



Westmanstown Golf Club

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

Some words from our Lady Captain.

The year got off to a great start. The weather was kind and each week we had upwards of 90 ladies playing. The spring league was a great success. The new format of a team event together with individual prizes seems to have met with approval. On 7th march we had a shotgun start sponsored by Therese Dowling of Capital Glass, followed by lunch and prize giving. It was a lovely social occasion. The Captains Drive In was postponed by a week due to course closure. The Captain Martin drove his ball out of sight to great applause. I made sure mine stayed in sight just off the tee box! The day went very well and was positive start to what will be a great year. I really appreciated the good wishes and encouragement from all the members and such a great turn out on the day.

On the night of the Spring League prize giving, sponsored by Gillian Hussey we had the draws for the in house match plays. There was much hilarity and banter as the pairings were called out. Thank you once again to all the sponsors.

A very special welcome to our new ladies. A meet and greet information evening took place on Tuesday 4th April in the golf club and I was delighted to meet all the new lady members. Welcome back to the ladies returning from leave of absence.

I am looking forward to an exciting year and the prospect of many handicaps plummeting, and with lots of success in the interclub matches.

We have a very strong and pro-active ladies section in Westmanstown Golf Club. There is always a fantastic turn out for the prize givings and I would like to encourage our new ladies to attend them as a way of getting to know their fellow golfers and socialising in the club. Caddies are always needed for our matches and by caddying you will get to know more people, become involved and make new friends in the club.

I am excited at the prospect of the year ahead and wish our ladies, good luck, good golf and good health to enjoy it.



Lady Captain
Úna Wall



Captain
Martin Hogan

Now a few words from Captain Martin

I am delighted to introduce and welcome you to our First Newsletter of 2017.

I am honored to represent the Club during 2017 in my position as Club Captain, and hope to be able to meet as many members as possible, and support as many teams as I can throughout the year.

I am looking forward to working with Lady Captain, Una Wall, Committee members and Staff to provide you with the best possible experiences whilst at the Westmanstown Golf Club.

This year, so far, I have introduced two new sub committees to Westmanstown Golf Club, namely: Marketing and Sponsorship. Both sub committees, chaired by Cathal O Reilly and Willie Dardis respectively, have been very successful to date with approximately 50 new club members and multiple sponsorships achieved. Many congratulations to all involved.

The Committee are currently researching further projects to enhance and progress Westmanstown Golf Club and the enjoyment of its members and visitors.

Please help the committee members, and remember that they are giving their own time, in order to assist you in enjoying your golf and social activities.

I would encourage everyone to take part in the inter-club matches that have been arranged for this year, players of all abilities are welcome to put their names down on the

lists that on the noticeboards. These matches are an excellent way to meet players from other clubs, and play at different venues around the county.

We are blessed with a wonderful location for playing golf, so please assist the staff by maintaining the course in the best possible condition by repairing pitch marks, replacing divots, utilising sand bags and raking bunkers.

I extend a warm welcome to all our new members and wish you many happy years golfing at Westmanstown Golf Club.

That our course is in such excellent condition is due to the expertise and dedication of Director of Golf, Edward Doyle and our head greenkeeper, Michael Mc Feehily, and his staff. The staff have been ably supported by a team of volunteers - club members - ladies and gents providing flowers and shrubs around the course. Thank you to all.

Competition News

Ladies First

The golfing season commenced with a very successful and energetic revised Spring League. 20 teams and 60 ladies played. There was great enthusiasm and buzz in the club throughout. Hopefully we will reap the reward from the teams representing the club over the next couple of months. Winners were determined on count back with three teams ending up with 79 pts.

The winning team was:

Snowdrops and Daffodils team: Lady President Darina Curtis, Rita Butterly and Celine Parkes.

2nd place: Ellesoo team: Lady Captain Una Wall , Teresa Muldoon and Mary Mulrooney

3rd place: The Birdie Crew: Pauline Nolan , Peg Noonan and Maire M O'Reilly

The individual best four cards prize went to: Yvonne McBride, with a brilliant score of 77 pts.

On the 7/3/17 we had a very successful shotgun start, 3 lady team event and a 9 hole competition in the morning and 9 hole singles competitions in the afternoon, all kindly sponsored by lady member Therese Dowling of Capital Glass.

We are looking forward to the golfing season ahead. Our first qualifying major (18 and 9 holes) competition will be the April medal

Here are some of the 18 and 9 holes competitions major days to include in your diary...

Ladies Medals :

April: Tuesday 11th 2017

May: Tuesday 16th 2017

June: Tuesday 6th 2017

July: Tuesday 18th 2017

August: Tuesday 15th 2017

September: Tuesday 12th 2017

Lady Captain Una's Days:

Tuesday 13th and Saturday: 17th June 2017

Lady President's day: Saturday 26th August 2017

And next the mens competitions

The winter league was very successful with 12 teams playing. Gerry Ryan's team played 8 matches over 3 months to emerge as worthy winners. It was great to see Gerry suited and booted to accept the winner's prize. We must extend a huge thank you to our sponsors:

Westmanstown Sports Centre.

Colm Stafford: ERS I.T. Solutions.

Eamonn O Connell: O.C.M.C.

Eamonn McShea: Greenday Drainage & Pest Plus Services.

Another very successful Spring League has passed, 303 participated, submitting more than 2400 cards. The overall winner was Ray Reynolds. Many thanks are due to Pat Fitzgerald who processed all the cards and updated the class league tables weekly.



Spring League Finals Winner Ray Reynolds with Captain Martin Hogan and Asst Competitions Sec Willie Dardis.

In an effort to accommodate more members and improve the pace of play, there will be a 6.30 a.m. start for the April to September medals and Captains Qualifier 1.

Match play Qualifiers are scheduled in April.

April 1 - Singles - top 32 scores go forward to match play stage.

April 8 - Mixed - Draw for preliminary round, please enter in foyer.

April 9 - Fourball - top 16 scores go forward to match play stage.

April 23 - Foursomes - top 16 scores go forward to match play stage.

All matches have a calendar month between each round. No extensions. Rules as posted in foyer.

Easter Monday April 17: Open Mixed Singles Stableford.

Friday April 21st Friday Mixed - Starts April 21, details to be posted.

Saturday April 22: Gents Singles to 10.00 a.m. Mixed 3 person Scramble with 2.00 p.m. shotgun start, full details to follow.

Monday April 24th -Open Senior Singles, Ladies & Gents Over 50's., further Senior Open Mixed on the last Monday of each month.

The Friday mixed event with its shot gun start is ideal way for new members to invite guests to the club and an opportunity to meet and socialise with members of longer standing. Gerry Ryan has kindly offered to run the event this year, so look out for some surprises !



BR: T O'Meara, J Fitzpatrick, M Nolan, F Soughley, E Kelly

FR: P Semple, G Ryan, E McShea (sponsor), A O'Connor, K McConnell

Westmanstown Golf Club Teams

The Ladies

Each year the Ladies club is represented in National Competitions which commence circa March/April. The competitions are team events and are run on a knock out basis culminating in district/ regional and National Finals. The Singles Competitions include the following categories:

- Junior Cup - Handicap 9 -15

Manager Mary Carroll

- Intermediate Cup – Handicap 16 – 21
Manager: Marty Mescall
- Minor Cup Handicap 22 – 27
Manager: Deirdre Daly
- Challenge Cup – Handicap 28 – 36 with a maximum playing handicap 33
Manager: Betty Arthur & Margaret Finlay

The foursomes competitions are:

- Senior Foursomes – minimum combined handicap 14 Manager: Finola McGarrity
- Junior Foursomes– Maximum combined handicap of 41 Manager Stella Hickey

Other ladies competitions include the Revive Active Ladies Fourball and mixed competitions include the Irish Mixed Foursomes which is run by the GUI and a domestic mixed foursomes called the O'Grady Cup.

Another team competition worth a mention is the CAWS Cup played by lady golfers, Corrstown Golf Club, Balbriggan Golf Club, Westmanstown Golf Club and Skerries Golf Club are the named competitors. This competition is designed to get new golfers playing team golf and is directed at golfers with a handicap between 33 and 36.

There is also a local derby between Hollystown Golf Club and Westmanstown Golf Club each year, played in a foursomes format by ladies teams and gents teams. Play in this competition alternates between the both clubs, and is played usually in the month of March, as a pre-runner to the team season. Great fun is had by all and the cup is well competed for by both clubs.

Ladies Team preparation started early this year with a very well supported Spring League, which was contested to the end, supplemented by golf lessons in all aspects of the game by our resident club pro Mark.

All ladies are welcome to take part in the club team golf, it is great for development of the personal game.

Supporters are most welcome at matches and details of the matches are posted on the notice boards. Any lady golfer interested in getting involved, but are not quite ready to play, you are welcome to volunteer for caddying duties. Again this is a great way to get to know other golfers and huge knowledge and experience can be gained.

And for the men

Following the election of the new committee for the 2017 season the Captain asked me to take on the role of Teams Coordinator which I undertook to do, notwithstanding my serious lack of knowledge of the various teams, their makeup, handicaps and competition formats.

Basically, the last couple of months has been a major learning exercise for me which is ongoing as I still have my "L" plates up. Ultimately, as they say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating so it will be interesting to see what success, if any, has been enjoyed by the end of the season.

The whole process started with an invitation to the members to assume the roles of team managers. While some people were slow to come forward initially I am pleased to say that all roles were filled so my gratitude goes to the following managers, their assistants and in some cases their deputies:

Towns Cup:	MI Nolan & U Wall
All Ireland Interclub Fourball:	P King & J Marron
The Barton Cup:	S Connolly & P Curran
Barton Shield:	Con Haugh
Final Seniors:	L Nolan & J Hennessy
Golden Alliance:	G Ryan & G Mangan
Junior Cup:	M Lynch & D McIntyre
Metropolitan Cup	P Byrne & H Kennedy
Irish Mixed Foursomes:	M Carroll & B Woods
O'Grady Cup:	K Eager & R Butterly
Pierce Purcell:	F McDonagh & J McGarrell
The Senior Cup:	Con Haugh

Progress to date:

Sunday March 12th. - Towns Cup.

This competition kicks off the season with Westmanstown playing Hollystown which is alternated home and away each year. This year it was played in Hollystown. The team consists of a representation from several of the various inter club competitions both male female and mixed. Westmanstown has enjoyed significant success in this competition down through the years, however it was not to be this year as we were pipped at the post with the result going down to the last hole in the last match. Commiserations to the Westmanstown team and congratulations to Hollystown.

Sunday March 26th. - All Ireland Fourball - Westmanstown V. Lucan

There were 3 home and two away matches. Philip King and Jim Marron were seen hiding behind trees as their charges were out to the test in some pre-arranged practice matches. Unfortunately this one was extremely tight with Westmanstown losing the match on the 1st extra hole in Lucan.

Monday March 27th. - Golden Alliance - Westmanstown V. Baltinglass

This is a competition that is run by Elm Park G.C. The participants are our senior senior citizens and are required to be 70 years old on or before the 1st January 2017. Baltinglass came to Westmanstown on Monday the 27th of March and were subjected to the wrath of our golden oldies with Westmanstown winning 3 and ½. to 1 and ½. Congratulations to Gerry Ryan and his charges and good luck to all in the subsequent rounds.

To be played next:

Thursday April 6th. Golden Alliance
Delgany V. Westmanstown

Sunday April 9th. Irish Mixed Foursomes
Luttrelstown (3H) V. Westmanstown (2A)

Thursday April 13th. Fingal Seniors
Westmanstown (3H) V. Sutton (3A)

Monday April 17th. Barton Cup
Castleknock (3H) V. Westmanstown (2A)

On or before

Sunday April 30th. Irish Mixed Foursomes
Westmanstown V. Castleknock

We will keep you updated with results as they occur.

Michael Doyle

Some useful information from the ladies handicap secretary Brigid Hughes

Keeping a record of your Handicap

There is a recent change with Golfnet. If you want to view your Handicap and keep up to date with your playing record each member should register on Golfnet. This website now requires all members to update their password (old password won't work). To do this you need:

1. Current GUI/ILGU member number, located on the back of your member card.
2. current PIN, also located on the back of your member card
3. Your email address

New Members should register at www.golfnet.ie

Scorecard

- Rules of golf apply in all qualifying and non qualifying competitions
- Make sure your handicap is on your card (this is sometimes forgotten when the printed label is not there) and sign card
- It is always worth an extra dose of concentration to make sure everything is correct before signing and returning your card, especially in the excitement of a good round.
- Be responsible when marking your partner's card
- All cards must be returned when you enter a competition the ladies have 30 minutes to return cards after they complete their round of golf

Brigid Hughes (Hon. Handicap Secretary Ladies)



Stroke Index Changes – the indices have been reviewed with the following changes made:

Hole	Men 2016	Men 2017	Ladies 2016	Ladies 2017
1	10	10	8	8
2	8	8	12	12
3	18	18	18	18
4	2	2	2	2
5	4	4	4	4
6	16	14	14	14
7	12	12	6	6
8	6	6	10	10
9	14	16	16	16
10	7	5	3	5
11	17	15	11	11
12	15	17	15	15
13	3	3	1	1
14	9	9	9	9
15	1	1	13	13
16	11	11	17	17
17	13	13	5	3
18	5	7	7	7

Our course and greens

Over the course of the winter significant work has been undertaken to tidy the course. You will probably have noticed the recent work carried out on the course spinneys. The work makes the course look a lot fresher and bright, and is a compliment to all involved. The club recently took possession of a new leaf collector at a cost of about €8000. The machine is a Peruzzo flail mower and it doubles as a rough scarifier. It is a significant purchase and will be a great all round asset to our course staff. The impact of the continuing use of divot bags is evident in the quality of our fairways. Our greens staff are most thankful for the members' consideration in the use of bags as it makes their job easier. Please continue to repair pitch marks and ensure your playing partners do likewise. The work on the 18th hole has been deferred until next winter and will only be undertaken if finances permit.



Marketing

In December 2016 the Captain set up a Marketing Committee with the purpose of increasing revenue by new member recruitment and increasing society/green fee income. This was a completely new venture for the club.

The committee is a mix of ladies and gents, eight in total. Our priority is to get the message out that Westmanstown was open to everyone as there appeared to be an impression that only Gardai were eligible to become members. We recommended to the main Committee that the initial entrance fee should be discontinued for 2017 which was accepted.

The role of the marketing group is to promote Westmanstown Golf Club and get the membership back to an acceptable level to keep the club viable. Our membership in 2013 was 902 but dropped to 786 In 2016.

We are making progress in attracting new members, 58 applications have been received to date.

We really appreciate the effort by our existing members with their help in getting new members to come and join us, this has proved the most successful way of attracting golfers. Please keep the pressure on as April & May are months that people think about golf membership. We have a great course, please invite potential customers for a round.

Our marketing methods include: New signage erected at main entrance and at good vantage points externally and internally. We had 11000 flyers distributed in our catchment area and a feature plus advertising of Westmanstown in the Independent Tee to Green supplement. A similar effort was achieved in the Liffey Champion. The Independent will continue to support us in our efforts by way of little articles twice this year all free of charge. Publicity in local church newsletters at Laurel Lodge, Blanchardstown & Castleknock and a stand in Blanchardstown Centre in conjunction with Westmanstown Centre and all the clubs within complex. The marketing group will continue their campaign in every way we think is advantageous to recruit new Members/Green Fees/Societies/Classics and we would ask all members to continue to please help us by asking your Societies/Classics to come to Westmanstown for their next outing.

We are most grateful to everybody for their efforts in recruiting members.



Cathal O'Reilly and Hon Treasurer John McElligott helping with new member advertising sign erection.



President
John Doyle



The Pro Shop

The Sun has finally graced us with its presence and as you may have noticed so has our 2017 season clothing and equipment. We have diversified with the brands we have bought in for you this year as Nike have decided to concentrate on developing their clothing and footwear ranges. You will see Clubs from Callaway and Titleist. New bags from Titleist, Callaway and Powakaddy. There will be an amazing new Trolley from Powakaddy coming soon. It is so compact its perfect for the boot of your car. Mark and Edward can help you choose your equipment and balls to suit your game and tops trousers and skorts to suit your shape. We also order in Golfbuddy and Bushnell on demand so you can get the exact model you wish for. Good luck with all of your golf endeavors for 2017 from all of us here in the Golf Shop at Westmanstown.

Sponsorship

A newly designed scorecard in 3 folds sponsored by ERS IT solutions - Colm Stafford, and incorporating the new stroke index changes has been introduced. Many thanks are due to Colm. We looking to members and their contacts in business for sponsorship of the following events:

Event	Amount
Senior Opens x 6	€150
Monthly Medals - men x 7	€250
Wednesday invitation x 26	€200
Captain's Prize	To be determined
Presidents Prize	To be determined
Open Week	To be determined

Sponsors will receive advertising opportunities on the club website and on strategically placed course and golf reception area signage.

All enquiries should go to the Pro-shop or Willie Dardis

An Update from the Hon Treasurer

The golfing environment has changed significantly in Ireland with many clubs under financial pressure and experiencing challenging times. While our Club was not at crisis point in 2015, the Committee recognized that it was time for positive action. Measures were put in place to turn the tide. As a result, a modest profit of €26,659 was achieved from an income of €826,792 in 2016 compared to a loss of €67,431 for the preceding year.

The Committee is continuing to strive in its endeavors to build on this improvement into the future. The hard work of our marketing team in securing new membership this year is commended. The support of our sponsors is also very much appreciated. They vary from individuals to a variety of businesses.

Some of the major areas of expenditure for the current year may include the replacement of the fairway mower and fertilizer spreader. The purchase of a leaf collector/scarifier has already been done. This will also help to make the course more golf friendly during leaf-fall in autumn.

To meet the challenges facing our Club, I strongly support the introduction of the five-year strategic plan currently suggested. A high priority in this plan must be to progress as funding allows. Spending has to be planned for and managed to ensure that we are not in any danger of lacking working capital or having liquidity problems and our budget process must focus on that.

The Club has no borrowings and holds a small cash reserve maintaining its financial independence. However, the current capital reserve would only maintain operations for a brief period should an unforeseen "event" occur.

All members will be mindful of the challenges facing your Committee of Management and of the role each of you can play to develop a sustainable membership in future years. Your full support is appreciated in the pursuit of these objectives.



Member Profile

We have asked a well known member to tell us a little about themselves by answering a few revealing questions. Hilda McGauley bravely agreed to be our first victim ! Hilda was the first Lady Captain of Westmanstown Golf Club. She was then a real golfer amongst the almost 90 per cent of lady members who joined the golf club and then learnt to play golf. She was therefore an inspiration to us all. As a junior golfer playing out of Baltinglass GC she achieved a single figure handicap. Hilda is the course record holder for ladies in Westmanstown GC . She is a beautiful golfer, with a magical swing which is envied by one and all. We are delighted to have had Hilda as our first Lady Captain and she is a wonderful ambassador for this club and admired as 'a real lady'.

How long are you a member of Westmanstown

I've been a member of Westmanstown Golf Club since the start, in late 1988. We had a mini drive in that Autumn. The following Spring we had the official drive in. The 'club house' was two containers as changing rooms and we even had toilets and showers! In the Summer Mary Tymond organised a table and chairs outside in the open air and it was very luxurious, like being in the Mediterranean!

Handicap

My handicap has been going up and is now at 14. It's like putting up weight – it's so easy to go up but very difficult to get it down!

Favourite TV show

Poirot, Downton Abbey, any of the period series. The sets and costumes are magnificent and the stories are good. Great to sit down at, relax, and enjoy.

Favourite book

It has to be Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. I read this book in my teens and have re-read it many times

since (which is a long time!). The BBC Drama Series of this publication was the icing on the cake.

Favourite food

Anything that doesn't bite back. All kinds, from the normal Irish Mammy dinners to curries, quiches, salads, lasagne, fish & chips (especially from the chipper).

If you could invite 3 famous people to dinner, who and why

Bob Geldof – because there would be no lull in the conversation. A man devoted to his family and the world at large.

David Attenborough – for a different perspective, a fascinating story teller.

Freddie Mercury – for his rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody. He was something else and could compose and deliver music with real talent.

Pet hate

People who take up disabled parking spaces. This is very frustrating to somebody who genuinely needs it. I have a friend who has made me aware of this over the years. It's amazing to see so many thoughtless able people park and blithely walk away.

Most memorable golfing moment from personal or professional golf

Getting as far as the ditch on the first hole in Baltinglass in 6 shots! I was only young at the time and couldn't wait to get home to tell Dad. I thought that this was a great achievement. He was underwhelmed.....

What do you like most about WGC

The ladies – no doubt about it!

What would you like to change at WGC

The 13th, 14th and 15th holes – they are a killer combination on the way back home. If they could be broken up by swopping one or two of them for front nine holes.....

Junior Golf

This is a busy time for the Juniors, they are involved in three competitions in April. They have already acquitted themselves very well and have won their first match in the Fred Daly Trophy by winning their match 3-2 against Castlewarden. They will now play the next match V Newlands G. C., before 23rd of April. A special mention for James Mitten, who came from 2 down, he parred 17 and 18, and then won the overall match in a playoff. The Juniors next played in Leinster Trophy V Lucan on Monday 10th of April winning 4-1 followed by the Jimmy Hackett (for under 19yrs.) V Newlands on Thurs. 13th. of April.

Junior Captain John Carrie will have his Drive In on 23rd. of April.

The Junior Welcome Day was held on 18/3/17. Edward addressed the Meeting and sought the Juniors views on various issues. Out of this came the recommendation that the Juniors have their own Meeting area. The foyer between the locker rooms has been identified as suitable. A TV has been kindly donated by Con Mc Donnell. Shane Kennedy will run the cable through the ceiling from the Pro. Shop. Finola has worked with Mark on producing an A 5 brochure which can be distributed to schools in the area, Edward is analysing same.

I would like to thank the new Junior Committee, Albert Fahy, Elaine Doyle, Billy Carrie, Paul Curran, and Finola for all their help during this time.



includes Luke Curran, James Mitten, Daragh Mc Nicholl, Scott Doyle and John McGarrity

Notes from the editors

This is our first attempt at delivering a club newsletter. We received copious amounts of material from our contributors. While much of the material received has been edited down in size, we still have 10 X A4 pages which is probably too much! However, given we have not attempted a communication on this scale before we decided to err on the side of maximizing communication instead of reducing volume. Please feel free to come forward with suggestions for items to be included in future issues.

Thanks are due to all our contributors:

Lady Captain Una Wall, Lady President Darina Curtis, Ladies Handicap Sec Bridget Hughes, Ladies Comp Sec Annette Davy, Hilda McGauley and Deirdre Daly.



Lady President
Darina Curtis

Captain Martin Hogan, Comp Sec Pat Fitzgerald, Greens
Officer Wally Hackett, Hon Treasurer John McElligott,
Teams Coordinator Michael Doyle, Marketing Committee
Chair Cathal O'Reilly, Willie Dardis, John McGarrity
Paddy Bowler, Director of Golf Edward Doyle,

Many thanks to all.

Paddy Bowler & Deirdre Daly