

# Ballinrobe GC Newsletter



The Council & Staff of Ballinrobe Golf Club would like to wish all our members a “Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year”

Our recent AGM decided that the principal form of communication with members from the golf club will be via e-mail. Members are encouraged to update their personal information in their “online booking account”, making sure that contact telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are your current contacts.



Members paying a “subscription” can save up to €25 by paying their subscription on or before January 31st 2009.

See back page for details on paying via Direct Debit

### **Ballinrobe Council 2008/09**

**Chairman;** Ray Darcy, **Hon/Sec;** Tommy Fahy, **Treasurer;** Joe Gibbons, **Gents Captain;** Paul Hynes, **Lady Captain;** Leo Gannon, **Gents Vice Captain;** Tom Hughes, **Lady Vice Captain;** Doris Jones, **Course Officer;** Seamus McHugh, **Buildings Officer;** John C Burke

*The Council would like to wish the new officers, Leo Gannon, Paul Hynes and President Pat Holian, best wishes for 2009*

#### **Summary of motions discussed at our recent**

##### **AGM**

##### **Motions:-**

##### **1. Proposer: - Club Council.**

*That the date for the re-introduction of the "Entrance Fee" would be left to the discretion of the Club Council.*  
This motion was discussed and Ms Sue Kane suggested that the motion be amended to read as follows:-

*That the date for the re-introduction of the "Entrance Fee" would be left to the discretion of the Club Council. This will be reviewed at next years AGM.*

**This motion was carried.**

##### **2. Proposer: - Ladies AGM.**

*The time allocated to fourball's on a Sunday afternoon. (Summer Time) should not exceed one and a half hours i.e. the last hour and a half of play given to fourball.*

Mr. Ray Darcy stated that as motion 2 and 4 were on the same subject that a compromise be sought between the two parties. Mr. Darcy suggested to the members to agree on 2 hours before the sunset warning.

**This was voted on and carried by the members.**

##### **3. Proposer:- Donna Batt, seconded by Angela Gill. ( Ladies AGM).**

*That a two tier annual fee paying structure be introduced. A 7day membership and introduce a 5day membership. Each can be given a different colour badge to indicate their membership.*

**This motion was discussed, voted on but not carried.**

The Council had earlier proposed that the Subscriptions would not increase for 2009 but this proposal was deferred until the result of the above motion was determined.

A vote was then taken on the Councils proposal and it was carried.

**There would not be an increase on "Subs" in 2009.**

##### **4. Proposer: - Gents AGM.**

That fourballs be allowed to play in Sunday competitions 2 ½ hours before the "Sunset Warning" on the timesheet.

##### **5. Proposer:- Joan Ann Lloyd, seconded by Willie Walsh.**

*That the historic castle, walled garden, house, original farm buildings, stonework and walls throughout the estate should be assessed by a conservation architect and preserved and made secure with the help of Heritage and other grants in order to retain and enhance the value of the whole property of Ballinrobe Golf Club, Course and Estate, Cloonacastle.*

**Following a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Council would set up a sub-committee to investigate this issue and Council will inform the members of their findings.**

### **GENTS BRANCH NEWS**

#### **Gents Committee 2008**

Secretary; Aiden Maloney,

Treasurer; Paddy Lee,

H/Cap Secretary; Charlie O'Sullivan, Len Jones & Val Gannon

Committee Member; Pat O'Keefe

A big "thank you" on behalf of all the male members to outgoing Handicap Secretary John G Burke. John has dedicated himself to this role over the past number of years and his devotion to Ballinrobe Golf Club had been immense. John will be spending time training in the new committee members for this challenging position. Thank you once again John for your immense efforts.

### **Gents Monthly Medal**

2009 will see the introduction of a new monthly competition for gents. The competition will be called the “monthly medal” and the gents winner will receive newly designed medal. There will be 7 of these competitions (1 each month) throughout the year with a play off among all the finalists in October. Further details to follow...

### **Junior Committee News**

Thank you once again to all of those who supported the recent Table Quiz in aid of the Junior coaching programme for 2008. Your help and support is very much appreciated.

The Junior Committee are also looking for a female “Child Protection Officer”. If any member of the club is currently in this role in another organisation and would like to volunteer for this role with the Ballinrobe Junior golfers, your help would be very much appreciated.

### **Buildings Committee News**

A flower bed/shrubbery will be erected early in the new year at the entrance to the golf club (underneath the new stone sign). Many thanks to member John McNulty for the work he carried out painting the crest onto the new stone. We would also like to thank McGraths Quarries for their help and support in finding and donating same to Ballinrobe Golf Club.

### **Club AmAm**

Ballinrobe Golf Club will be holding their annual AmAm on July 4th & 5th 2009. Any members wishing to get involved in the AmAm committee are most welcome.

The fixture list for 2009 is almost completed and will be posted up on the club website in the first week of January (or before). Well done to Lady Captain Leo Gannon and Paul Hynes for their work on preparing it.

### **Choir**

Well done and many thanks to all the members who got involved in the club choir. They sang superbly at our recent clubhouse mass and well

done in particular to Brid De Barra, Aidan Sheeran and John Finlay who were involved in setting it up.

### **Ladies Branch**

#### Message from the Lady Captain

I would like to wish all fellow golf club members a very Happy Christmas and lots of enjoyable golfing in 2009. I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish Doris Jones the best of luck in her role as Lady Vice Captain

Leo Gannon  
(Lady Captain)

Ladies Committee 2008/9  
Lady Captain; Leo Gannon,  
Vice Captain; Doris Jones  
Secretary; Connie Darcy  
Treasurer; Catherine O'Toole  
H/cap Secretary; Angela Gill  
Competition Secretary; Phyllis Lee  
Committee Members; Peggy Butler, Mary Colleran, Breege Kavanagh, Helen Healy, Beatrice Schalks, Brid De Barra, Monica O'Connor, Brenda O'Connor

#### Ladies Christmas Scramble

Monday December 29th  
Draw at 12.30 pm  
Tee Off 1pm.

Juniors Welcome

€10 entry  
€5 juniors

Refreshments & Prizegiving

**A message from the Treasurer**

There is little point in me advising you of the current economic climate. You are all aware of the difficulties we face in the years to come. Unfortunately golf clubs are not immune to the downswing. Indeed some would say we are more liable to the downswing. Luttrellstown Castle Golf Club - one of the premier courses in Ireland - is due to close down at the end of 2009 and there is anecdotal evidence of problems in courses closer to home.

Ballinrobe Golf Club is the same as any commercial business and is exposed to the whims of the 'market' the same as shops, pubs, and other leisure activity providers. The club has a debt of just over €1 million. It has a turnover of €1.2 million all of which is expended on operating costs or on debt repayments. The office and council are therefore responsible for handling the movement of nearly €2.5 million. A very serious responsibility! Despite having a healthy profit in 2008 the accounts highlight some major areas of worry. Green fees are down 12%. This is due to a combination of a reduced demand for golf and the extremely poor weather. Wages increased by 6% in the year. This was in the main due to the payment of a much overdue national wage agreement increase. Both the manager and course superintendant are in the process of making cuts in each of their areas of operation. However all is not negative the club is meeting its bank debt payment obligations and except for a few months at the end of the year all of its creditors are paid on time. The course, despite some horrendous weather, is in excellent condition and in general has sufficient resources, equipment and staff, to be kept that way. Enhancements have been made to the entrance, fencing, changing rooms, tee boxes, tree and shrub planting, bunkers, putting green and the chipping area.

To help us in our cashflow we would appeal to members to pay their subs at their earliest opportunity. In acknowledgement of the competitive environment we operate in we have decided not to increase our subs this year. This also acknowledges the magnificent contribution of our members in making our club one the most successful clubs in Connaught.

Good golfing, Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all.

**Joe Gibbons FCPA**

**Treasurer**

Winter League 2 rounds	Sponsored by Harry Walsh	Gents Winter Alliance (4 rounds)	Sponsored by John Heneghan
John C Burke Vivian Dooley Tom Moran Padraic O'Connor	57 pts	Ray Prendergast	31 pts
Justin Keady Gerry Sheridan Martin Hughes Geoffrey Sheridan	55 pts	Tom Moran	28 pts
Ray Darcy Adrian Dervin Tommy Fahy Ger Fahy	53 pts	Eamon Higgins	25 pts
Michael Jennings John Hudson John Staunton Enda Staunton	53 pts	Colm Keane	22 pts
Paddy Lee Charlie O'Sullivan John G Burke Tom Hughes	51 pts	Vinny Larkin	21 pts
		Adrian Dervin	20 pts
		John S Staunton	20 pts
		John G Burke	19 pts
		Ray Darcy	18 pts
		Joe O'Donnell	17 pts
		Justin Keady	16 pts
		Seán Frehan	16 pts

Christmas Scramble  
Sunday December 21st  
Draw at 11am

Members can pay their subscriptions via Direct Debit. A finance agreement has been arranged between Ballinrobe Golf Club and Fairway Credit whereby members can pay their subscriptions over 10 monthly installments. The cost of finance for using this scheme is 4.5%.

For example,  
Borrowings €1,000  
Finance Cost = €1,000 X 4.5% = €1,045.  
Monthly installments = €1,045 / 10 = €104.50  
Cost of finance = €45.

Over 100 members in Ballinrobe Golf Club are currently using this method for paying their subscription. Members who have signed up to it for 2009 will automatically receive the early payment discount. New members who sign up within the next 2 weeks will also receive same.

If you would like further information, please contact the offices of Ballinrobe GC on (094)9541118