competitions

An average of 69 young golfers supported the weekly competitions during the summer months

- 21 playing eighteen holes
- 15 playing nine Holes
- 9 playing short course / scrambles
- 24 on the Academy

Our Junior membership currently stands at 158 (10 – 19) 43 girls & 115 boys

The Minor membership currently stands at 35 (6-10) 16 girls & 19 boys

This includes 30 new juniors in 2020, 15 upgrades from Minor and 15 new to Club and 10 new Minors.

### Support from our CGI

We received an R&A Level Par grant €300, towards cost of delivering additional activities for our junior girls. The Club have signed up to the implementation of the Womens and Girls Golf Charter as part of our participation in the Level Par program. We also registered for the Golf 6's Intra-Club league, 48 minors and new to golf juniors have completed two rounds of this League before Level 3 restrictions were introduced in October – this will be rescheduled early in 2021.

### Other items

- The Junior Open Team event kindly supported by the Friends of Brian Mathews was fully subscribed
- Hibernian Steel (Ray & Andrea Moore) have come onboard as sponsor of the Junior Winter League which we hope to run over January, February & March 2021
- Our Junior Captains, Lucas McKeen and Emily Murray are looking forward to fulfilling their roles in 2021

### Conclusion

The efforts of the Junior Committee have been well supported by our PGA Professionals Paddy & Enda in delivering a very high standard of tuition and encouragement for our junior and minor golfers. We thank Captains Carmel and Derek, Presidents Pat & Thomas, Vice Captains Oonagh and Nicky for their attendance at various junior & minor activities throughout the playing season. We endeavoured to work closely with both the Womens' & Mens' Committees and thank them for their assistance in managing handicaps and competitions and for keeping Junior golf on their agenda. We also appreciate the support of the Club Management Committee, our Club General Manager Liam and his staff, our Course Superintendent Wayne and his staff nor forgetting Michael Devine and his staff for the after golf nourishments and refreshments. Our parents are instrumental in assisting with all junior activities, assisting with the academy golfers, walking the short course, scramblers and 9 hole players – encouraging and nurturing the young talent within our ranks. We very much look forward to 2021 and building on the foundations laid through our 2020 coaching programs. As I complete my term of office as Junior Convenor, I wish to thank my colleagues on the Junior Committee for their dedication to our goal of providing a safe and enjoyable environment for our Junior members. I hope that our efforts, working closely with our

Professionals and parents, will enhance the competitiveness of our junior and senior teams in the years to come.

**John McCann**  
**Junior Convenor**

### **GET INTO GOLF Report**

Despite the interruption of COVID-19, 38 women renewed their membership to Year 2 of the 2019 /2020 GIG program. The scheduled start of activities was deferred to mid-June and continued until 30 September. The program delivered was:

Six x 1 Hour lessons with Paddy & Enda

On course play (in pairs) with a Buddy

Weekly putting and short game practice

There was an excellent attendance at the lessons and we averaged 20 women at the weekly gathering where putting, chipping and pitching was supervised. A few of the GIGs played in the Friday night Social competition and overall, the women enjoyed lots of golf and practice over the summer months.

A sincere thanks to Paddy & Enda for their enthusiasm and expert tuition in getting the women prepared and able for on course play. Thanks also to the 20 dedicated buddies who gave so generously of their time and encouragement in bringing their GIGs out for golf. Play started over three holes from the 150 yard marker and most, if not all have progressed to a full 9 holes from the red tees by the end of September. 5 Handicap Indices have already been allocated and a number of others are in the process of marking cards.

This program has now concluded and 24 membership applications were submitted and elected in early November 2020. The membership offer continues to be available to the remaining 25 women until 31 March 2021. We anticipate a full up-take of the membership offer by that date.

It has been our privilege to have been involved with this wonderful group of new golfers. There are full of fun and enthusiasm and we have no doubt that they will all make a valuable contribution to Co Louth Golf Club in the coming years.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge and thank the Management Committee for their ongoing support of the GIG program and the Ladies Committee who have continued to keep Get into Golf on their Agenda.

**Jackie Quinn & Christine Carolan**

### **Lady Captain Carmel's Report**

Over the last year we have dealt with fear, lock downs and upheaval with great dedication and commitment and I applaud all members for their patience and dedication to doing the right thing through the year.

It has been my honour to be your Lady Captain this year and I look forward to continuing the role in 2021.

I must acknowledge a number of individuals and groupings that have helped me in my role through the year and again I look forward to their continued help and assistance in the year to come.

To our Lady President, Pat Murray. She has always been available to the members and specially me throughout the year. Thank you, Pat.

Vice-Captain, Oonagh Purfield-Goulding. Your help to me throughout the year has been immense, I sincerely thank you. I am looking forward to working with you in 2021 and I promise my "IT skills" will come on.

The Hon. Secretary Sheelagh Bowers has dealt with the volumes of correspondence the current crisis required, in an efficient and professional way. Keeping all the members informed as we navigated the various new rules and lock downs the year brought. Thank you, Sheelagh.

Our Hon. Handicap Secretary, Rosemary Hayes and her sub-committee who have taken on the onerous task of deciphering the new handicap system. She has done excellent work in distributing a comprehensive chart explaining the changes and I wish to express my and our appreciation for this hard work. Thank you, Rosemary.

To our Hon. Competition Secretary, Eileen Tully. Thank you on behalf of myself and all our lady members for your organization and administration of the competitions over the past two years Well Done. I know we are all wishing you a speedy recovery and I am sure that you will be at the other end of the competitions soon, i.e., picking up prizes.

Hon. Treasurer, Liz McCormack, who has kept the books in order and presents an excellent analysis of income and expenditure. Thank you, Liz.

To the members of the Ladies Committee, our ex officio Judith, Jane, Jenny, Mairead, Michelle and Susie, I have enjoyed our meetings and discussions and thank you for your support throughout the year.

To the Social Committee, Flower Committee and the Junior Committee thank you for your work and help throughout the year. I sincerely thank all those involved for what they have done and achieved throughout the year.

To our General Manager Liam, our Professional Paddy, Enda, Lorraine and the front of house staff, Wayne and his greens staff, restaurant, bar and everyone else who worked so hard to keep the club functioning throughout the year in the face of such turmoil, I thank you.

I would like to make a special mention of Emily Murray, our junior girls Captain on her selection for the Irish Development Squad what a proud moment for her and all the members of County Louth Golf Club. Well done Emily!

I hope that 2021 will see a return to normal, all be it a slow one, and that by the summertime, Covid-19 will be in our rear-view mirror. Whatever the future brings I am confident that with the membership and the people we have we will weather whatever the future may throw at us. Again, it has been my privilege to represent you and I look forward to 2021 with renewed optimism.

Stay Safe

Lady Captain Carmel Kierans

## **Election of Officers and Committee.**

Lady President	Pat Murray
Lady Captain	Carmel Kierans
Lady Vice Captain	Oonagh Purfield Goulding
Hon Secretary	Sheelagh Bowers
Hon Comp Sec	Carlos McDowell
Hon Handicap Sec.	Rosemary Hayes

### **Committee**

Mairead Duffy, Jane McCabe, Susie McCulloch, Jenny Matthews, Geraldine Meegan.

There were no motions put forward.