



JULY NEWS

Now is the time...

Have you family, friends or work colleagues who are thinking about joining a golf club? You can do something about it! We are open for new members and our application process is straightforward and easy to do.

Woodbrook has turned the corner in its quest for new members and there is now a steady flow of applications to fill vacancies caused by the recession. Our Constitution provides for a maximum number of Members and when existing vacancies are filled, any further applicants will have to suffer the frustration of spending time on a waiting list.

We have almost fifty vacancies allowed under our constitution. Filling them is an important part of planning for the future of our Club; our preference is that we recruit new members through our existing members who are the best ambassadors in attracting new people.

Apart from its convenient location, Woodbrook has a great deal to offer. It is one of the country's premier golf courses, set in one of the most scenic and beautiful stretches of coast, bounded on one side by the Irish Sea and on the other by Killiney, the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains and Bray Head.

The club is noted for its welcoming ambience, a place where new members assimilate very quickly and make friends literally for life; where nonagenarians ply the fairways in friendly fourballs that have stood the test of time; and when the game is over golfers have all the comforts that a modern clubhouse has to offer.

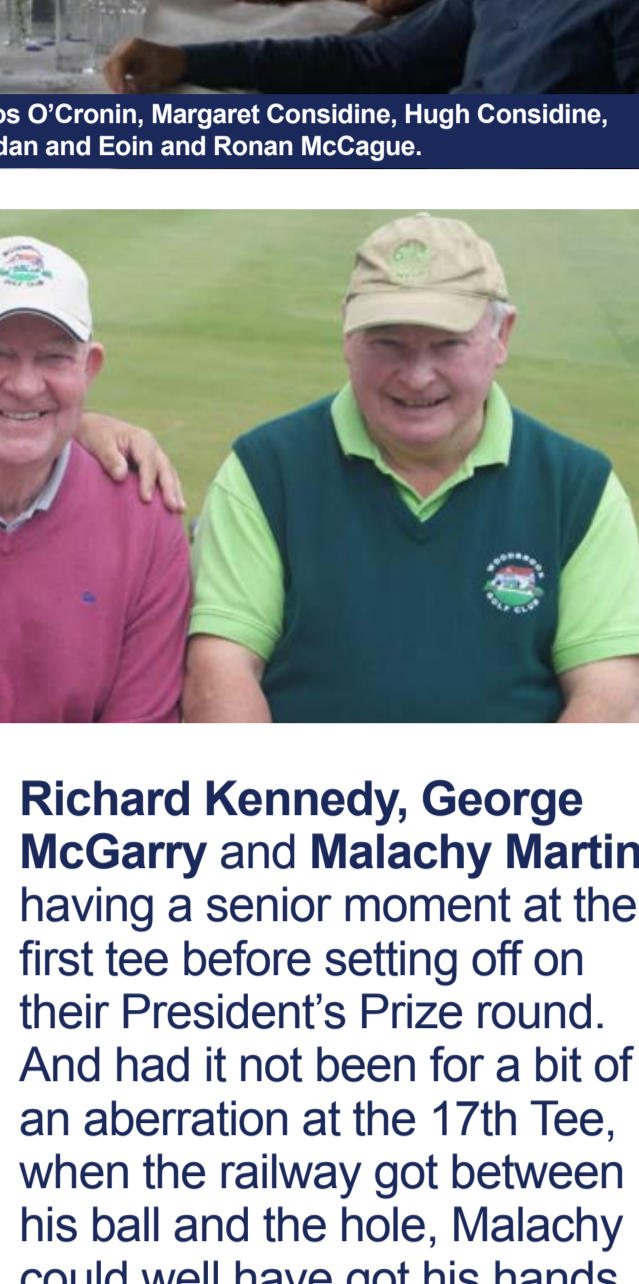
There has never been a better time to join the club – at the moment the entrance fee is only half what it was before the financial crash of 2008.

And like the man on the radio jingle warns: "When the half price entrance fees are gone, they're gone forever."

If you have somebody interested in joining, now is the time to act. Contact Jim Melody or indeed any member of the Ladies or Men's Committees or Council who will be happy to help bring forward applications.

George Martin Never Looked Better!

Our summer gardens, now in their third year, have matured splendidly and are a blaze of colour at the moment, a fitting enhancement for the George Martin Room and the unique old Woodbrook Cricket Pavilion, which has stood the test of time so well.



President's Prize Day

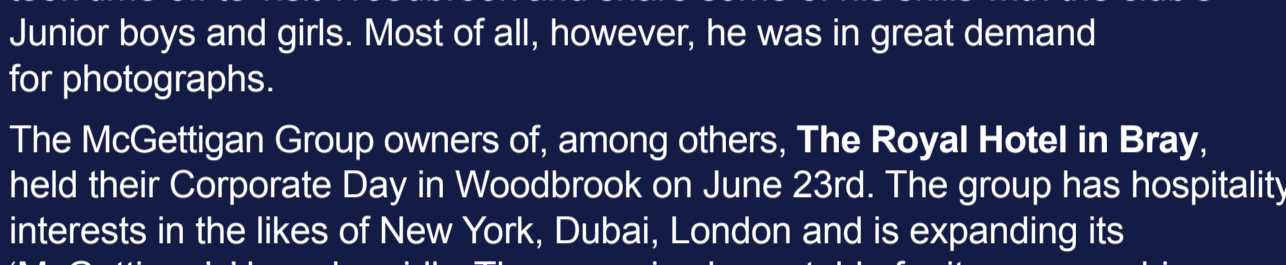


As usual there was a huge entry from both the Men's and Ladies Clubs for this two day event, one of the few each year in which Members of both the Men's and Ladies Clubs can participate.

The weather was reasonable – a bit showery at times, but still playable – and there was a large turnout on Sunday for the Carvery Lunch which preceded the Prize Giving.

The scoring was good all around and (pictured above) receiving their prizes from the President, **Billy O'Riordan** are **David Mahon** (11) who came out on top for the Mens Prize with a very credible 44 points and **Sarah Cleary** (6) took the Ladies Prize with 37 points.

Guests on President's Day – Ray Carroll, Proinsias O'Conin, Margaret Considine, Hugh Considine, Elizabeth Cronin, Barbara O'Riordan and Eoin and Ronan McCague.

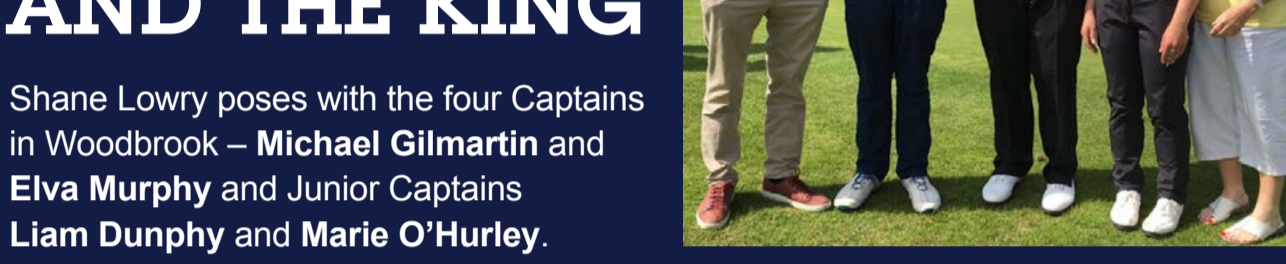


MALACHY COULD HAVE BEEN A CONTENDER!



Peter O'Flanagan is presented with the Officers Cup.

Richard Kennedy, George McGarry and Malachy Martin having a senior moment at the first tee before setting off on their President's Prize round. And had it not been for a bit of an aberration at the 17th Tee, when the railway got between his ball and the hole, Malachy could well have got his hands on the main prize.



SHANE LOWRY TAKES TIME OFF THE GIVE LESSONS TO WOODBROOK JUNIORS

On a brief visit home between tournaments in the United States, **Shane Lowry** took time off to visit Woodbrook and share some of his skills with the club's Junior boys and girls. Most of all, however, he was in great demand for photographs.

The McGettigan Group owners of, among others, **The Royal Hotel in Bray**, held their Corporate Day in Woodbrook on June 23rd. The group has hospitality interests in the likes of New York, Dubai, London and is expanding its 'McGettigan's' brand rapidly. The group is also notable for its sponsorship of Shane Lowry whose presence they secured for the Woodbrook outing.

He had, of course, only returned to Ireland earlier in the week following his runner-up achievement at the US Open. His arrival caused a great stir in the Club where he was treated to breakfast in advance of a skills display with our Juniors.

Many not so Junior Members engaged with him on a very informal Q&A session. Later in the day the McGettigan party enjoyed our links in the company of Shane who played 3 holes with each 4 Ball.

The weather for the appearance of the great man was stellar and the entire occasion was a memorable one with Woodbrook presented at its very best. There are lots of other activities coming up for the Juniors including a fun style boot camp which will give the boys and girls an extra ten hours of coaching, thanks to an ILGU grant. The plan is to complement Woodbrook Academy coaching with course practice, with particular emphasis on course management and etiquette.

The first competition for the **Paddy O'Beirne Trophy** was hosted by Woodbrook at the end of June and a total of 80 boys and girls participated. The event, involving 5 matches hosted by 5 of the twelve competing clubs, is run by Elm Park.

THE CAPTAINS AND THE KING

Shane Lowry poses with the four Captains in Woodbrook – **Michael Gilmartin** and **Elva Murphy** – Junior Captains **Liam Dunphy** and **Marie O'Hurley**.



WOODBROOK LOSE OUT IN THIRD ROUND OF SENIOR CUP.

Woodbrook were up against UCD in the first round of the Senior Cup held at Elm Park in the last week of June. The University side was one of the favourites and although it was a tough encounter played in very wet weather conditions Woodbrook put up a spirited performance and emerged victorious by three games to two which saw them into the second round against Portmarnock Links. Again the golf was exceptional and resulted in another very good win for Woodbrook.



The Senior Cup team with Club Captain Michael Gilmartin and Managers Noel Murphy and (inset) Dan Shanahan.

In the final game on Sunday afternoon the prize for the winners was the opportunity to advance to the regional finals. This time Woodbrook faced Portmarnock – a very tough draw. The difference in Woodbrook's combined handicaps and theirs was 28; their worst handicap was plus two! Woodbrook stuck to their task and put up a great fight but came out losing by 3 1/2 to 1 1/2.

All seven of the Woodbrook panel played over the weekend. It was the youngest team in the competition, among them four teenagers and it was the best performance by a Woodbrook Senior Cup team in a long time. The players were well supported by other members of the Senior Cup panel who came out and caddied for them.

With a lot of quality young players coming through the development programme the competition for places on the team is getting tough and it augers well for next year.

The Woodbrook panel consisted of **Peter McNeill, Colm Crowley, James Cronin, John McGann, Tom Dowdall, Conor Byrne** and **Sean Kestell**.

WOODBROOK ADVANCE TO SEMI FINAL OF BARTON CUP.

The Barton Cup team had advanced to the Semi Final after defeating New Ross in the Quarter Final last Sunday with another excellent team performance in what proved to be a very tense encounter.

New Ross were up in 4 matches during the early stages and it looked ominous. The visitors won two matches in Woodbrook with **James Cronin** and **Robert Argue**, and **Paul O'Farrell** and **James Murphy** being edged out to two superb New Ross pairs. However a 3-2 win in the middle match was secured by **Tom Dowdall** and **Tom Fannin**, which left it all to do in the two matches away in New Ross.

Having come back from an early hole loss, **Mark** and **John Tyrrell** fought back to gain the "Upper Hand" and held on tightly with a superb putting performance to win 3 and 1 on the 17th. In the second away match, **Ronnie Allen** and **Phelim Moylan** built up a 3 hole lead by the turn, and whilst they gave one hole back, they closed out the match on the 16th green winning 3 and 2 with a great display of match play golf.

A Semi Final match Vs Lucan is the reward for this great team victory.



PLUMMERS WOODENBRIDGE OUTING

Woodbrook Plummers Golfing Society was founded in 1957 following an outing by members of Woodbrook Golf Club to Woodenbridge and it has been the tradition since then to hold an annual outing there.

In 2014, it was decided to honour the memory of a former captain, **Kevin Meehan**, by presenting a perpetual trophy in his name for the Woodenbridge event and this year forty Plummers' and guests played golf in very mixed weather with very heavy showers catching out a lot of players still on the course.

The overall winner on the day was **John Maguire**, Plummers Captain for 2016. This is the second major prize won by John this year having taken the honours, together with the Lady Captain, **Elva Murphy**, at the annual Mixed Competition with the Woodbrook Ladies in May.



The Captain John Maguire, being presented with the Kevin Meehan Perpetual Trophy for 2016 by fellow Committee member Liam Kavanagh.

PLUMMER'S CAPTAINS DAY

This year the competition for the Plummer's Captain's Prize will take place at Woodbrook Golf Club on 13th August. This is the most important date in the Plummers calendar and all Plummers are reminded that you must have previously entered six competitions in 2016 to be eligible to win the big Prize on the day. However there will be an extensive array of other prizes to be won and the competition is, as always, open to all members of the men's club in Woodbrook. There will of course be the usual mixed social evening with entertainment following the competition.

Ladies Club News

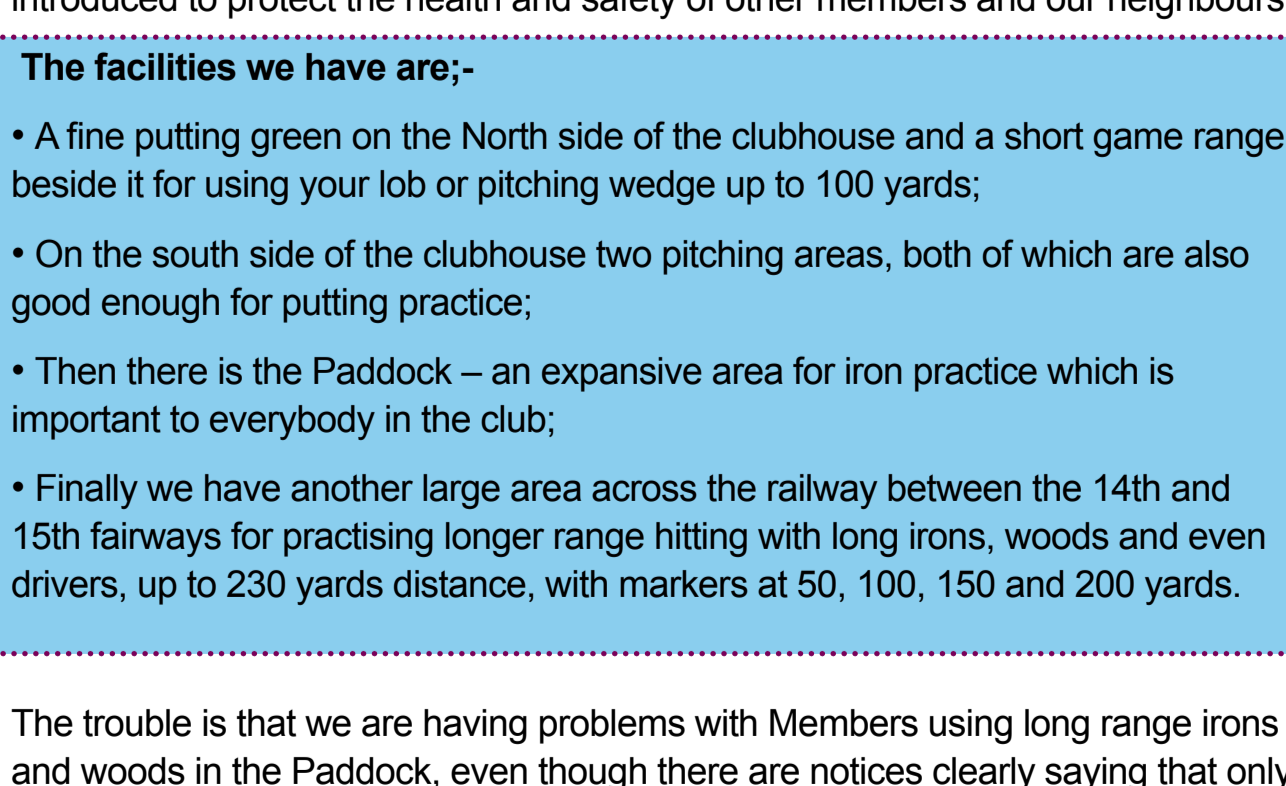
The Ladies section has been making steady progress in inter club competitions and are still challenging for several trophies.

Unfortunately the Senior Foursomes Team was beaten in the quarter finals by Milltown who went on to beat Bray in the semi finals in Rathfarnham last weekend. There was also disappointment in the Cullen Cup when they were beaten by Rathfarnham.

However, Woodbrook are through to the quarter finals of the Intermediate Cup and meet Royal Tara at Lucan later this month.



Marcella Acton being presented with the Vice-Captain's (Norma Boland) Prize



The Woodbrook Senior Foursomes squad which defeated Delgany, but were beaten by Milltown in the quarter finals.

As well the Junior Foursomes team had a great win in Malahide and another win at home to get them into the semi-finals of Leinster Region in which they meet Powerscourt.

They also have a big match coming up against Delgany in the Boyne Cup, with games at home and away.



Susan Lynch with her daughter Alice won the Semi-Open on 28th June which was sponsored by Mark Callan PGA.



Sue Phillips is congratulated by the Lady Captain, Alva Murphy, for setting a new course record of 68 in the June Medal.

Past Captains Rumble

Fourteen former captains toggled out for the inaugural Past Captains Rumble last month which was won on a countback by **Michael Cantrell's** (2009) four man team over the **Chris Dodd** (1990) squad.

It was an extra special occasion this year due to the presence of one of the longest and most popular members - former Captain **Paddy Early** (1980) who has not been to the club for a while but was able to join his colleague ex captains for a meal and an evening of chat about old times. His many friends in Woodbrook will be glad to hear that he is still partial to a vodka & tonic and enjoyed himself so much that he is already making plans for a return visit.

Curtis Cup Gentlemen's Plate at Woodbrook.

Well, the Curtis Cup has come and gone and what a feast of great golf it was and the Americans departed leaving yet another major trophy behind on this side of the Atlantic.

Tied to this event was the Gentlemen's Plate which was played at Woodbrook the day before the Curtis Cup got under way in Dun Laoghaire. This allows the men who support the squads to have their own encounter. Forty four golfers from both continents tee'd up on the day and again the GB & I team emerged winners.

The overall event was a huge success with all ends of the Club impressing our guests. Guest of honour was the current Captain of the R & A, **Gavin Caldwell** from Portmarnock GC.

Worth mentioning was the stellar score from **Eugenio Nava** (Scr) from Texas who went round in a very tidy 69.

Donal with colleagues at Powerscourt – Ivan Dempsey, Paul Lambert, Donal, John Mahon and David Marsh, all there to witness the great event

Celebrating his first Hole in One

Donal Brady had a pleasant experience on the West Course at Powerscourt last month when he had his first ever hole in one. He hit an 8 iron to the 129 meter 6th which passed the pin, had second thoughts and rolled downhill back into the hole.

Woodbrook Junior captains Victorious Hollypark Team

The work that Club Professional Mark and his assistant Josh have been putting into the Woodbrook Junior Academy is certainly paying dividends. One of our Juniors – **Sean Hartly** (centre above) holding the trophy - captained Hollypark Boys N.S. Foxrock to their first ever victory in the Castle Cup at Castle Golf Club recently. They beat 22 other schools to win this prestigious trophy.

Playing Golf can be as Health Hazard too!

Our club boasts some of the best and most utilised practice facilities of any golf club in Ireland, a feature that is often commented up by visitors, especially low handicap men and women playing in Scratch Cups, Pro-Arms and the like.

In recent times, however, we have been having some problems with one of those areas – the Paddock – and if it continues, that fine area will become unavailable to Members simply because a handful of Members refuse to obey rules introduced to protect the health and safety of other members and our neighbours.

The facilities we have are:-

- A fine putting green on the North side of the clubhouse and a short game range beside it for your use or for putting wedge up to 100 yards;
- On the south side of the clubhouse two pitching areas, both of which are also good enough for putting practice;
- Then there is the Paddock – an expansive area for iron practice which is important to everybody in the club;
- Finally we have another large area across the railway between the 14th and 15th fairways for practising longer range hitting with long irons, woods and even drivers, up to 230 yards distance, with markers at 50, 100, 150 and 200 yards.

The trouble is that we are having problems with Members using long range irons and woods in the Paddock, even though there are notices clearly saying that only short irons up to the 7 should be used. There are good reasons for 7 iron rule. The full safe hitting length in that area is only 170 yards and people using woods will easily propel golf balls well beyond that causing damage to property or worse still, injury to people living there. If you have ever seen the damage a golf ball travelling at high speed does to a person's face or body, you would never break the 7 iron rule on the Paddock!

There have been several cases recently where Members were found using woods on the Paddock and had to be spoken to about it. This has to stop and if a Member sees anybody breaking the 7 iron rule there, he or she should approach the offending person or report it to the Caddy Master or General Manager.

The rules governing the practice areas are just common sense:

- On the putting green, remember no chipping, to prevent damage.
- On the lob wedge practice area, never hit balls back toward the clubhouse.
- In the two chipping areas, don't chip from one area to the other.
- Never use a wood or anything more than a 7 iron on the Paddock, and under no circumstances should a Member hit balls back towards the chipping areas and the clubhouse.
- On the practice area across the railway, again never play balls back towards the 13th fairway.

Remember that a golf ball is just as lethal at high speed as a cricket ball, but golfers don't have the luxury of face and head protection, body armour or kneepads.

Happy Golfing

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