

Enniscorthy Golf Club

Minutes of AGM held in the Clubhouse on 6th December 2024

Attendance

Marie Dunphy, Avril Murphy, Pauline Murphy, Brian Hogan, Billy Crosbie, Julie McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, Jacinta Kelly, Pat Kenny, Matt O Connor, Helene Daly, David Garahy, Geraldine Gahan, Richard Murphy, Willie Murphy, Tommy Kinlough, Margare Cooper, Maurice Treacy, Eimear Wheelan, Connie Doyle, Marian Dowling, Margaret O Connor, Anne Bernie, Deirdre Newe, Paula Rogan, Fintan O Sullivan, Bernie Webster, Trish Cullen, Mary Bolger, Monica O Connor, Peter Jordan, Gordan Radoff, Teresa Bailey, Marie Healy, Carmel Maguire, Phil Bolger, Chris Timmins, Margaret Frayne, Edmund Roche, John Ryan Jim Gahan. John Cullen, Jack Murphy Paddy Hore, Declan Lyons, Dave Keane, Eddie Doyle, Gordon Radloff, Ian Ward, Peter Creedon, Gerry O'Connor, Tim Morrissey, Keith Donnolly, Brian Sinnott, Willie Newe, Vincent Daly, Eamon Whitty, Murty Dempsey, Ciaran Tobin, Larry O'Connor, Gerry McMahon, Will Griffith John Daly, Declan Byrne, Ger Byrne Snr, Mick Dee, James Sheridan, Denis Dunne, Michael Coffey, Liam Dunbar, Rory McCauley, John Delaney, Des Jacob, Martin Moran, Stephen Casey, Dermot McCormack, George Kehoe, Vincent J Byrne, Jim Delaney, Maurice Nolan, James Gahan, David Dowling, Feargal Cooper, Michael Dillon, Liam Duggan, Eoin Mullarkey, David Garahy, Jim Byrne, Fintan O'Sullivan, Graham Donohue, Ciara Donohoe, Jim Hogan, William Murphy & Richard Murphy.

Presentation to Stephen Fitzpatrick

Prior to start of AGM a presentation was made to Club PRO Stephen Fitzpatrick by Captains Jim Gahan & Teresa Bailey of behalf of the club. Jim & Teresa thanked Stephen for the past 15 years he spent in the club and wished him well in his new position.

Stephen Fitzpatrick thanked the members of the interview panel who recommended him for the position of PRO 15 years ago. He thanked the club for giving him position of Club Professional and club members who supported him during his time at Enniscorthy Golf Club

AGM

Vinnie Daly standing in for Tommy Cooper who was unavailable due to the death of his sister opened the AGM and thanked everyone who turned out on such a bad night. Vinnie began the meeting by asking for a minute's silence to remember deceased past members and Tommy Copper's sister Catherine.

1. Apologies:

Eugene Doyle, Louse Doyle, Ann Wall, Paul Leacy, Gareth O Gorman, Tommy Cooper, Jimmy Devereux, George Leech, Martin Murphy, PJ Murphy, John Lacey, Jim Doran, Hilary Mullen, Lora Bolger, Mary Halligan, Sean Quirke, Rachel Dee, Go McMahon, Ann Banville, Stellah Sinnott & Helen Cosgrave,

2. Adoption of Standing Orders & appointment of Tellers

Item 10 of Standing order was amended to 'Show of hands'

Standing orders were proposed by Jim Delaney and seconded by Denis Dunne and approved by the meeting.

3. Address by Chair of Council (Mr Thomas Cooper).

Tommy's Coopers Chairman's Address was given by Vinnie Daly.

Fellow members, I could not be here to-night having laid my beloved sister to rest earlier to-day. I thank Vinny for Chairing the meeting at such short notice and delivering this address for me.

- As Chairperson, the past 2 years have flown by and we look forward to next year, arrival of Spring, better weather, bright evenings and more Golf. We have to keep looking forward, plan for it and learn from the past.
- We have been very lucky to have received Capital Sports Grant again in the current round to enable 2 more greens be built. While we try to remain non- political, I have to pay particular tribute and sincere thanks to James Browne for his work to keep us in the forefront and secure funding to enable us to develop and prosper.
- Our course remains our prize asset, and I remind you all we have built 11 sand-based greens over the past 20 years, installed a watering system comparable to the K Club. Next year we will build new greens replacing 2 and 14.
- Our biggest issues now is the amount of rainfall as a result of Climate Change. This is something we have absolute zero control over. While it is a nuisance, we have to protect the course with closure, same as many other Golf Clubs around Ireland.
- David will provide you with a comprehensive finance report and proposals to improve our financial position.
- I first came onto committee in 2021, the world was a different place then. Few mobile phones, no Netflix, cappuccinos, no on-line booking system. Climate change had not been a discussion item either. Committee was 14 in number then, we had 200 on a waiting list and could charge €3,000 membership entry fee. Over 3 timeframes, I have served the Club for 13 years, worked with some great people, all of us giving our best to progress the Club. I wish to express a massive thank you to our Council members over past 2 years.
- Sometimes, a small group of members judge us who serve rather un-justly and are often miss-guided. As I depart, I simply ask everyone to support your Council in their work in difficult circumstances, and I wish them every success.
- Together we are stronger.

Thank you,

Tommy Cooper.

House Report

Willie Newe presented the meeting with the following report for House.

I would like to thank Jack, Tara, Conal Kelly, Molly and Alisha and all other staff who have worked so hard throughout the year. With regard to the kitchen, having Tara and Conal on board from the beginning of the year has made life easier. With Tara being promoted lately to Manager of bar and restaurant on the retirement of Jack who gave long service to our club and we wish him well. We have tried to promote the bar and restaurant with some success with Sunday lunches and hopefully this will take off again in the New Year.

Our bar and restaurant are an integral part of our club and we need members to come up the stairs for a coffee, a pint and food to keep this alive. As the saying goes "no one can whistle a symphony it takes a whole orchestra to play it".

As I am stepping down, I would like to thank Stephen Casey and every member of the Council and all that helped me in the last few years. I would like to wish the incoming Council and Captains every success in 2025.

Thanking you.

Willie Newe

Course Report

Vinnie Daly presented the meeting with the following report for Course.

As per our 5 year plan 2020-24, the following works have been completed, and more works are planned. Thanks to the Community Sport's Funding we are further advanced than our 5 year plan's targets. Community Sports funding has been critical to the developments completed so far and now with the most recent approval of a further €146,750, this fund will allow for the further improvement of two new greens and drainage works.

Greens:

- (a) annual maintenance, Verti draining, hollowing Tinning and sanding completed in September.
- (b) plan to upgrade greens 2 and 14 currently at design stage, the plans will be presented to members as soon as available. Hope to commence work on the new greens early September 2025 & open to play April 2026.

Fairways:

- (a) Fairways sanding will be completed annually when conditions allow.
- (b) Equipment, we replaced our 8 year old fairway mower, the new mower is lease purchased, we also purchased a 2nd hand mini digger negating the need to hire in equipment for sanding operations.
- (c) Drainage, planning to drain area on RHS of 7th fairway and around the Ladies tee box on the 8th.

Tree Management:

- (a) course staff have received training on chain saws and where possible and safe to do so, they will remove trees.
- (b) Scrub at the back of 7th Green has been tidied up and planning to do same at rear of the 5th and 11th greens
- (b) several trees removed by course staff last year, this work will be on going.

Funding:

- (a) Community Sport Facilities Fund was and is critical to the club's major Course improvements.
- (b) Thank you to Tim Morrissey and Stephen Casey for their hard work on the successful grant application.
- (c) 300:1 draw, for the money required to fulfil the club's contribution of the Sports grant. Thank you to those members who contributed.
- (d) Charity Day and raffles, contribution for buggy paths, thanks to all who played and purchased tickets.

Course committee's commitment as per the 5-year plan is to provide the best playing conditions possible all year round. As our weather is becoming wetter, we must

prepare for these conditions as best we can, like upgrading our greens from clay to sand based, sanding fairways, installing additional drainage, Verti draining, hollow Tining and sanding our greens, these works are critical for the course's playability in the future. In addition to course conditions being favourable, some members need motorised access to play golf, the course committee is committed to providing buggy paths for these members. Buggy paths for 9 holes is a priority, eventually extending to all 18 holes, the work will progress as and when funds become available. A map of the planned pathways will be presented to members early in 2025, and work commencing soon after.

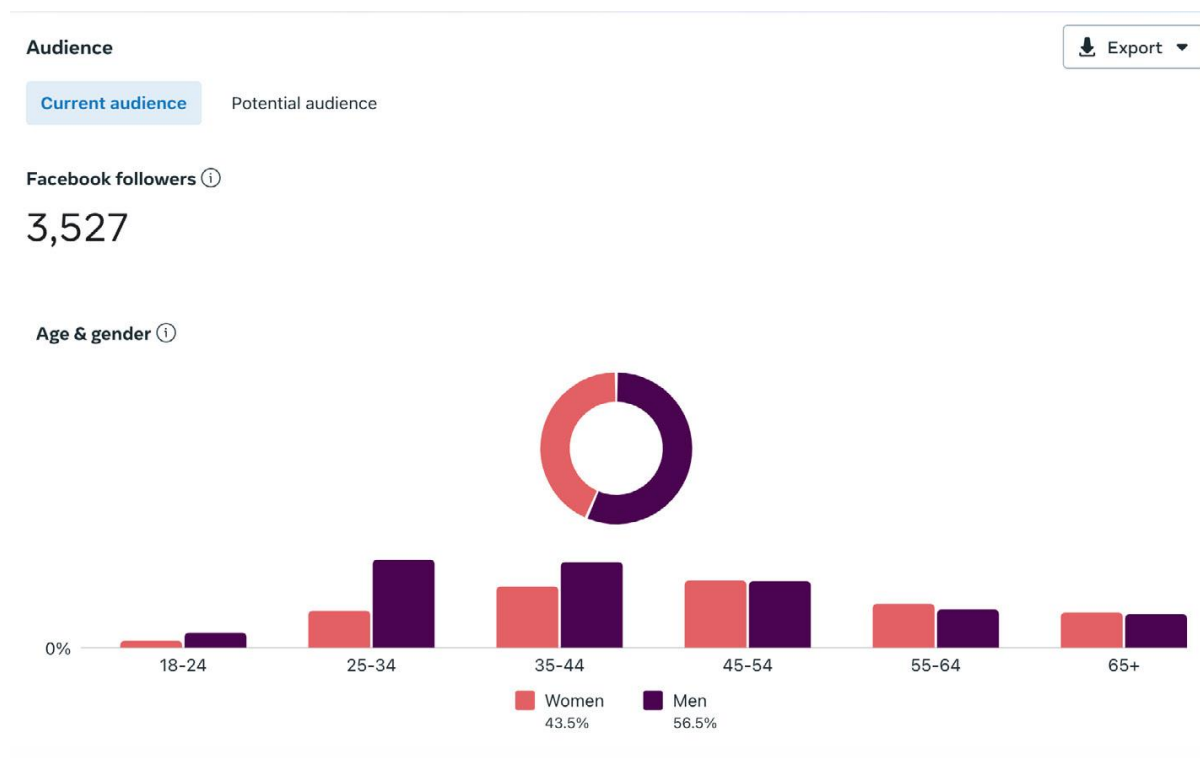
Finally, thanks to the Garden committee for their hard work make course more attractive.

Vincent Daly

Social Media and Communications Report

Vinnie Daly presented the meeting with the following report.

Enniscorthy Golf Club A total of 354 Posts were published across Facebook and Instagram between January 1st and December 5th. An increase of 47% from the previous year. Post content was mainly in relation to Men's & Ladies competition results, presentation photos, special event photos, latest news from the club and news related to the club, restaurant and bar menus and our various membership special offers. The Facebook posts had a total of 190,000 views and had a reach of 177,000. Our Facebook profile was visited 93,000 times between Jan. 24 and Dec. 2024 EGC currently has 3527 Facebook followers.



We also published two free full page editorial/adverts with Slaney News this year which contained club news and membership offers as well as photos from club events. We also published a paid advert with Southside News, South County Dublin Newspaper Advertising

Long Distance membership with the EGC. We are currently producing a Club flyer/small brochure which will be distributed to all key tourist attractions and hotels in the early new year. We are also currently researching the possibility of offering clubs in Wales, and the UK package deals with EGC.

Hilary Mullen Social Media & Communications

4 a) Minutes of E.M.G. held on 21st May 2024 & Matters Arising.

Minutes were agreed proposed by John Cullen and seconded by Denis Dunne. There were no matters arising.

b) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.

Minutes were agreed proposed by John Daly and seconded by Ciara Donohoe. There were no matters arising.

5 Report from Treasurer (Mr David Dowling) & appointment of auditors

David Dowling began his 2nd financial report by telling the members that this is my second and last presentation of accounts to the golf Club AGM. Looking back I think I am the oldest person at 72 to have served as Treasurer of the club.

Last year was it was very apparent that many of you were totally unaware of how difficult the club finances were. This was not meant to be a shock but simply to let people know exactly where we were.

This year 2023/4 had a very difficult start with the course closed for 13 full days in October and continuing in that vein throughout the winter. That coupled with two holes being redeveloped meant we only had 16 holes playable at most.

Pepper

On 13th May 2024 the club received a letter from Bank of Ireland informing us that they had transferred the club's term loan to Pepper Finance Corporation.

When this news reached club members it seemed to cause serious concern about the clubs future. I would like to re-iterate that:

- (i) The loan transfer was one of 19 golf clubs.
- (ii) We have continued to meet our monthly loan repayments to pepper.
- (iii) The only correspondence received from Pepper was informing us of the account details to make our repayments and notifications of decreases in interest rates.
- (iv) In summary we are simply being dealt with by a different financial institution and one which is open to "doing a deal".

Accounts

I am happy to report that the club made a profit before depreciation of €3808 compared to a loss last year of €53691. The total income for 2024 was €1031582.

Total subscriptions were €491672 this is mostly due to the €100 increase in subscription.

Unfortunately, we did not get the full benefit of the increase, as many did not join due to late start to the golfing season due to the bad weather. As you know we have an older membership and as result we have over 30 members on leave of absence.

We had a depreciation charge of €66046 giving a loss after depreciation of €62238 .But remember depreciation is not a cash loss.

Green fees were down to €68439 due as stated earlier to bad weather and closure of holes. We received a grant of €104,000 from Sports capital scheme.

The cost of Insurance increased again to €28707 while energy costs were down to €40758.

It was difficult to get bar staff and retain bar staff. Rostering staff for the bar also proved difficult as it is difficult to access the demand. The bar showed a loss of €14,778.

This year the club spent €193,000 on course equipment. The purchase of new fairway mower accounting for the bulk of this.

Development

The two new holes cost €142,000, €8,000 of this was professional fees

Proposals for 24/25

The club has been running close to its overdraft limit of €50,000 for most of the year. This means that in effect we don't really have an overdraft facility.

- To address this problem and to allow for further course development, as one off we are proposing a levy of €125 for every adult member.
- To put the club in a position to address the term loan we are proposing that the club sell 5/10-year memberships. The rate to be set by incoming council.

David explained that this would reduce future income, but this would be largely offset by reduction in interest repayments.

Questions & Answers

Kevin McCarthy questioned if this was a good option.

Declan Lyons, John Ryan & George Kehoe said that the club needs to pursue a deal with pepper.

John Delaney asked if the club could get a loan with Enniscorthy Credit union.

In reply David told the meeting that the credit union was not allowed to give business loans but would accommodate members with loans.

Marty Dempsey said that costs must be controlled. One third of costs are on wages.

Questions on member's discounts were deferred to discussion on motion to reduce over 66 discounts.

The adoption of accounts and proposal to apply a levy of €125 was proposed by David Garahy and seconded by Jim Byrne.

David thanked Stephen Casey, Sinead Fortune and the finance committee Chris Timmins, Eugene Doyle, Gerry O Connor & Jacinta Kelly.

Auditors

Proposal to appoint Azets as club auditor was proposed by Ciaran Tobin and seconded by Jim Byrne and approved by members.

6 Motions

Motion 1

Current

6.3. The Members of the Council shall be (1) Chair, (2) Treasurer, (3) Chair of Marketing & Membership, (4) Chair of Course, (5) Head of House & Social, (6) Secretary (7) Elected Member.

Proposed Amendment:

6.3. The Members of the Council shall be (1) Chair, (2) Treasurer, (3) Chair of Marketing & Membership, (4) Chair of Course, (5) Head of House & Social, (6) Secretary, (7) Captain of the Men's Club, (8) Captain of the Ladies' Club and (9) one other Elected Member with portfolio to be decided by Council.

Proposed by : Willie Newe

Seconded by: Ann Bernie

Willie Newe in proposing the motion to make Captains full members of council said that there was a disconnect between council and men's & ladies golf committees especially when it came information flow.

Liam Dunbar spoke against the motion saying that the CGI advice was not to have the captains involved in management to give time to golf matters.

Vinnie Daly speaking in favour of motion said that there needs to be a better link between council and golf committees.

Gerry McMahon spoke against the motion saying that CGI view was council was to manage business affairs of club and having Vice Captains on council should have been sufficient to provide information.

Vinnie Daly informing the meeting that have Vice captains on council didn't work too well so this was changed to Captains and as they at the meetings it makes sense to give them a vote.

Tim Morrissey agreed that vice captains were replaced by captains on council to try and address communications gap.

John Cullen told the meeting that most clubs had now replaced the Vice Captains with Captains on their councils.

Connie Doyle agreed with Liam Dunbar that captains had a very busy year and should not be on council.

Denis Dunne said that there was an actual disconnect between council and golf committees and visual perception was the same. He said Captain's should be full members of council.

Jim Gahan said he was in favour of motion had no problem with extra work being a full member of council.

Ciaran Tobin didn't see how giving captain's vote would help with communication gap.

This ended the discussion, and motion was put to the floor.

Motion 1 was carried and motions 2- 5 below relating to the Captains being full members of council were also carried by the members

Motion 2

Current

8.2. The Council will be comprised of seven Full Ordinary members and shall hold monthly meetings or at such times as may be found necessary. Full Ordinary members of at least two years standing, will fill the Council positions to manage specific portfolios as set out below:

(1) Chair, (2) Treasurer, (3) Head of Marketing & Membership, (4) Head of Course, (5) Head of House & Social, (6) Secretary and one other Elected Member with portfolio to be decided by Council.

Proposed Amendment:

8.2. The Council will be comprised of *nine* Full Ordinary members and shall hold monthly meetings or at such times as may be found necessary. Full Ordinary members of at least two years standing, will fill the Council positions to manage specific portfolios as set out below:

(1) Chair, (2) Treasurer, (3) Head of Marketing & Membership, (4) Head of Course, (5) Head of House & Social, (6) Secretary, (7) Captain of the Men's Club, (8) Captain of the Ladies' Club and (9) one other Elected Member with portfolio to be decided by Council.

Proposed by : **Willie Newe**

Seconded by: **Ann Bernie**

Motion 3

Delete section

8.2.1 The Captain of the Ladies' Club and the Captain of the Men's Club are invited to sit on council as ex-officio members but will be non-voting members of Council.

Proposed by : **Willie Newe**

Seconded by: **Ann Bernie**

Motion 4

9.9.2

Current A council member may serve up to a maximum of five consecutive years, and having retired from council for one year, is eligible to serve for a further five years, with an aggregate of ten years being the maximum period of service for any one member of council. (This applies only to voting members of council, i.e., the year that Vice Captains sit on council is not counted as a period of service to council.) Council members may retire each year by rotation with the order of rotation being decided by Council before the 30th of June each year. The rotation of council members is carried out to ensure continuity of knowledge, skills, and experience on the council. ** Elected council members are expected to serve a minimum of two consecutive

years before retiring. ** All Council members are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. ** Personal circumstances may dictate otherwise **.

Proposed Amendment:

9.9.2

A council member may serve up to a maximum of five consecutive years, and having retired from council for one year, is eligible to serve for a further five years, with an aggregate of ten years being the maximum period of service for any one member of council. Council members may retire each year by rotation with the order of rotation being decided by Council before the 30th of June each year. The rotation of council members is carried out to ensure continuity of knowledge, skills, and experience on the council. ** Elected council members are expected to serve a minimum of two consecutive years before retiring. ** All Council members are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting with the exception of Captains who are elected at their respective AGMs ** Personal circumstances may dictate otherwise **.

Proposed by : **Willie Newe**

Seconded by: **Ann Bernie**

Motion 5

11. EXCLUSIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Current

11.4. The current year Captain of the Men's Club, Captain of the Ladies' Club, President of the Men's Club and President of the Ladies' Club.

Proposed Amendment:

11.4. The current year President of the Men's Club and President of the Ladies' Club.

Proposed by : **Willie Newe**

Seconded by: **Ann Bernie**

Motion 6

Current Article

20.1.14.

Loyalty Discount 2: members with 20 years' continuous service in a full membership category, and having reached the National Retirement Age, will be offered a 25% discount on their membership fee. This discount will not apply to any levies associated with the member categories. Only one discount will apply to any membership category and this discount will remain in place for the duration of membership. This discount will not affect any discounts presently in place.

Proposed Amendment

Loyalty Discount 2: members with 20 years' continuous service in a full membership category, and having reached the National Retirement Age, will be offered a 15% discount on their membership fee. This discount will not apply to any levies associated with the member categories. Only one discount will apply to any membership category, and this discount will remain in place for the duration of membership.

Proposed by – **John Delaney**

Seconded by – **Teresa Bailey**

John Delaney put motion to the meeting saying he had spoken to many members, and they were in fact in favour of getting rid of discounts.

Teresa Bailey seconded the motion saying that the discount was far too generous.

Mick Coffey speaking in favour of motion said that the discount should be reduced to zero. John Byrne said he was in agreement with this proposal.

This proposal was ruled out of order.

Ciaran Tobin said that no one should be entitled to a discount and all discounts should go.

Jim Gahan Jnr spoke against the motion saying that the discount was a reward for members who were loyal to the club and should think hard about reducing discount.

John Daly also spoke in favour saying the club needed the money.

Denis Dunne said he was 100% in favour.

This concluded the discussion, and motion was put to floor. Motion was carried.

Motion 7

To introduce a €50 bar levy to be spent in the 2025 calendar year for food and drink.

Proposed by John Byrne and Seconded by Fontan O Sullivan

John Byrne put motion to floor saying the club needed a functioning the bar. For some members it was their only social outlet. The €50 was needed to keep the bar open.

John Cullen said that a lot of members were, Car Park members and didn't know where the bar was. Members need to support the bar and those that haven't used the previous levy should be made spend it.

Jim Hogan asked long would it be before the till was fixed.

In reply to this question Willie Newe told Jim that the club was working on getting a new till but were having difficulty find a till system that was compatible with the Golf Ireland cards.

Connie Doyle spoke in favour saying she had no problem paying €50 and members who don't support bar should be levied

This concluded the discussion, and motion was put to the floor and carried.

7. Election of Trustee

Mary Bolger

The motion to appoint Mary Bolger as a trustee proposed by Anne Bernie and seconded by Stephen Casey was put to a vote by Vinnie Daly. The motion was approved.

8 Election of Council Members

The following members were elected unopposed to council

Chair of Council: Avril Tormey Murphy

Proposer Thomas Cooper, Seconder Stephen Casey.

Treasurer & Head of Finance: Vincent Byrne

Proposer Thomas Cooper, Seconder Stephen Casey.

Head of House: Ger Byrne

Proposer Thomas Cooper, Seconder Stephen Casey.

Head of Course: Vincent Daly

Proposer Thomas Cooper, Seconder Stephen Casey.

Head of Marketing & Membership: Lora Bolger

Proposer Thomas Cooper, Seconder Stephen Casey.

Elected Member (Communications & Social Media): Hilary Mullen

Proposer Thomas Cooper, Seconder Stephen Casey.

Secretary: John Ryan

Proposer Thomas Cooper, Seconder Stephen Casey

9 AOB

Our incoming Chairperson Avril Murphy addressed the meeting.

Avril thanked both the men and women who had given her great support since she put her name forward for Chair of Council. She said she was looking forward to working with the incoming council. There was a lot of work to do she was hoping to bring new energy to the council. Avril thanked the outgoing members of council for all their hard work.

Independent Golfer.

Declan Lyons asked what was the clubs position in relation to the Golf Ireland's Independent golfer scheme.

Stephen Casey told the members that following a meeting with all clubs in the southeast they had agreed a common approach in relation to Independent Golfer. The policy was that golfer with an independent golfer handicap would not be allowed to compete in any open competition

John Cullen said that Dublin was where most of the interest was in golfers applying for independent golfer. It was his understanding that a number of golfers were refused a handicap due to 3-year rule.

Eimear Whelan questioned why the club was so against the scheme. She said Golf Ireland had listened to the feedback from members and increased the period to 3 years for anyone who was already member of club. She said scheme had proved a great success in England, Wales and Scotland.

Jim Delaney said he was totally against the scheme where a golfer could get a handicap for €65 instead of paying €1000 to become a member of a club.

300/1 Draw

John Delaney asked what was the position with 300/1 which was set up a year ago and why there hadn't been a draw for some time. In reply Tim Morrissey said that he had discussed this very morning with Stephen Casey when to hold next draws, A date of 20th of December set to hold outstanding draws.

Club Professional

In reply to a question on position of club PRO Avril Murphy told the members that interviews had been held and the new council would meet on Monday or Tuesday to decide on how to fill the position.

Greens

Pauline Rogan asked why the greens were in such a bad condition.

Vinnie Daly said that the greens were badly infected with fusarium. They had now been successfully treated but due to time of year there is very little growth and that they would not fully recover until the grass starts growth again.

Vinnie explained that Verti draining and hollow tinning of greens had been delayed to facilitate competitions and this had been a contributory factor combined with a warm wet winter.

John Cullen said members need to stop giving out. The greens had been in excellent condition for most of the year.

John Byrne asked why the surrounds on the two new greens were in such a bad condition. He questioned if it was a problem with design or if they had not been done correctly.

Membership Subscription

Denis Dunne expressed concern that the increases of €175 for every adult member would result in a loss of many members.

Avril Murphy concluded the AGM saying that she would do everything she could to make the club work.