



# ASHBOURNE GOLF CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015

Dear Member,

Welcome to the April issue of the Club Newsletter. This week has seen some amazing weather for the time of year and I hope many of you got the opportunity to enjoy some of it on the course. In the wider golfing world the US Masters is underway right now in Augusta with a number of Irish hopefuls in the field including Padraig Harrington, Darren Clarke, Rory McIlroy and Shane Lowry. The competition finishes this Sunday night and always proves to be a cliff-hanger in terms of the overall winner.

The dates of the other three (men's) majors this year are:

**June 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>**                      **US Open (Chambers Bay, Washington)**

**July 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**                      **British Open (St. Andrews, Scotland)**

**August 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**                      **PGA Championship (Whistling Straits, Wisconsin)**

And don't forget about our own major: the Irish Open! This is on in Royal County Down from May 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> – spectator tickets can still be purchased on the European tour website <http://tickets.europeantour.com/> if you are interested and is well worth going to.

Keeping with the Irish theme and casting your mind back to last month and St. Patrick's Day, the club participated in the parade in Ashbourne for the first time. The turnout this year from the public was the largest ever according to the event organisers, helped all the more by some good weather on the day. A number of brave souls took to representing the club, which was very well received by the crowd. A special thank you to everyone who took part, which will be a regular feature for the club going forward and thanks also to the many members who cheered the group on from their safety and security hiding in the crowd behind the barriers!



# Ashbourne Golf Club Newsletter



## MEN'S CLUB

### Inter-Club Teams

The following is the progress report on the teams:

**North Leinster Mixed:** we got a walkover in the first round against Townley Hall. The next round is against Ardee. No date set yet.

**Irish Mixed:** the first round against Laytown/Bettystown is on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> with 2 matches at home and 3 away.

**Fingal Senior Alliance:** played on a league basis, the first match is on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Barton Cup:** the first round versus County Meath is set for the April 19<sup>th</sup> with 3 at home and 2 away.

**Newsam Cup:** we got a bye in the first round and will be playing the winners of Mullingar versus Rathcore.

**Best Cup:** we got a bye in the first round and are playing Kilcoole in the second round which has to be played before the May 18<sup>th</sup>. No date set yet.

**Pierce Purcell:** is in Bellewstown the weekend of May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Barton Shield** is in Royal Tara on the weekend of May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Junior Cup:** is in Balbriggan on the weekend of June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Jimmy Bruen Shield:** is in Black Bush on the weekend of June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Senior Cup:** is in Greenore on the weekend of June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

The times for all these matches will be on the time sheet for the day. We ask for you to come out and support our players in these matches. I know it can be difficult to get to the away matches but it is always great to see the club colours in support when playing away.

Martin Farrell, Team Convener.

*Continued/....*

# Ashbourne Golf Club Newsletter

## Matchplays

The draws for the Singles and Fourball Matchplays have been made. Robert Kane and John Foster from the Competitions Committee will be looking after all of our Matchplay competitions this year. The draw sheets and rules are posted on the Notice Board in the Locker Room. Please take note of completion dates for the first round of each competition.

Entries to the Foursomes Matchplay close on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. News regarding the Singles Scratch Matchplay will follow in a few weeks.

All matches must be played from the **Blue** tee markers. If **Blue** tee markers are not out when you are playing your match, you play from the **Blue** stone.

## Weekend Competitions

All Men's Weekend competitions will now be played from the **Blue** tee markers. Wednesday Invitationals and Bank Holiday Team Events will continue to be played from the White tee markers.

## Non>Returns

Since the new Club Rule came into place regarding non-return of scorecards there has been a vast improvement with the return of cards. Thanks to all members for their cooperation and let's keep it up!

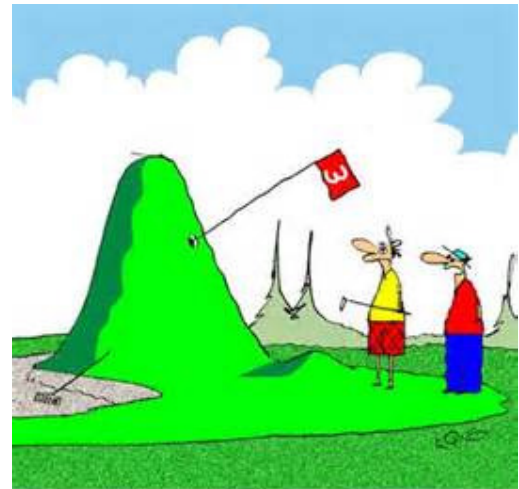
## Late Cancellation/No Shows

The Club Rule regarding Late Cancellations/No Shows has been updated. The full version of this rule is in the Club Diary and is also in the "Documents" section of the website and posted on the Notice Board in the Locker Room.

## Diary This Weekend

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> - the Singles Stableford Competition will be played in 3 balls to assist three Inter Club Matches being played that day.

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - due to limited daylight hours, the Monthly Medal will be played in 4 balls at 10 min intervals to accommodate as many members as possible access the timesheet.



*"I hear this is one of the tougher greens to putt on."*

# Ashbourne Golf Club Newsletter



The Committee has made the following changes to the Lotto for the new term commencing on May 10<sup>th</sup>:

1. The numbers are being reduced from 28 to 26 for the Match 4 numbers.
2. The draw for the €50's with a prize fund of €150 (or €200 if our sales for the night exceed €350) is being replaced by the fund being shared by any Match 3 winners. If there is no Match 3 winner the prize money is carried forward and added to the following week's Match 3 prize.
3. When the Jackpot is won there will be no payment on that night for Match 3 numbers and a roll over, if any, will be carried over to the following week.
4. These changes will remain in place for the full pre-pay term until May 2016 and will be reviewed in March next year.

The pre-paid amount for the year is €85 which is now due. You can pay in one of the following ways:

1. Drop cash or a cheque into a lotto envelope and leave in at the bar to Helen or Gerry
2. Post it to Club, c/o the Lotto Committee.
3. Ring Ciara in the office with your Credit/Debit Card details and she can take the €85 from your card.
4. Pay by electronic funds transfer to the club's account. Ciara or Mary will give you the details.

When paying:

1. If you are an existing pre-pay member put "same numbers" on your envelope or mark 4 new ones.
2. If you have either 27 or 28 a member of the committee will contact you to get your new numbers.
3. If joining for the first time make sure we have your 4 chosen numbers between 1 and 26.

We hope that all the Members in the pre-pay will renew your subscription and that many more will join for the year.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Martin Farrell

Chairman, Lotto Committee.

## LADIES' CLUB

### Ladies' 9-Hole Qualifiers

These resume on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of April and we now have new competition cards for the ILGU approved 9-hole course. The cards are **PINK** and have been kindly sponsored by Sheila Cooney of Tallan & Co. Solicitors. There is a formula on the card as to how you calculate your handicap for our course and an example for ladies playing off a 36 handicap.

We will run these competitions for a trial period of one a week for April and depending on the uptake these may become a weekly or fortnightly feature. Please let us know what you think of them. Members' Feedback is available for this and many other purposes.

### Invitationals

These start also on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. These competitions are a bargain at €10.00 for visitors and there are not too many courses offering this price to play in a competition on such a great course as ours.

### Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> Seniors Open

The first one of the year is on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. This is a 3-Lady Team and we look forward to lots of ladies taking part. If you are not yet eligible (lucky you!) to take part you might let any friends you have who have reached the tender age of 50 and above, know that the timesheet is open. The cost of this competition is €5.00 for members and €10.00 for visitors.

### V-Par Competition

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of April we have a V-Par Competition. This is a great game - don't be put off by the format. Just put the number of shots it takes you to get the ball in the hole on the card and the computer will figure out the rest of it. No need to put a + or a – on the card, just the number of shots taken.

### Australian Spoons Scotch Foursomes

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April we have the Australian Spoons Scotch Foursomes. This is a Greensomes Stableford Competition, not strokes, so don't shy away from it! The price to take part is €15.00 for a pair and all of this money goes to the ILGU. There will be two sets of winners, i.e. 4 people as there is a gross and a net prize and both sets of winners qualify to play in the finals later in the year.



*Continued/....*

# Ashbourne Golf Club Newsletter

## Club Mixed Matchplay & Ladies' Singles Matchplay

Remember that the closing date for the club matchplay competitions is 12<sup>th</sup> of April. The mixed is €14 per team and the singles is €7 for each player. Please put your name and details and which competition you wish to enter using one of the pre-pay envelopes which can be left with the bar staff.

## Inter-Club Information

There is so much information on this that I think it is best to refer you to "Club News" on the website. Best of luck to all those representing the club this year and thanks in advance to the organisers, caddies and supporters.

## Golfnet

Golfnet have launched their new website and all players need to re-register on it. It's easy to do (I managed it!). Log onto [www.golfnet.ie](http://www.golfnet.ie) and click on "Login" to register. Enter your ILGU number and your PIN which is a four digit number on the back of your ILGU card. Enter your email address and then confirm it and bingo, you're registered. You will get a confirmation email address to complete your registration.



# Rule Of The Month

## SLOW PLAY

Very few golfers would admit to being slow players but we can all do our bit to play a little bit faster. Keep up with the group in front. This advice comes from the R&A website:

- Do not worry about the group behind – keep up with the group in front.
- If you feel that your group is falling behind take responsibility and bring this to the attention of the other players in your group.
- React positively to the situation.
- If you lose a clear hole or there is no group in front of you and you are delaying the group behind invite the group behind to play through.

Be ready to play

- When it is not your turn to play use your time wisely to prepare so that when it is your turn you are ready to play
- Put your glove on, check your yardage, assess the wind strength and direction.
- Decide on the type of shot that you are going to play.
- Select your club.
- When it is your turn to play, play promptly
- Decide on the shot and execute it.
- You only need one practice swing.
- You do not need to waggle the club back and forth and round about again and again.

*Continued/....*



# Ashbourne Golf Club Newsletter

At the putting green:

- Assess your line, repair pitch-marks on the green and remove loose impediments while others are playing.
- It is not necessary to look at your line from every angle.
- You do not need to have an alignment mark on your golf ball and ensure that it is perfectly aligned to the hole before every putt.
- Move off the green as soon as all players in your group have holed out and mark score cards at or on the way to the next tee.
- Speed up your exit by positioning your bags on the way to the next tee.

If each player took a few seconds off their pre-shot routine then the cumulative effect would be very significant.

Think of it this way – if each player in a group of four could spend one minute less on each hole, which for most of us is (much) less than 15 seconds per shot, four full minutes would be saved. Multiply that by 18 holes and that would take 72 minutes off a round. A good start is getting one player straight up on the tee and then marking the card afterwards!

Linda FitzGerald.



*"No, this isn't the year 1972. I think you spent way too much time looking for your ball in those woods."*



Dear Member,

Club Pro John Dwyer is delighted to announce the launch of a new website [www.myprodirect.com](http://www.myprodirect.com) which gives you 24/7 access to all the goods and services provided by the Pro Shop.

**What's different about this website.....?**

*Continued/....*

# Ashbourne Golf Club Newsletter

## 1. Access to all services is just a click away!

Under **Bookings** you can check availability and book a lesson or book a custom fitting session and with a direct link into our Club BRS System you can also book/check your tee times.

## 2. Shopping in the Pro Shop is now more convenient and great value!

The website will allow us to showcase what we currently have in stock, and more importantly the price. We fully appreciate that everyone shops around these days for the best price so we want to ensure that you know what we can offer. We have great value products currently in stock, but we also have an "**Available To Order**" section where you can see the products that we have access to from the major manufacturers.

If you don't see what you are looking for then use the "**Let Us Price It**" button where you can request a quote for any product. We will have your price back to you within 24 hours.

## 3. Save up to 60% off the retail price with our SuperSaver Deals!

Throughout the year we are offered deals on golf clubs, golf bags, shoes, balls and clothing to name but a few. Often due to restrictions of stock levels in the Pro Shop we are not in a position to avail of these therefore you miss out.....but not anymore! We can now offer you each and every deal that a manufacturer makes available to us irrespective of whether we stock it or not. Once logged in you will see any current deals, but also any upcoming deals so check back regularly!

## So how do you get started?

Please click the link below. Once on the website, select register, fill in your details and select **John Dwyer** as your chosen professional. Each time you want to visit our website, simply log-in on the top right hand corner of the home page, and you will then be forwarded to **Ashbourne Pro Shop**. We are confident that this new site brings many benefits to you with its 24/7 access, easy to use booking system and a great retail store with fantastic deals that match those of major retailers and we look forward to hearing your feedback once you are up and running.

<http://www.myprodirect.com>

Have a great season!

John Dwyer.