

# Ballycastle Golf Club



## Members Newsletter

**Spring / Summer 2024**

[www.ballycastlegolfclub.com](http://www.ballycastlegolfclub.com)

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# Captain's message

## Captain Kevin Morton

Dear members ,it looks like we are finally leaving behind the unprecedented wet winter weather and the many challenges it presented for us. The evenings are getting longer and we are looking forward to a great golfing season with Head Greenkeeper Nick and his team hard at work getting the course ready for our playing season.

I am now well through my tenure and I am looking forward to supporting all our teams in their upcoming Interclub matches. I wish all the women and gents' teams the very best of luck in their matches and he will be following the results closely and hopefully popping up at a few matches as the season progresses!.

Council has been very busy over the past months with all our usual activity as well as a few additional challenges along the way! .We appreciate your continued support with all . We would also like to thank Aodhan McAfee who continues to support with our website work and social media etc . You will find the latest news on our News & Fixtures page.

We would like to welcome all new members to our club and we hope you enjoy your first golfing season at Ballycastle Golf Club.



# Greens

**Head Green keeper: Nick Webber**

**Greens Convenor: Gerard Dowds**

The Golf Club Council has recently made a significant decision that underscores our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of excellence across every aspect of our course. We're thrilled to announce that we'll be investing in new machinery that will revolutionize the way our green staff maintains the course, ensuring it remains in prime condition for your enjoyment.

So, what does this mean for you, our valued members? Allow us to provide you with a sneak peek into what to expect in the coming weeks:

## 1. Enhanced Course Maintenance:

**Regular Aeration, Top Dressing & Fertilisation:** Our greens will receive the royal treatment with regular aeration, top dressing, and fertilization throughout the season. These essential practices not only promote healthy turf growth but also ensure optimal playing conditions for you to showcase your skills.

**Herbicide Application:** To combat any pesky weeds that may try to encroach upon our fairways and other areas, we'll be employing a targeted herbicide. Rest assured, this measure is essential to maintaining the pristine appearance and playability of our course.



## 2. Precision Course Care:

**Height of Cut Adjustment:** In the coming weeks, you'll notice a subtle change in the height of cut on our greens, tees, and fairways.

Lowering the height of cut is a strategic move aimed at enhancing the overall playability and aesthetics of our course.

**Specialised Maintenance:** Our green staff will be rolling, grooming, and verti-cutting the greens as needed, ensuring they remain smooth, true, and a joy to putt on. These meticulous procedures, when performed under the right conditions, contribute to the impeccable quality of our playing surfaces.

# Greens

## 3. Business as Usual:

### Continuation of Routine Procedures:

While we're implementing these exciting upgrades, rest assured that all routine procedures will continue as usual. Our commitment to providing you with a top-notch golfing experience remains unwavering, and we'll strive to minimise any disruptions during this transition period.

### Point of note:

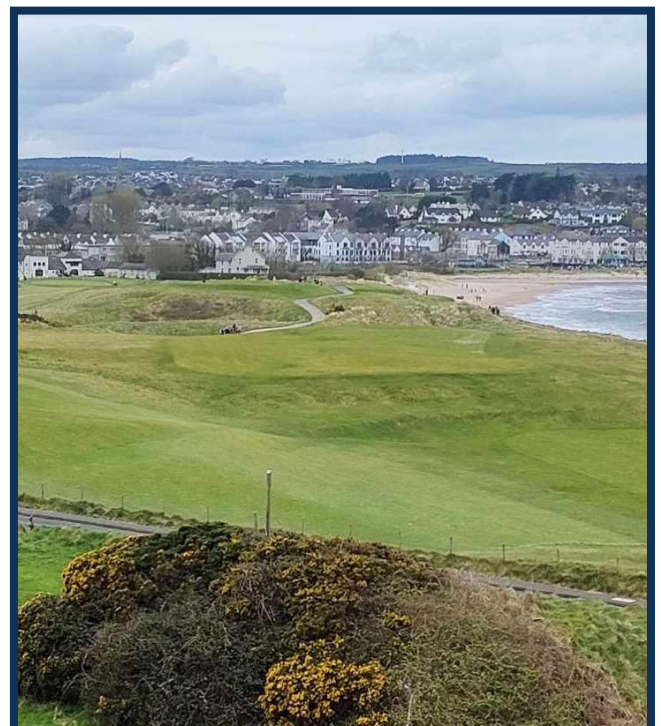
It's imperative that each member upholds the highest standards of course etiquette.

This includes small yet significant gestures, such as promptly repairing pitch marks on the greens to ensure smooth putting surfaces for all players. Additionally, we kindly remind everyone to diligently rake bunkers after each use, leaving them in pristine condition for the next golfer.

It is important to respect the course in the efforts to help us have it in the best condition possible.

### Finally

Council plan to replace the tee's mower later in the year.



# Ladies Interclub

Below is a summary of all Interclub competitions entered into this year .We wish all the teams well hem & thank you all for representing BGC.

Congratulations to the Ladies Intermediate Foursomes Team through to next round following their match on Saturday 27th April the Ladies Ulster Trophy Singles Matchplay through to the 2nd round having beat Castlerock .

The ladies have six teams this year – three singles and three pairs under the new Golf Ireland arrangements. Good luck to the following:

Team	Format	Captain	Match
Junior Cup	Singles, No lower than 6.5	Joan Kennedy	v Cushendall, Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
Ulster Trophy	Singles, 3 players. No lower than 10.0 or higher than 22.1 or higher than 36.0	Rita McCormick	v Castlerock, Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May
Ulster Challenge 9 Hole Trophy	Singles, No lower than 36.0	Mary McErlean	v Carrickfergus, TBA by 26 <sup>th</sup> May
Intermediate Foursomes	Foursomes No Lower than 13.0 or combined 34.0	Mary Duffin	Won v Roe Park, 2 <sup>nd</sup> round v Templepatrick/Cushendall
Minor Foursomes	Foursomes No Lower than 21.0 or combined 57.0	Linda Allen	v Moyola Park, TBA by 26 <sup>th</sup> May
Revive Active Fourball	Fourball Betterball Combined no lower than 19.0 nor higher than 46.0	Phoebe Traill	v Greenisland, 9 <sup>th</sup> June

# Gents Interclub

## Gent's Interclub Matches 2024

Good luck to the men's team through to the next round of The Jimmy Bruen Shield & the upcoming Barton Shield match .

Good luck to all teams and their captain's.

Team	Format	Captain	Match
Barton Shield	NA	Rory Gallagher	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May
Junior Cup	HI no lower than 2.5 in 2023	Ron Hardaker	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April
Jimmy Bruen Shield	HI no lower than 3.5 in 2023	Steven Mc Garry	2 <sup>nd</sup> round – date tbc
Piece Purcell Shield	HI index no lower than 10.5 in 2023	Martin Morgan	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May
Senior Men's Interclub	Player must be over 50	Kevin Morton	Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> April
Ulster Cup	HI not lower than 9.5 in previous calendar year	Aidan Higgins	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May
Ulster Men's Fourball	HI not lower than 15.0 in previous calendar year	Gerry Norwood	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April
Flogas Irish Mixed Foursomes	Combined low HI from last year no lower than 19.0 or higher than 27.0	Bernie Hegarty	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
Irish Mixed Club Trophy Fourball	Individual HI no lower than 10 from last year and combined HI no lower than 27.0 or higher than 40.0	Paddy Dallat	To be played before 23 <sup>rd</sup> June

# Gents Fixtures

04/05/2024	Saturday	Rathlin Cup Stroke
11/05/2024	Saturday	McGildowney Cup Stableford
12/05/2024	Sunday	Threeball/Fourball Scramble
18/05/2024	Saturday	May Medal Stroke
19/05/2024	Sunday	Mary Peter's Charity Day
25/05/2024	Saturday	Alphy McCaughan Cup Stableford
26/05/2024	Sunday	Stableford
01/06/2024	Saturday	Glentaisie Trophy Fourball Betterball v Par
02/06/2024	Sunday	Ballycastle Challenge Cup Stroke
03/06/2024	Monday - Friday	Causeway Coast Tournament
08/06/2024	Saturday	Marine Hotel Cup Stableford
15/06/2024	Saturday	Captains Charity Day
16/06/2024	Sunday	June Medal Stroke
22/06/2024	Saturday	Glens of Antrim Cup Stroke
29/06/2024	Saturday	Duncarbit Cup 36 Hole Stableford
30/06/2024	Sunday	Duncarbit Cup 36 Hole Stableford
06/07/2024	Saturday	Margy Cup Stroke
07/07/2024	Sunday	Stableford
10/07/2024	Wed - Sunday	Open Week
20/07/2024	Saturday	Lady Captain's Day (Incl. Gents Stableford Prize)
21/07/2024	Sunday	July Medal Stroke
27/07/2024	Saturday	Shangarry Weekend
28/07/2024	Sunday	Shangarry Weekend
03/08/2024	Saturday	The Brass Putter Stableford
10/08/2024	Saturday	Captain's Day Stableford
17/08/2024	Saturday	August Medal Stroke
24/08/2024	Saturday	Peter Lamont Trophy Stableford
31/08/2024	Saturday	Mowbray Cup Senior Stableford
07/09/2024	Saturday	September Medal Stroke
15/09/2024	Sunday	Past Captain's Day & Members Stableford

# Ladies Fixtures

3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Centenary Trophy	Stableford
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Everard Lamb	Stableford
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Bladud Cup	Stableford
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Merriel Knight (Charity)	Stableford
31 <sup>st</sup> May	May Medal	Stroke
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> June - Causeway Coast Tournament – Course closed to approx. 3pm</i>		
14 <sup>th</sup> June	O2 Trophy	Stableford
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Bladud Challenge Bowl	Stableford
28 <sup>th</sup> June	June Medal	Stroke
5 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>WETHERALL CUP OPEN</b>	<b>Stableford</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> July	Open week	TBC
19 <sup>th</sup> July	18 Hole Stableford	Stableford
26 <sup>th</sup> July	July Medal	Stroke
2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	Shangarry Bowl	V Par
9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Mr. K. Morton's Prize for Ladies	Stableford
16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>RNLI Open</b>	<b>3 ball Scramble</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	Dolphin Cup	Stableford
30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	August Medal	Stroke
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	18-hole stableford	Stableford
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	September Medal	Stroke
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Joint Past Captains' Day	Stableford
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	18 hole & Veterans' Cup	Stableford
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	18-hole Stableford	Stableford



# Fundraising

## Convenor: Paddy Dallat

Our successful 100+ Club draw continues to run every month with half of the proceeds given back as prizes and the other half going to improvements on the course and within the Club House. Thank you to everyone who is participating to date.

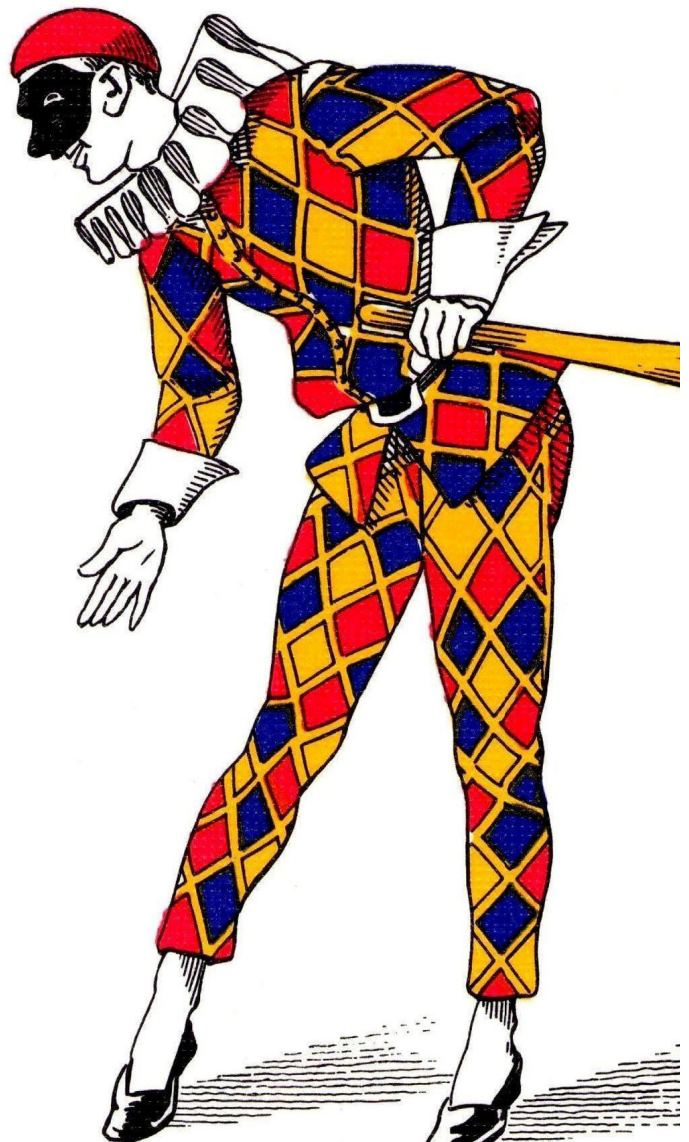
Our monthly free bar draw continues so remember to keep placing your receipts in the red bucket in the bar.

Don't forget that we also have our FIND THE JOKER DRAW @ £2 per ticket which we will run regularly throughout the coming months. We hope to have the first draw shortly as we nearly have enough tickets sold. Tickets available from Council members/office and bar.

We would also like to take the opportunity to mention again that Council would be grateful for any members who could offer up some time to join the very active Fundraising Subcommittee. Just contact the office to leave your name and Paddy will be in touch.

Gift Vouchers: Don't forget we have our Club gift vouchers available from the office.

Projects such as upgrading the bar have already benefited from our fundraising projects.



# Updates

## Course Rangers

As per email sent out Council would like to field some Rangers on the course for a period. Would be great to have some volunteers regarding this. Again please contact the office if you can spare a few hours over coming weeks for this .All support with this will be greatly appreciated



## Juniors

Due to the very wet weather Junior activities were not able to take place during the Easter school holidays as planned, however activities and competitions are being scheduled for the summer months - July and August.

A number of our older juniors will be involved in playing competitions for their schools in the coming months and we wish them every success in their matches. We would also like to take the opportunity to mention again that Council would be grateful for any members who could offer up some time to join the very active Fundraising Subcommittee. Just contact the office to leave your name and Paddy will be in touch.



# Ladies Branch News

Through the winter season from October to March Ballycastle ladies have held the captaincy of the North West Ladies' Golfing Alliance (founded in 1953) which rotates around the six participating clubs. The season culminates in the Lady Captain's day usually held on the last Tuesday in March. Due to the dreadful weather in the run up to Easter however the course was closed.

The members were very grateful that the club was able to accommodate them for an alternative date and it was held on 11th April with the added bonus of all 18 holes open for play. The sun shone and a wonderful day was enjoyed by all. The six clubs compete for The Casement Cup on the Lady Captains Day, donated by Mrs F Casement in 1963 for the club with the 3 highest scoring players.

Ballycastle Ladies won it in Royal Portrush last year and were dominant again to retain it this year for our club. The winning players were Briege Loughrey 36 points, Doreen Reid 34 points and Oonagh Devine 33 points .

Congratulations to them on their terrific scores.



## Additional Information

The Lady Vice-Captain's weekend away was a great success. Twenty-three ladies headed off to Redcastle Hotel and Country Club in Co. Donegal in mid-April. The sun was out for the whole weekend and a great time was had by all.

# Slow Play

As we enter our playing season it is maybe timely again to remind us all on ways we can help avoid slow play by playing 'Ready Golf' !

To avoid slow play the R&A recommends that golfers play Ready Golf

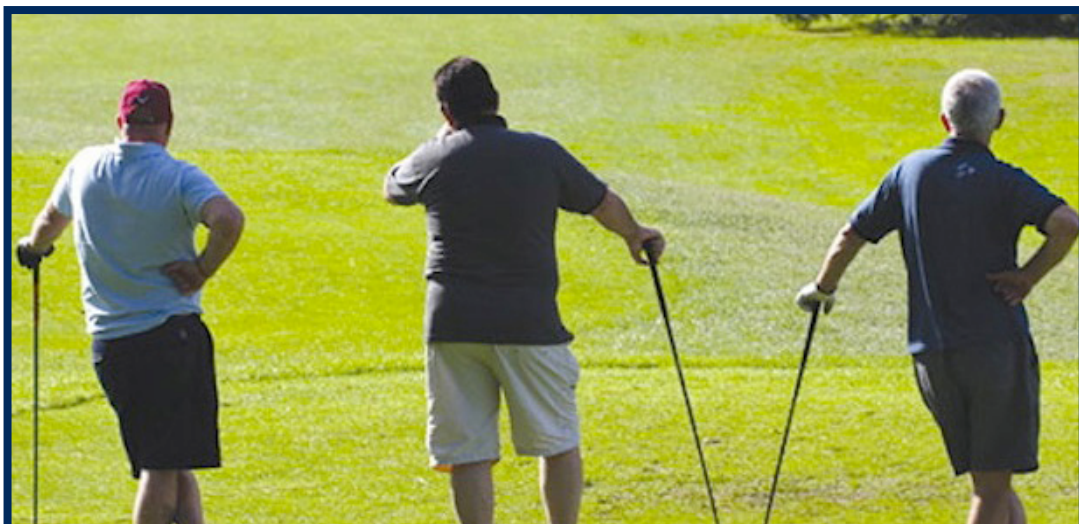
"Ready golf" is a commonly used term which indicates that players should play when they are ready to do so, rather than adhering strictly to the "farthest from the hole plays first" stipulation in the Rules of Golf.

## SLOW PLAY

It is the duty of every golfer to keep up with the game in front and not just ahead of the game behind.

Key points of Ready Golf:

- Hitting a shot when safe to do so if a player farther away faces a challenging shot and is taking time to assess their options
- Shorter hitters playing first from the tee or fairway if longer hitters have to wait
- Hitting a tee shot if the person with the honour is delayed in being ready to play
- Hitting a shot before helping someone to look for a lost ball
- Putting out even if it means standing close to someone else's line
- Hitting a shot if a person who has just played from a greenside bunker is still farthest from the hole but is delayed due to raking the bunker
- When a player's ball has gone over the back of a green, any player closer to the hole but chipping from the front of the green should play while the other player is having to walk to their ball and assess their shot
- Marking scores upon immediate arrival at the next tee, except that the first player to tee off marks their card immediately after teeing off



# Restaurant news

The Club is currently advertising for someone to take over the catering franchise. When council has more information on this they will relay this to members.

Advert below

## Ballycastle Golf Club Catering Franchise Opportunity



**A great opportunity to operate our  
restaurant at Ballycastle Golf Club.**

Closing date for applications - Monday 13th May 2024

Email: [info@ballycastlegolfclub.com](mailto:info@ballycastlegolfclub.com)

2 Cushendall Rd, Ballycastle BT54 6QP t. 028 20762536 e. [info@ballycastlegolfclub.com](mailto:info@ballycastlegolfclub.com)

[www.ballycastlegolfclub.com](http://www.ballycastlegolfclub.com)



@BallycastleGC



@BallycastleGolfClub

# Dates for your diary

**The 2024 Causeway Coast Golf Tournament will run from Monday. 03 June 2024 until Friday 07 June 2024 inclusive**

**This annual event is of great importance to Ballycastle as it gives us the opportunity to promote our Club & Course to many visitors.**

**It is also a very important source of income for the Club.**

**As per previous email, if you haven't signed up to help out please do consider doing so. Signup sheets in locker rooms or contact the office.**

**Open Week 10th - 14th July**

**Joint Past Captains Day : Past Captain's Day (Ladies & Gents) – 8th or 15th September (TBC)**

**Lady's AGM – 20th September '24**

**Club AGM – 27th September '24**



# Member Snaps



# Ballycastle GC

## That's All for Now Golfers!



Ballycastle Golf Club would like to thank Joe Brogan and Joan Kennedy for supplying the photographs of our course to be used in the newsletter.