



Kinsale Golf Club

Chairman's Report

2022

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Reflecting on the past year, the main theme that comes to mind is the return to normality after the extremely difficult and challenging Covid-disrupted years of 2020 and 2021.

The club provides a welcome resource to our members and the local community. Kinsale Golf Club not only provides an excellent golfing challenge but also provides social interaction for members and visitors alike.

I would like to express my appreciation to:

- All Staff who provide a top-class level service to the members;
- The Ladies' and Men's Club Committee Members;
- My colleagues on the Management Committee and everyone who volunteered in any capacity throughout the year; and
- The members for their help and courtesy during the year.

I would like to extend my best wishes to Joe Fahy, Captain 2023, Myra O'Leary, Lady Captain 2023 and James Robinson, President 2023 and I hope that all of you will have an enjoyable year in office.

Review of the Year

Course

The Course has been maintained and presented to us in excellent condition throughout the year.

- **Greens**

The Greens are benefiting from the practice of over-seeding which is now carried out twice a year. As a result, the percentage of finer bent grasses continues to increase each year. This not only produces a year-round better putting surface but also enables the Golf Course to be maintained in a sustainable manner. Another benefit of this practice is that it reduces the need for fungicides.

- **Tee Boxes**

The Men's White Tee Boxes on the 11th and 15th holes have been refurbished. A new Ladies' Tee Box has been built on the 13th hole. The Ladies' Tee Boxes on the 1st and 14th holes have also been rebuilt.

- **Fairways**

The continued sanding of the fairways continues to pay dividends. Unfortunately, there is no effective treatment for casting worms. This means that at certain times of the year - namely in the Autumn/Winter - we will have muddy fairways. Studies are being undertaken to see if this situation can be remedied.

- **Bunkers**

The fairway bunkering on the 8th hole was completed and has received favourable comment. There is an ongoing need to upgrade the bunkering on the Golf Course.

- **Rough**

Golf is in a unique position to contribute to ecology and to reduce our carbon footprint by leaving areas of the Course undisturbed for nature. These areas are to the left of the 17th hole, the quarry between the 11th and 12th holes and the area to the left of the tee on the 16th Hole. We have also identified the areas that do not interfere with

play and these areas are no longer being cut. I refer you to an article by Pat Supple, Golf Ireland Ecology Committee, on how golf can make a major contribution in this area: (www.golfireland.ie).

- **Trees**

The review of the development plan for the trees was carried out in October and is available in the document section of the club website.

- **Practice Facilities**

The new chipping green to the right of the first tee was opened for play and is a welcome addition to our practice facilities.

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

Clubhouse

The clubhouse refurbishment continued during the year. The glass panels on the balcony have been replaced and the railings and balcony surrounds were painted. Window blinds were replaced in the Bar and Restaurant. The Solar Panels are currently being installed on the roof and will help to reduce our energy costs. The Ladies' Locker Room has been refurbished and has been well received. I would like to thank Committee Member Ger Marnane for her contribution and hard work.

Catering

Ciaran Brosnan decided to call it a day as club caterer. Ciaran was at the Club for 16 months and it was great to see the clubhouse being used again. We thank him and his staff for their service and excellent fare.

Chris and Anusha Gopaul have taken over as caterers and we would urge members to support them. A Social Levy of €100 per member will again be in operation for 2023 and this can be used in the Bar or Restaurant.

Pro Shop and Office

Our Club Professional Ger Broderick and his team continue to provide members with a first-class service, with the timesheet available from dawn to dusk. We would like to congratulate Tim Kelleher who qualified as a PGA Professional recently.

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

You will see from the Financial Report that our revenue from visitors has increased substantially this year. The work that Pro Shop and Office Staff do in this area is a major help in generating this income.

Membership

The demand for membership has proved to be very resilient. Overall, membership now stands at 1,109. The Committee took the decision to close membership at this level and we currently have a waiting list.

Course Usage, Green Fees & Societies

The course continues to be very busy with continued high usage by members. The Committee are mindful that Kinsale is a members' club and strives to make the course available to members as much as possible. This strategy is factored in when taking classic and society bookings. We have increased the Greens Fees Rates for 2023.

Finance Overview

Treasurer, Declan will present Accounts for 2022 and it has been a good year financially for the club. I would like to thank Declan, who successfully applied for funding under the Sports Capital Fund. The Club was awarded a grant of €112,500 for drainage work and locker room improvements.

Golf

John Murphy again made the headlines in securing his player's card for the DP World Tour. John is a great ambassador for Kinsale Golf Club and we are delighted with his success and wish him well.

Our Juvenile Fred Daly Team won the Club's First Juvenile Pennant by beating Faithlegg in the Munster East Final. They played in the All-Ireland Finals in Ballina where they were beaten by Massereene. I was delighted to support the team in Ballina and they represented our club well. This success is a result of the hard work in Juvenile section over the last 15 years. Well done to Ger Cullinane, Gerry Waldron, Ian Stafford and Ger Broderick. It was also great to see the Club participating in the girls inter-club event for the first time. They won the East Munster qualifier in Charleville and went on to play in the All-Ireland final in Milltown. Our thanks go to Aileen Keating and Ger Broderick.

- **IT Systems**

We continue the development of our IT systems and, currently, our Membership system is being upgraded. An EPOS system was also installed in the past year. Ted Curtin, Declan O Flynn and Brian Doran have been of great assistance with these developments.

- **Compliance**

As is common with most businesses, the Golf Club is facing increased demands in the area of compliance. These include Health & Safety, Fire Building Regulations, Data Protection and Staff Training. Club Secretary Liz Donnelly is overseeing this area.

Plans for 2023

Course

- **Course Development Plan**

The Committee decided to request our Course Architect, Jeff Lynch, to review and update the Course Development Plan, which was drawn up 2016. The vast majority of 2016 plan has been completed at this stage. Jeff will present his initial plan to the members at an information meeting in early January 2023. This presentation will include the possible options regarding the 7th hole.

- **Drainage**

With the funding from the Sports Capital Grant, we are now in a position to drain the, 16th, 7th and 5th holes. This work is scheduled to start in early spring but will be dependent on weather conditions.

- **Tee Boxes**

Upgrades to the Men's 8th and 9th and Ladies 12th Tee Boxes

- **Bunkers**

On holes 1st, 4th and 6th to be worked on.

- **Trees**

Continue with the Tree Management Programme. Unfortunately, the ash die-back disease has infected some of our ash trees on the Golf Course and these will have to be removed.

- **15th Hole**

Stabilise banks in from of the Green.

Clubhouse

- Men's Locker Room refurbishment.
- Installation of Solar Panels on the Clubhouse Roof and Pro Shop Roofs.

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 that the incoming committee will work hard on behalf of the club and will address the challenges that lie ahead.

Hilary Madden
Chairman