

2020 Chairman's address

The year 2020 has been a difficult but successful year for our Club, I would like to express my appreciation to:

- our hard-working Staff
- the Ladies and Men's Club committee members
- My colleagues on the Management Committee and everyone who volunteered in any capacity throughout the year

I would like to extend my best wishes to Donal Bollard 2021 Captain, Mary O'Hare 2021 Lady Captain and Eugene O'Callaghan 2021 President and I hope that all of you will have an enjoyable year in office.

Review of the Year

Covid 19

Who would have thought at the AGM in 2019 last November that our whole world would be turned upside down by Covid 19. There has been pluses and minuses for the club since the advent of Covid. Our facilities had to be closed in March/April and again in Oct/Nov. There was the curtailment, of inter club competitions, club competitions and club social activities. For a year which is always special for the Captains and President and their families it was a difficult year. I would like to congratulate Captain Des Fitzgerald, Lady Captain Helen O'Callaghan and President Chris Cronin on getting their Prizes played. The Captains and the ladies and men's committees are to be commended on operating a competitive competition schedule for our members.

The major plus was that our Golf Club provided a much-needed form of social interaction for our members and break from the grind of Covid. Members appreciated the fine facilities that Kinsale Golf Club offers to its members. A special thanks to all our staff who pulled out all the stops in having the course available to our members for near dawn to dusk.

Course

The Course has been maintained and presented to us in excellent condition throughout the year. The forced lockdown in March/April enabled the staff to carry out extra maintenance work. When we returned to golf in May the golf course was in pristine condition.

We continued with gradual improvements to our facilities during the year. A new short game area has been developed to the right of the 2nd green and, the 8th green has been re contoured to alleviate drainage problems. It was decided to postpone work under the Sports Capital Programme due to Covid and resultant uncertainty. It is planned to commence with this work in 2021, namely construct the chipping green and the short game pitching facility.

The 7th men's tee is a cause for much discussion. The advice of our Golf Architect was to move the tee forward and re-access the situation. The problem of golf balls landing on to the car park has been alleviated, but it has obvious implications for the hole and the situation will be monitored to see what options are available. It is hoped to do minor alterations to the 17th green and the 11th green which have water ponding problems and to add additional bunkering on both holes in conjunction with this work. Also the 16th fairway will need drainage work and this is planned for the Spring.

To all the volunteers who helped on the course and a special thanks to Vincent McDwyer and his team of gardeners.

I would like to express my appreciation to our Head Greenkeeper Pdraig Crowley and his team for presenting a well-conditioned golf course to you the members.

Clubhouse

The clubhouse has received some much-needed refurbishment during the year. This is still ongoing in the Bar, Restaurant, Ladies and Gents locker rooms. Thanks to Ger Murnane House Officer and to Patricia O'Flynn for her professional advice, Stuart Shellard for his work in the men's locker room, not forgetting all the volunteer painters.

As with all in the hospitality industry our caterers Shane & Lisa had a difficult year, I would like to thank them for their excellent food and service.

Proshop and Office

Our Club Professional Ger Broderick and his team really came out on top in running the timesheets and accommodating members and visitors in a friendly and efficient manner. To the best of my knowledge we are the only club that had a time sheet start at 6.00 a.m. on a Saturday and Sunday during the summer months. Ger's interest in the club and his help to all Officers and Members is really appreciated.

Janice McCarthy in the office as always carried out her work in a calm and efficient manner. Her support to me and all the committee members is invaluable.

Membership

The demand for membership has increased this year with the Covid crisis, many people realised what a healthy form of exercise and relaxation golf is. Overall membership now stands at 1041 compared to 971 in 2019. The Committee took the decision to close membership and we currently have a waiting list. The aim this year is to maintain the same level of membership numbers. The question of re-introducing an entrance fee will be considered during the year. A word of caution we had 50 ordinary member resignations in 2020.

Course Usage, Green Fees & Societies

Since the course opened after lockdown in May the demand for members for tee times as experienced in most Golf Clubs is unprecedented. This is a good development and demonstrates the value of a members' club. The Committee are currently reviewing the booking strategy for societies etc. for 2021. Kinsale is a members Golf Club and making the golf course available to the members as much as possible is a major objective of the Committee.

Finance Overview

Treasurer, Declan will introduce the Accounts for 2020 in detail shortly but despite the Covid restrictions overall, it has been a good year for the club.

As indicated by Tony Long in his Chairman's report in 2019, there were important matters relating to our Bank borrowings which needed to be resolved. The Committee decided to launch a member's Loan Bond, and this was extremely successful.

The funds raised from the Bond enabled the club to repay the parked element of our Bank Loan and the requirement for the club to take out a short-term working capital loan to meet our costs from October to December has being eliminated. Our Bank Borrowing now stands at just under € 1.4 m repayable at €75,000 per year. A special word of thanks to all the members who contributed to the Bond and to our Treasurer Declan O'Flynn, Ger Cullinane and the Club Trustees for their assistance in this regard.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues on the Management Committee for their help, efforts and support throughout the year. I am confident the incoming committee will work hard on behalf of the club and will address the challenges that lie ahead.

Hilary Madden

Chairman