



# ASHBOURNE GOLF CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015

Dear Member,

Spring is in the air! It is no coincidence that with the lengthening days, the course will shortly be returning to its complete state with the full 18 back in play.....details inside. With St. Patrick's Day nearly upon us, in a first for the club, a brave band of terracotta coloured warriors are facing the public and participating in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade through Ashbourne. The group will be led by President Carmel and Captain Richard with volunteers from the Men's and Ladies' Clubs and most notably from the Junior Club and also our Club Pro John – please show your support if you are viewing the parade – no eggs please!



In keeping with the national theme, Ashbourne Golf Club also wishes to extend very warm congratulations to Ray Mac Mánaís on his appointment as Uachtarán of Oireachtas na Gaeilge 2015. Oireachtas na Gaeilge is the most important festival and platform for the traditional arts and culture in the medium of the Irish language. It is held annually and it dates back to the Gaelic Revival of the 1890's. Oireachtas na Samhna, which is held around Halloween, stages competitions in the various art forms e.g. Sean-nós singing, dancing, storytelling, agallamh beirte, lúibíní – to name just a few.

Ray's name is synonymous with the Oireachtas. He has entertained muintir na Gaeilge for many years with his exceptional talent particularly in the areas of Agallamh Beirte, Lúibíní, Amhráin Nua-chumtha, and Scéalaíocht. Not surprisingly then, he is a very popular choice for this honorary position and he received a huge reception at his inauguration in the Mansion House on Thursday, 5 February last.

Thar cheann na mball go léir sa chlub gailf, guímid gach rath ar Ray. Gura fada buan é!

On the membership front, new members continue to join and by now many of you will hopefully have had the opportunity to meet with some of them and welcome them to our club. Sales & Marketing will shortly be launching early next month a strange and new-fangled thing called an "App" .....watch this space.

The new website continues to evolve with further changes and enhancements such as some teaching videos by Club Pro John which have proved very popular with several hundred views and still counting. The website is now also device responsive – if you haven't visited it lately, have a look at it on your smart phone and you'll see what this means. A group from the Men's and Ladies' Clubs and Sales & Marketing are now in the process of finalising the remaining edits and taking control going forward – as always all input and suggestions are welcome.

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## MEN'S CLUB

### 18-Hole Competitions

Weather permitting, we intend to resume 18-hole competitions from this Saturday 14th March, and it is hoped to begin qualifying competitions towards the end of March.

### Matchplays

Entries to the Singles, Fourball, and Foursomes matchplay competitions are now open. Entry to the Singles matchplay is €7.00, and to the Fourball and Foursomes is €14.00 per pair. Please use the pre-paid envelopes at the bar, ensuring you write your name(s), contact numbers, and the competition you wish to enter on the envelope and pay the entrance fee for the relevant competition. There will also be a Scratch Singles matchplay. Date regarding entry will be posted on Club News in a few weeks.

### Late Cancellation/No Shows

Members are reminded that the rule regarding Late Cancellations/No Shows has been updated and will come into effect when 18-hole competitions resume. A notice regarding this will be posted on Club News, and the full rule is printed in the Club Diary and posted on the Notice Board in the Locker Room.

### Non>Returns

Following the annual audit of handicaps in the club by the GUI, the issue of non-return of score cards was raised by them. They informed us that we have an unacceptable level of non-returns and we MUST tackle this issue. By not returning your score card in a qualifying competition you may affect the CSS of that competition which in turn may affect the handicaps of other members.

A new club rule regarding non-return of score cards will come into effect as soon as 18-hole competitions resume. Penalty for members who fail to return their score card will be a one week suspension from club competitions, with further sanctions for repeat offenders. Notices regarding this rule will be put on Club News and on the Notice Board in the Locker Room.

THIS RULE REGARDING NON-RETURNS ONLY APPLIES TO MEMBERS OF THE MEN'S CLUB.

### Presentation Night

The first of our Open Competitions takes place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Presentation of prizes for this Competition will take place at 7.30pm that night, along with the presentation of trophies to the winners of the Winter Leagues.



# Ashbourne Golf Club Newsletter

## LADIES' CLUB

Ladies. Looks like spring has finally sprung and it's quite noticeable in the run of the ball over the last week. We are just moving into the busy phase with lots of inter-club competitions starting. I based this month's rules section on matchplay so have a look at it as the rules of matchplay can be quite different from stroke play.

Well done to Padraig Harrington too. It just goes to show that through practice and dedication you can turn your game around so make that resolution to get out and practise your golf. Get down a few minutes early or stay late and spend some time on the putting or chipping green. You'll see the benefit in competitions.

Thanks to Mary Phelan, Ann Bizzell and Mary Mellett along with the L.C. for their input in this month's Newsletter.

Linda FitzGerald.

### Open Competitions

Our first Open of the year takes place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of March, it is open to both ladies and gents. The timesheet opens next **MONDAY the 16<sup>th</sup> of March** so make a note to remember this. There are cards available in the Ladies' Locker Room listing our Opens for the year, please take a few and give them to your friends/work colleagues etc.

### Presentation Night

Prize-giving will take place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of March after the Open for the Winter League, Easter Hampers and the Open day itself. Please check the website for the time of the prize-giving.



### 9-Hole Qualifying Competitions

We are planning on playing a number of these when qualifying competitions resume. Please watch out for notices in relation to these on the website.

### Club Matchplays, Ladies' Singles & Mixed Matchplay

The closing date for these is Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Ladies' Singles Matchplay fee is €7.00 and Mixed Matchplay fee is €14.00. To enter, please put the player name(s) on the pre-pay envelope, along with the competition you want to take part in and the amount you are enclosing in the envelope. These envelopes may be left in the bar.

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# Ashbourne Golf Club Newsletter

## Interclub Matchplays

The first rounds are starting this month. The teams involved in the first round matches this year are the Intermediate Cup team, the Minor Cup team and the Challenge Cup team. The other teams are through to the 2nd round.

## Handicap News

**Leave of Absence:** Previously, if you were not a member of a club for more than six months, you had to put in three new cards and get a new handicap. This has now been extended to twelve months.

**Texts:** You will no longer be able to get your handicap by text.

## Rules Night

Geraldine Henry, Chairman of Rules will hold a rules night in Ashbourne Golf Club on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April at 7.30p.m. Please come along!



## Special Mother's Day Menu

**3 courses €19.95**

**2 courses €17.00**

Ideal to meet the family in the Club House after your round of golf! And no washing up!!

There's also a new Bar Menu coming in April.....

Helen & Gerry.

## COURSE NEWS

Update on Course Projects:

The 16th Green will be back in play for St. Patrick's Day.

The 5th Tee Box will be open at the end of March.

Dave Dooley, Course Team.



# Rule Of The Month

Golfers watching or, especially, playing match play need to be aware of the differences in the rules between match play and stroke play. Some of the differences are major, some are minor and some involve a different type of penalty when rules are broken. Here is a rundown of some of the most important differences in the Rules of Golf for match play:

### The Way It's Played

In this sense, match play is a whole different game than stroke play. In stroke play, golfers accumulate strokes over the course of 18 holes. The golfer with the fewest strokes at the completion of the round wins.

In match play, each hole is a separate competition. The player with the fewest strokes on an individual hole wins that hole; the player winning the most holes wins the match. The stroke total for 18 holes simply doesn't matter in match play. Stroke play is more a player vs. the course approach; match play is directly player vs. player, or side vs. side. There is one opponent you must beat, and that's the opponent you're facing in the match you're playing.

### Conceded Putts

In friendly rounds of golf, golfers often ask for and give "gimmies" very short putts that one simply picks up rather than holing out. Gimmies, needless to say, are illegal under the Rules of Golf, but many recreational golfers use them anyway.

In match play, however, conceded putts are perfectly legal. Your opponent can concede a putt to you at any point, whether it's six inches from the cup or 60 feet. But conceded putts almost always come, of course, on very short putts.

Conceded putts should only be offered, they should never be requested. That's why in some match play matches you'll notice a golfer lingering over a very short putt - the golfer is hoping his opponent will tell him to just pick it up.

### Fellow-Competitor vs. Opponent

This is a semantic difference. In stroke play, the golfers you are playing against are your "fellow-competitors." In match play, the golfer you are playing against is your "opponent."

### Hit That One Again

There are several scenarios in match play where a transgression might result in your opponent cancelling your shot and requiring you to replay it; whereas in stroke play, the same transgression would result in a 2-stroke penalty or no penalty at all.

A few examples:

- Playing out of turn: In stroke play, order of play is a matter of etiquette. If you hit out of turn, it's a breach of etiquette but there is no penalty. In match play, if you hit out of turn your opponent can require you to replay the shot in the proper order. And if your first shot was a great one, you can bet that you'll be replaying.
- Hitting from outside the teeing ground: In stroke play, teeing off from outside the teeing ground (the teeing ground is between the tee markers and up to two club lengths behind the tee markers) results in a 2-stroke penalty. In match play, there is no stroke penalty, but your opponent can cancel your shot and require you to replay it.
- Hitting an opponent: In stroke play, if your ball hits a fellow-competitor or his equipment (if it is accidentally stopped or deflected by same), it's rub of the green. In match play, you have the option to replay the shot.
- Hitting a ball at rest on the green: In stroke play, if your putt strikes another ball on the green, you get a 2-stroke penalty. In match play, there is no penalty.

### The Big Penalty

In the rule book, just about every section concludes with a warning: "Penalty for Breach of Rule." If a golfer fails to follow the proper procedures set forth in the rules, he will incur a penalty in addition to any penalties set forth in that rule.

That penalty in stroke play is usually 2 strokes, and in match play is usually loss of hole. Example: Let's say a player violates one of the tenets of Rule 19. There will likely be a penalty spelled out for that violation. But the golfer compounds his error by failing to follow the proper procedure for continuing play (maybe he doesn't assess himself the proper penalty; maybe he drops incorrectly; etc.) spelled out in that rule. The big penalty kicks in: 2 strokes in stroke play, loss of hole in match play.

### Better Late than Never

In stroke play, a two shot penalty is the result if you miss your tee time but arrive within 5 minutes and ready to play. In match play, you incur the loss of the first hole. Note that if both players arrive late but within five minutes, the hole is deemed halved.

The differences between match play and stroke play, where they exist, are elucidated in the Rules of Golf. If there is a difference, that difference will be spelled out in the applicable section. So browse through the rule book to learn more about match play rules.

(from about.com with some alterations)

Linda FitzGerald