

Tara of the Kings

Royal Tara Golf Club (1906) Newsletter — WINTER 2009



Damian Usher, Captain



Vonie Macken, Lady Captain



Larry Reynolds, Men President



Peg Honan, Lady President

Lady President's Prizewinners



Back L- R Lady Captain Vonie Macken, Mary Groome, Alice Collier
Mary Moloney, Alice Staunton
Front L-R Carmel Conway (Runner Up) Lady Prsident Peg Honan,
Aileen Reynolds (Winner)

Lady Captain's Prizewinners



Back L-R Val Gilsenan, Mary Ryan, Margaret Smyth, Erika Goggins,
Joan Neylon, Irene Giles
Front L-R Margaret Brady (Runner up), Lady Captain Vonie Macken,
Marie Brannigan (Winner)

President's Prizewinners



Back L- R Packie McAuley, Ciaran Murphy, Dom O'Brien, C. Curtis
Front L-R Ken McGee (Winner), Larry Reynolds (President)

Captain's Prizewinners



Back L- R Alan Keane, Sood Hee Ding, Dom O'Brien, Ronan Collier,
Ian Barber, Seamus Byrne, Johnny Cullen, Vincent Monaghan,
Pat Wade, Barry Reilly, Christy Bowens, Michael Goggins
Front L-R David Carbery (Winner), Damian Usher (Captain),
Fr. Joe Cahill

AA Ladies' Finals 2009

2009 was another successful year for the Ladies of Royal Tara Golf Club which culminated with the very successful hosting of the AA All Ireland Final Championships in September. This was a great honour for our Club. Teams from the four corners of Ireland came and enjoyed our course and were full of praise for our superb facilities. The weather contributed so much to the enjoyment of the matches both for the competitors and visitors alike. The course never looked better and this was due to the months' of hard work by Head Greenkeeper Jim McElroy and his dedicated staff all overseen by Noel Rowlands our Course Secretary. There was a wonderful atmosphere around the Club and a great team effort, spearheaded by our Lady Captain Vonie was put in by all. The smooth running of the various competitions by the ILGU was greatly facilitated by the lady members who acted as hostesses to the various visiting clubs and made sure their every need was catered for. The catering facilities were stretched to the limit but thanks to Sam, Mary and staff everyone enjoyed excellent cuisine. Vincent, Fergus & Declan were kept very busy in the bar. Aidan O'Rourke, with the help of Michael & Evelyn, made sure the Clubhouse and environs were always clean and tidy. Liam Lynch, Vincent Lane and their many generous volunteers took care of parking, road signs, etc and were greatly facilitated with the use of a parking facility donated across the road from the club by Paul Byrne. Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the championships and we hope to see many of our guests return next year to play in our Open



Senior Foursomes: Douglas



Junior Cup: Dublin City



Minor Cup: Blessington Lakes

Double for Edenmore Junior Foursomes & Intermediate Cup Champions

Edenmore Golf Club, a Club in existence for just 14 years with only 50 playing ladies to select from, completed an impressive double by winning the Junior Foursomes following an earlier win in the Intermediate Cup. Cherry Logan & Zoe Allen doubled up on both teams, playing 6 matches over 3 days, with both winning 5 out of 6.



MARKETING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Entrance Fees; Over many years Royal Tara Golf club has invested very significant funds in developing what is one of the top quality golfing facilities in Ireland including a 27 hole complex with a state of the art clubhouse. Up until 2009, the Entrance fee for Full Membership to Royal Tara was €9,500, accurately reflecting the value of both the Capital investment of the club in creating the facility and also the quality of the facilities being made available to new members.

However, given the current economic climate, the Board of Management of the club has decided on a temporary basis to reduce the Entrance Fees for new members as follows;

FULL MEMBERSHIP €4,000
STUDENT TO FULL €1,000

These new Fees while not reflecting the true value of Membership of Royal Tara are realistic in these challenging times and will hopefully encourage new members to join our club.

In addition as a once off concession to existing members of the club as at July 2009 the spouse of such members may join the club without payment of the standard entrance fee. This concession is available for the year 2009 only.

Green Fees While our course is of a very high standard the Board of Management has adjusted our Green Fee rates to visitors as per the attached table, reflecting again the current harsh financial climate and very strong competition from other clubs in the locality;

OPTION	WEEKEND	MONDAY - FRIDAY
Main Course	€35	€30
With Member	€20	€20
Any 9 Holes	€15	€15

FOURBALL Monday - Friday €100
FOURBALL + GRILL Monday - Friday €125

FOURBALL €100 CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS
AVAILABLE FROM PRO SHOP

Promoting the Club; One of the most effective ways of promoting the club and its facilities is by word of mouth. It is in the interest of all members that we promote the club positively at all times, particularly to potential visitors/societies or new members. We have a fantastic facility here, sometimes we take its quality for granted, it is often only when we visit other clubs or get our visitors feedback that we realize the quality that we have. If you have suggestions where we can make improvements any member of the Board of Management will only be too delighted to get your input.

Marketing Committee Royal Tara Golf Club

COURSE REPORT October



Just a few comments about the course and the state of our greens. As you may have noticed we have started some work on the wet spots, especially in the rough. We have begun on the 2nd & 9th on the blue, and the 4th on the red. This is just a trial, to make sure the method we have used is successful, if we get the desired results we shall in the future continue with this programme until we resolve the problem.

Our greens have in general been satisfactory throughout the summer, and judging by comments we have received especially from the ILGU and the clubs who participated in the Ladies AA All Ireland Finals, they were of a very good standard. It is reasonable to say the greens could have been a bit quicker, but on advice from two different agronomists we let the grass up a small bit over previous years. We have taken every precaution possible to prevent disease getting into the greens, but unfortunately we have had an attack of fusarium. This is caused by very damp and mild weather and also the late hollow tining and sanding that made them vulnerable to the disease. It is hoped that the problem can be cleared up with an intensive treatment programme. While it is not a serious problem it can make the putting surface a bit uneven.

Just a couple of words on the frosted greens. We would be obliged if players would not play off these surfaces and treat them as GUR. Local rule is, that you must drop away from them to the nearest point of relief. I would like to remind the members that these surfaces will only be used in the case of frost. But that means, if there is frost in the morning the greens will be closed for the day. Again this has come about because of expert advice in order that we may protect the greens from damage. With the winter coming in we would like to appeal to all our members to take heed of cordoned off areas around the greens. They are there to protect the surfaces from damage which can be costly and time consuming to repair. Pitch marks that are not repaired can cause damage to the greens and if you could only repair one, on each green you play onto, it would be of great benefit for the upkeep of the greens, On the question of buggies and the use of same throughout winter, only those with medical certs, are allowed to use them. And to remind those who are allowed to drive to use the paths where ever possible and stay away from the rough. Finally I would like to thank Jim McElroy and his course staff for the very hard work that they put into the course over the past year.

Noel Rowland Course Secretary

CONDOLENCES

Mr. John Nolan on the death of his Sister.
Mrs. Patty Holland on the death of her Brother.
The family of Lady Member Mrs. Josephine Maguire.
Mrs. Ann Collier on the death of her Father.
Mr. Paul Algar on the death of his Sister.
Mr. Gerry & Mrs. Ita Algar on the death of their daughter.
Mrs. Barbara O'Rourke on the death of her Father.
Mrs. Marie Donnelly on the death of her Father.
Mrs. Phyllis Geraghty on the death of her Mother.
The Family of Male Member Mr. Noel Thornton.
Former Member Mr. John Kirwan on the death of his Wife former member Iren.
Mrs. Ann C Daly on the death of her Mother.
Mrs. Nancy Ryan on the death of her Mother.
Mrs. Nellie McQuillan on the death of her daughter.



FASHION SHOW 2009

The Royal Tara inaugural Fashion Show, the brain child of our Lady Captain Vonie Macken, took place on the 15th October to a packed audience of 270 people. The Club House was transformed for the night and took on the ambience of a Paris fashion house. Cat Walk, lighting, back-drops, and spot prizes left Paris in the shade. Our local fashion boutiques, both men's and ladies and notably, our own Professional Golf Shop, showed their Autumn/Winter collections to a very receptive audience. Naomi Campbell, Kate Moss and Claudia Schiffer took back stage to the real models of Royal Tara, ladies and gents who can really "strut their stuff".

Raffle tickets sold out on the night, a whopping €2000 going to the Meath Womens Refuge, a very worthy cause.

The bar-staff were run off their feet filling interval drink orders for the ladies and the very few gents present, resulting in a record bar take on the night.

Elegance and style was abounding the night and our own Therese Nolan stole the show winning the prize for best dressed Lady.

Special thanks must be given to a very hard working group of ladies who organised this fashion show, brought together by our exceptional M.C. on the night, Catherine Tracey.

Congratulations and thanks to all for making this night a terrific success.



Lady Captain, Vonie presenting cheque to Lady President, Peg on behalf of Womens Refuge.

Correction

In the last Newsletter, in the tribute to our Lady President we should have stated, that she was Lady Vice Captain in 1980 and Lady Captain in 1981.

BAR **WINTER**
 OPENING & CLOSING
 TIMES

7th NOVEMBER 2009 – 28th FEBRUARY 2010

MONDAY	2 – 7PM
TUESDAY	1 – 8PM
WEDNESDAY	1 – 11.30PM
THURSDAY	2 – 7PM
FRIDAY	1 – 11.30PM
SATURDAY	12 – 7PM
SUNDAY	12 – 7PM

JOHN MCGRATH
 HON. SECRETARY