

DONEGAL COUNTY GOLF COMMITTEE

MINUTES 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Ballybofey & Stranorlar Golf Club on Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 8pm after postponement (due to hazardous weather) of the meeting originally scheduled for the previous week. All seventeen clubs were represented with exception of Cruit and Bunrana both of whom sent an apology.

Lawrence Devenney Captain of B&S Golf Club welcomed the committee and delegates from the Donegal Clubs & Strabane. Mr Brian O'Reilly took the chair joined by Secretary Tony Carr, Treasurer Sean McCormack and Youth Convenor Edward Harvey. Frank Casey was out of the country and unable to attend on this occasion. Apologies also received from Donal McBride (Convenor of the Donegal League) and Peter Dobson (Convenor of the Seniors Matchplay) who were also away and unable to attend this year.

Brian O'Reilly invited the delegates to introduce themselves after which he addressed the meeting stating that the committee was celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and paid tribute to Fr Anthony Griffith and the late Paddy Carr (RIP) for their work and dedication to the committee and promotion of Golf over the years. Brian advised the meeting that the old Donegal League Cup was in a poor state of repair and presented an opportunity to commission a new cup and name it after Paddy Carr in honour of his legacy to golf in Donegal.

Brian thanked Donal, Tony, Sean, Edward, Frank for continuing the work of the founder committee members. He complimented the continued implementation of the 'zero tolerance date policy' which was working and increasing the enjoyment of the match play events for all. Brian stated that reduced Entry & Affiliation Fees of the recession years had eroded the Committees financial reserves and that fees were being increased incrementally to what they were before the crash of 2007.

Minutes of the 2019 Meeting were not read but had been posted to the Website, they were agreed and adopted without comment.

There were no matters arising.

WEBSITE:

Tony Carr Secretary gave a short overview of Donegal County Golf Committee Website and spoke of Strengths, Weaknesses Aspirations etc for same. Tony advised that the addition in 2019 of a face book page had been a modest success which could be built upon. 2019 had also seen the registration of a proper website domain: www.dgcg.online. Tony said the committee had discussed and agreed to return in 2020 to the hard copy calendar of events which had been circulated prior to the introduction the website hosted digital fixture list. Tony said the intention was to issue a monthly calendar with emphasis on the open fixtures.

2019 MATCHPLAY EVENTS:

Match play Convenor's Reports. The convenors Ed Harvey, Tony Carr & Donnie McIntyre gave the results and commented on the individual Match Play Events:

Senior Matchplay	-	Rosapenna
Junior Matchplay	-	Donegal GC
Donegal League	-	Letterkenny
Minor League	-	Portsalon
Youth Matchplay	-	Dunfanaghy
Seniors Matchplay	-	Letterkenny

By and large the events had run very well and were all completed largely on time. The Minor League (being last to conclude) finished on the 13th October. Tony thanked Portsalon for hosting the Senior & Junior Scratch Matchplay events in September which had been a great success and the quality of the course and hospitality was noted by all who took part.

YOUTH GOLF:

Ed Harvey explained that Youth Golf was struggling and entries to the Youth Matchplay were poor and this mirrored a decline in the school golf programme. He appealed to Clubs to review and promote Youth Golf Programmes in their respective clubs. He circulated a letter listing the reasons which he felt had contributed to this decline. He hoped this letter could be read out at the respective club council meetings to add some further much need emphasis of the issue. The letter advised that the committee were keen to try to support a reversal of the decline in youth golf and that they intended to make a small bursary available to assist with the promotion of youth golf across the county.

PROPOSALS:

Brian read the proposal from Rosapenna GC regarding dates for the Donegal League and invited Brendan Roache of Rosapenna to explain the rationale for this. Brendan explained that it can be difficult for clubs to field teams in May due to a plethora of other golf commitments including the GUI qualifiers.

The proposal was seconded and other comments regarding condition of parkland courses in April and the fact that there is actually a preliminary round to be played (seventeen clubs enter). After short discussion and a possible counter proposal Brendan agreed that maybe a better compromise was to delay the deadline for the first round until 29th June 2020. The was agreed by the meeting.

Brian then read the proposal which had come from Letterkenny regarding the proposed reduction of the Junior Matchplay Team from seven to five and invited Barry Ramsay to explain the rationale for this. Barry explained that the original concept for the event was to give older former 'Senior' Golfers another event to participate in and renew old friendships / rivalries on the fairways. Letterkenny felt that this concept was being lost with sometimes as high as 10 and 11 handicap players being required to fill the latter places on the seven-man team.

Comments were taken with several clubs keen to maintain the current seven-man team. Tony advised that it was his recollection that Donegal Golf Club had proposed increasing the Team to Seven members two / three years ago and that as such it might be better not to initiate a change so quickly. Brian invited a seconder, but none was forthcoming

Brian then returned to the second part of Rosapenna's proposal which suggested changing the Junior Matchplay event to provide for a stroke play qualification at two venues followed by 'Home and Away' match play thereafter. Brendan explained that again the rationale behind this was to make it easier for clubs to participate in the event in a busy fixture calendar. The meeting was generally sympathetic to this intent but there were several comments stating that the perhaps this would be at odds with the origins and actual Title of the event. Tony advised the meeting that the Committee had already booked Narin & Portnoo as the host venue for the 2020 Semi-Final and Final and that accordingly if the proposal was to be adopted by the meeting the committee would like to delay its implementation for one year. After the clubs had their say Brian invited a seconder but none was forthcoming.

The Committee's proposal to add Donie McIntyre and Peter Dobson to the committee was accepted by acclamation.

Draws for 2019 Matchplay Competitions were made. It was agreed to postpone the Youth Matchplay Draw until early June to see if any more clubs could be encouraged to take part.

Sean McCormack reported on the 2019 Seniors Alliance which had once again been a resounding success bringing so much enjoyment to the players and revenue to the Clubs. Fixture Cards for the Seniors Alliance 2020 were distributed.

Details & Dates for keys fixtures at each of the clubs were recorded.
Entry & Affiliation Fees were accepted.

AOB

Brian read out a letter which had been received by the Committee from Ballybofey & Stranorlar Golf Club regarding membership 'deals' for established members which might not be in the best interests of golf in County Donegal. Brian advised that the committee did not feel they had any role in this apart from allowing Ballybofey & Stranorlar GC's grievance to be voiced and accordingly the matter was not discussed.

Brian closed the meeting & wished everyone a safe Journey home and happy Golfing in 2020.

Signed: _____

Tony Carr

Secretary Glebe, Stranorlar. Tel (087) 6165884 dgccommittee@gmail.com

7th March 2020.