

Message from the Captains 2009

For this opening newsletter of 2009 the Men's Captain, Mr. Damian Usher, and I decided that we would jointly pen these few words rather than having two separate like-sounding opening remarks and we hope that members will agree to this approach.

Damian has suggested that I take responsibility for the 1st issue and he will command the 2nd issue.

It is a great honour to be elected Lady Captain and Captain, respectively, of Royal Tara Golf Club and, together we cherish the opportunity to represent this fine club. We would like to thank you for bestowing this great honour upon us both and we will endeavour to represent you and Royal Tara to the very best of our ability.

Following on from a most enjoyable Captains' Drive In. I would like to thank our Captain Damian for his support and hope that the second half of our year is as successful as the start. His support has been immeasurable, his advice invaluable and his company ever enjoyable and I am delighted to serve along side him this year.

To the Lady President, Peg, may we say many thanks for your support. We wish you great success for the remainder of your term and our new President Larry an enjoyable term in office. Congratulations and best wishes to Maureen and Paul our new Vice Captains.

I am both proud and delighted to be serving on two great committees in the form of the Ladies Committee and the Board of Management. Thank you all for your hard work and efforts. Together I feel that we are working towards a greater future for our Members.

Damian reports that the Men's Committee is working diligently and successfully on behalf of the Men.

There are a number of very tough issues that we face this year. The economic downturn in particular has brought great challenges to bear on our club. However, we are ever confident in our Board of Management delivering the best possible results for us all, ensuring a good and positive future for the club. Nevertheless, your support and positive input are needed now more than ever.

Together we are in a position to ensure the survival and continuance of our clubs' great heritage, but it is only through harmony, unity and a positive approach that we can deliver against this promise.

Our motto for the coming year, must surely be that the cup is always "half full" and to this end, we are delighted to announce that we have been selected to host the prestigious all Ireland ILGU finals, sponsored by AA Insurance, in September. This, in recognition of the fine facilities here in Tara is a fantastic validation of our club.

We thank all our members and friends for their good wishes and courtesy and especially for their many messages of support leading up to our Drive-in.

In conclusion we wish all our members and their families Good Health and Prosperity in 2009 and hope that the year will bring further success to the Club and Good Weather so that everyone will enjoy their participation to the full.



Captain Damian Usher and Lady Captain Vonie Macken

President's Message 2009

I am very honoured to be chosen as your President for the next two years. I was rather surprised when I was asked to go forward in this capacity and I will do my best to follow in the footsteps of my illustrious predecessors. I wish Captain Damian and Captain Vonie a very happy, healthy and successful year and also Lady President Peg in her second year of office.

A great deal of unselfish and voluntary work is carried out in the running of the Club by various committees and I thank them all for their dedication and wish them every success in their endeavours.

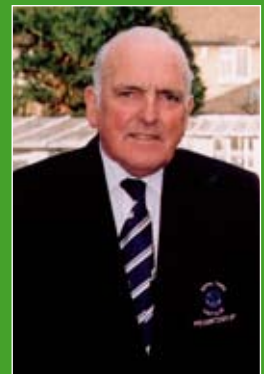
I wish all Team Managers and players the best of luck in their matches and hopefully they will win a trophy in 2009.

I hope the weather will be better than last year and everybody enjoys their golf and make it enjoyable for others.

Please repair your pitchmarks.

Finally, my best wishes to all members and staff that you enjoy the best of health and your time here in Royal Tara.

Larry Reynolds President 2009





President Larry Reynolds, Lady President Peg Honan, Lady Captain Vonie Macken, Captain Damian Usher, Lady Vice Captain Maureen Scannell and Vice Captain Paul Brady



Captains' Drive - In

Lady President

Our Lady President, Peg Honan, is a true blue "Lily White" coming as she does from County Kildare where she was born and brought up. Following their marriage in 1957, she and husband Kevin (a Mayo man) moved to the Royal County residing in the Slane area for a time before settling in Navan. Peg joined Royal Tara in 1971 and in a very short time her talents on and off the course were spotted. She served the Ladies Committee and as an Officer of the Club as Lady Hon. Treasurer in the mid 70's. In 1981 she was honoured with the Office of Lady Captain and she subsequently took on the onerous job of Hon. Handicap Secretary which she held for 6 years. On the golf course Peg has represented the Club on many occasions in Inter Club team matches and even today she continues to excel at the game of golf. In her first year as Lady President she won the April monthly medal and is still featuring in the winners enclosure in our weekly competitions.

The Club is greatly indebted to our Lady President for all her hard work and dedication and we wish her continued success for the remainder of her term of Office, the duties of which she so ably performs.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ROAD AT KILMESSAN LOCAL ROAD L2200 FROM BELLINTER CROSS ROAD TO ROYAL TARA GOLF CLUB

Notice is hereby given that Meatch County Council intends to close the, County road L2200, to trough traffic from its junction with L2201 at Bellinter Cross Roads to its junction with L2206 in Kilmessan. This closure is required to facilitate construction of tie-in for Dowdstown Road realignment, part of the M3 Motorway scheme.

DURATION

The proposed closure will commence on Monday 6th July 2009 and will continue until Monday 20th July 2009

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

Tavelling to Royal Tara Golf Club from Cannistown turn left at Bellinter Cross Roads onto the L2201 for approx. 1.6km to Garlow Cross Roads, turn right onto the N3 and travel for approximately 1.7km take first right turn onto L2201-4 and continue to the the Tara Golf Club entrance.

CONSTITUTION REVIEW

You have probably been wondering what has happened the Constitution Review which has been ongoing for the past two years. You will be delighted to know that this has now been concluded under the Chairmanship of our Vice Captain, Paul Brady.

You will recall that our existing Constitution came into force on the 1st May 2001. This Constitution was based on the three tier system recommended by the GUI and ILGU which dealt with the transition brought about in the Club Membership as a result of the Equal Status Act and the elevation of Lady Members to full Membership. Over the past six or seven years the Board of Management and in deed some of the Members of the Club have questioned some of the provisions of the Constitution and in 2007 the Board

of Management requested Paul Brady as Chairman of the Constitution Committee to carry out a full review of the existing Constitution. Views were solicited from Members and after approximately 28 meetings an extensive review of the Constitution has been completed and this has resulted in proposals to amend and alter the existing Constitution that are both wide ranging and progressive. The proposals to amend the Constitution were adopted by the Board of Management at their March meeting and it is now anticipated that an Extraordinary General Meeting will take place in August/September of this year to allow the Members consider and vote on the proposals.

In all there are approximately seven proposals to amend the Constitution involving the amendment or alteration of approximately 26 of the Rules of the existing Constitution. It is hoped that the various resolutions to change

the existing Constitution will deal with the issues which have arisen in the intervening period and will solve some of the difficulties that have arisen. These changes have come about both from issues that arose at various Committee levels within the Club and also from proposals put forward by Members of the Club themselves. Full details of the proposals and the copies of the Resolutions to amend the Constitution will be circulated to Club Members in the next few weeks.

The work involved in this Constitution Review has taken up a large amount of time of all of the Members of the Committee and Paul would like to thank each and every one of them for their diligence and commitment to the task and their patience in dealing with what was at times a difficult and painstaking task. The matter will now pass over to the Members to consider and make their decision.

PETER McKEEVER

When, late last Autumn, a request from Peter McKeever to retire as a Trustee of the Club was accepted with much regret by the powers that be, it brought to an end an extraordinary life of service to the Club. His years of voluntary effort in a whole host of honorary positions, numbered over 45 years in all. In so doing, he joined a small band of members who had extraordinarily invested more time and effort in the club's interest than anyone could rightfully expect - and he did it with his customary efficiency, dedication, commitment and, most important of all, that smiling good-humoured way of his.

Peter's contribution to the management, development and consolidation of Royal Tara will go down in the on-going annals of the club as service beyond the call of duty.

Peter, as many will know, had two great sporting careers. He was, of course, the bedrock of a Navan O'Mahony's defence which inspired the club to totally dominate club football in Meath in the 50's and 60's. He has a drawer full of Meath senior championship medals and it was only natural that he would come to the attention of the Meath team selectors at the time. He played for Meath at both right full-back and centre half-back with much success but narrowly missed out on an All Ireland medal through injury in 1954. He had one or two great tussles with Kevin Heffernan in Meath - Dublin championship matches and even the most non-partisan of observers would agree that in most of these jousts, Peter had the edge.

After a particularly inspiring performance in a National League match with Mayo, The Irish Press chose him as its Sports Star of the Week, not an honour easily achieved. As a centre half-back, he was

strong and commanding but always fair and, while Skryne heart breakingly lost countless matches against their great Navan rivals, many of their players forged a great friendship with the big Navan man, none more so than the O'Brien brothers, Micheal and Dominic.

And it was after a Meath match that Peter discovered Bellinter Park golf club. Together with a colleague he called in to the "green" shed, as the warm and welcoming Clubhouse was then called, on their way home from a match for a thirst beating drink. It was there that he was approached by the late, great Tony Malone who successfully persuaded him to join the club. Within a few years, Peter was elected on to the Council of the Club and from there started a lifetime of service to all matters Royal Tara.

With his carefully honed business acumen, he played a major role in the development of an 18-hole layout and a move to more impressive clubhouse facilities. Together with his close friends and allies, Kevin Maher, Jim Martin, Paddy Geraghty Paddy Brady and Mansie Burke, to mention but a few, Royal Tara impressively grew onwards and upwards.

In 1976, his contribution to the Club was recognised when he was elected Captain, having served as Vice-Captain to the late Joe Maguire. He had a very exceptional winner of his Captain's Prize when the great Harry McQuillan, playing of scratch, shot a four-under 67 to win the coveted prize with 40 points.

He was elected President for 1983, '84 and '85 and in 2,000 was appointed a Trustee of the Club. And the final accolade was the granting of Honorary Membership as recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the Club.

One of his fondest memories was when in 1972 a group of Canadians from the Tara Golf Association of Montreal, visited the Club. After meeting Peter

and other Council members, it was decided the visitors would play a team drawn from the then Council for a specially commissioned trophy presented by Matt Gilroy of Tara Mines. Royal Tara won and an invitation for a re-match in Montreal was issued by the visitors and accepted by the Royal Tara team. It took place in 1974 when a combination of jet lag, and the total absence of any alcoholic beverage for almost ten days, took its toll on the visitors and the Tara Association claimed the trophy which two years later they left in Ireland after Royal Tara proved victorious. Peter remembers the trip as one of the highlights of his sporting life. "To say the craic was 90 is an understatement," he remembers. Peter has many other great memories such as welcoming our then and now late President, Dr. Paddy Hillery, to Royal Tara in 1984 during Peter's Presidency where Dr. Hillery accepted Honorary Membership of the Club. Those present say the political debate between the two Presidents was interesting, to say the least, but Peter had something of a last laugh when our then Taoiseach, John Bruton, of a somewhat different political persuasion, officially opened the new 27-hole complex in July 1995 and he and Peter had the most convivial of political conversations, according to well placed sources.

We are sure that all members will join with the Newsletter in wishing Peter many years' of happy retirement from formal service to Royal Tara but we are certain that sought-after, and non-sought after, advice will always be forthcoming from one of the true giants of the Club.

May his visits to the Club with his wife Mary be plentiful and happy occasions for them both as it always will for members of the Club.

In all of these positions, Peter served the Club with total professionalism and a PR personality which helped make Royal Tara truly one of Ireland's most welcoming Clubs.



Royal Tara Golf Club Ladies' Committee 2009
L / R, Back: Myrtle Chambers, Marie Nolan - Steen, Liz Turley, Ex Officio. Therese Kirwan, Barbara O'Rourke, Lucy Farrell, Competitions Secretary. Brid McIntyre, Marie Donnelly, Mary Reynolds.
Front: Siobhan Carey, Treasurer. Alice Collier, Secretary. Peg Honan, Lady President. Vonie Macken, Lady Captain, Maureen Scannell, Lady Vice Captain and Mararet Sheridan, Handicap Secretary.

Royal Tara Golf Club Mens' Committee 2009
Back: Brian O'Dwyer, Paddy Davis, Vincent Breen, Andrew Lynch, Seamus Byrne, Robbie Brannigan, Bill Slattery.
Front: Frank Gleeson, Aidan O'Rourke, Secretary. Damian Usher, Captain. Paul Brady, Vice Captain. Dom O'Brien, Competitions & Handicap Secretary.
(Not available for photograph: Larry Reynolds, President & John Coleman).



Royal Tara Golf Club Board of Management
L / R, Back: Ray Reynolds, Denis Smyth, Trustee, John Kirwan, Martin Casey, Deirdre Byrne, Collette Bedford, Kevin Maher, Trustee, Aidan O'Rourke, Noel Rowland, Course Secretary.
Front: Paul Brady, Vice Captain. John McGrath, Hon. Secretary. Peg Honan, Lady President, Damian Usher, Captain. Vonie Macken, Lady Captain. Pat Hoey, Hon. Treasurer. Maureen Scannell, Lady Vice Captain.
(Not available for photograph: Larry Reynolds, President and Jim Martin, Trustee).

COURSE NEWS & REPORT



As we are all aware our greens on the Cluide & Tara nines experienced a lot of difficulty and stress in Spring time and, while already the rectification work carried out is yielding results, we must take whatever steps are necessary to limit the damage of Winter diseases.

The difficulties in March and April, were caused by an attack of two types of diseases, Fusarium and Antrachnose. Fusarium is not a serious problem and recovers quickly. The latter one is of a more serious nature, in that it attacks the roots and causes more serious damage. It's not the first time that this has happened. We also had an attack in 2006. It was decided by the Board of Management, to have it thoroughly investigated. We had two independent golf agronomists attend the course and offer their opinion, not to just to confirm what the diseases were, but to suggest a programme that will address the problem in the future. We asked them to provide a solution so that we get a better playing surface especially during the winter months and early spring.

We have got two very detailed reports from both the consultants and it was decided that we will go

with Mr. Eddie Connaughton who has worked with the club for the past number of years. The decision means that Mr. Connaughton attends the course on a much more regular basis, and takes a greater interest in the programme that we adopt, and the responsibility on the type of products that we use on the course, such as fertilizers and insecticides.

One of the other main points that both men strongly agreed upon, and the way that we can help ourselves to improve the course, is not to use the greens on frost affected days. That we should cut winter greens, keep them away from our present ones, and use them on any of those affected days. They also agreed that they should stay closed for the full day. Also it is vitally important that plug marks on the greens are repaired properly. These alone can attract disease, because any weak spot is susceptible to attack. We will be looking for volunteers to adopt a green and look after the repairing of pitch marks on them. We would also like to include the raking of the bunkers in this project. If we all took responsibility for one green and one bunker, it would be of great help in improving the standard of our greens and

the condition of the bunkers. I know there are a lot of members who make the effort, but unfortunately we do have a big problem with pitch marks and bunkers not raked after use. I would appeal that we all take responsibility for our own damage and repair any effected area. It will make a difference and help to improve the condition of the course.

As most members know Danny Smith and Dave Murray who worked on the course staff, are no longer with us on a full time basis. Danny, who completed forty years, and Dave thirty, gave great service during the period they were with the club. They will hopefully come back to work for us on a part time basis during the summer months. I would like to thank them on behalf of the club, for all the effort they put into their time with us and for the very fine job they did while working with Royal Tara.

And finally I would like to finish with the hope that we get a better summer than last year and that we can play once again in short sleeves and ditch the wet gear for at least a few moths.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We have decided to reduce the number of social occasions this year, so watch out for upcoming events as they will be each better than the last;

- **JUNE 27th** MID SUMMER SOCIAL NIGHT
- LUNCH WITH A GUEST SPEAKER
- **AUGUST 7th** FRANCIS BLACK CHARITY CLASSIC MUSICAL NIGHT
- ALL HALLOWS NIGHT

WINE SPECIAL OF THE MONTH

WATCH OUT FOR NEW WINE
OFFERS EVERY MONTH.

**BEST WINE
BEST PRICE**



CONDOLENCES

Mr. Dom O'Brien on the death of his Wife, Olive

Mr. Michael Clarke on the death of his Mother.

Mrs Bernadine Usher on the death of her Father

Mr Neil Halpin on the death of his Father.

Mr. Pat Wade on the death of his Mother.

Mrs. Lucy McLoughlin on the death of her Father.

Mr. Ray Managh on the death of his Brother.

Mrs Nuala Ward on the death of her Sister.

Mr John Moylan on the death of his Father.

Mr. Derek Power on the death of his Sister

Mr. Noel Kane on the death of his Brother and Mother

Conor and Elva O'Brien on the death of their Mother

Mrs. Aoife Fitzsimons on the death of her Sister Ms. Mary O' Farrell

The Family of Male Member Mr. Jody Toner Snr.

The Family of Former Member Mr. Sean Clune.

HOW TO LOG ON TO THE WEB SITE & TEE BOOKING From your Home / Office PC

Step 1 - WEBSITE

1. Connect to the Internet
2. LOG ON to Royal Tara website - www.royaltargolfclub.com
3. Register to the Members section : Click on register and follow the instructions (This requires your details and email address etc).
4. When registered your registration will be approved by the office the next working day. You can then access the **Members section** of the Royal Tara Website.

Step 2 - TEE BOOKING

5. LOG ON to Royal Tara website - www.royaltargolfclub.com
6. LOG ON as a member using your email address & password
7. Click on Tee Time Booking - click on Register
8. Enter your GUI/ILGU number ie 3036 ---- Follow the instructions.
9. When registered your registration will be approved by the office the next working day. You can then access the **TEE BOOKING** section of the Royal Tara Website.

The system will email you when approved for both of the above steps.

CONGRATULATIONS
You can now book on-line