



Document 5

Agenda Items 5 for AGM

8 December 2024

Document 5: Annual Report of Management Council 2024 & Message from the President

Message from the President

Dear Members,

Following on from the solid foundation laid by last year's Council led by Eugene Reilly the club has moved forward on several fronts in 2024. When the new Council took over, it became apparent to me that managing a golf club is akin to managing a medium commercial business.

I am thankful for the work carried out by Club Officers, John Grant and Larry Brady, and all members of Council who worked so hard to deliver the outcomes we achieved in 2024. From a group of volunteers who have given so much time and effort it is only now you realise the enormity of the commitment made by them to ensure that our club functions so well for the benefit of us all.

Many thanks to our Captains, Sinead Duffy and Niall Wallace, for their excellent leadership of the Ladies and Men's Clubs respectively. We are fortunate to have a great course, managed by Course Superintendent Keith Murray and his staff who work tirelessly to ensure that it is presented in superb condition.

Our General Manager John Kelly, Gary Carty and Michelle O'Neill worked hard, sometimes under trying circumstances, to manage a team of professional staff to provide a course and facilities for members to enjoy. Our catering staff under Danny and Nathan Cawley continue to endeavour to provide a superior offering to members. Our Pro shop, once again, received glowing reports from visitors which David Costigan and staff can be justifiably proud. We were sorry to lose our popular teaching Pro Shane Jenkinson in November, we wish him all the best in his new position.

The following are some projects that were completed this year by Council. The long-awaited new boiler was installed, a new distribution board was connected, new buggies were purchased, Caverstone Lodge was completed and took in its first lodgers, additional safety works were carried out in the kitchen, a new coffee machine was purchased and relocated in the dining area, a communication screen was installed, new carpets were laid and walls were painted and historical photos were hung around the clubhouse.

Disappointingly, work on the short game area was unable to commence as our Section 5 application was turned down and it transpired that full planning permission is required. Nevertheless, an alternative site has been identified where planning permission is not required, and this is expected to be operational in the New Year.

There are plans to upgrade to the irrigation system, upgrade of the maintenance shed and the installation of a Swing studio and buggy protection area. Other planned works include the improvement of tee boxes and fairways. The plans for an improved clubhouse were advanced and it is hoped that we will be able to present these to members in the New Year.

Coastal erosion continues to be a serious issue, and we have been in discussion with Fingal Council regarding same.

We are primarily a member's club; however, we appreciate and welcome all our guests and visitors whose contributions make it possible for us to grow and develop. Throughout the year the Club holds several events, and I would encourage all members to attend, when possible, and support them in the coming year. These include, Captain's Prize presentation evenings and Dinners, St. Patrick Day celebration, Presidents Prize presentation evenings, Ecumenical Service, Social Nights and our annual Divot Repair days,

This year I am pleased to have had the chance to play with several members for the first time and hopefully, I will get a chance to play with a lot more in the New Year.

Wishing you all good health and better golf in 2025.

Kind regards,

Humphrey Kelleher

President

Annual Report of Management Council 2024

On behalf of Management Council, it is my pleasure to present the Annual Report of Management Council.

Meetings

Council met on 16 occasions throughout what was a very busy Year. A detailed financial report from the Honorary Treasurer is contained as an addendum with the financial documents-suffice to say that the finances of the Club are very robust.

Membership

We welcomed the following new members in 2024:

Ordinary (12)

Craig Conway, David Graham, Gerard Griffith, David Moran, Michael Hale, Tony McEntee, Mary Kennedy, Helen Horgan, Nuala Walsh, Lorna Fitzsimons, Rita Gilsenan, Emma McDonald,

Five- Day (10)

Elaine Allen, Mary Keogh, Dara Lavelle, Zoe Chambers, Patricia Kiernan, Liz O'Doherty, Catherine Owens, Peggie Rochford, Neill Dignam, Joe Tucker

Intermediate (8)

Jack Lacey, James McDonnell, Charlie Coughlin, Kaylem Donohue, Tom Hogan, Rhys Doyle, Roy Richardson, Rachael Herlihy.

Overseas (15)

Jennifer McCartin, Barbara Corcoran, Tom Corcoran, Paul Murray, William J. Curley, Anthony Brown, Bradley Humphries, Michael Morse, David Holmes, Richard Missistrano, Michael O'Neil Jr, Rob Bermingham, Michael Armstrong, Michael Elia, Mark McCartin

Juniors/ Juveniles (39)

39 New Juniors and Juveniles joined the Club in 2024.

New Member Applications

The Club has received 26 applications for ordinary membership and Five applications for Five-Day membership. These are currently being processed.

SGM- Ladies Membership

A special general meeting of the Club took place during 2024.

Members voted to allow a 50% reduction in the applicable entrance fee for Lady applicants for a period of Five Years commencing in January 2025.

Membership Numbers

	2022			2023			2024		
Category	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Ordinary A	16	172	188	15	168	183	14	153	167
Ordinary B	39	112	151	39	127	166	45	136	181
Ordinary 65+	34	72	106	29	62	91	25	71	96
Ordinary 75+	20	82	102	22	88	110	20	86	106
Captains/Officers	1	4	5	1	4	5	1	4	5
Honorary Life	2	8	10	1	8	9	1	6	7
Intermediate	5	69	74	4	74	78	3	84	87
Temporary	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	1	1
Lady Associate	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2
Five-Day	15	32	47	18	28	46	30	26	56
Junior	20	61	81	25	70	95	34	90	124
Juvenile	18	19	37	15	27	42	14	28	42
Leave of Absence	1	8	9	2	7	9	3	6	9
Outport	1	20	21	2	22	24	1	17	18
Overseas	3	23	26	3	29	32	5	42	47
Totals	177	685	862	178	716	894	198	750	948

The Links- Chair, Alan Grant

The 2024 greens committee consisted of Alan Grant, Gertie McMullen, Joe Hutton, John Kelly (GM) and Keith Murray our links superintendent.

The greens committee met on numerous occasions throughout the year with primary focus on:

- 1) Providing support to Keith Murray and his greens keeping team
- 2) The 2024/2025 winter program in conjunction with the overall course masterplan
- 3) The short game practice area
- 4) The indoor golf simulator.

Winter Works

Architects McKenzie and Ebert developed and provided the club with plans for some major improvements to the links this winter.

The works will be undertaken by Dar Golf Construction commencing on November 25th.

The plans include works to the following areas:

1. Raising of the two low-lying areas of fairway on the approach to the 15th green which are subject to periodic flooding
2. Raising of the low-lying area of fairway on the 5th hole

3. Enlarging the two lower teeing areas on the 4th hole, increasing the total teeing area from 245m² to 411m²
4. Enlarging the “green” tee on the 8th hole, increasing the total teeing area from 118m² to 276m²
5. Raising of the dune to the rear of the 8th green to screen the greens complex from the new teeing area installed by our neighbours in Corballis GC
6. The addition of 2 new tees on the 9th hole increasing the available teeing areas by 260m²
7. The addition of a new 160m² tee on the 16th hole to the right of the current “green” tee
8. The addition of a 650m² chipping green on the site of the old 8th tee

There will also be improvements to our irrigation system and the construction of more grass pathways by our staff.

These works will be hugely beneficial to the club and will greatly assist the Superintendent and his team in continuing to improve the quality of playing surfaces throughout the golf links.

Some disruption to play will inevitably occur when the works commence. It is anticipated that there will be rolling closures of some holes for health and safety reasons whilst works are ongoing. Updates on any temporary changes to the routing of the links/hole closures will be communicated in advance to members throughout the duration of the works.

Whilst the works represent a sizeable financial investment in the links and practice facilities, they are in line with costs budgeted for such improvements in the 2024 budget previously approved by members at the 2023 AGM.

Short Game Practice Area

The short game development committee consists of Alan Grant, Gertie McMullen, Joe Hutton, Henry Collier, Declan Moran, Liam Ryan, John Kelly (GM) and Keith Murray.

Short Game Area History

- A strong desire was expressed by members for improved practice facilities most notably a suitable practice chipping green which is commensurate with the standard and reputation of the club
- Various options were examined and actively pursued for almost 3 years by this and previous committees.
- Committees considered 5 key sites
 - Area beside the new car park
 - Old 9th green
 - Old 8th tee
 - Area between 11th & 18th
 - Area next to The Island Lodge
- 2 suitable sites were shortlisted
 1. Area beside new car park (selected as the preferred option)

2. Old 8th tee (selected as the alternative if any planning issues arose)

Timelines:

A Section 5 Planning Application was submitted to Fingal County Council on April 20th, 2023. This is an application made to the planning authority, to determine whether a proposal requires permission or is considered exempted development.

Why was a Section 5 Planning Exemption application required?

- 1) *The area was subject to previous planning applications. Material was dumped in this area (1998) and a retention order was subsequently applied for and granted (2001)*
- 2) *The land in question was only purchased by the club in 1997*

FCC responded on May 15th, 2023, requesting further information, including details of the existing use of the area, detailed plans/drawings and a full appropriate assessment screening.

Multiple consultants were engaged by the club to provide the required information (Architect, Agronomist, Irrigation, Ecologist, Planner, Topography)

A further Section 5 Planning Application was submitted to Fingal County Council on June 6th, 2024, including all the information requested from the previous response.

FCC responded on July 3rd, 2024, stating the proposal is not an exempt development. The primary reason given was that the area is an extension to the existing golf course.

Next Steps

Our planning consultant has advised that we could appeal however we could not be confident an appeal of the section 5 application would be successful, but we should instead apply for formal planning if we wish to proceed. Advice received is that subject to addressing the concerns of FCC we have a “reasonable chance” of success with a formal planning application. Required for a formal planning application are additional details including contoured maps with cross section details and a full Appropriate Assessment Report.

These requirements would need to be addressed before we can proceed with any formal planning application.

Chipping Green at old 8th tee

- a. This area was previously identified as the alternative option should we encounter issues with the site next to the car park
- b. The area can be developed without planning, confirmed by our planning consultant, as it is a well-established integral part of the golf course
- c. There are numerous advantages to using this area including the clearance of scrub/sea buckthorn, winning sand, and organic material, demonstrating the area as part of the established/authorised golf course, and potential alternative future use as turf nursery if desired.

- d. The unanimous recommendation of the short game development committee to Council was to proceed with a chipping green at the alternative site at the old 8th tee

While development of a chipping green at the old 8th tee is progressing, it is important to note that further improvements to the practice facilities are still being activity considered separately.

Plans for improvements to the warm-up/chipping area on the old 9th green are being developed.

Additionally, Council have yet to decide if we should progress with the planning application for the area beside the car park.

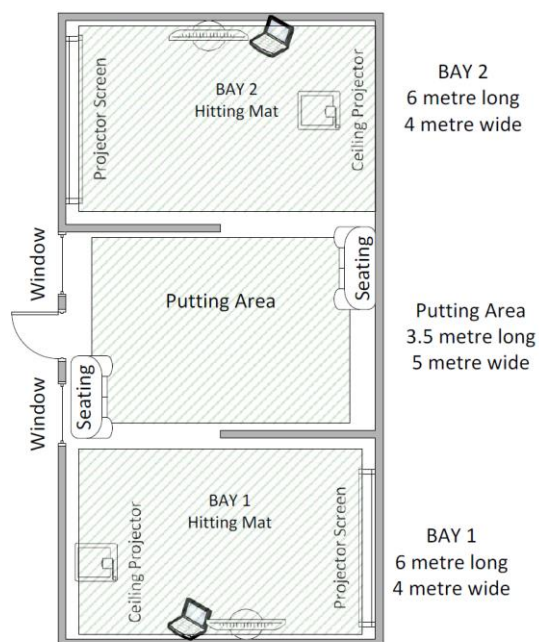


Golf Simulator

Plans for the golf simulator were readied earlier in the year. The cabin for the golf simulator is to be located on the northern side of the maintenance shed at the end of the car park. Access to the facility will be directly from the existing car park. Council agreed to submit the planning application for the cabin in conjunction with the proposed staff facility upgrades and a “lean to” for buggy storage.

The planning application was submitted to FCC in late November.

Once we receive planning approval, we can then proceed to order the cabin, launch monitor and accessories. Layout of the cabin below.



- Optimal Trackman 4 distances
- Hitting Area to Screen = 3.65M
- Hitting Area to Trackman = 2.1M
- Room Height 3.35M (min 2.75M)
- Minimum Wall Height 3 M
- Minimum Ceiling Height 3.3M

And finally, a special word of thanks to all our green keeping staff, Keith Murray, Keith Byrne, Pat McGann, Kevin Canavan, Jon Mitchell, Gary Myres, Matty O'Rourke, Karl Mooney, Evan Mooney, and Brian Gorry.

Clubhouse Development Committee – Chair, Eoin Kelly

Chair – Eoin Kelly & Committee members Valerie Cooke, Niall Newman, John White & John Kelly

I would like to thank all the committee members for their time, commitment & unwavering support towards all the projects that we have undertaken in 2024. It is very much appreciated by me, our President & Council.

These are the projects we have been involved in:

**** The Island Lodge ** Historic Photos ** Clubhouse Refurbishment**

**** Maintenance Shed Area**

- All essential Health & Safety Authority Notice requirements advised to the Club (March 2024) – to include reconfiguration, alteration & updating of all workplace facilities - new Buggy Shelter area - large machinery external sheltered area - widening of entrance area - installation of new Golf Skills Simulator Cabin

**** New Clubhouse Project**

At the latter end of 2023 & early 2024, 4 options & projects were put forward for consideration

- 1. Interior refurbishment of the clubhouse
- 2. Restructure & renovation of the existing clubhouse, 1st floor development & internal reconfiguration of ground floor layout, to include creation of a new main entrance to the club
- 3. Full new rebuild of clubhouse on existing site
- 4. Full new build of clubhouse on a new site

We decided that Options 3 & 4 were not in the best interests of the club in terms of significant costs & prolonged planning processes being prohibitive

Option 1 – it was decided that we would identify & action necessary short term decorative internal clubhouse projects in early 2024. We will continue to uplift the interior of the club with Council approval.

Option 2 – Clubhouse restructure is the option that we have been working on throughout 2024.

We are at a stage with our Architects of redefining our clubhouse layout priorities – we have received several design plans & have amended & adapted these in attempting to get an optimum new clubhouse layout that will reflect the needs of members & our green fee visitors for the next 50 years.

We hope by mid 2025 to be able to present to Council & all members, a recommended new clubhouse redesign plan, with costings & full 3D visuals & elevations.

Junior Golf- Chair, Stella Geraghty

This year has been a very good year for the Junior section of The Island Golf Club. It has grown to over 160 juniors, forty of whom are girls. We have the biggest number of junior girls in the club for the first time 40, all of whom are actively involved. Some of the junior boys will be moving to Intermediate next year and it is essential that we keep this section growing as they are the future of the club and are needed to field the teams.

The success of the junior club is thanks to the efforts of the junior conveners over the past three years. Ciaran Reilly, Boys' Convener, Darina Flynn, Girls' Convener, and her predecessor Margaret O'Neill who was Girl's Convener for the previous four years.

Shane Jenkinson PGA has developed a very good coaching programme in consultation with the junior conveners, which is spread over the year. Junior golf has competition from all the other sports, and it is essential to keep the interest going all year. We are very sorry that Shane is leaving The Island Golf Club, but the programme will continue in 2025 with the new assistant professional.

Ciaran Reilly (boys' convener) and Darina Flynn (girls' convener) will not be involved next year but are confident that the junior section will continue to thrive and grow.

Rules and Governance Sub Committee- Chair, John Quinn

1. Golf Ireland One Club Model.

We looked at how the Island Golf Club fits into one of the One Club model types recommended by Golf Ireland, specifically under the following pillars:

- a) Golf Affairs
- b) Inclusivity
- c) Equality
- d) Collaboration

We deemed our present model fit for purpose and within the guidelines recommended by Golf Ireland

2. Proposed rule change for Entry Fee reduction for ladies

We examined how the proposed rule change, (which was subsequently voted for at the SGM), would, or would not, be in contravention of the Equal Status Act and whether it would be incompatible with the Rules of the IGC. We alerted Council to this potential issue with the Equal Status Act and we recommended that Council have independent legal advice available to them in advance of the meeting.

3. Return to membership by LOA and resigned members

We reviewed how the composition of the rules of the club could allow for these. We clarified that these are 2 separate categories of "members". We identified a definite policy available to Council for LOA members but not for those returning who had resigned their membership. We recommended Council consider development of a policy going forward.

4. Honours Committee membership composition

We examined how the present structure of the committee allowed for an appointment for life of "long-standing" members, whereas those appointed because of Trusteeship and Captaincy had restricted tenure built in.

We recommended a change to the club constitution to allow for a limited tenure for those long-standing members, in line with the tenure enjoyed by trustees.

Social functions- Chair, Mary Ryan

In our remote location it sometimes proves difficult to attract members to any social functions. Despite that challenge, several well supported social activities took place.

The first Social Event of the year took place on St. Patrick's Day. We had 126 members and guests playing and an afternoon of musical entertainment was enjoyed by all.

On Thursday 25th July President Humphrey presented his President's Prizes. There was a great turn out for both the competition and the presentation of prizes. Refreshments provided by Danny and his team was very much appreciated.

The popular Friday night summer mixed events were well attended, and the final nights music and dinner was as always well organised by Mary Quinn, who was also responsible for arranging the service for deceased members.

The recent Club historic evening was the brainchild of our President Humphrey.

There was a fantastic turn out by members and it was great to see some of our older members reminiscing about their past experiences in the Club.

Staff

Sincere thanks to John Kelly, General Manager, Keith Murray (Links Superintendent), David Costigan (PGA Professional) and Danny Cawley (Food and Beverage) and their respective teams for helping to ensure 2024 was successful for the Club.

Every single member of staff plays a key role in the Club's success in an operation that generates significant income for the Club and indeed the local economy.

Our team of over 70 caddies, our front of house and PGA staff do a tremendous job in helping ensure that all members and guests have an enjoyable and memorable experience. Together with our dedicated links staff, they all play a pivotal role in the Clubs success.

Our friendly and efficient office administration staff, Gary Carty and Michelle O'Neill continue to ensure the smooth running of the Clubs affairs.

Obituaries

Des McManus – past Captain, President, Trustee and an Honorary Life member of the Club sadly passed during the Year. His selfless contribution to the Club was well documented and ultimately recognised by the Club when it bestowed Honorary Life membership on him some Years ago.

We also remember members and former members who also sadly passed during 2024.

Tom Boland, Dougie Goodwin, Paddy Ferris, Nick Thompson, Sean Canning, Pat Ryan, Donal MacNally, Sean Hayes, Mary Dinan, Patrick O’Neill, Maureen Griffin and Sean Reddington. May they all Rest In Peace.

The Club continued its long-standing tradition of flying the Club flag at half-mast at the time of members funerals.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

Regards,

John Grant

Honorary Secretary

The Island Golf Club