

Howth Golf Club Tee Times Captains Farewell Edition Celebrating 2012

The Captains Charity Events this year raised a magnificent €16,000 for the Children's Medical and Research Foundation associated with Crumlin Children's Hospital. Pictured with our Captains, Aveen and Eamonn is CEO of the Foundation, Joe Quinsey

The 2012 Captains bid "Farewell".

After an action packed 12 months Lady Captain Aveen Magner Lyons and Captain Eamonn Brennan passed on their respective roles to incoming Lady Captain Therese Gray and Captain Michael Gray at the conclusion of the Club AGM which was held in the clubhouse on Monday 3rd December.

From the Lady Captain

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped make 2012 such an exciting and eventful year for me. Way back in January, the year got off to a great start with a most enjoyable Drive -In day. My thanks to Des Gilroy for the live music which added to the atmosphere. Thanks also goes to Des for all those photos taken during the year.

Howth ladies participated in a range of inter-club matches this year; however the hunt for a trophy remained elusive. The most notable performances were the junior foursomes team managed by Audrey McAdams who reached the quarter final stages and the Senior Cup managed by Mary Plunkett, who having qualified, stunned the Grange by defeating them in the first round. Many thanks to all managers and players for their commitment and dedication.

My Captain's prize to the ladies was one of the highlights of my year, Helen Dawkins being a worthy winner. Congratulations to the other Major Trophy winners; Brenda Flynn, Golfer of the Year; Valerie Moffat, Captain's Prize to the Ladies; Mary Gray Fitzpatrick for the Club Cup.

This year we introduced two new trophies, The Sheila Steele Trophy which was won by Zita Bergin and the Scratch Cup which was won by Jassy O'Siochain. The Friday winter league continues to flourish with the enthusiastic organisation of Gillian Guinness, Mary Judge, Fiona Staunton and Ann O'Boyle. Zita Bergin has taken on the running of our weekend winter league.



It is always a pleasure to welcome new members to HGC and I really enjoyed my involvement in the Six Week Membership initiative – a brilliant idea of Marketing Convenor Brenda Flynn and General Manager Darragh Tighe. Gillian has also set up an initiation program which is proving to be hugely successful. They are called the 'Griffins' and Gillian is always looking for new Griffindors (Griffin + Mentor), to help out!

Our junior girl's captain Laura Doherty led by example and amongst her many achievements were her selection on the Leinster Girls team and winning the Ria Kenny Junior Girls Trophy. A big thank you to Jan Ives and her team for their dedication to the juniors.

The social life of HGC is very varied ranging from Friday Nights mixed golf, to bowling, to theatre nights, to music circle, bridge and choirs. Thanks to all involved and especially to our conveyor of socials, Eileen Gilroy and her hard working team. Many thanks to all the staff at HGC who keep the course, clubhouse, and office running smoothly. I would like to especially thank our 'club historian' Paddy Keenan, for keeping all the engravings on the trophies up to date.

I would like to thank Breda Mullally for nominating me as Lady Captain in 2012 and for her considerable help and guidance in her role as ex-officio. I had great support from my committee, Vice-captain Therese, honorary secretary, Fiona and honorary treasurer Breda Swan. I wish Therese and Breda every success as they head into 2013 as Lady Captain and Vice-captain respectively. An expert in all matters relating to handicaps is Hon handicap secretary Kay Deasy who did a fantastic job. Thanks to my whole committee, Noreen McKenna who is retiring and will be sorely missed, Kate Linehan, Mary McLean, Pauline Jones, Brid Reynolds and Helen Webster. The ladies were well represented on Council by Brenda Flynn and Eileen Gilroy both of whom worked tirelessly and had significant input. I enjoyed being a member of the first council under the guidance of Chairperson, Ciaran Mulhall.

Finally, my thanks go to Eamonn Brennan for his support during the year. We had many memorable moments including our Captain's Charity event and qualifying along with Hon Secretary Michael O'Connor to represent Howth in the All Ireland Final of the Allianz Irish Independent Executive Trophy. And last but not least, my thanks go to you the members for your support, good will and friendship which has made this year so special.



**Lady Captain Aven
with
Visiting Lady Captains
at the
Ladies Dinner 2012**



From the Captain

Since the last issue of Tee times there have been four major calendar events viz: a) the Captains Dinner, b) the Vice Captain announcements, c) the Men's Golf section AGM and d) the AGM of the club. Each of these important events passed off smoothly and great credit is due to both committee members and a host of helpers for their commitment, creative talents and efforts in the planning and presentation process.

At the Captains Dinner held on 3rd November, I recalled the honour and privilege which the role of Captain represents and the year seemed to pass remarkable quickly but that it was both a richly memorable and rewarding experience. I then took the opportunity to highlight the ongoing challenges which Club Managements face with regard to the importance of addressing declining membership numbers together with the challenging issue of securing new members. In this regard I emphasised the importance of promoting the concept of "value for money" so that members can more fully appreciate not only the competitive and recreational golfing facilities which membership entails but also the wide range of clubhouse facilities at their disposal. I also pointed out that, whilst club marketing and membership liaison committees can put forward creative plans, experience has shown that it is the club members themselves who are best placed to encourage new membership. This is to be encouraged.

I then reviewed a number of notable golfing (including inter club matches) and other events which occurred during the year and followed that by extending a wide range of "thank you's" to office bearers, committee members, sub committees, team managers, club members generally, caterers and staff for their tremendous support and co-operation during the year. I noted their individual and collective efforts had underpinned the smooth efficient running of the club and in strongly positioning the club for the future. I finished my speech at the Captains Dinner by wishing the visiting Captains, GUI representative, invited guests, family members and club members, good golf and good health for the future.

With regard to the Vice Captains announcements, I was more than delighted to nominate Muiris Heron as Vice Captain 2013. Muiris was subsequently elected at the Men's AGM. Muiris has been a member of the previous Management Committee and more recently Honorary Secretary of the Men's Executive Committee and will bring to the role a wealth of business and committee experience together with an excellent ability to provide leadership into the future.

The AGM of the Club was held on Monday 3rd December. The last and most pleasant part of those proceedings was the official instalment of the 2013 Captains Michael and Therese Gray. As outgoing Captains, both Aveen and I presented the Captains jackets to the incoming Captains together with their respective gold tie pin and broach. It is wonderful to see such worthy recipients of the great honour and our congratulations and ongoing support goes with them.

My year as Captain was made all the more enjoyable as a result of an excellent working relationship with Lady Captain Aveen to whom I would like to extend a very warm "thank you" for her support and co-operation during the year. Farewell to you all and as I said at my Captains Dinner I wish you all good golf, good health and happiness for the future.



**Congratulations to Des Gilroy
HGC Club Person of the Year 2012**

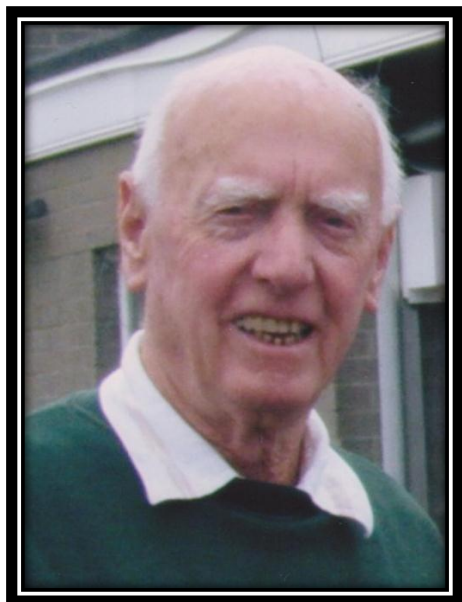
Bowling at HGC



Bowling at Howth has resumed for the season under the expert guidance of Bert O'Brien. The players meet every Friday night at 7:30pm. Please join us for fun and games!



In conversation with ...



Paddy Keenan

Paddy essentially spans the time period from the start of Howth golf club to the present day. Paddy's earliest associations with HGC were as a caddy in 1935, six years after the opening of the second nine. His recollections of the early history of the course will be for another time but Paddy records the changing layouts of the course, from a time when the first tee box was located at the notice board which is beside the club house and you played up the present 18th fairway towards the cottage to the first green. He recalls the sixth tee box being near the present sixteenth green and you played across to the present fourth green, which took you across two valleys. He also recalls Campbell's of Howth growing potatoes on what is now the ninth fairway, the shape of the lazy beds are still visible.

Paddy became a full member of the club in 1969, having worked as a caddy from 1935, then coming to work in HGC in 1949, setting up the artisans in 1950, one of sixteen which he started with Dave Fennelly. If anything was to be done around the club such as the clearing of rhododendrons, sweeping of the greens to remove goat droppings from the many goats that grazed on the course, this was performed by the artisans. He then had a period away from Howth, joining Donabate along with his workmates in 'Irish Lights' before returning to Howth where he has remained.

Paddy is one of the only people to complete the Howth 'grand slam', winning all the major trophies to be won in Howth. This was completed in 1995 when he won the Philly Mc Henry Shield. He played interclub matches for the club in all the available competitions. One missing off the list was the 'Junior Cup' for which he wasn't eligible playing off 2 at the time.

He recalls an amazing journey to play in Ballybunion to compete in the semi final of the Barton shield for Donabate. On the way he was involved in a bad car crash, in which he was propelled through the back window of the car, flying 14ft over a hedge, to land in a muck pool. They were carrying six dozen balls on the back seat, he claims that only 2 balls were lost, the rest being collected off the road. They were taken to Nenagh hospital to be checked over, whereupon Paddy had a bath to wash off the mud, straightened his rather damaged driver and proceeded without comment to Ballybunion to complete the match.

Paddy is at present a vice president of Howth Golf club after many years of loyal service to the club, serving on the committees, being also convenor of the course and the house. He is a Howth legend.

A CD is being prepared for the centenary year in 2016 which will be an incredible record of the history of the life and time of Paddy and Howth Golf Club. It will serve to remind us of what we take for granted when we pass through the gates of this mystical place.



Results Round-Up

Ladies Section

Ladies Cup Trophy	Sept. 2, 201	Mary Gray Fitzpatrick
Sheila Steele Trophy	Sept. 12, 2012	Zita Bergin
Michael Hannigan Shield	Sept. 15, 2012	Jassy O'Siochain
Lady Golfer of the Year	2012	Brenda Flynn



**Ladies Club Cup
Trophy 2012 winner**

Mary Gray-Fitzpatrick

**Ladies Club
Golfer of the Year
2012**

Brenda Flynn





Results Round-Up contd.

Men's Section

Michael Hannigan Shield

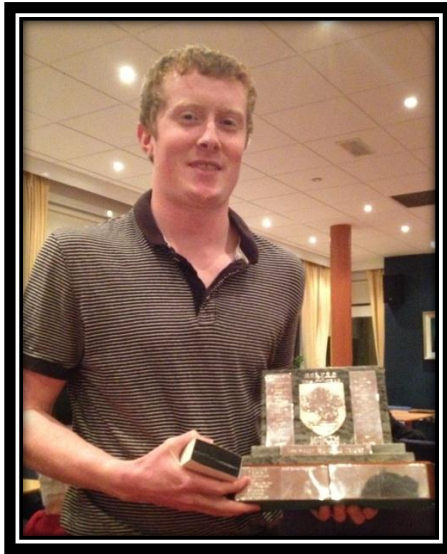
Sept. 15, 2012

Mark Lillis

Golfer of the Year

2012

Sean Cleary



**Men's Club
Golfer of the Year 2012**

Sean Cleary

Our New "Griffins"



Meet the New Lady members of HGC who joined through the 6 week ladies membership programme 2012. Gillian Guinness and her "Griffindors" (griffins' + mentors) are on hand to assist them as they learn the game of golf. Volunteers and new members are welcome – we meet on the putting green on Wednesday's at 10am.



Our Music Circle Maestros Joe Carberry and Louis Crowe

The Howth Golf club Music Circle started back on the 17th of October with a wonderful presentation by Johnny McGeehan. This was followed on Nov. 14th by Mary Murphy with her musical selection. The Music Circle meets once a month under the guidance of Louie Crowe, Joe Carberry and Bert O'Brien. Chairperson of HGC, Ciaran Mulhall's choice will feature on December 12th. On Jan. 9th, our new Captains for 2013, Therese and Michael Gray, will jointly provide a selection of their musical preferences, followed by Ted Ryan on Feb. 6th. Pat Paisley will present the member's choice on March 6th, 2013. All are welcome to join us for a night of music and friendship.



Do you play bridge or would like to learn?

Howth Golf Clubs' Bridge Club play on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the year and they are very sociable evenings and we are looking to welcome new recruits.

We are hoping to arrange classes for beginners starting in the New Year. Please contact any of the following for further information or to sign up:

Cissie Tarpey at 831 7964	Gretta Brooks at 832 5765
Malak O'Connor at 839 3915	Marie Stanley at 839 0860
Liam Cahill at 087 8527515	





Young Guns



Junior Boys Captain 2012



Junior Girls Captain 2012

Our junior girls captain Laura has had a year of notable success, including dropping her handicap from 6 to 4, winning the girls Ria Kenny Trophy, being selected to represent Leinster in the Interprovincials, and winning the gross at the 2012 ILGU Junior Medal in Seapoint. Sophie Harrison also had a great year finishing the year on 6. We wish her well as she attends the Darren Clarke School of golf next year. Breanne Flynn also lost 3 shots and won the Park Motor Trophy.

Our boys captain Shane also dropped a shot this year and his most memorable moment, aside from managing to hit his best drive of the year at his drive-in (in front of family and friends!), was representing HGC in both the Barton and Metropolitan Cups. The boys of HGC had many achievements, including Sean Cleary who won Golfer of the Year, Simon Foy who won the Tom Phelan Trophy, and Robbie Hynes who won the Ben Edar Trophy. The Smyth brothers also had great success dropping 9 shots between them! Shane believes that his year as junior captain was an absolute privilege and he wished Simon Foy (incoming Junior Captain) all the best for 2013.

Darragh continued his autumn session of coaching at The Grange for the juniors during October and November and will start up again in March 2013. His patience and commitment to our junior program is much appreciated.

Up Coming Events

- Weds Dec 12th - Ladies Champagne Scramble – in aid of SVP
Music Circle - Chairman Ciaran Mulhall's Choice
- Thurs Dec 13th - Daily Christmas Lunches commence
- Sat Dec 15th - Christmas Mixed Greensomes
Christmas Carol Evening with Supper
- Mon Dec 31st - New Years Eve Dinner, Cabaret and Dance
- Sat Jan 5th - Michael & Therese's Captains' Drive In
- Sun Jan 6th - Junior Captains' Drive In
- Weds Jan 9th - Captains' Choice at Music Circle.



The Social Butterfly

The Autumn social calendar commenced with the Ladies prize giving night on Wed 26th September which not only included all competition winners since the end of May but also included the presentation of the very prestigious trophies of the Club, i.e. the Club Cup won by Mary Gray Fitzpatrick and the Michael Hannigan Shield won by Jassie O'Siochain. The Ria Kenny Girls Trophy and the Park Motors Trophy were won by our two very own "young guns" – Laura Doherty and Breanne Flynn. It was like a breath of fresh air to see these two very young ladies joining with the "mature" teenagers to receive their respective trophies and they were also winners in many other prestigious competitions during the year.

A new trophy presented to the Club was the Sheila Steele Trophy and this was won by Zita Bergin. Brid Healy, a former lady captain from 1962, and a Trustee of the Club was a very good friend of Sheila's. Brid gave a lovely account of her friendship with Sheila over a long number of years. Sheila's nephew Sean presented the trophy and Zita acknowledged the winning of such a trophy as a great privilege and honour.



***Brid Healy, Lady Captain Aven, Winner of Sheila Steele Trophy ,
Zita Bergin with Sheila Steele's Nephew Sean Waldron***

On Friday 28th September the Social Committee arranged the presentation of a play entitled An Evening with Oscar Wilde. This was attended and thoroughly enjoyed by over 100 members and their guests. This was a super turnout given the competition it had with Ryder Cup enthusiasts.



Social Butterfly Contd.

On Saturday 3rd November Captain Eamon held the annual Gentlemen's dinner which was attended by Captain Eamon's family, members and their wives and partners. Captain Eamon was also delighted to welcome the visiting captains from our neighbouring clubs as well as a representative of the GUI. A beautiful meal was prepared and served by Stephen and Ellen Fee and their catering staff. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

On Sunday 4th November Howth Golf Club was transformed into a den of witches, ghouls, devils and villains. The last day of the mid-term break was given over to trick and treating by all the children, grand children, niece and nephews of the members of the Club. Food for the children had a seasonal flavour, i.e. "Scary Soup" and Spider Chicken Nuggets. There was a competition for the best costume and gifts for the prize-winners and sweet goodies were provided to each of the children. The children were completely enthralled by the puppet show. A fun day was had by all.



On Monday 5th November the announcement took place of our new Vice Captains for 2013. Congratulations and every good wish to Breda Swan and Muiris Heron pictured here with incoming Captains Therese and Michael Gray



Social Butterfly Contd.

On Tuesday 6th November an Ecumenical Service was held for the deceased members and family members of the Club. The very simple service was a special reminder of loved ones who sadly are no longer with us.

On Friday 9th November, Red Hurley with the Howth Gospel Choir presented a super show and entertained over 130 members and their guests. Howth Gospel Choir, a new choir to the area had everyone stamping their feet and clapping their hands. Red Hurley transported everyone back to the era of the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's. There was dancing in the aisles and the showstopper "New York New York" had everyone on their feet and almost lifted the roof off the club! It was a highly entertaining and enjoyable night. Special thanks to Eileen Des and the Social Committee for the work involved in organising and presenting these social events.



Captain Aven's Dinner took place on Saturday 1st December. This was attended by Captain Aven's family, Captain Eamonn and his lovely wife Nuala. Captain Aven also welcomed the Lady Captains from all our neighbouring clubs as well as Pauline Byrne from the ILGU. There were more than 130 lady members in attendance.

There were speeches and toasts and Captain Aven welcomed everyone to the Dinner. Julie Doherty, Captain of Sutton Golf thanked our Lady Captain and all the lady members on behalf of all the guests.



Social Butterfly Contd.

Lady Captain Aveen also took the opportunity to announce the Golfer of the Year, namely Brenda Flynn (our very own Editor in Chief). Our congratulations to Brenda on this wonderful achievement. Brenda thanked Lady Captain Aveen and all the members of the Club and said the Trophy which is in the shape of hands represented and signified friendship which was the cornerstone of Howth Golf Club.

A lovely meal was provided by Stephen, Ellen and their staff. Vice-Captain Therese arranged the after dinner entertainment which was presented by some lady members of the Club who were accompanied on the piano by Michael Kelly given the enthusiastic reception received it was felt everyone enjoyed the various sketches, music and monologues. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

The Club will have the annual Christmas Social function on Saturday 15th December and this will include a supper and the Howth Golf Club Choir will entertain by singing some Christmas carols.

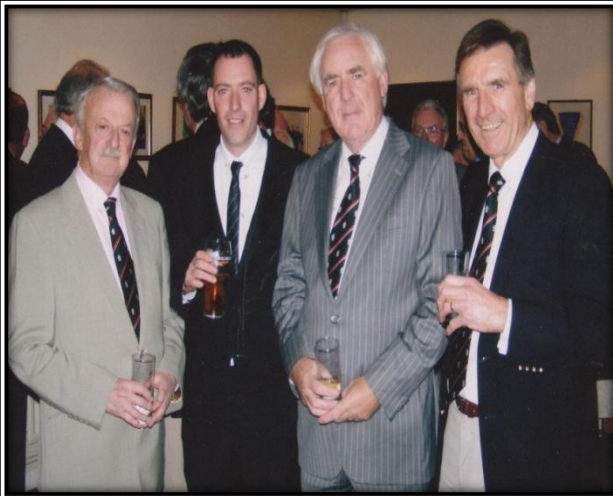


***Our very own Howth Choir hard at work practicing for the Christmas Social
new members always welcome***

The final Social Event of the year will take place on Monday 31st December, New Year's Eve with a dinner, dancing and entertainment by High Stakes – providing a Tribute to Neil Diamond. This should be a very exciting evening to bring the busy year of 2012 to a close. The Social Committee are preparing a schedule of events for 2013 and these will be announced early next year. The Social Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for their continued support of the various social events during the year.



Highlights of the Captains and Ladies Dinner





NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK!

It has been a very busy year for welcoming new members to our club. There has been a lot of different events organised targeting our new members. Sometimes it's not easy to just go out and play! It can be quite daunting when you are new or indeed not feeling up to 'par' with other members, especially when they have been playing here for some years or have low handicaps! Rest assured they are all very friendly and only use their clubs for golf and on that note, a gentle reminder to all members to please look out for our new recruits and inform them of up and coming events. And don't forget as a New Year resolution to look for opportunities to play with them.

Last Tuesday a new member's night was hosted by H.G.C and it was a great night. We had a number of members from our 'Six Week Membership Special' which the club advertised earlier this year and who went on to become full members of our club. Well done to Brenda, Darragh and all who helped with that event.



Our New Lady Members Marion McMahon, Margaret Flood and Beda Farrelly who joined after the six week programme in March last all enjoying good wine and good company at our recent new members information evening.

On the night itself, Edward Walsh told us he joined the club, along with his 15 year-old son Oisin. He hopes to get a chance to play some golf with Oisin, sooner rather than later - that's the plan anyway! He also loves the views and the situation of the golf course. Gerrard Rudden, another new member, was present at our festive gathering – and he lives close by and also loves the views around the course.

Our newest members to date are Annemarie Sheehan and Barbra McMullen. "Girls, you are most welcome to HGC". They enjoyed the evening, getting to know other members and hope to play many rounds of golf.

Gerard Rudden and John Tynan enjoying the atmosphere of our new members evening and are looking forward to the coming season





In And Around the Greens

The greens have recovered well from autumn hollow tining and will be receiving aeration and light sanding throughout the winter as a substitute for spring hollow tining. Spraying for Fusarium control has taken place and additionally, the fairways and tees have been sprayed for worm casts (this may also reduce bird damage to fairways). Rims have been brought into use and these will improve the quality of the holes during the winter. Additional roping will be used shortly to guide traffic and protect surrounds of greens where wear and tear is a problem.

The new tee mats are now in play and will remain so during the winter -- the resting of the main teeing areas for the winter will show great benefits next year. The new men's yellow 3rd tee has been in play for a number of weeks and is proving to be a major challenge, particularly to newer members for whom it is a new experience. Some minor works aimed at eliminating the uneven surfaces have been carried out on the 17th and 18th yellow tees.

The stream at the 15th green has been remodelled and improved.

***Get That Perfect Christmas or Valentines Day Gift
with our Six Week Ladies Membership Programme
for full details contact Darragh***

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT STOCKING FILLER?

6 weeks Introduction to Golf
Ladies Membership Offer.
Runs from Monday 19th March to
Monday 30th April 2012.
Cost €100 (Numbers Limited)
Terms and Conditions Apply.

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE NOW



Out and About the House

You may have noticed that a general tidy up of the clubhouse is under way. David Nugent is busy painting the clubhouse and will soon be tackling the skirting boards to give them a much needed refurbishment. The Clubhouse windows are scheduled to be replaced next March, weather permitting. For general tidy up items that you may see on your travels you may wish to inform the office.