



June News

Buttercup Mornings and Wildflower Afternoons...

Wordsworth may boast about his "host of golden daffodils" but they have nothing on our own natural field of wild daisies and buttercups - and a few bluebells thrown in for good measure. The carpet of blossoms behind the thirteenth green stretches all the way to the twelfth fairway towards Killiney Hill. It just shows what happens when you give Mother Nature a bit of land to breathe again - even the proximity of the sea does not inhibit the array of wildflowers.

Woodbrook Teams make Steady Progress in Inter Club Competitions. Barton Cup Squad reaches Semi-Finals

Last year's success in the Barton Cup competition seems to have really aroused the competitive spirit in the Men's Club at Woodbrook, where some notable successes have been notched up in several competitions.

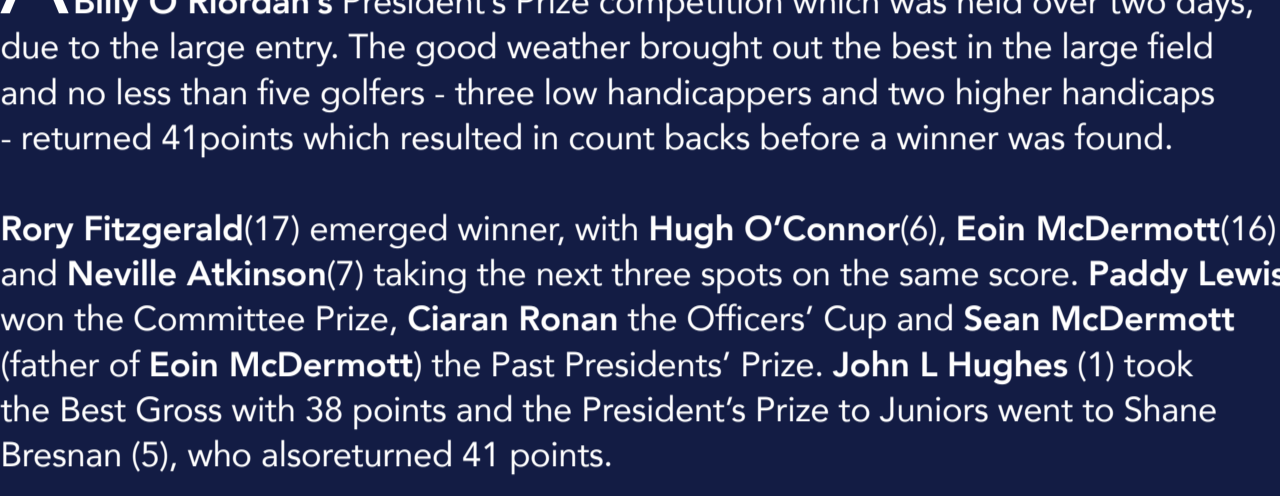
Leading the way, in the defence of the Barton Cup, is the team that brought the coveted trophy to Woodbrook last year. They have made steady progress so far this year through the early stages. After beating Elm Park in May they followed up in June with well earned success against neighbours Foxrock by 3 1/2 to 1 1/2. That victory was sealed by winning the two away matches. They now march on towards the final stages of the competition and their next tie is the Semi Final against Killeen GC with three matches at home and two away.

Hot on the heels of the Barton Cup squad come the Woodbrook team in the Jimmy Bruen Shield which was held over two days! The Qualifier for the Shield was held in Delgany in mid-June. This is a strokes competition among eighteen teams and Woodbrook put up a strong performance to take 4th place and got into the semi-finals.

On the morning of the second day, they were pitted against Blainroe, leading qualifiers from the day before, emerging victorious 3 1/2 to 1 1/2. In the afternoon they faced the home club, Delgany, in the final and put in a tremendous performance to win 4 to 1.

It's a long time since Woodbrook got into the Leinster Quarter Finals of this competition. They now go on to play Wexford on July 8 at Woodenbridge. The Managers who brought them this far - and hopefully they will go all the way - are Paul O'Farrell and John Robinson.

Success breeds success. In the Powerscourt Cup Woodbrook played Killiney on June 18, 2 matches at home and three away and again came away winners by 3 games to 2.



Then came a Quarter Final tie in the Brennan Cup against Enniscorthy on June 25 from which Woodbrook again emerged winners 3-2. All five matches were played at Woodbrook. Two matches - John Geelan and Tom Fallon and Cosmo Flood and Michael Colley - were lost. Two matches were won - John Tyrrell and Ian Quinn and Ivan Dempsey and Larry O'Reilly. Everything depended on the last match - a slow burner involving Morgan Walsh and Eamonn deGrae - and they clinched victory with a great win at the 17th.

The semi final will be held in Woodbrook early in August. The team is managed by Michael Cantrell and Tom Pitt.

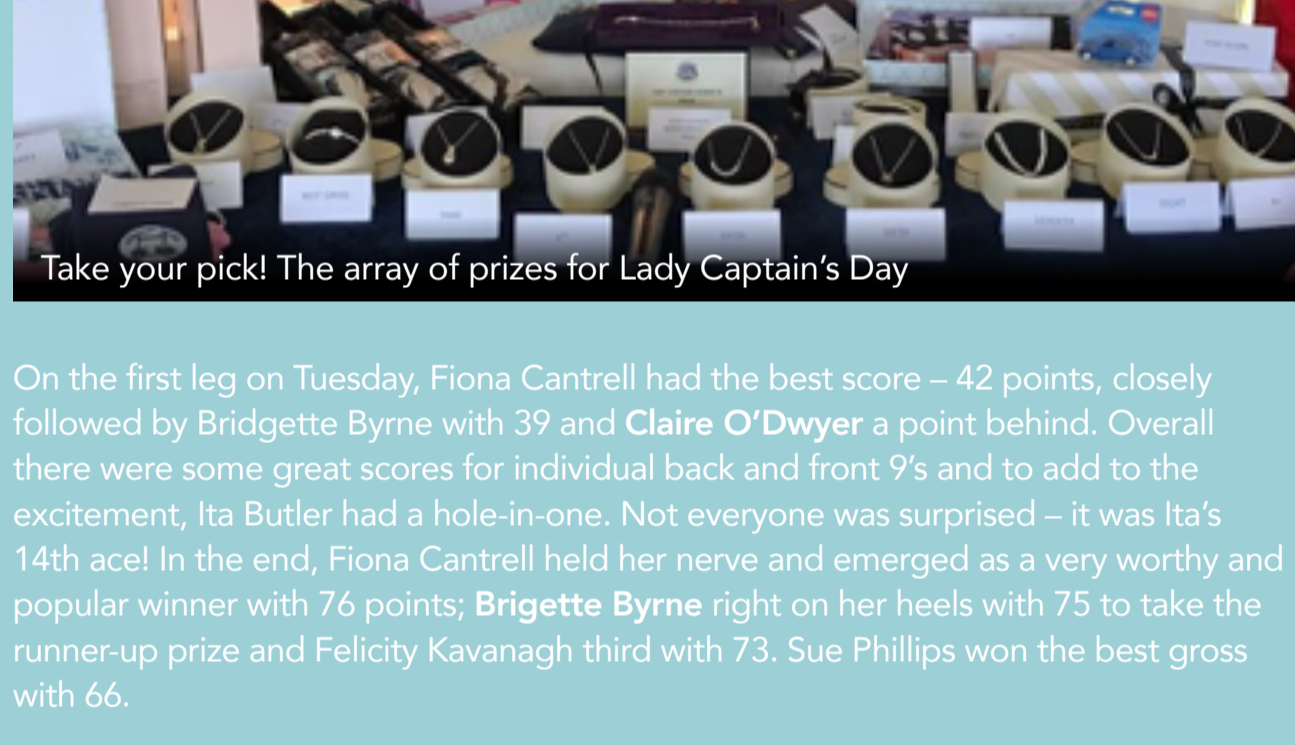
Woodbrook won this competition before but it was so long ago hardly anybody remembers, except perhaps Dan O'Connell who managed that team with the late Kevin McDonald!

Despite the disadvantage of having three away matches, the Best Cup team won its second round tie against Killiney by 4 games to 1. They won both away matches. The next tie is against Holywood Lakes on July 6, with Woodbrook having the advantage of three home matches.

In the Cullen Trophy (mixed foursomes) Woodbrook beat Royal Curragh 4-1 in the first round and Baltinglass 3 1/2 to 1 1/2 in the second round at Woodbrook.

In the Old Conna Seniors competition, Woodbrook had a good win over Bray. The only setback for the Club was in the Junior Cup. The regional qualifier at Rathfarnham early in June was a strokes competition with 4 out of 18 teams getting through. Wood narrowly missed out by just 2 points.

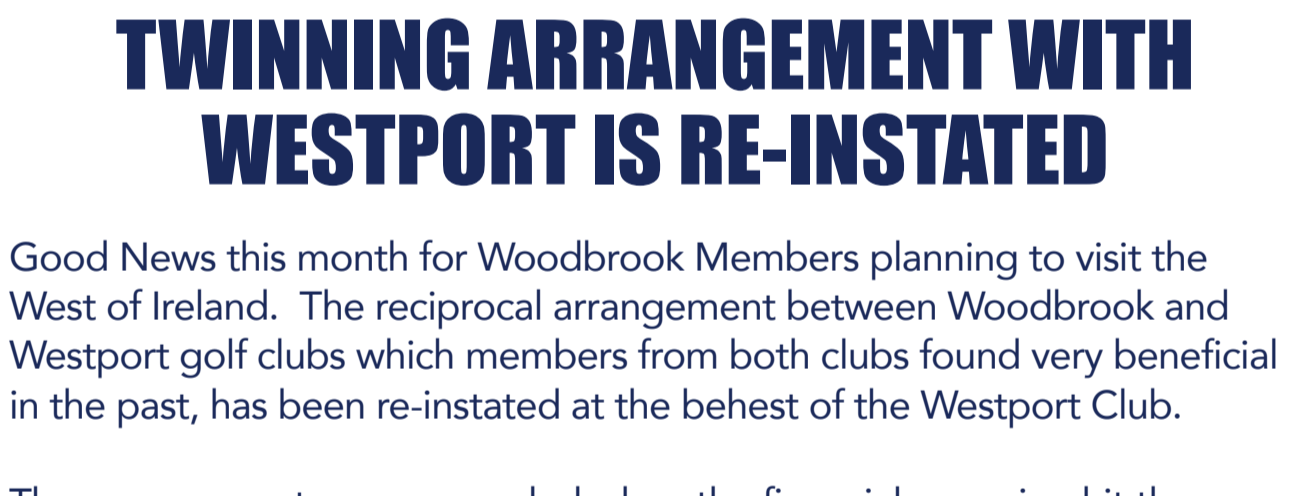
LARGE FIELD FOR PRESIDENT'S PRIZE WEEKEND



The President presenting his prizes to Rory Fitzgerald and Sue Phillips who won the Ladies Prize.

After a mid week break in the summer sunshine, fine weather returned for Billy O'Riordan's President's Prize competition which was held over two days, due to the large entry. The good weather brought out the best in the large field and no less than five golfers - three low handicappers and two higher handicaps - returned 41 points which resulted in count backs before a winner was found.

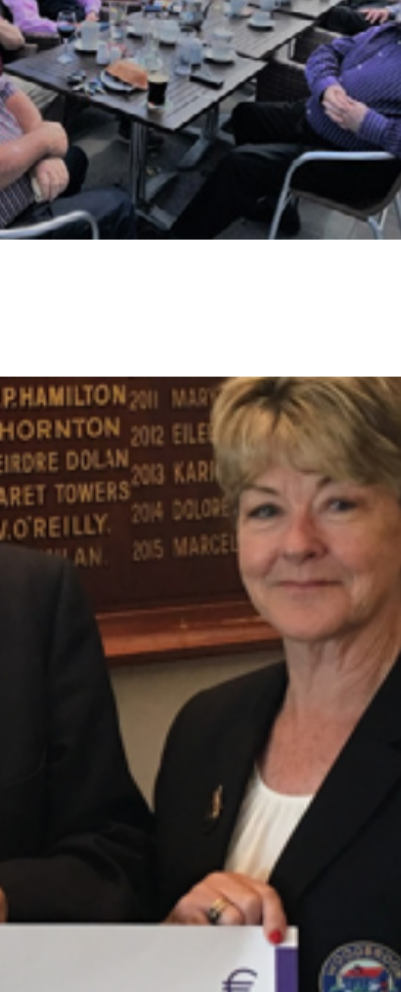
Rory Fitzgerald (17) emerged winner, with Hugh O'Connor (6), Eoin McDermott (16) and Neville Atkinson (7) taking the next three spots on the same score. Paddy Lewis won the Committee Prize, Claran Ronan the Officers' Cup and Sean McDermott (father of Eoin McDermott) the Past Presidents' Prize. John L Hughes (1) took the Best Gross with 38 points and the President's Prize to Juniors went to Shane Bresnan (5), who also returned 41 points.



Left: On the 15th green - Charlie Sothorn, Peter O'Flanagan and Tommy Hamilton Right: Enjoying the sunshine on the 1st tee before starting their round in the President's Prize - Norman Taylor, Joe Guerin, Chris Molloy, Michael Cantrell, Barry McGann, Dave Tyrrell, Pat Costello, John Bradley and Michael O'Toole.

TAKE A TIP FROM ME

More and more senior golfers suffering from backache are using pickers on the end of their putters to save them having to get down on one knee to retrieve their ball from the cup. The problem with these handy gadgets is that they keep falling off the handle and get either lost on the course or stuck in the bottom of your golf bag. Take a tip from me. First make sure that you purchase a ball picker that is the right shape for your putter. Just like a square peg will not fit into a round hole, a round ball picker will not fit onto an oval handle nor an oval picker onto a round handle.



Then get yourself a tube of super glue used for bonding rubber, put some on the inside of the ball picker and quickly push it tightly onto your putter handle and hold for a few seconds until it sets. You should have no more trouble with the picker after that - and it will do your back a power of good! Job done!

SUNSHINE ALL THE WAY FOR LADY CAPTAIN'S DAY!

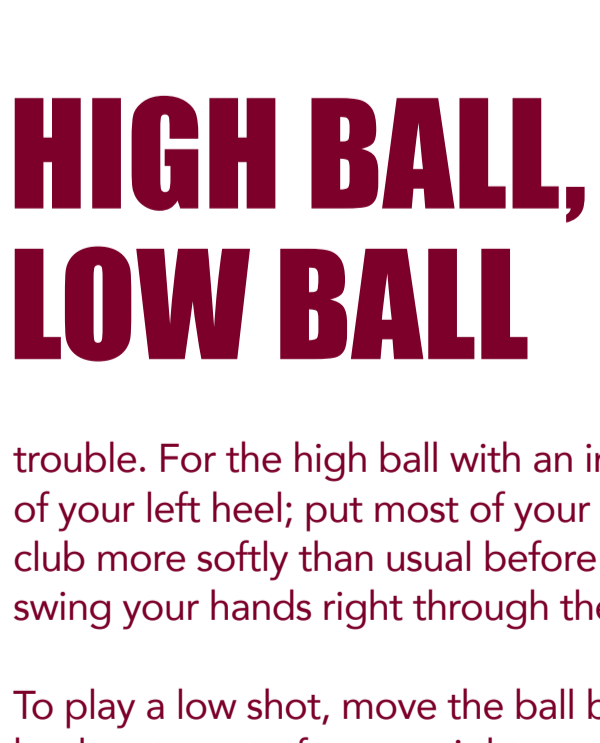
Norma Boland's Lady Captain's Prize Day was a unique occasion not just for Woodbrook, but probably broke records for the country as a whole. Two days of blissful, blistering sunshine with temperatures in the high twenties brought a smile to everybody's face. Both days had exactly the same playing conditions for the large field and the hot scorers matched the temperature, setting a new fair-weather standard that will be hard to follow.

The competition was aggregate Stableford over two days - the first on the normal Tuesday Ladies' Day and the second on Saturday June 25. The usual throng of male Saturday golfers were "sent to the country" to allow the ladies full use of the course. The men went to Powerscourt where it was chilly early on, cloudy for most of the morning and even had a couple of light showers of rain.



Take your pick! The array of prizes for Lady Captain's Day

On the first leg on Tuesday, Fiona Cantrell had the best score - 42 points, closely followed by Bridgette Byrne with 39 and Claire O'Dwyer a point behind. Overall there were some great scores for individual back and front 9s and to add to the excitement, Ita Butler had a hole-in-one. Not everyone was surprised - it was Ita's 14th ace! In the end, Fiona Cantrell held her nerve and emerged as a very worthy and popular winner with 76 points; Bridgette Byrne right on her heels with 75 to take the runner-up prize and Felicity Kavanagh third with 73. Sue Phillips won the best gross with 66.



Winner Fiona Cantrell is congratulated by the Captain, Norma Boland.

So tight was the scoring that only 7 points separated the first ten. The other seven in the top ten were Nuala Noone, Claire O'Dwyer, Michelle Hughes, Chris Costello, Stobhan Kelly, Sandy Lawlor and Sarah Harty.

Class winners:
Day 1: 1st: Siobhan McCartan; 2 Ita Butler. Class 2 - 1 Aine Whelan; 2 Pauline Cooke. Class 3 - 1st Irene Duddy and 2 Ann Gribben. Juniors - Zara Mee. Intermediate, Caroline Hewitt. Five-day winner, Caroline Belton.
The winner was presented with a magnificent bracelet by the Lady Captain.

TWINNING ARRANGEMENT WITH WESTPORT IS RE-INSTATED

Good News this month for Woodbrook Members planning to visit the West of Ireland. The reciprocal arrangement between Woodbrook and Westport golf clubs which members from both clubs found very beneficial in the past, has been re-instated at the behest of the Westport Club.

The arrangement was suspended when the financial recession hit the country; the President, Billy O'Riordan announced at the June Council Meeting that Westport were anxious to re-introduce the arrangement between the clubs and Council agreed.

Of course the usual courtesies will apply. Members of both clubs wishing to use the facility will be expected to contact the club they wish to visit and make sure the course is available on the relevant date.

AL FRESCO DINING

A group of regular Wednesday Rumblers enjoying some summer refreshments in the not so regular sunshine - Malachy Martin Joe Guerin, George McGarry, Norman Taylor, Dave Twyford, Barry McGann, Noel Dwyer and Jack McKeon.



Norma Boland and Mary Bruton hand over a cheque for €10,000 to Tony Cody of St. Vincent de Paul.

WOODBROOK LADIES DOING THEIR BIT FOR CHARITY

Every year Woodbrook hosts a lot of charity events for worthy causes and in the process raises tens of thousands of euro which helps to ease the pressure on organisations catering for the needy. Members give willingly on charity days and enjoy their game of golf at the same time, so that everybody is a winner in one way or another. Lady Captain's Charity is no exception and this year the Ladies put in a tremendous effort and Captain Norma Boland and Ladies Committee Member Mary Bruton were chuffed to be able to hand over a magnificent cheque to St. Vincent de Paul. Raising that amount of money in a couple of days is no mean feat!

Plummers

Woodbrook Plummers Golfing Society
The 2017 Woodbrook Plummers Golfing Society season is in full swing, as well supported as ever and with some great competitions to look forward to over the summer.

Plummers Outing to Woodenbridge
The annual outing to Woodenbridge was held on the 12th of June with 37 participants. Joe Lyons emerged victorious with 34 points followed by Hubert Kelly and John Gallagher with Jim O'Shea securing the Veterans prize.

Joe Lyons winner of the Plummers Woodenbridge outing receiving the Kevin Meehan trophy from Tom Moriarty.

Calling all New Members

Membership of the Plummers is open to all Woodbrook Men's Club Members with a GUI handicap of 18 or higher. The society, which prides itself on its ethos for friendly social golf, runs weekly 12 hole competitions from April to October as well as several major events and the Matchplay competition. Please come and join us on any Monday to get started.

Plummers 12 Hole Stableford Competition

There were 41 participants in the Committee Prize which was held on the 19th of June and played off club handicaps. Peter Lillis won the event with 25 points closely followed by Derek Maher and Gerry McConnell.

Matchplay Competition

The Matchplay competition is now well advanced with the 4th round matches due to be completed by the 24th of July.

Upcoming Events

The next major competition in the Plummers calendar is the Captains prize on the 12th of August hosted by Tom Moriarty. Dinner and entertainment follows the golf and is open to all Woodbrook members. This is a hugely popular event so early booking is advisable.

HIGH BALL, LOW BALL

With all the trees at Woodbrook, in every round of golf you will inevitably find yourself blocked out by a spinney, or worse still, in one. So it is important that you know how to play a high ball and a low ball to try and get yourself out of trouble. For the high ball with an iron, move the ball forward to the inside of your left heel; put most of your weight on your right foot; then grip the club more softly than usual before you start the back swing; make sure to swing your hands right through the shot.

To play a low shot, move the ball back towards the inside of your right heel; put most of your weight on your left foot; move your hands down the shaft an inch or two and grip the club more firmly than normal; finish with your hands low. Try it - Professional David Keating says it will work.

WEST SIDE (SAD) STORY

On their annual outing to Powerscourt this year, Woodbrook men played the West Course for a change, which put a damper on the scoring due to fast, tricky greens. Considering more than a hundred played, the scores were not great with the low handicap men doing better than most. Winner was Michael Hughes with 36 pts; Stephen McLeavey 35; Alan Kilkeny 35; Jeremy Cleary 34; David Moffitt, 34.

LADIES INTER CLUB

The ladies have some important inter clubs games coming up in July. First up is their Finn Trophy match away to Charlesland on Saturday 8th. This team is managed by Ruth Farrell and Siobhan Smith. Next is their Junior Foursomes team managed by Liz O'Dwyer and Jackie Shanahan, which is playing Greystones at Hermitage on Sunday 16th. Finally they have their Cullen Trophy (mixed) home match against Rathfarnham also on the 16th. Team managers are Kay McMahon, Peter Hopkins, and Kieran Murphy.

Happy Golfing

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