



Ballycastle

Golf Club

Members

Autumn Bulletin Nov 2024

CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE: A YEAR OF EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Members,

It is a true honour to take on the role of Captain for the year 24/25, alongside our Lady Captain, Bernie Hegarty. Together, we're committed to making this a year filled with exciting opportunities, camaraderie, and growth, both on and off the course.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new members—whether you're a seasoned golfer or just starting out, we hope you quickly feel part of our community. A special thank you goes to our outgoing captain, Kevin Morton, whose leadership set the stage for a fantastic year ahead.

Goals for the Year

Bernie and I have some exciting plans for the year. We have teams working on a variety of competitions and social events, with (hopefully) something for everyone. From traditional tournaments to fun, casual formats, we want to encourage as many members as possible to get involved, regardless of skill level. Stay tuned for details of a new match-play event, and don't hesitate to share any ideas you might have.

Supporting Air Ambulance

As you are aware we've chosen Air Ambulance as our charity of the year because we believe in the incredible work they do. We'll be hosting several fundraising events throughout the year, including a charity golf day and raffles, so please join us in supporting this vital cause. The charity bunkers will be in play, maybe Bernie and I will pick more than one each...I know which one I am in the most!

Community and Involvement

We want to make sure every member feels part of this journey. Bernie and I welcome your feedback, suggestions, and involvement in shaping the future of the club. Whether it's through volunteering at events/sub-committees or sharing your thoughts on how we can improve, we'd love to hear from you.

After all, this club is about all of us coming together to continue to build on the good work already ongoing. Incremental change for the better, however slow, is what we hope to achieve.

Finally, I want to share with you an inspirational quote from James Baldwin, we will remind ourselves of it when we reach some difficult moments in the year ahead.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed but nothing can be changed until it is faced"

Here's to a fantastic year ahead, filled with improving golf, stronger friendships, and a meaningful contribution to our club and the local community.

Best regards,

Gerry Norwood &
Club Captain

Bernie Hegarty
Lady Captain

COUNCIL MAKE UP 2024/2025



HON. SECRETARY
ROSEMARY MORTON



HON. TREASURER
JOHN ROBINSON



ASSIST.HON. SECRETARY
DAVID LAMONT



CAPTAIN
GERRY NORWOOD



LADY CAPTAIN
BERNIE HEGARTY



VICE CAPTAIN
PAUL McCLEAN



OUTGOING CAPTAIN
KEVIN MORTON



GREENS CONVENOR
GERARD DOWDS



**SAFEGUARDING /
IT SUPPORT**
AIDEN HIGGINS



HOUSE CONVENOR
DECLAN McCARRY



**FUND RAISING
CONVENOR**
PATRICK DALLAT



MATCH & HANDICAP
MARY McERLEAN



**ENTERTAINMENT
CONVENOR**
SEAN DONOVAN



**ENTERTAINMENT
CONVENOR**
LAWRENCE McQUILLAN

FUNDRAISING

- Our successful 100+ draw continues to run. Watch out for December draw with prizes of :£500 £400 £300 £120 £120 £120 £120 up for grabs!
- Alongside this we have Find the Joker draw running. Find the joker 5 : winner Karina McCollam. Congratulations to her!. Find the Joker 6 upcoming: top prize £1600. For your chance to win, tickets are available from Council members and bar staff in Lounge Bar.
- Win your membership draw - we also have a draw going on where participants have the opportunity to win the cost of their membership fees for 25/26. Only 100 tickets on sale for this draw. Open to existing members and any potential new members. Five year members will win equivalent monies if they win. Anyone buying a ticket will have a 1 in 100 chance of winning.
- Monies raised from fund raising events goes into helping run events and improving the club house.

MATCH & HANDICAP

Hopefully, many of the gents are taking advantage of the availability of the forward tees for competition play. With the switch to winter rules, you can now mark, lift, clean, and place your ball throughout the playing area—just remember, in bunkers, the ball must be 'played as it lies'.

We're particularly grateful for the outstanding work done by Nick, and his team in addressing drainage issues, ensuring the course remains playable for as long as we can throughout the winter months.

As we gear up for the winter season, we're excited to announce some upcoming events and share highlights from our recent competitions.

Season Highlights

Club Championships: Congratulations to our new champions, who displayed remarkable skill and determination.

Inter-club Matches: All our teams represented Ballycastle with pride, but the overall results were a bit one sided with the ladies leaving the men in the shade in terms of achievements!

Ringer Competition

Our Ringers Competition (hopefully) remains a highlight, as participants aim for their best possible scores by ringing a selection of their top holes. We also run a league competition for our veterans (60+), so if you've reached that milestone, whether you wanted to or not – you're in the competition.

Looking Ahead

We're gearing up for the Winter League and preparing for the annual Christmas Scramble. Keep an eye on the notice board and your email inbox for sign-up details.

We are currently preparing our 2025 fixture list and are hoping to publish it in the next couple of weeks. With the Open in Portrush clashing with the traditional dates of our Open Week that is one of the events we expect to move.

Weather permitting, we plan to host several mixed Open Competitions over the festive season. Highlights include the traditional Christmas Day 'One Club & Putter' event over six holes (6, 7, 8, 9, 17 & 18). We'd love to see some new names on the leaderboard!

Upcoming Open events:

Boxing Day, Thursday December 26th

Friday, December 27th

Saturday, December 28th

Sunday, December 29th

Wednesday, January 1st

The timesheet is live for members to book any of these Opens. The Winter League will kick off on the weekend of January 4th and 5th, with details on the event format to follow soon. We're immensely grateful to **Mr. Eamon McIlroy** of **PJ McIlroy & Son** for generously sponsoring the league again in 2025.

In the New Year, we're hoping to host an evening with Golf Ireland to dive into the fascinating world of golf rules. Come along to learn, connect with fellow members, and make new friends

Get Involved

As we prepare for the 2025 inter-club season, we always welcome new faces in our matches. Whether you're looking to compete or just enjoy a round, there's a place for everyone. Interested in captaining a team? Step forward and lead us to more victories!

As growth slows down during this season, taking care of our special course becomes even more important. Please make sure to repair pitch marks and keep Ballycastle Golf Club looking and playing as well as she deserves.

Lastly, Match & Handicap now have their own dedicated email address. You can find us at:

MatchAndHandicap@ballycastlegolfclub.com

Please use this address to contact us about any issues or questions. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation. Let's make the most of the winter season together!

JUNIOR NEWS



Big congratulations to our Junior member **Ollie Mc Evoy** who won 'Junior sportsman' of the year at the 2024 Moore NI Causeway Coast & Glens Sports Awards, held at the Lodge Hotel. What a great end to a year of super golfing achievements for this young man!

GREENS & COURSE MAINTENANCE

All autumn maintenance on the greens, tees and aprons has been completed.

Drainage at the front of the 9th green has recovered well and that area is mostly open. Levelling of tees has started and will continue while weather permits. Along with this routine work takes place as usual.



LADIES' BRANCH NEWS



The Winter League is currently underway .

The ladies' Annual dinner will be held on Friday 29th November -all lady members invited. More information from Ladies' branch in due course regarding arrangements/menu.

Interclub matches- arrangements are currently being made to register competition teams. If you feel you could offer to Captain a team please do come forward.

PRO SHOP

With Christmas just around the corner, now is the time to grab yourself a bargain from our well stocked Professional Shop!

Watch out for our **10 Days of Christmas Specials!!** Big savings on Taylormade, Titleist & Callaway Hardware.

Gift Vouchers , Lesson Vouchers and Trackman Vouchers available. No better time to get your game in shape!

Please remember if you don't see what you are looking for in the shop, our PGA Professional Damien McEvoy is pretty sure he can source it for you!

Finally a big thank you for your support over the last year, your custom is very much valued.

RESTAURANT

As most of you are aware our newly refurbished restaurant is now open to members and public alike.

19 by Katherine Carr is starting to buzz as we head towards Christmas! Chef Katherine has been busy creating festive dishes along with Front of House Manager Rosie.

Members can enjoy the Member Specials Menu in the Lounge Bar during bar opening hours and can receive 10% discount for themselves and one guest on the full menu in the restaurant .

Katherine & her Team look forward to meeting and greeting you through the coming weeks and months in our newly refurbished restaurant!

Remember, members can still avail on their 10% discount on all drinks purchased in the restaurant.

Winter Hours

Restaurant

Wednesday - Saturday

12pm-9pm

Sunday

12pm-5pm

Bar

Wed 12-5pm

Fri 11-5pm

Sat & Sun 11-6pm

GIFT VOUCHERS



It's never too early to start planning for Christmas and our Ballycastle Golf Club gift vouchers are available now to purchase from the clubhouse office. Available in any amount and can be redeemed against green fees or membership and can also be used in our Pro Shop, Bar & Restaurant. So get your Christmas shopping sorted early and make the festive season a stress free one!

BALLYCASTLE GOLF CLUB CHRISTMAS CARDS

We are very excited to launch our very own Christmas Cards! Hot off the press for the 2024 season, featuring a beautiful snowy photo of the course by Lady Honorary Secretary Joan Kennedy. Available to purchase from our Lounge Bar in packs of 10 at £10.



Annual Prize Giving and Captain's Changeover Night

The Annual Prize Giving, Captain's Changeover and recognition of Junior Member Ollie McEvoy on all his golfing achievements this past season, was held on Saturday 9th November. This turned out to be a great club night, very well supported by our members.

Congratulations to all the prize winners but special mention to Golfer of the Year, Paddy Donnelly! A full list of all the prize winners will be sent out by email and will also be displayed on the notice board outside the men's locker room.

Ollie thanked all members most sincerely for all their support over the past year and he was delighted with his token of appreciation from the club.

Captain Gerry did a fantastic job of MC and thanked outgoing Captain, Kevin Morton for his work over the last year.

Again we wish Captain Gerry and Lady Captain Bernie a very successful year ahead.

Finally outgoing Captain, Kevin Morton presented the RNLI with a cheque in the sum of £2,326.90. A tremendous achievement and thanks to all members and visitors to the club who contributed in any way to this figure.



Golfer of the Year

Paddy Donnelly



Ollie McEvoy

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We have a very active program in the Golf Club coming up over the next few months.

Dates as below:-

Friday 24th November - Ladies Annual Dinner & Presentation

Saturday 7th December - Children's Christmas Event- Mrs Claus in dining Room (2-5pm)

Christmas Bonanza - **DATE TO BE CONFIRMED**

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day - Annual Bottle Draw & 'One Club & Putter' event over six holes

Friday 27th December - Annual Quiz Night

Wed 15th January - Curry & Quiz Night

Sat 22nd February - Bri in Concert

Full details will be posted in due course regarding all events and we look forward to having your continued support.

That's all for now golfers