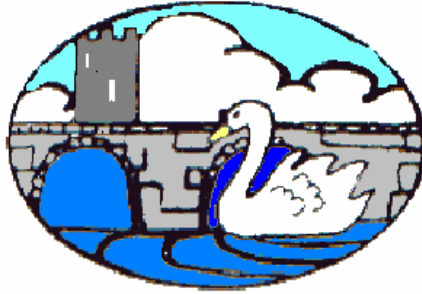


# MALLOW GOLF CLUB



FOUNDED 1947

## NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2011



**Maurice O'Connor (President), Carmel Kearney (Lady President), Pauline Hegarty (Lady Captain) and John Quill (Captain) at the Captain's and President's Drive in Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**

## Message from the Captains

### Fellow Golfers,

We the Captains of Mallow Golf Club, 2011 would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back into full swing after the winter break. It has been a hard winter and one that was very disruptive to golf. However the weather is now improving and the days are getting longer. We are very pleased to see that the club is busy once again.

We consider it a huge honour and privilege to be Captain of Mallow Golf Club and look forward to meeting with you during the year.

We've a busy season planned for 2011 and one where once again golf and social activities will be our primary focus. We want each member to support the social activities as well as the golf, bringing a renewed vibrancy to our Club.

We hope to make more use of our website to keep members updated and will also commit to producing a monthly newsletter during the peak season. To enable this, we are delighted to have two strong committees backing us up. We would encourage members to approach us at anytime during the year if they have anything they would like to recommend or discuss. We are open to inputs on all golf related topics.

Over the past number of years the club has run many programs to introduce people to the game of golf and have also taken on many new members. As we all know, because we've been there, golf can be a frustrating game, but with a little patience and perseverance, the skills are learned and it becomes a most enjoyable game. We would like you all to join us in welcoming these new members to our

club and thank you all for being extra patient with them.

In closing, may we take this opportunity to thank you all for your support so far, and to wish all members of Mallow Golf Club an enjoyable year's golf and every success in their respective club matches and competitions.

**Yours in Golf,  
John Quill & Pauline Hegarty**

## News from Clubhouse.

A very enjoyable Table Quiz was held in the Clubhouse on Thursday February 17th. A total of 21 teams supported on the night and the Quiz generated €1,245 in profit, which will be used to defray team expenses for the coming season. The standard of answering was excellent and the winners were Club President Maurice O'Connor's team, Maurice was ably assisted by Aine O'Connor, Frances Johnston and Peter Kelleher. Well done to all.

We would like to thank our Sponsors on the night, Barrys Tea (Michael Madden), Dano's (Paul O'Mahony), Barry Fitzwilliam and Club Professional Sean Conway. Their sponsorship ensured that all expenditure associated with the night was covered.

Also a special thanks to Peter and Denise McKenna for their excellent work to make the night an enjoyable one for all.

We plan to hold another Quiz in the Autumn and will be looking to attract 35+ teams.

## Message from Board of Management

Now that spring is in the air and more and more golfers are dusting down the clubs, we in Mallow Golf Club are organising ourselves to prepare for another wonderful season of golf ahead. Thank you to all who participated at our AGM in December and for the support and encouragement you show us in these difficult times. Together with the committees that provide tennis, bridge and squash, the golf Captains John and Pauline are working with the Board of Management and with our Secretary Manager to organise an exciting and busy calendar of events for the year. Without the commitment of the many volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise, things would not run as smoothly as they do and for that, we thank you.

The Board of Management priorities for 2011 include a continued focus on:

- encouraging new members to join and continuing our promotion of the Club and the facilities and services we have to offer all family members
- ensuring as many existing members as possible retain their membership and maintaining the highest possible standards in the provision of services
- continuing the systematic programme underway to develop and improve our golf course
- sustaining and developing our standards in how the Club runs as efficiently and effectively as possible
- improving our revenue base so as to be in a position to sustain investment in priority infrastructure projects and capital investments

We ask for your continued support and participation in events that will be organised throughout the year. Keep an eye on the website which will be used more effectively to

communicate forthcoming events to members. This newsletter will be available online and will be emailed to members who have provided contact details. Please send your email details to David Curtin at [Mallowgolfclubmanager@eircom.net](mailto:Mallowgolfclubmanager@eircom.net) if you have not done so already and if you would like electronic updates.

Our notice boards will be reorganised in the main hallway entrance and you can read about relevant decisions and matters of relevance to members of our Club.

Most of all please tell your friends about the Club, our golf course and facilities and encourage them to visit us and become a member.

Full details about our joining fees and special offers are available to download from our website in addition to membership application forms. [www.Mallowgolfclub.net](http://www.Mallowgolfclub.net)

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who returned a completed membership survey. The response is very encouraging and will be used to further develop a strategic multiannual Development Plan for the Club. There are very many suggestions and constructive comments for us to evaluate and these will be duly noted and considered by the Board and relevant sub committees.

We hope to organise an information evening later in the year to outline the Development Plan and we look forward to meeting you then.

**Ann Kennelly,**

**On behalf of the Board of Management.**

## **Green Keeper has his say.**

I am delighted to be given this opportunity to contribute to the first newsletter of the 2011 season, from a Head Green keeper's perspective. Now that the winter season is over and spring is in the air, the course has held up very well after the snow & heavy frosts of the last three months. The winter work of boundary fencing, tree pruning, along with pathway surfacing & sign post installations are now being completed. In relation to the course aspects I would like to comment on some of the situations we face and will continue to face as the season progresses in relation to tee boxes, fairways, bunkers, greens etc.

**Fairways:** The fairways were at 12mm height over the winter and it is planned to increase this to 20mm for next winter to avoid bare lies. The shaping of gentle sweeping contours of the fairways will begin when the mild conditions return. This year, you will see a clear definition of the different cuts of grass on both fairways and rough on the course.

In relation to the rough, we are in the process of acquiring a new rough's mower as a necessary machine to bring the rough up to a more acceptable standard over the next few years. You will see some work on conditioning the semi rough along with the normal & very heavy rough also.

After a hard winter, it is always the case that the greens are vulnerable to disease attack and preventative fungicide applications will be the norm. I am now in the position to be able to monitor weather, soil and air conditions that can be conducive to disease problems in the Mallow area and will take the required action. The programme in train, designed to produce a carpet like surface to the approaches of the greens will continue later in the spring.

I am aware that the playability of the bunkers are inconsistent during the year but we as a team will firm up the sand base to allow more control from your shot. As these bunkers were built originally without drainage it will always remain a challenge unless we are prepared to spend on drainage work, when funds allow.

I will, along with my workforce & the Course committee endeavour to have the condition of your golf course playing at the standard a course like Mallow deserves.

Finally, I am aware that some people get frustrated when they see that the course is closed in freezing weather when they can see there is no sign frost on the grass. I would like to say that the course will only be closed if there is a genuine reason for doing so.

Although the grass may not show signs of frost, the area of concern for me as Head Green keeper, is the damage that can be done due to the unseen frost in the 2-4 ins below the surface. When this frost is thawed out, the greens are safe to play. It has been & will always be my intention to have the golf course open at every opportunity. May I give one final plea to all golfers, the level of unrepaired pitch marks is unacceptable and I would ask that all pitch marks are repaired immediately on approach to the green

**May I take this opportunity to thank you the members for the courtesy & support you have shown the course staff and I wish you all an enjoyable & successful golfing season.**

**Patrick O'Leary – Head Greenkeeper,  
Mallow Golf Club**

# Pro's Tips.

## Sand Bunkers in Mallow.

A process of reconditioning the sand bunkers in Mallow has begun. Thanks to Graham Conway for providing the following lesson on Bunker play.

### The Bunker Shot

#### Clubface –

To achieve the required height for his bunker shot the club face should be opened before the hold is applied. This will mean the club face will be pointing to the right of the ball target line as shown below by the yellow line. Having the club open will allow the player to slide the club under the ball.

#### Body –

The feet should be aligned to the left of the ball target line (Red line in picture), with the shoulders parallel to the ball target line (blue line in picture)

Having the clubface pointing right (yellow line) of target and the feet pointing to the left of ball target line, will allow the player to swing the golf club across the path which is required for this shot.

#### Ball Position –

The ball position should be played from just inside the left heel. This will help to deliver the club on a shallower angle attack and allow to club to enter the sand a couple of inches before the ball to achieve a high trajectory that this shot requires.



#### Summary of the bunker shot

Set-up with feet pointing left of the ball target line and the clubface open (pointing to right of target), The ball position should be off your left foot and the weight distribution 60 – 40 favouring the left foot. All these pre-swing principles will help promote a shallow angle of attack which is required to get the ball in the air fast for this bunker shot, because the feet are pointing to the left of the target it allows you to swing the club across the path to counteract the clubface alignment. The swing should be a two lever motion and the hands should travel back somewhere between 9 and 10 on the clock on the down swing you should accelerate through impact and momentum should force you to follow through further than your back swing.

## Local Rules Clarified

### Nearest Point of Relief.

Mallow Golf Club has declared all manmade gravel paths to be immovable obstruction. This means that under rule 24-2 the player can drop, without penalty, within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.

So what is the nearest point of relief?

An example of such is the gravel path parallel to the right side of our **2nd hole**. If a ball is on this path and the nearest point of relief is on the right hand side of the path, i.e. the ditch, the player effectively gets no relief as the ditch on the right of the path is in play and part of the course. The player must decide to play it as it lies or drop on the ditch.

### FAQ Example.

**Question.** In proceeding under **Rule 24-2** the Definition of "Nearest Point of Relief" provides that to determine the nearest point of relief accurately, the player should use the club, address position, direction of play and swing (right or left-handed) that he would have used to make his next stroke had the obstruction or condition not been there. What is the procedure if, having determined the stroke he would have used, he is unable physically to make such a stroke from, what would appear to be, the nearest point of relief because either (a) the direction of play is blocked by a tree, or (b) he is unable to take the backswing for the intended stroke due to a bush?

**Answer.** The point identified is the nearest point of relief. The fact that at this point the player cannot make the intended stroke due

to something other than the obstruction or condition from which relief is being taken does not alter this result. The player must drop the ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole. Once the ball is in play, the player must then decide what type of stroke he will make. This stroke may be different from the one he would have made from the ball's original position had the obstruction or condition not been there.

### So in Summary.

The nearest point of relief is exactly that. It is the nearest point which offers relief from the condition and is closest to where the ball original lay in the condition. Unfortunately, it is not the nicest point of relief! Often it is the case that the nearest point of relief will be an unattractive lie and the player must just accept this if the player chooses to take the relief. It is worth noting that relief under Rule 24-2 is not mandatory. Therefore, if the player does not like the area in which the ball would have to be dropped, the player can always play the ball as it lies or proceed under the unplayable ball Rule (**Rule 28**).

## Gents Golfer of the Year Competition - GOY

This year's **Golfer Of the Year** competition will commence the weekend of J.H Finn Prize, March 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. It will once again run over the full golf season with a selected 8 events to count. Similar scoring system as last year, with some improvements, check notice board and website for more details.

2010 GOY was won by Kevin Dowling in a very tight battle against Pat Shine that went down to the wire. So best of luck to all for 2011.

## Owls

The Owls Golf Society is an active group of golfers that meet to play golf every Monday. This group are an integral part of the club. Currently there are about 40 male and 15 female members. They run their own competitions and handicap system. The fees collected help finance the participation of teams in the JB.Carr and Jimmy Carroll competitions. Local charities are also supported. The annual outing is planned for late April. New members are always welcome. For further information Contact Percy Shannon, P.S.Horgan. Also see club notice board.

## Golf in Mallow.

The first golf course, founded in 1892, was located at the "Carrigeens" near the Convent of Mercy. It closed in 1921. From 1923-26 a new course was in operation at Scarteen, beside the Kennel Hill/Ballyclough road. Between 1928-31 there was a further attempt to set up a course in what is now Cork/Mallow racecourse. Work on the present course at Ballyellis began in 1947.

**Source** - Mallow Field Club Journal 1983-Bill

## Ladies Golf

### Spring League –

The League is well underway with a great entry of 13 teams of 5. The four teams with the best scores will contest the semi-finals in match play format. The final will be match play also. The League is a great opportunity to get in some practice in the lead up to interclub competitions. Best of luck to all involved.

An **Information Evening** for casual golfers and a **Rules of Golf** meeting took place during February.

The first **Open Day**, sponsored by Weedles Pharmacy, takes place on the 12<sup>th</sup> April.

The following are the **ILGU** Inter Club Championship Fixtures:

Challenge Cup (30-36) Mallow V Newcastle West in Limerick on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Minor Cup (23-29) Mallow v Monkstown in Fermoy on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Intermediate Cup (16-22) Mallow v Fermoy in Muskerry on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Junior Cup (8-15) Mallow v Winners of Douglas/Fermoy in Kanturk on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

Junior Foursomes (15-30) Mallow V Monkstown in Youghal on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Senior Foursomes (+- 14) Mallow V Thurles in Macroom on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

## Tennis and Squash

There are two squash courts and three all weather floodlit tennis courts available to members. All full members of the club are encouraged to avail of these facilities. There is a separate Racquets membership available also. The Tennis Club are currently hosting free Open Nights on Friday nights. Anyone considering taking up tennis can avail of free coaching. Tennis racquets and balls are supplied also.

There is a very active **Junior Section**. On Wednesdays Juniors avail of the coaching provided by Michael Lehane and his two assistant coaches Martin and Derek. On Fridays Willie Hanover organises team tennis practices. On Saturdays Liam O'Rourke provides 3 hours Mixed coaching. The Juniors will be contesting the Maher and Gilabby Cups and local schools take part in the Munster Primary and Secondary Schools Competition.

## Golf and Politics

“The difference between golf and government is that in golf you can’t improve your lie”.

George Deukmejian, Governor of California //1984

“You get to know more of the character of a man in a round of golf than you can get to know in six months with only political experience” David Lloyd George 1924

## Juvenile Golf

There was a very good turn-out for the Christmas competition. The format was an 8 hole three ball better ball. For some it was their first experience of a team competition. The winning team of Stephen Duffy, Aaron McCann and Jack Singleton had an excellent score of 24 points. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place on 22 points were James Ronayne, David Nyhan and Billy Walsh.

There was a great turnout for the Mid-term competition. The senior players had a **Match play** competition which culminated on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> with James Sugrue emerging as a worthy winner over Paul McCarthy. Taking part will have helped all in their preparation for the Fred Daly and the Junior Foursomes, the first rounds of which commence over Easter.

A shortened course was provided for the younger players and proved to be a success with a large number of pars and birdies. Thanks to Mary Dowling who helped organise the **14 hole three ball better ball** on Monday. The results were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup>- Tom Murphy, Billy Walsh, Edmond Walsh

2<sup>nd</sup>- James Ronayne, Ciaran Murphy, David Nyhan.

3<sup>rd</sup>- Jack Singleton, Stephen Duffy, Matthew, McGlynn.

On Thursday the younger juveniles got to experience the **scramble** format. Thanks to our Green keeper, Patrick O’Leary, for the provision of green coloured forward Juvenile

tees. These tees are restricted to those Juveniles who are given a starting club handicap of 24.

The new handicaps were reflected in the scoring in the two person scramble on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup>- Conor Mansfield, Eleanor Rutherford 53pts.

2<sup>nd</sup>-David Nyhan, Jessica Crowley 50pts.

3<sup>rd</sup>-Billy Walsh, Hugo Hegarty 49pts.

Keep an eye on the Notice board re upcoming coaching and events over Easter.

**Deirdre Linehan -Juvenile Officer**

## Bridge

Bridge is in its 47<sup>th</sup> year in Mallow Golf. At the moment we have 180 members on our books. We can accommodate up to 30 tables between the function room and the bar area. Bridge is played on Monday and Wednesday nights as well as Thursday afternoons. Evening Bridge begins at 7.45 pm while afternoon games begin at 2.30pm. Afternoon bridge is pretty new to the club and it has started to fill a need for elderly players who do not like to come out at night.

New players, who are gaining experience and confidence by playing structured bridge in an organized club, learn more quickly because they can compare results with a large number of other players.

We have a handicap system which is hoped will give everyone the chance to compete on an even field.

This week we played the Harry O’Grady Shield won by Miriam O’Keefe and Mary Higgins.

At the end of the month we will play the “March Hares” The Club’s handicap pairs championship. This event is played over two nights and is one of our major competitions.

Liam O’Driscoll is the President this year. John Lynch is the competition and handicap secretary.

Isabella O’Mahony is honorary secretary. Pat Horgan is honorary Treasurer.

**Next Issue will contain info on Sub-Committees, Survey and Team news.**

