



Rosslare Golf Men's Club Secretary's Report 2022/2023

I am honoured to present the Secretary's report for the Men's Club for the year 2022/2023. The Men's Club is approaching the end of its third year in existence. The focus of the Club is to run men's amateur golf for Rosslare Golf Club as laid out in the Club's Constitution. An additional role for the club is that laid out in the Rosslare Golf Club Code of Conduct, Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures, 2022.

The Men's Club committee has had a busy year, meeting 13 times. The meetings were well attended, punctual and had full and varied agenda to discuss and make decisions. I want to thank all the members of the committee for their cooperation and assistance in the smooth running of all our meetings.

After the Annual General Meeting in November last, the ex officio Diarmuid Ó Raghnaigh informed the Captain that he would be resigning from the Men's Club Committee. The committee fully supported Diarmuid's decision. Under Article 12.9 of the Clubs Constitution, Vice-Captain Paul Boggan proposed, to the committee at its first meeting, that Denis Noonan, outgoing President, be co-opted on to the committee to replace Diarmuid. The Committee unanimously agreed with the proposal. At the same meeting (16/11/2022), the committee appointed as, **(SLIDE)** Chair of Competitions, Mr Boyd Scott, Handicap Secretary Mr Claude Howlin, Teams Coordinator Mr Mark O'Connor, Sponsorship Chair Mr Murt Joyce. At the subsequent meeting of the committee, which Denis Noonan attended, he was appointed as Chair of the Local Rules Review subcommittee. At the same meeting, in accordance with Art 17.6 of the Constitution, subcommittees were approved of **(SLIDE)** (See appendix 1). Members were informed of these appointments by BRS email on the 17/11/2022 and 10/01/2023.

At the meeting of the 15/12/2022 Mr Rory Deane was appointed as the Junior Convenor for the Men's Club. On the 13rd of March, Rory tendered, to Vice Captain Paul Boggan, his resignation. Despite numerous attempts, include a final email on the 14th of March, a replacement Junior Convenor was not appointed.

Committee Procedures

The Men's Club Committee has been in situ for two years and it was decided that it was now appropriate to have a set of procedures as how the committee would go about its business. A set of procedures were drawn up and agreed upon. The procedures would be reviewed as the year progressed and if approved by the incoming committee, will be published on the club's website at the end of the year.

Golf Ireland Annual General Meetings

The Captain and I, on behalf of the Men's Club, attended the Annual General Meeting of the Leinster Branch of Golf Ireland in Westmanstown Golf Club on the

16th of January 2023. I, again on behalf of the Men's Club, attended the Golf Ireland Annual General Meeting in Mullingar on the 25th of March 2023. Claude Howlin Handicap Secretary attended the Leinster Handicap Seminar in Carlow on the 8th of March.

Management Committee subcommittees (SLIDE)

Under Art 17.6 of the Clubs Constitution, the Men's Club Committee appointed the following committee members to the Management Committee subcommittees. Finance – Colm Waldron Hon, Treas., Greens – Vice Captain Paul Boggan, Membership – Claude Howlin Handicap Sec and Mr Murt Joyce to Business Development. No appointment was made to the House/Social and Marketing subcommittees.

Presentations to Men's Club Committee

On the 9th of January, the Chairperson Mr Paddy Longeran, of the Management Committee addressed the Men's Club Committee.

On the 13th of March, the Chairperson of the Greens subcommittee, Mr Michael Dempsey, accompanied by Mr Mark Doyle, Course Superintendent addressed the Men's Club Committee. They gave a presentation in relating to the irrigation system proposed for the club.

Mr Robert Redmond and Mr John Garahy met the Men's Club Committee on the 13th of June to inform the members that a review of the Club's Constitution had been sought by the Management Committee. They gave an outline of the type of issues that would require review.

On the 26th of June, the Implementation team for the Irrigation project met a number of members of the Men's Club Committee, to update them and informed them of the proposed information day and the upcoming Special General meeting.

Finance

Colm Waldron will present the accounts for the Men's Club shortly. A lot of excellent work has been done by Colm and Denis Noonan to provide precise information about, particularly our income, to provide accurate and proper budgets for the forthcoming years.

Course

The Mens Club Committee complement all the good work carried out on both courses, under the oversight of the Management Committee and the operations of Course Superintendent Mark Doyle and his team The new tee boxes (SLIDE) are a great addition to the club, as is the sight of the sea.

Competitions

Despite, not having the best weather this year, a full programme of competitions took place. Chair of Competition, Boyd Scott will give you a detailed presentation on competitions later. I would like to thank, the members of the Competitions Subcommittee, all our card checkers, the staff in the proshop, the greens staff and the office. I would like to mention the Senior Scratch Cup, (SLIDE) the Junior Scratch

Cup, the Captains and Presidents prize, the Winter League, and the Summer Series as some of our successes this year. Our competition success is also supported by all our generous sponsors, whose support to Rosslare Golf Club is appreciated.

(SLIDE)

We have continued to support the 3Ts and the PGA Tankard Benevolent Fund as our main charity events for the year. We contributed €1,050 and €500 to each respectively.

Congratulations to the winners of the Player of the Year, Golfer of the Year, Gaynor and Hogan Cup and also the new Burrow Player of the year, a prize that was inaugurated for the first time this year. I want to thank the O'Connor family for the provision of the "The Forth Perpetual Cup" and sponsored by Archas Insurance and Dermot Crookes. All prizes were given out at the very successful presentation night on the 21st of October.

Congratulations, also to Graham Donohoe, **(SLIDE)** who survived a three-hole playoff with Simon Miskelly to claim the Leinster Mid-Amateur Open Championship in Courtown in June. To Jody Fanagan who reached the final of the US Senior Amateur Championship in California, the winner was the American Todd White. Well done to Paul Murphy, **(SLIDE)** who is continuing to make strides on the Alpine Tour and the best of luck to Paul for 2024.

Handicaps

The World Handicap System continues to be controversial as ever. The HARPs scheme was reviewed after being inaugurated in 2022. Information on the changes were circulated to all members on the 4th of April. There is some good news on the handicap front in an update from Golf Ireland on Wednesday. It appears they may be listening to the clubs all along. Handicap Secretary Claude Howlin will brief you on handicaps in Rosslare Golf Club later and news of the latest update.

A welcome event for new members was held in the clubhouse on the 12th of April, presided over by the Captain Richard **(SLIDE)**. We are getting ever increasing new members.

Teams

Congratulations to the JB Carr team in winning the County pendent for the first time since 2011. However, our teams in 2023 fell somewhat short of where we need to be. Our Team Coordinator Mark O'Connor will address you later tonight. We had a great win the senior bi-annual match against Tenby GC in September. **(SLIDE)**

Complaints

As Hon. Secretary of the Men's Club Committee, I received seven complaints from members during the year. Four of these were appropriate for the committee to deal with under our discipline regulations. There were no procedures in the Rosslare Golf Club Code of Conduct, Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures, 2022 as how such complaints are to be dealt with by the Men's Club Committee. In 2022, Captain, then Vice Captain Richard Kennedy, put in place the Rosslare Golf Links Club Complaints and Grievance Policy which was approved by the committee. Under this policy all appropriate complaints received by the Hon. Secretary are allocated to the Vice Captain and the President for investigation and mediation. I wish to compliant Vice

Captain Paul Boggan and President Martin Flynn for their competency and professionalism in dealing with these complaints. It is a very unpleasant function for anybody to have deal with. All four complaints were fully dealt with, and in the main, the outcomes were satisfactory to all the participants involved.

Juniors

The one aspect of men's golf this year that was not up to the standards required by the club, related to our juniors. The junior committee of 2022 resigned in mass at the end of the year and despite the efforts of the men's, ladies, and the management committee no junior committee could be formed. We were lucky that Mr Liam Lawlor, who is qualified as a Child Protection Officer, within Golf Ireland, was available to us in matters that related to our junior members. I wish to express my personal thanks to Liam for his assistance in the one sensitive issue that related to junior members this year. As you will hear later in this meeting, endeavours are in place to have junior committee in place for 2024. Well done to Junior Captain Jamie Doyle who had a difficult year with little happening during his tenure. There will be an announcement about next year's Junior Captain later tonight.

Timesheets - Societies and Visitors

Over the last two years the issue of golf societies and visitors playing the course, especially on the weekends needed clarification. In 2022 a joint meeting of the Management Committee, the Men's Club and Ladies Club met to come to an agreement on visitors and societies.

Further meetings took place this year and an agreement was reached on April 17th, 2023. **(SLIDE)**

The agreed terms are:

- No society bookings on Sundays or Tuesdays
- Restrict societies to one per Saturday subject to size and conditions below.
- No extra societies to be booked on the five Saturdays the "Saturday" group play. (Discretion advised if it is a small society)
- Society times: 12.30-2.00+ (Flexibility plus one/two extra times if required)
- One large or two small societies within these times.
- No Green Fee bookings prior to 11.30 on member's busy days i.e. Tuesday/Wednesday/Saturday / Open Sundays.
- No visitor bookings on Confined Sundays.
- Green Fee enquiries should be directed to the online booking system to ensure pre-payment and that they are booking within the allocated time.
- All societies must pay a deposit on booking. If this is not received within four working days, the booking to be cancelled.
- All societies / Green Fees must -play the format of the day.
- Catering requirements must be sought on booking confirmation.
- Mondays/Thursdays/ Fridays to be actively marketed. Please note prebooked Fridays e.g., Summer Series/ Classics
- Sell Burrow Course as an alternative.

- No ladies' bookings to be taken outside Ladies Alternate times on Sundays. However casual golf (men & ladies) may be booked outside designated tee times.
- No breaches of the above agreement to be considered.

A review of the agreement was carried out by the Men's Club Committee. This review was discussed with the Management Committee at a meeting on the 19th of October. A subsequent meeting is to be arranged after the Annual General Meetings of the Mens and Joint Clubs.

Early access to the timesheet is an issue that the Mens club have received correspondence throughout the year. This is the main relates to playing competitions before 7.30 am during the summer months. This is an issue for the Management committee, as it relates to the opening of the proshop and the working practices of the course staff. There is no issue for the Men's Club if early playing were available to members, all that would involve for competitions subcommittee would be set the competition to allow earlier entries.

Local Rules Review

The Men's Club Committee decided to put in place a subcommittee to review all the local rules of Rosslare Golf Club. The remit of the subcommittee was widened to include the course boundaries and the pace of play policy. The ladies committee were approached by me to see if they wished to be part of the review subcommittee. Dorcas Maher and Susan Evans joined the subcommittee. The subcommittee was chaired by Denis Noonan, who will brief you on their work and recommendations.

Code of Conduct

There is provision under Rule 1.2b of the R&A Rules of Golf to allow golf committee to introduce a code of conduct for their members. This provision allows for the imposition of penalties for certain behaviours outside the rules of golf. The Men's Club Committee considered the introduction of such a code but wish to have the wider views of all members. The issue is on the agenda, and I will address the item in more detail then.

Constitutional Changes

As I said earlier, the Management Committee initiated a review of the Club's Constitution. However, there is one issue of a technical nature which the Men's Club Committee need to address pertaining to our Annual General Meeting. That is the requirement for a quorum of 50 attendees. The constitution does not provide for the Men's Club a procedure if such a quorum is not reached. I will address the issue later.

Day out (SLIDE)

As a mark of appreciation to the work done by the Men's Club Committee members and our card checkers during the year, a day out was organised to Coollattin Golf Club on the 21st of September. It was an enjoyable day out and the courtesy of the course was provided by Coolattin to us. The Coollattin Committee will visit Rosslare Golf Club on the 15th of December on a reciprocal basis.

I want to thank my predecessor as Hon Sec, Robin Gardner and his predecessor

Eugene Daly, for their work to establish the Men's Club Committee and get it up and running. For their assistance to me during the year, I want to thank; Jamie, Anna, Benny and Cillian in the proshop, Roisin, Aideen & Carol K and the "newcomers" Emer and Carol C in the office, Carol O Brien and Claire Farrell regarding administration, Mark Doyle, Dermot McCallion and the greens team, Derek, Sharon, Michael and all the bar staff, Kevin and PJ in the Burrow and Susan Evans Hon Secretary Ladies Committee.

For assistance to the Men's Club Committee in arranging the Annual General Meeting tonight, again I want to thank **Derek Byrne** and Sharon as well as Fran Anderson for the check in at the door and Michael Kearns as our minute taker.

Conclusion

I want to state that as the Men's Club Committee in 2023, we did not get everything right. Yes, some mistakes were made, but I can assure all of you here tonight that all decisions, right and wrong, were made with what we thought were, for the betterment of Rosslare Golf Club and were done for the best intentions of all the members of Men's Club.

Gentlemen I submit the Secretary's report for Rosslare Golf Club for 2023.

_____ **Date 3rd November 2023**

Michael Brosnan
Hon Secretary
Men's Club
Rosslare Golf Club □

Appendix 1

Competitions

Chair - Boyd Scott

Paul Boggan
Kevin Foran
Colm Waldron
Philip Quigley

Non-voting

Michael Brosnan Hon/Sec
Claude Howlin Handicap/Sec

Handicaps

Chair - Claude Howlin

Mark Fitzpatrick
Denis Noonan

Non-Voting

Michael Brosnan Hon/Sec

Finance

Chair - Colm Waldron

Denis Noonan

Sponsorship

Chair - Murt Joyce

Matty Grannell
Paul Boggan

Teams

Chair - Mark O Connor

Derek Wickham
Michael O'Connor

Local Rules/Pace of Play Review

Chair - Denis Noonan

Brain Hall O'Mahony
Michael O'Connor
Dorcas Maher
Susan Evans