

ASHBOURNE GOLF CLUB
LADIES CLUB
Archerstown, Ashbourne, Co. Meath

Annual Report and Audited Accounts

Year to 30th September 2023

Notice is hereby given that the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Ladies Club will be held on **Monday 6th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Clubhouse**. For the purpose of transacting the following business:

1. Opening of Meeting
2. To approve the minutes of the thirtieth AGM held on 14th November 2022
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Report
4. To receive and adopt the Financial Report for the year ended 30th September 2023
5. To consider notices of Motion*
6. To elect Officers for 2024*
7. To elect members of Committee for 2024*
8. Any Other Business

Adele Dooley

Honorary Secretary

*Nominations for Officers and members of Committee, and Notices of Motion must be made to the Honorary Secretary, in writing, at least 14 days before the date of this meeting.

MINUTES ON THE LADY'S AGM

MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2022

(Meeting started @7.35pm)

Honorary Secretary Adele welcomed all to the 30th AGM and read out the notice / Agenda.

Honorary Secretary Adele asked all members to join in a minute silence to remember past members and the relatives and friends of members that passed away. Also, we would like to include Vicky Phelan who has done so much for women and our children.

Apologies received:

Helena Reynolds

Fiona O Callaghan

Elaine Carpenter

Susan Carroll

Mary Power

Dolores Beggan

Brenda O Keeffe

Brid Ui Bhraonain

Eileen Doolan

Elizabeth Kane

Brenda Barry

Sheila Cooney

Nula Sommer

Lady Captain Helena asked that the Junior Club membership figures for the girls be amended from 27 to 17, on her report. This was because some membership fees remained unpaid despite reminders.

Mary Bannon advised that this may have been due to the change in the billing period.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer gave the following overview:

- 1) The Club account has now gone online. AIB have been able to finally facilitate this request for online banking.

- 2) At the recent EGM which was held on the 25th October 2022 amendments to the constitution relating to the men's & ladies accounts had been ratified where any surplus money would go to COM. As a result of this there will no longer be a need to have a Motion at future Ladies AGMs to agree an amount of money to be passed to COM.
- 3) Advised that following a request from COM, we gave them €10,000 in October due to a shortfall in their finances and that all future monies would go to COM.
- 4) The Purse is due to be implemented in the coming year and this will help with prepaid events and winter league, and it should make receiving and refunding money much easier.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. To approve the minutes of the 29th AGM held on the 15th of November 2021 as a true and accurate account of the meeting. (1) May we have a proposer and seconder**

Proposer: Lillian Colfer

Secunder: Mary Ellis

- 2. To adopt the Annual Report. (1) May we have a proposer and seconder**

Proposer: Orla Laird

Secunder: President Angela Smyth

- 3. To receive and adopt the financial report for the year ended 30.09.2022. 1) May we have a proposer and seconder. Vote in favour of adopting the report.**

Proposer: Thea Crumlish

Secunder: Mary Cassidy

- 4. On the proposal of the Ladies Committee to elect HSM Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors as auditors to the Ashbourne Golf Club Ladies Club for the year 2022/2023. (1) May we have a proposer and seconder**

Proposer: Margaret Clancy

Secunder: Pauline Gleeson

Show of hands, all in favour.

Question from the Floor

Carmel Conway asked how much of the development fund of €1060 was used for coaching teams as was requested by Elaine Carpenter last year. The treasurer advised that between €400-€500 went on teams with the remainder spent on short game Clinics and the Sports

Psychologist. She also advised that it was topped up from €2962 to €3500 and next year we will be looking at the coaching for teams.

Development fund split:

1. Team Coaching
2. Short game lessons
3. Sports Psychologist

President Angela Smyth had a question on Audit Fees. She felt that €861 seemed like a huge amount for a bill from the Auditors. She asked that we look at this bill as it seems like a lot of money for a turnover of €31,000. She asked us to look at see if we could cut back on this fee especially now that we have one finances. Mary Phelan advised that the Men's Club pay €105 less than the Ladies Club.

AOB

Mary Phelan had a question for the Competition's Committee regarding the Winter League Letter that had recently gone out to members. She said there was no Category prizes for Saturday and Sunday and was wondering what the minimum number of entrants was required to do this. The Competitions Secretary advised that we need a minimum of forty women to introduce Categories. She also advised that the Competitions Committee are looking into the prize structure at the moment. Mary Phelan also asked if the competition results published included deductions and Josephine advised that they do.

Marian Murray referred to the new Friday/Saturday Competition and asked if conditions should be the same on both days regarding pin positions and bunkers (in or out of play). Competitions advised that it is the same for both days.

Lady Captain Helena pointed out that our Open Competitions this year were not very well supported and suggested that if each member could bring along a guest to even one of our opens in the year it would boost our numbers.

Mary Bannon said that the Men's Club have Opens every Wednesday and they have great support and asked if we could have more Open competitions on Thursdays. Semi Opens and Opens requested. The Competitions Secretary advised that this is something they could look at.

President Angela Smyth asked if we could advertise our Opens on the Golf Ireland website and the Competitions Secretary said they would look into it.

Past Captain Pauline Dooley & Past Captain Orla Laird advised that we must get permission from COM to run more Open competitions on a Thursday because we would need a lot more time slots on the timesheet.

Mary Bannon asked LVC Laura for a breakdown of how many 5 & 7 day members there were out of the 19 new members that joined from this year's WIGs Programme. LVC advised that from her recollection there were 2 seven-day members, and the rest were 5-day members. Mary then asked LVC if this year's WIGs would have to pay the joining fee. LVC advised that we had yet to go to COM to see if it were possible to run the WIGs Program this year given that we are at full capacity and that yes, she would think they would have to pay the joining fee.

Following no more questions from the floor, Lady Captain Helena thanked her committee for all their hard work throughout the year and for their support. She gave special thanks to Myra Coakley, on handicaps and to Betty Pennington on sponsorship, as they step down this year, for their work and commitment to the Club.

Lady Captain Helena also thanked the many Ladies who serve on sub committees for the work they do, and the lady's club who supported and encouraged her throughout the year.

Lady Captain Helena acknowledged that our President Angela Smyth had been proposed by the COM as a new trustee of our Club and that this will be voted on at the joint club AGM and wished her the best of luck.

LVC Laura advised the meeting that she had gone to COM to seek clarification on asking the ladies at the AGM about allowing 5 Day members to play in the CAWS Cup. COM had advised that as the CAWS Cup is a friendly inter club competition which is non qualifying and does not involve Golf Ireland it was nothing to do with COM and therefore, she could bring it to the AGM. LVC Laura gave the background to the CAWS cup which was started by Corrstown over ten years ago and is an inter-club friendly competition between Corrstown, Ashbourne, Westmanstown & Skerries for ladies with a Handicap Index above 30. It was started to encourage ladies to play in a 9-hole Match Play Competition with a view to playing in the Challenge Cup. LVC explained that as most of our new members are 5 Day members, we had a limited pool of 8 Ladies this year to enter the competition and because of that she was looking for approval from the floor to allow five-day members to enter this competition. Mary Bannon asked why LVC was bringing it to the Ladies now when she had already brought it to COM. LVC advised Mary that it was brought to COM to ensure it was not a constitutional issue and that once they confirmed it was not, she had taken it to the Ladies at the AGM out of respect to all Lady members and to look for their support.

Following a show of hands, majority of ladies voted for the 5 Day ladies participate in the CAWS Cup.

Lady Captain Helena again thanked the incoming Committee for volunteering their time and wished them every success in the coming year. As we are always looking for volunteers for committees and sub committees Lady Captain encouraged more ladies to put their names forward for these.

LC Helena then presented Lady Captain Laura with her jacket and pin and welcomed her into her new role as Lady Captain of Ashbourne Golf Club. She noted that Laura had been a very efficient and hardworking Vice Captain and had no doubt that she would make a brilliant Lady Captain. She thanked her for her support and friendship and wished her the best of luck in her captaincy and a very successful year.

Lady Captain Laura thanked LC Helena and advised she was honoured and thrilled to accept the role of Lady Captain, she then introduced the officers and Committee members for 2023 following approval from the floor.

Past President and Past Captain Carmel Conway congratulated President Angela on being nominated to become a Trustee. She also congratulated LC Helena for the great job she did throughout her Captaincy and welcomed the incoming Lady Captain and her Committee.

Lady Captain Helena called the meeting to a close.

(Meeting finished 8.15pm)

LADY CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2023

In November 2022 when past Captain Helena presented me with my Lady Captain's jacket and pin it was one of the proudest and scariest moments of my life. It is an absolute honour to be the Lady Captain of Ashbourne Golf Club, a club that has become such an integral part of my life since I joined through the Women in Golf Program (WIGs) in 2013.

Within days of becoming Lady Captain the organisation for the Christmas lunch began and as most of you know this is my favourite time of the year so myself and the committee hit the ground running organising the Ladies Christmas lunch and as usual, I went crazy with the decorations and goody bags but sponsoring them was a great joy for me. Adding to the day were Anne Gavin's gorgeous mince pies which are loved by everyone, thank you Anne as I know there is a lot of work involved but they really are a big part of our Christmas lunch. Another big thank you goes to Angela McKinney for the wonderful hampers she creates which to me are synonymous with the Christmas Lunch, they always look amazing and the amount of work that goes into them is very much appreciated by everyone. Angela also makes up the fabulous hampers at Easter too. I would also like to thank Pauline Gleeson for sponsoring the fabulous poinsettias every Christmas.

That same weekend we had the arrival of Santa I had the privilege of being there when Santa arrived. Myself & LVC were on hand to meet and greet all the parents, grandparents and children who were so excited to see Santa. Not only were they all dressed in their finery but me, LVC Angela, Head Elf Deirdre Whelan and all the elves were dressed to the nines too. A lot of work goes into organizing this the most magical of days and if it weren't for the hard work of Santa's three elves Diarmuid Elaine & Deirdre this day would not have been the success it was. Well done guys, Deirdre your attention to detail and organisation of this event is second to none and very much appreciated by everyone, especially me.

Throughout my year I have celebrated so many fabulous occasions and I have met so many wonderful people but there are some that I want to thank for all their help, hard work, and support throughout the year. As I always say it takes a village and I have been incredibly blessed with my friends, family, and committee, all of whom have played an important role in my year as Lady Captain.

Captain's Drive-In:

The Captain's Drive-In took place on 4th March 2023, and it was such an exciting day. We were blessed by the weather and arriving in our Top Gun attire to be greeted by all our family, friends and club members was just amazing. A big thank you to Tom and Barbara Mulcahy for allowing us to use their house as a launch pad for our departure to the club. We had such a laugh preparing and practising to leave the house on our superfast scooter, that at one stage I didn't think we were going to make it up the hill. But arrive we did and in one piece and were greeted by our fellow 'crew' members (committees) lining the driveway and with lots of laughter permeating throughout the crowd all gathered in the courtyard for our arrival. Thank you to Diarmuid for all the music and the Top Gun theme tune playing as we arrived.

Thank you also to Joe for the lovely champagne and orange juice for Junior Captain Jack. The day couldn't have gone better and the food from BOBO's catering was amazing. Thank you also to Joe & all the staff for your professionalism in carrying out all your duties on the day which added to the seamless running of the event. Thank you too to Mary Bannon for all the fabulous photographs and the lovely book which captured all our special moments, something I will always treasure.

Our Captain's charity this year was a local charity, ASAP (Ashbourne Suicide Prevention & Awareness) and we raised €400. Thank you to Mary Cassidy, Mick Curran & Alice Smith (Lacey) who sold lollipops on the day.

Last but certainly not least, a big thank you to our Vice Captain's Angela and Ken who organised everything to perfection and together with our Hon. Secretaries Adele and Sean. Thank you for all your hard work and organisation skills and to everyone who helped make the day so special.

Lady Captains Day:

My Captains Day took place on Thursday 29th June for our five-day members and on Saturday 1st July for full members. Both days were glorious days all be it a very windy one on the 1st July. Thank you to the Ladies committee who were on hand to lend assistance when needed and to the competition's committee for all their hard work on both days. A very special thank you to LVC Angela and her partner Mick who were on hand to put up all the decorations and banners which added to the fun of the day. The winner of my Prize to full members was my good friend Lilian Colfer with a fantastic net score of 68 and the Saturday 9 hole competition winner was Barbara Mulcahy with 18pts. My Past Lady Captains Prize was won by Eileen Doolan with a nett score of 76. The winner of my Lady Captains prize to the 5 day members was Nuala Quinn with a score of 35pts and the 5 day 9 hole Thursday competition was Barbara Fennessy with 15pts. Well done ladies.

I want to thank BOBO catering for their wonderful sandwiches and cakes that Boris prepared for the 10th hole. Also, a big thank you to Mary McDonnell for her wonderful gluten free carrot cake muffins of which I had a few, they were delicious. To LVC Angela thank you for being by my side on both days handing out goody bags and taking photos. It was a complete shock to me when my husband Dermot strolled down the path to the first tee box on the Thursday and then again on the Saturday, my heart nearly burst, and it was a very emotional moment and one I certainly was not expecting. I was so shocked and yet delighted to see him and ever so grateful that he could be part of my very two very special days. It was Dermot who encouraged me to take on the role of Lady Captain and to have him there looking so well was such a huge moment for both of us. It is one for the memory bank. And a huge thank you to Mick for cleaning & sterilising Dermot's golf buggy which enabled him to take a drive around the course to wish the ladies well.

Prizes for Thursday and Saturday competitions were presented on Saturday evening before our dinner and after dinner we danced the night away to music played by DJ Diarmuid. It was a great night of celebration.

Play in Pink Day.

Last year when Dermot and I went to the K Club to play golf, we arrived to a sea of Pink all the way up the driveway which continued into the Clubhouse. Women & men were going out to play for Play in Pink and there was a brilliant atmosphere. When I took over as Lady Captain I wanted to see if we could have such an inclusive day as I believe, everyone has not only been touched by breast cancer in some way but cancer in general. After receiving approval from both the Ladies and Men's Committees for a joint fund-raising day, it was agreed to have our Play in Pink Day Friday 19th May 2023 which would include both clubs. LVC Angela & VC Ken together with their committee:- Pauline Dooley, Thea Crumlish, Lilian Colfer, Adele Dooley & Eamon Stewart came together to organise a brilliant day and the result was we raised €13,885 for Breast Cancer Research. What a fantastic amount of money raised, and it will go a long way to help research for breast cancer. Miriam Hand from Breast Cancer Research was on there to accept our cheque and congratulate and thank Ashbourne Golf for raising such a large sum. Well done to all those involved and all those who participated.

Captain's Away Day.

My Captain's away day took place in Ballymascanlon Hotel & Golf Club on 2nd September. We had an amazing day filled with fun and laughter and with clear blue skies warm temperatures and fabulous sunshine, it was a great day. This was followed by a gorgeous dinner and dancing until the early hours and the winners on the day were Pauline Dooley, Paula Leonard & Marian Murray together with Winnie Morris & Eilis Doyle who won prizes for the front & back nine. Well done ladies. And thank you LVC Angela for organising a great day, your organisation led to the very smooth running of the day. Thank you too, to Paula Leonard for arriving early and helping with the cards.

Club Competitions:

Competitions Secretary Josephine & her committee were hard at work again this year and we enjoyed a few different formats of competitions. The ladies club also introduced the Round Robin Competition this year which was a 9-hole match play competition divided into categories. It had great support and ran from August to October, and it was a great success. Thank you, past Captain Angela Smyth, for sponsoring this competition.

Inter Club Competitions: Intermediate, Challenge, Revive Active, Minor, Mixed Foursomes & Carton Cup

I would like to thank all the ladies who took part in the above competitions and representing Ashbourne Golf Club, their commitment and dedication to the team events was very much appreciated. Thank you to our Team Convenor Mary Carey and the Managers, Kay Doyle, Nuala Somers, Paula Leonard, Kathryn Johnston, Angela Smyth, Helena Boxwell and Ciaran & Sue Carroll. And thank you too to all the caddies and supporters and all those ladies who assisted the managers managing the teams. We witnessed some amazing golf and between all the teams and it was an absolute pleasure to be part of the spectators. Well done ladies you did your club proud – Go Ashbourne !!

Mary Carey Team Convenor. Thank you, Mary, for your support and advice to the managers and for organising the paperwork etc. for the teams. You also kept abreast of any changes to the Inter Club competitions this year and kept the managers updated. You always let us know the venues and when the competitions were taking place and who was playing on the teams. Your hard work is very much appreciated.

R&A Coronation Foursomes: We hosted the R&A Coronation Foursomes this year in Ashbourne Golf Club, and I would like to thank Pauline Gleeson & her husband Paul for all the wonderful organisation who together with their helpers made this day a great success.

Ladies Committee:

I would like to thank my committee for all their support this year, their commitment to their volunteer roles has been amazing with each lady giving of their own personal time to ensure the smooth running of the lady's club. As I have said on many occasions it takes a village and without this group of wonderful women giving of their time, there would be no ladies club. I want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication this year and for all support you have given me. Thank you and well done every one of you.

Throughout my Captaincy LVC Angela has been by my side supporting me on every step of my journey as Lady Captain. She has been my go-to person, my confidante, and my advisor. Her organisational skills and attention to detail led to very well-run events and she will make a wonderful Lady Captain and I personally can't wait to see all she is going to accomplish. Together with incoming LVC Alice they are going to make a wonderful team and I wish them both the very best of luck for their upcoming year. Thank you LVC Angela.

To Honorary Secretary Adele, thank you for all your hard work throughout the year. You were pivotal in the success of the major events that took place this year, from the ladies Christmas lunch to my Lady Captain's dinner and every other major event in between. You kept the Committee up to date on correspondence and Golf Ireland matters together with carrying out all your other Hon. Sec duties. I know COM has already thanked you for the photographs you upload to Instagram advertising BOBO Catering's daily special, but I too would also like to thank you for your commitment to doing this – well done.

Congratulations to Paula Leonard you have done a great job this year taking over the role as Handicap Secretary. You have not only kept the ladies committee up to date on everything to do with handicaps but also our lady members. Your commitment to the role has been brilliant and very much appreciated and I thank you for all the support that you have given me throughout the year, and I wish you every success in your new role as Competitions Secretary

I would also like to thank Josephine Farrell for all her hard work and commitment to her role as Competition's Secretary who together with her competitions sub-committee, Kathleen Lonergan, Mary Smith, and Geraldine Murray have risen to every challenge that has been thrown at them. One such challenge was the introduction of the purse in January of this year and together they worked tirelessly to ensure the introduction of the purse ran as smoothly as possible. I personally believe that the Competition's Secretary's role is one of the hardest

roles on Committee and I thank Josephine and her subcommittee for the countless hours they have spent ensuring that competitions are up and running on a weekly basis.

Linda Roddy took over the role of Treasurer this year and hit the ground running. Her background in finance has stood to her in this position making the transition of a new treasurer appear so easy. Linda is focused and hardworking and dedicated to her role as treasurer and I would like to thank her for all her hard work, monthly reports, and updates on finances throughout the year. Her commitment to the role and to myself and the committee is very much appreciated.

Geraldine Murray not only sits on the Ladies Committee, but she will be heading into her third year as a member of the Competitions subcommittee, and I would like to thank her for all her hard work not only on the subcommittee but also on the ladies committee. Her support and her dedication are a testament to her commitment to the club for which I am very grateful.

Alice Smith took over the Sponsorship role this year and together with Liz McKeown they secured a lot of sponsorship for the Ladies Club. Alice also organised for photographs to be taken with the LC/LVC and the sponsors and posted them on social media – this was a wonderful idea and both the club, and the sponsors were thrilled with the online media presence. We are very grateful to all the sponsors both businesses and individual members who have sponsored throughout the year and we appreciate the continued support. I would also like to congratulate Alice on accepting the role of incoming Lady Vice Captain, you are going to be brilliant in this role and I wish you every success over the next two years.

I would like to thank past Captain Pauline Dooley who agreed to come back onto Committee this year, your vast knowledge, experience, and support has meant so much to me throughout the year and I will be forever grateful to you for your loyalty, support, and friendship. Thank you.

I would like to thank President Martin for the support he has given to the Ladies Club and the Junior Club over the last year. I know he will go from strength to strength, and I wish him continued success for the remainder of his term.

Thank you to Linda Fitzgerald who gives up her time for the lady's club to host a rules night when required. It is so important to keep ourselves up to date on any new rules, but it is equally important to have a refresher course for all players and to this end Linda generously gives of her time to present rules nights to our members. Thank you, Linda, we all really appreciate it.

Thank you to Mary Bannon for being our resident photographer and capturing moments that not only reflect major events in the Club but also capture the special moments that mean so much to us. Let's not forget Robbie Robinson who has also stepped in on occasion when Mary was unavailable.

Thank you Diarmuid Golden, a man of many talents, DJ, Photographer of all official photographs for the various committees and our sound engineer for those occasions such as the Drive-in, Prize giving, AGMs to name but a few. Thank you for all the support throughout my year and for being the best DJ at both my Captain's dinners.

Men's Club:

I would like to thank Captain Simon for his support and friendship during the year and his lovely wife Susan who was so supportive to me from day one. Simon and I worked very well together and always kept each other updated with things happening around the Club. With the introduction of the purse there were many meetings where negotiations and compromises took place between both clubs to ensure the introduction of the purse could go as smoothly as possible and I would like to thank the Men's Committee for all their help with this. Thank you also to Mark Shortt & Ian Dowd for all your hard work on the diary and competitions. I would also like to thank VC Ken & Hon. Sec Sean for all the help and support you have shown to the lady's club throughout the year.

Cups & Trophies:

We took part in the CAWS cup this year with LVC as the team manager. The CAWS cup has been running for over ten years and it is a fun way to introduce newer members to inter club competitions and match play. Congratulations to all the ladies taking part and representing Ashbourne Golf Club.

This year not only did Past Captain Winnie Morris represent Ashbourne Golf Club in the Bronze medal competition, but she also won her first medal, won a prize at the Lady Captain's away day and if that wasn't enough, she is the winner of this year's Golfer of the Year prize. A huge congratulations Winnie on a great year of golf for you – well done, I am so thrilled for you. Many thanks to Alice Smith for sponsoring this year.

The Deirdre Miller Trophy for Past Captains was played on Thursday and 22nd June and Past Lady Captain Elizabeth Kane won the trophy this year. This is the second year in a row she has won the trophy so well-done Elizabeth. Many thanks to Mervyn Miller for sponsoring this competition in memory of his wife and Past Lady Captain Deirdre.

Gerry Rooney has sponsored Rosies summer league for many years now in memory of his late wife and past Lady Captain Rose and we are very grateful to him. It keeps the interest going all summer. The winner this year was Elizabeth Cooke.

The Tom O Keeffe trophy sponsored by the O'Keeffe family took place on Sunday 27th August where Men, Ladies and Junior Club members compete against each other for the Trophy. There was a great atmosphere on the day and rivalry between the clubs and all in good fun. This year's winners were the Junior Club – a result I think would have made Tom very happy. Many thanks to Triona O'Keeffe who spoke a few words on behalf of the O'Keeffe family and to Brenda who was there to present the Trophy to Junior Captain Jack representing the Junior Club. Brenda also treated all the participating juniors to lunch which they all thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you, Brenda.

Congratulations to all the competition winners this year. The Gala Prizegiving this year was held on Sunday 22nd October 2023.

Thank you, Aoife, for all the help and support throughout the year for both me and the ladies club. We really appreciate everything you do not only for the lady's club but Ashbourne Golf

in general. Your infectious personality, your work ethic, your attention to detail is a testament to the person you are. Your go above and beyond your duties for the club and your hard work is very much appreciated. Thank you also to Brian Ellis who also does a wonderful job filling in for Aoife when she is on leave. To our accountant Mary many thanks for all your hard work especially this year with the introduction of the purse where your advice, assistance and guidance was very helpful to us all. You too go above and beyond for the club, and we appreciate all you do.

Thank you to Boris and all the Team in BOBO's Catering you are doing an amazing job. Boris your food is second to none and I can honestly say we have all been blown away by the high standard of food you have provided for us this year, especially on our special occasions. And to Petra thank you so much for the amazing deserts you produced on my Lady Captain's Day you put so much heart and soul into them and they were beyond fabulous. To Joe and all the staff, you have been amazing, the atmosphere in the bar/restaurant is fabulous and the standard of professionalism among every one of you is second to none. It is an absolute pleasure to pop in for coffee or mid-week lunch, but I also love the Sunday roasts. You are all doing an amazing job and it is my wish that you continue to flourish with the full support of all committees, both clubs and all the members. Thank you for making my year a very special one.

Club Ash:

Well done to Sandra Devanney, Mary McDonnell, and Ciaran Carroll and all the volunteers for the continued success of Club Ash. The buzz, excitement, and laughter around the club on Monday mornings is wonderful and It's amazing to see how everyone is enjoying their time in Club Ash. This year with the help of a grant from Golf Ireland Club Ash were presented with a set of golf clubs for each participant and it was wonderful to see the excitement at the presentation. Well done to Daniel El Atrash, Wayne Farrell, Lewis Geoghegan, Captain Simon, Marian Murray and Ciaran Carroll for doing the ice bucket challenge this year. There was great excitement to be had around this event especially from all of us cheering from the balcony. Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets – a total of €1878.00 was raised with €1000 going to ASAP and the balance going to Club Ash.

Club Professional:

Thank you to Ciaran, Sue, and their staff for all your hard work throughout the year. The introduction of ClubNet in 2022 and the Purse in 2023 brought with it some challenges, but you rose every one of them. I thank you for all the support you have given the club and I wish you continued success for 2024 and hopefully now that ClubNet & the Purse is up and running it will be an easier year next year for us all.

Course:

With all the events we have hosted this year in Ashbourne Golf Club - R&A Coronation Foursomes, the Breffni Shield, Leinster Boys U16 Close Championship and Girls Interclub to name but a few, everyone who attended these events had nothing but high praise for our course and its amazing condition and it was a pleasure to hear all compliments from the

participants of these events. It is also fantastic that other people outside our club get to see the results of all the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our course staff who work tirelessly to keep the course in such pristine condition. So, thank you to Alan, Barry and all the greenkeepers for the amazing job you do throughout the year and for the very high standard you have achieved that keeps our course looking amazing it is very much appreciated by everyone.

I would also like to thank Agnes Smith for all her hard work taking care of the bedding plants which have been looking fabulous all summer.

COM.

I would like to thank Cathaoirleach Colin Farquharson and all the members on the Committee of Management for their commitment and dedication to Ashbourne Golf Club. It was a pleasure working with you all for the last two years and I would like to wish the new Cathaoirleach and committee members on COM the very best for 2024. I would like to thank Cathaoirleach Colin for all his support of the Ladies Club during his tenure and wish him every success for the future.

Junior Club

This year we saw the formation of a new Junior Committee with Stephen Ronan staying on as Junior Convenor and I would like to thank Stephen and his committee for all their hard work and commitment which has seen the Junior club go from strength to strength. Your dedication to your roles, your vision for the juniors and your future plans for the junior club are second to none. The trip you have organised for the 6 juniors to travel to St. Andrews this year is fantastic, and I know all the juniors chosen and the volunteers who are going with them will have an amazing time. Well done to every one of you and thank you.

Membership:

We currently have 171 Lady members, broken down as follows:

Full Members 100, Five Day Members 59, Under Thirty members 5, Country Members 2, Life Membership 4, Honorary Life Member 1

We have 17 Junior Girl Members

Finally:

I wish to extend my sincere condolences past Lady Captain Rita Young's family and friends who died in April 2023 and to all those members who have been bereaved this year.

I would also like to wish those members who may have sustained an injury or who are suffering from ill health a speedy recovery and good golf in 2024.

A very big thank you to all those volunteers who help keep the clubhouse and courtyard looking so well. Your volunteer work and dedication to the Club is very much appreciated.

It is hard to believe that my time as Lady Captain is now nearing an end because the last two years in my role of LVC & LC have flown by. I have never been more proud to be Lady Captain and I take with me so many wonderful memories that I will always cherish. But, as you all know, I have had some personal challenges on my journey as Lady Captain and I would like to thank you all for the love and support you have given to myself and my family during those times it has meant so much to myself Dermot and the girls. But I think my biggest thank you must go to my husband Dermot and our girls for their unwavering love, loyalty, and support on what was a difficult journey for them too. Dermot you are amazing, and I thank God every day for your donor and his family and for your continued progress. Thank you for always being there for me and being my number one supporter.

My Lady Captains Dinner is on the 4th of November. Please keep this date free as I look forward to seeing you all there.

Finally, I would like to wish incoming Captain's Angela and Ken and their Committees every success in 2024.

Thank you.

Lady Captain Laura

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023

The Ladies Committee met on twelve occasions from November 2022 to October 2023 to conduct and record the business of the Ladies Club.

Attendance at Committee Meetings:

Lady Captain Laura O Neill	11
Lady Vice-Captain Angela Walsh	10
Adele Dooley	11
Linda Roddy	07
Paula Leonard	09
Josephine Farrell	11
Pauline Dooley	10
Alice Smith	11
Geraldine Murray	10

Lady Captain Laura O Neill and Lady Vice-Captain Angela Walsh also attended the monthly meetings of the Committee of Management.

Officers attended Golf Ireland meetings during the year in relation to their respective positions.

Members of the Committee appointed to serve on sub-committees attended meetings and reported back to the monthly Ladies Committee meetings.

Due to COVID-19 public health guidelines, the Committee Meetings were undertaken virtually by Zoom for part of the year.

I would like to express my appreciation to Aoife, our Club administrator for all the assistance she has given to me throughout the year.

Adele Dooley

Honorary Secretary

Christmas Scrambles

The year started off with our Annual Christmas scrambles. The weather was typical cold with frost delaying our Thursday competition and unfortunately we didn't get to play on Saturday due to heavy frost. But where there is a will there is a way and the ladies joined in a fun afternoon with lots of laughter and good cheer followed by seasonal dinner and Christmas hamper and poinsettia prize giving. Thursdays winners of the scramble were presented with the beautiful Poinsettia sponsored again this year by Pauline Gleeson and together with the beautiful display of Christmas Hampers made by Angela McKinney provided a fabulous display of colour. The Hampers were Sponsored by Thea Crumlish, Mary Power/ Brenda Barry, and Angela Mc Kinney. Congratulations to all the winners.

Birdy Tree Draw

This Year's prize was a beautiful bracelet sponsored by L & J Jewellers, Ashbourne & Swords the winner was Marian Murray.

Winter League

The Winter League commenced on Thursday 3rd November 2022 and went on until the 26th February 2023.

It was based on the first 9 holes of the course that were open on the day.

Thursday's competition was the best 7 cards out of 14 and we had 4 category winners:

- Category 1 Winner: Eileen Doolan 115 pts
- Category 2 Winner: Gaye Leonard 106 pts
- Category 3 Winner: Orla Laird 98 pts
- Category 4 Winner: Francis Keating 107 pts

The Saturday Competitions were based on the best 6 cards out of 10.

Sunday Competition were based on the best 6 cards out of 11

On Saturdays and Sundays we gave 1st and 2nd prizes.

Saturday Winner: Gaye Leonard 106 pts

Runner up: Avril Grills 105 pts

Sunday Winner: Eileen Doolan 105 pts

Runner up: Máire O Connor 96 pts.

Congratulations to all the winners.

E-Purse

ClubNet Competition Purse was introduced on 16th January 2023. All members book their golf via the ClubNet app and the money is taken from their e-purse at the time of booking on to the timesheet.

Easter Prize Giving

We ran 2 Easter Hamper Competitions this year. The sponsors were Thea Crumlish and Pauline Gleeson. The Easter Hamper Prize Giving was on Thursday 6th April along with the Winter League and Easter Bonnet 3 lady Scramble. It was a very colourful fun day with the Ladies wearing their beautifully crafted home-made Easter Bonnets. Lady Captain Laura had the difficult job of choosing the winning Bonnet and the prize went to Alice Smith. Angela Mc Kinney kindly made up our hampers again this year and she did not disappoint with the wonderful display of hampers on prize giving day. Angela goes the extra mile in contacting all the winners to find out what they would like in their hampers. Thank you Angela and congratulations to the all the prize winners.

Professional's Prize

Thanks to our P.G.A. Professional Ciaran Carroll for his sponsorship. Congratulations to the winner Susan Carroll with a playing handicap of 17 and a nett score of 72 in a tightly fought contest.

Lady Captain Laura's Prize

Lady Captain Laura's prize day was held on Saturday 1st July it was the highlight of the ladies' club golf calendar. Lady Captain Laura greeted everyone on the first tee and gave us to a lovely memento of the day along with drinks and a goody bag. There is always great speculation as to who will win the Lady Captain prize and this year was no different.

It was a hotly fought contest with Lillian Colfer a deserving winner - playing off a handicap of 19 with a score of 68 nett. Saturday 9 hole competition winner was Barbara Mulcahy with a playing handicap 22 with 18pts.

Thursday 29th June was the Lady Captains prize to the 5 day members the winner was Nuala Quinn with a playing Handicap of 45 and a score of 35pts winning on a c/b.

For a second year in a row the winner of the 5 day 9 hole Thursday competition was Barbara Fennessy with a playing Handicap of 27 with 15pts. After the prize giving, dinner was served and then we danced the night away to our resident D.J. Diarmuid Golden.

Congratulations to Lillian and all the winners.

Monthly Medals

There was 6 Monthly Medal Competitions from April to September sponsored by Mary Phelan, Nuala Sommers, Laboratory Instruments & Supplies (Brenda O'Keeffe), Angela Walsh, Dolores Beggan, Margaret Clancy.

The winners were:

April	- Eileen Doolan
May	- Carmel Ryan
June	- Avril Grills

July - Agnes Smith
August - Winnie Morris
September - Lillian Colfer

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to our Sponsors.

Presidents Prize

Was played on Saturday 12th August. President Martin left no stone unturned in making the day a memorable one for everyone with the assistance of the Vice Captain's Angela and Ken, the day was a great success. Four Ladies featured in the prizes - Eileen Doolan came 4th with a nett 69 on a count back, Geraldine Murray came 5th with a nett 69, Kathleen Lonergan came 6th with a nett 70 on a count back and Pauline Dooley came 7th with a nett 70 on a count back I was delighted to see four ladies feature in the prize winnings and two of them members of the competition's committee. This year Martin added a prize for the 5 day members. Collette Butler was the winner with a score of 33pts. Congratulations to all the winners and well done Ladies.

Breffini Shield

This Scotch Foursomes Strokes Competition Club Qualifier was played on Thursday 20th April and the winning pairs were Kathleen Lonergan with Agnes Smith and Marcella Kelly with Dolores McEntee they went on to represent Ashbourne in the final. The final was hosted this year by Ashbourne Golf Club on 22nd May. Black Bush Golf Club were the winners with a score of 149. In second place was the team from Mannan Castle Golf Club with a score of 150 and Clones Golf Club finished a close third on 151.

R&A Coronation Foursomes

The Club qualifier was held on Saturday 27th May. The winning pair with a score of 42 pts was Elizabeth Kane with Helen Cullinane who went on to represent Ashbourne in the area final.

Ashbourne Golf club hosted the area final on Monday 21st August managed by Past Lady Captain Pauline Gleeson. 28 teams participated in the final from golf clubs all over Ireland. The winners were from The Hermitage Golf Club they went on to play in the final in St Andrews.

Ladies Singles Match Play

Unfortunately, we did not run the Ladies Singles Match Play this year due to insufficient numbers entered. But following discussions during the year we introduced the Round Robin competition which saw 42 ladies participate and it was a great success.

Mixed Match Play Competitions

This year 29 couples took part in what was a hard contested competition with a lot of very competitive games. But there has to be a winner. Congratulations to this year's winners Sheila Coyne and Gary Grange.

Thanks To our sponsor Adrian Dunne Pharmacy.

Rosie Summer League

Generously sponsored by Gerry Rooney in honour of his Late wife and Past Lady Captain Rose. The league started on Thursday 1st of June and ran throughout the summer on Thursday's for all singles stableford competitions until 28th of September. With the best 8 cards to count. Congratulations to the overall winner Liz Cooke with 287pts, in second place Colette Butler with 285 pts and in third place Maria Frawley with 284pts. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to Gerry for sponsoring this very popular competition.

Golf Ireland Silver and Bronze Medal

The three competitions nominated by the competitions committee as club qualifiers for the Golf Ireland Club Silver and Bronze Medal was May Medal, June Medal and The Lady Captain's Prize. The silver medal winner was Nuala Somers. Nuala went on to represent Ashbourne Golf Club in the Golf Ireland Leinster Ladies Regional Qualifier in Millicent Golf Club on Monday 28th August.

Kathleen Lonergan was the Winner of the Bronze Medal. Unfortunately, Kathleen was not available to play in the Leinster area qualifier. Winnie Morris was runner up in the club competition and she went on to represent Ashbourne in the Leinster Ladies Regional Qualifier in Kilcock Golf Club on Monday 4th September. Winnie qualified to go forward to the final in Headfort Golf Club, Old Course on Wednesday 4th October.

Deirdre Miller Trophy

This trophy is sponsored by Mervyn Miller in honour of his late wife and past Lady Captain Deirdre Miller. It is contested by our past Lady Captains and was won by past Lady Captain Elizabeth Kane for a second year in a row. Congratulations Elizabeth.

Lady Vice Captain Angela's Prize

Was played on Thursday 10th August, Angela's prize was a beautiful hand knitted throw created by Angela herself. Congratulations to Dolores Beggan the lucky winner.

P.G.A. Tankard

Ladies club qualifier was won by Lady Vice Captain Angela Walsh with a great score of 41pts. Angela went on to play in the Semi Final in Carlow Golf club with our Club Professional Ciaran Carroll and the men's qualifier David Mc Loughlin on Monday 18th September.

Captain Simon's Prize to the Ladies

Congratulations to this year's winner Gaye Leonard with 35pts.

Open Competitions

We held 16 Open Competitions during the year. Which included 1 Open Mixed Scotch Foursomes, 3 Open team competitions, 8 Open Singles Stableford, 4 Ladies Seniors Opens. Our first Ladies Seniors open on Monday 3rd April was cancelled due to poor weather conditions as was our open on Sunday 23rd July.

Due to a technical glitch our Opens this year did not show on the Golf Ireland web site. We emailed 29 local clubs with our poster with the dates for all our open competition for the year.

Golfer of the Year

Congratulations to Winnie Morris this year's very worthy winner. This year we used the new Handicap Master system to calculate the Golfer of the Year points. Thanks to our sponsor Alice Smith.

Competitions Committee

Kathleen Lonergan, Mary Smith, Geraldine Murray, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to this group of dedicated, hardworking ladies. Their commitment to the ladies' club is outstanding and I truly appreciate their tireless work, expertise, and their support on the committee, you have made my role as competition secretary a lot easier. Míle Buíochas.

Closing Competitions Committee

Once again to our committed team of Ladies who close our Competitions. We don't underestimate your commitment and time given to closing our competitions throughout the year. Your work is much appreciated by all the members. Thank You.

Tee 2 Green

Mary Mc Donnell has diligently submitted our results to the Tee 2 Green section in Thursday's Irish Independent every week. Even when Mary is on Holidays she still never failed to send in the results. Thank You Mary.

Men's Competition Secretary

Thanks to Mark Shortt for all his support and guidance during the year and also to himself and Ian Dowd for updating our diary, setting up our weekend competitions on ClubNet and for closing all joint competitions. Congratulations and best wishes to you Mark in your new role as Vice-Captain.

Mary Fay, Aoife Driver and Brian Ellis

In order for the smooth running of every club we need dedicated and professional back ground staff. We are very lucky in Ashbourne Golf Club to have a great team working for us. Namely, Mary Fay, Aoife Driver and Brian Ellis who does holiday relief for Aoife. They have been a huge support to the Ladies Competitions team and we truly appreciate your hard work and support over the last year.

Alan Mooney and Course Staff.

Thanks for keeping our course in such good condition despite the challenging weather conditions we had this year. We appreciate the hard work you do to have the course ready for our competitions throughout the year. Many thanks.

Adele Dooley

Honorary Secretary of the Ladies Club. Many thanks for producing posters for our open competitions.

Pro Shop

Ciaran, and all the proshop staff thank you for your help in running our competitions throughout the year.

Angela Mc Kinney

Thanks Angela for making our Christmas and Easter hampers and also for producing hampers for prizes during the year.

Joe Francis, Boris, BoBo Catering, the Bar and Catering staff

Thank you for the great service you give to our members. It is always a pleasure to deal with you.

My Husband Martin

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement and I wish you continued success for your second year as President.

Thank You

Thanks to Lady Captain Laura and the Ladies committee for your support during the year.

Competitions Secretary is a very busy role and after 3 years serving on committee I am not going forward for committee next year. To this end I wish all the members of the ladies' club well and I thank you for your support to me during the last two years in the role.

I send every good wish to incoming Lady Captain Angela and her committee for a very successful year in 2024. In particular I want to give my very best wishes to Paula Leonard and offer her my support as she takes up the mantle of Honorary Competitions Secretary in the coming year.

Josephine Farrell,

Competition Secretary.

HANDICAP SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Handicap Committee of 2023 consisted of six members:

Linda FitzGerald, Kay Doyle, Mary White, Eileen Doolan, Gaye Leonard and Paula Leonard.

Handicap Reviews.

One of the responsibilities of the Handicap Committee is to allocate new and review existing handicaps regularly. This year, like last year, the committee carried out an end of winter handicap review, in addition to the usual annual handicap review.

Initial handicap recipients were also reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that each member's handicap index was a true reflection of their playing ability.

While we did not hold a Women in Golf programme this year, a few Ladies from our previous programme have applied for and received their initial handicaps. We wish all our new handicap recipients' well in their future golf.

Handicap Application Protocol

A Handicap Application Protocol was drawn up by the Handicap Committee early in the year to support our Ladies in applying for their handicaps. The protocol was sent out to all Lady members and posted on the notice board in the ladies' locker room.

My year as Handicap Secretary has gone by in a flash. I have really enjoyed my year, learnt a lot and got to meet many of our members over the year. I would like to thank my handicap committee for all their fantastic support and advice, which has helped me carry out my role. I am also very grateful to Aoife for all her help and assistance with everything over the year, she has been fabulous.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Lady Captain Laura for her unrelenting support and encouragement throughout the year. I wish her well as she finishes her tenure and wish Lady Vice Captain Angela lots of luck as she takes up the role of Lady Captain.

Finally, I would like to wish Frances Keating my very best as she goes forward for election to the role of Ladies Handicap Secretary. I believe Fran will be a great asset to the ladies committee in this position.

Paula Leonard

Ladies Handicap Secretary

TEAM CONVENER REPORT 2023

The Summer season started with great excitement and interest in participating in the Inter Club Competitions. We set out to conquer that elusive world of competitive golf. However, the titles remained allusive, and we have to fight another day.

Unfortunately, we were unable to field a team for the AIG Junior Cup interclub competition. It is hoped we will have a few more players who will fall into the handicap range no lower than 9, next year.

The AIG Women's Intermediate Cup H/C no lower than 13, sadly lost in the first round to The Island Golf Club. It was played in April; Ashbourne's course was closed due to flooding. But we had three teams away on the day, however the Links proved incredibly difficult. This team was managed by Kay Doyle. Clontarf won the area final.

The AIG Women's Minor Cup, H/C no lower than 21, managed by Nuala Somers had a good run. Played on the 21st May, Ashbourne v Luttrellstown, we won 2 away and 1 at home. Next round played on 10th June, Ashbourne v Dundalk. Sadly, we lost 2 away and 1 at home. Ardee won the Leinster final.

The AIG Challenge Cup, H/C no lower than 28, managed by Paula Leonard with the assistance of Marian Murray had a competitive run. Round 1, Ashbourne beat Blackbush in April. Round 2, Ashbourne were successful against Knightsbrook GC in May. Round 3, against Headfort GC was a loss but the team gave it everything and Headfort GC were the Leinster winners.

Flogas Irish Mixed Foursomes, managed by Sue and Ciaran Carroll. Ashbourne v Clontarf was a win in April. In May against Rathcore Golf Club was a win. The following round Killeen Castle GC were the winners. Malahide GC went on to beat Killeen Castle in the area final.

Revive Active Women's All Ireland fourball, H/C combined pair no higher than 36, managed by Kathryn Johnston and Angela Smyth. First match against Castleknock, lost 2 matches in Castleknock but won three matches at home. Next round was against Rush Golf Club, we won one at home and two away. Ardee GC in June was a loss for us. Dundalk beat Ardee GC in the area final.

The Carton Cup run by Carton GC to introduce and encourage new golfers to participate in interclub competitions. Managed by Helena Boxwell, the team had a full and exciting run at the competition. In April against Beaverstown was a win. Late April Ashbourne v Beaverstown 2nd Leg was a win. In May Ashbourne v Donabate GC was a loss, but the team gave their all.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our team members who played so skilfully, giving so generously of their time and support to the club and to their playing partners. I feel the Inter Club Competitions focus our ability, bringing out our best golf. While 2023 we did our best, let's try to bring the championship home in 2024.

A big thank you also to the Managers, who did fantastic work behind the scenes, organising all aspects of the golf competition both home and away. Without whom the competitions would fall into disarray.

The support from our fellow players both at home and away was very much appreciated and welcome. Our Captain Laura, our Lady Vice Angela and our President Martin attended every match , either away or at home, we are so grateful for the encouragement and thank you all so much.

Mary Carey

Team Convener.

SPONSORSHIP REPORT 2023

The Ladies Club would like to thank our club members who sponsored our Ladies' Club competitions in 2023 and all the external businesses who have generously supported our competitions. Sponsorship is hugely appreciated and valued as it is so important in helping to maintain the running costs of the club.

Thank you to Betty Pennington and Mary Ellis for all their assistance in preparing me for the role and for their guidance and support during the year.

A very special thank you to Liz McKeown who worked with me and took on the primary role of contacting our existing business sponsors and for securing new business sponsors. Liz did this work with amazing efficiency and professionalism, and I am hugely indebted to her.

Thank you also to Dolores Beggan for arranging excellent sponsorship from Eatzen and Ashbourne Service Station.

Every single sponsor, large and small, is greatly appreciated. A particular thanks to Gerry Rooney for his continued sponsorship of Rosie's Summer League, Sam Dennigan & Co., for Play in Pink and to Adrian Dunne Pharmacy for our Mixed Matchplay competition.

This year, we strived to raise the profile of our business sponsors by taking photo opportunities either with the sponsors or with the competition winners and posting on social media. We cannot stress enough how important it is to show our sponsors our appreciation by giving them our custom wherever possible or, if in their establishments, to acknowledge their sponsorship and thank them. We want to continue to increase the number of business sponsors and we would appreciate any potential contacts being directed to the sponsorship committee.

Aoife provided me with huge support during the year and took full responsibility for setting up our sponsors details on the electronic notice board. Always smiling, always supportive.

I would also like to thank the Competitions team- Josephine Farrell, Mary Smith & Kathleen Lonergan for all their support to me as we worked very closely together.

Once again, huge thanks to Angela McKinney for creating the many beautiful Hampers that we all strive to win.

A massive thank you to LC Laura and LVC Angela for their constant support and of course many thanks to my fellow committee members.

Finally, thank you to incoming LC Angela who invited me to join her as incoming LVC. I consider this a huge honour and I look forward to working with Angela and the incoming committee to serve this wonderful Ashbourne Golf Club and our members to the best of my ability. I would like to welcome Catherine Darmody as the new Sponsorship Secretary and offer her my full support.

Alice Smith

Sponsorship Secretary.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO FOLLOW