



May News

Evening light filtering through the foliage of the trees lining Woodbrook Lane.

Woodbrook Makes Steady Progress in Defence of the Barton Cup

Members will be delighted to hear that Woodbrook has made good progress this year in its defence of the Barton Cup. A very dedicated team of players and managers have brought the club through the Third Round of the Competition with success against Miltown and Edmondstown, and a sweet victory over Elm Park who proved very tough opposition indeed, on May 28. Two matches were played in Woodbrook and three in Elm Park and after a tense day of swings to and fro which left the teams with two matches each, it all came down to the last match at Elm Park which stood all square after 17 holes.

Everything depended on Woodbrook pair **Colm McGlynn** and **Eoin Beechham** getting a win to keep the Barton Cup holders in the competition. And they did just that with a superb drive, a great second shot to the green and almost holing a 40 ft putt for a birdie! In the event, their par was good enough for the win because Elm Park missed an 8 ft putt to half and send the match up the 19th.



A great 3-2 win for Woodbrook. Mark and John Tyrrell had a 7 and 6 victory in their match.

Overall in the game the other two winning Woodbrook matches came from the Tyrrell father and son, **John** and **Mark**, who notched up a convincing 7 and 6 victory to kill off their game at the 11th hole and **Donal Brady** and **Tom Dowdall**, who had a tougher battle on the home course and had to go all the way to the 18th green. They were 2 up after twelve but lost the 13th, halved the next four holes and needed at least a half to clinch victory at the eighteenth.

In the event the home pair kept their cool with a well placed drive from Brady at the eighteenth, followed by an equally good pitch to the back of the green by Dowdall, leaving a 20 ft putt for a birdie. The opposition got into the greenside bunker in two, failed to get out in three, and in the end Brady and Dowdall had the luxury of three putts for a half and victory. The two final matches - **Denis O'Connor** and **Tom Fannin** and **Pheilm Moylan** and **Dave Geraghty** - were lost in Elm Park.

Well done so far to the Management team for the Barton Cup squad - **Ciaran O'Kelly**, **Michael Hughes** and **Tom Fannin**.



A handshake from the opposition for Donal Brady and Tom Dowdall after their victory in the Barton Cup.



Father and son Sean and Ronnie Allen who both won their matches in the Cullen Cup.

Cullen Cup

On the same day Woodbrook had the Curragh as guests in the Cullen Trophy. This is a mixed foursomes competition and the Club recorded a good victory, winning four of their five matches to seal victory.

Chris Morgan and **Barbara O'Loughlin** won 4 and 3; **Sean Allen** and **Orna Flannery** won 4 and 2; **Ronnie Allen** and **Joanna Ross** won 3 and 2; **Paul O'Farrell** and **Paula Crotty** won 5 and 4; the final match with **Brian O'Gorman** and **Alex Blair** was called in before it finished. This team is managed by **Kay McMahon**, **Peter Hopkins** and **Ciaran Murphy**.

The Best Cup

To round off a successful weekend for the Club, Woodbrook beat Killiney 3 1/2 to 1 1/2 on Monday in the Best Cup, three games played at home and the other two away. **John Geolon** managed the away games and they had two wins - **Kevin Lynch** and **Liam Lawlor** (4 and 3) and **Ned Lyons** and **Gerry Butler** (5 and 4). At home, **Michael McLeavrey** and **Neil Stuart** won 5 and 4, **Dick Doyle** and **Martin Ronan** lost, and **John Maguire** and **Phil Moynihan's** match was called in when they were just nosing ahead. This Best squad is managed by **Ciaran Ronan**.

The Inter Club team season is well under way, and it has been a busy time over the past number of months for all of the team managers and squads in making preparations for the season.

Apart from the all important Barton Cup, the Cullen Trophy, Best Cup, and progress in the Brennan Cup, Woodbrook has not done too well in other inter club competitions.

Fitzgibbon Cup

First up were the Fitzgibbon Cup team in February. Woodbrook was in a group with Charlesland and Bray. Charlesland won the group by winning their matches against Woodbrook and Bray.

Elm Park Seniors

Our team began their group matches in March and continued through to May against Arklow (h), Headfort (a), Rathfarnham (h) and Lisheen Springs (a). They did not qualify from this group.

Coming up

All Ireland Foursome
Lost in the 1st round tie against Slade Valley by 2 - 3.

JB Carr
Played Old Conna with all matches away on 3rd April and lost 2-3.

Irish Mixed Foursomes
Woodbrook played Ballinasconroy on 8th April, and lost 2-3.

Metropolitan Cup
Lost their 1st round match against Powerscourt 3.5 - 5.5

Brennan Cup
Played their 1st round match at home against Coolattin and won a tight match 3-2. They will play Ennisceorty in the QF before the end of June.

Junior Cup
Strokeplay qualifiers in Rathfarnham on Sat 10th June.

Jimmy Bruen Shield
Strokeplay qualifiers in Delgany on Sat 17th June.

Senior Cup
1st round v Old Conna, in Druids Heath on Sat 24th June at 10.10. Winners play the 2nd round the same afternoon.

Old Conna Seniors
Match v Bray on 12th June at home.

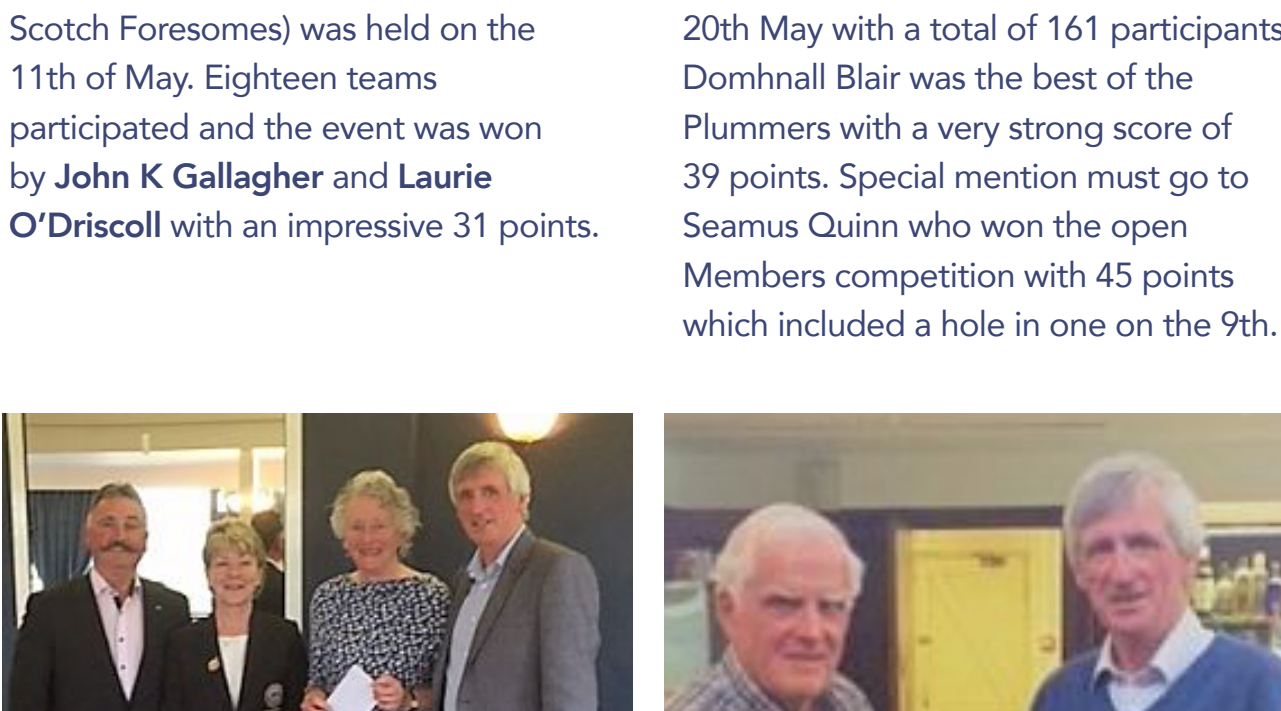
Powerscourt Cup
Match v Killiney on 18th June at 2pm.



THE PIERCE PURCELL AT WOODBROOK

Over two Sundays in May the Pierce Purcell Shield was played in Woodbrook, with 18 clubs competing for one qualifying spot in this GUI All Ireland Pennant. A foursome format of five pairings representing each Club, with a minimum combined handicap of 27 - with a lowest individual handicap of 12.

The first Sunday was a strokeplay competition, with the leading four Clubs going forward to the matchplay stage on the following Sunday. The Woodbrook team played superbly to qualify in second position, behind the Castle GC. This was the first time in years that Woodbrook had qualified for the matchplay stages.



In the Pierce Purcell tie against the Castle, Paul Madden puts for a win on 6th hole, while partner Donal Brady looks on.

In the matchplay semi-final on the following Sunday morning, the Woodbrook pairings scored a fine win over the 2016 Leinster champions and All Ireland finalists Grange Golf Club by a score of 3 1/2 - 1 1/2. In the other semi-final the Castle GC edged it over their rivals Dun Laoghaire GC.

The final in the afternoon was played in testing conditions, with a strong southerly wind sweeping over the course, making life difficult on the back nine. Woodbrook fought bravely, but at the end of the day came up one match short and were beaten 3 - 2 by a very fine Castle team.

The team panel representing Woodbrook: **Ian Quinn**, **Cosmo Flood**, **Anthony Durkan**, **Donal Galvin Jnr**, **Donal Brady**, **Paul Madden**, **Nicholas Sainsbury**, **Michael Cantrell**, **John Keogh**, **Pat Cunneen**, **Ciaran Blair**, **Michael Holly**, **Eamon de Grae**, **Bernard Gibbons**, **Niall O'Sullivan**, **John Sheerin**, **Brendan Kelly**, **Conor Brown**, **Dermot Dennis**, **Robert Argue**, **Conor Peters**, **John Kirby**. Managed by **Dick Doyle** & **Joe Dobbins**.



Try Hitting High Notes instead of the Ball!

If your golf game is not good at the moment, why not try your hand at something else in the club - like singing! Your big chance to hit the high notes is coming up on June 12 with auditions in the club house at 7.30, and none other than **Michael Fay**, Musical Director of the **Bray Gospel Choir** in attendance. If you are interested, contact elvamurphy@gmail.com.

SETBACKS FOR THE LADIES CLUB EARLY IN 2017



After a very promising start to the year, the Ladies Club campaign stumbled and suffered defeat in the Senior Cup, Intermediate Cup, the Minor Cup and the Challenge Cup - all tight matches in which Woodbrook was just squeezed out. Then the Revive Active and Boyne Trophy teams also lost out to tough opposition.

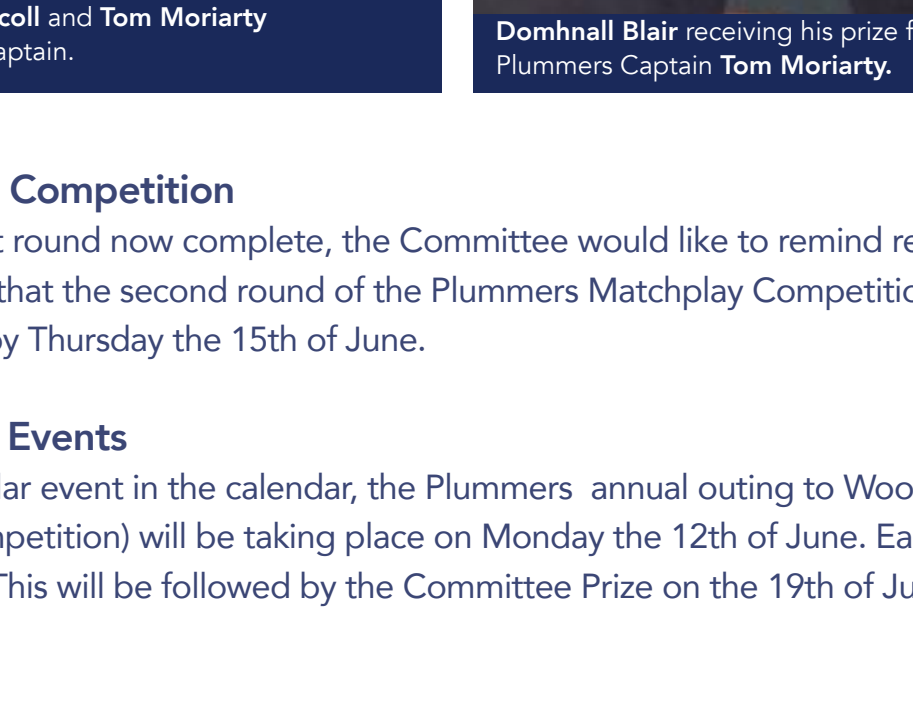
But it wasn't all bad news. Also came home victorious had a good win at Druid's Heath and the Junior Foursomes team also came home victorious from Dun Laoghaire.



Joanna Ross and Ronnie Allen line up a putt on the 4th green, on their way to victory against the Curragh.

The Senior Cup this year was hosted by Skerries. Woodbrook beat Newlands and Elm Park but lost out to The Island in the semi final by a very narrow margin. Losses are disappointing not just for the team members but also for their Managers (and some very loyal caddies) because they put such a lot of time and effort into getting the teams ready for these inter club competitions.

However all is not yet lost. Still to come are the Junior Cup, Junior Foursomes, Senior Foursomes, the Finn Trophy and of Course the Cullen Cup (mixed), in which they had a good win at home over the Curragh on the last Sunday in May.



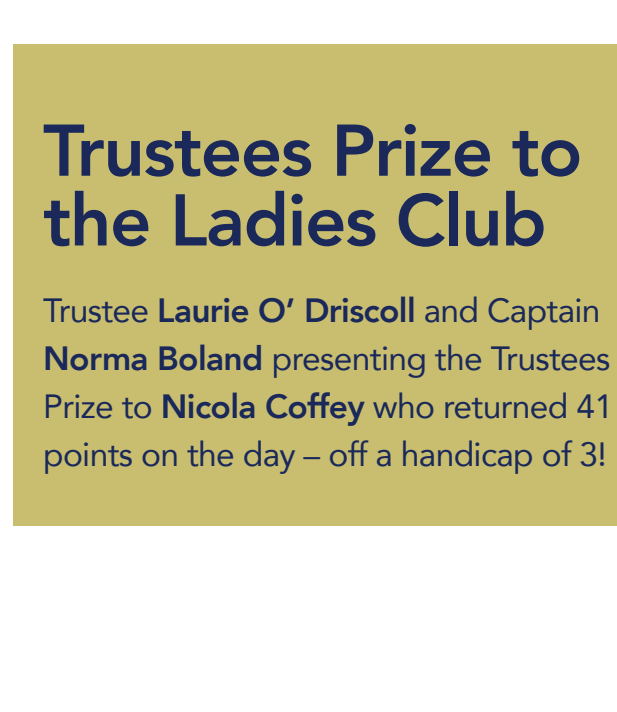
The 2017 Woodbrook Plummers Golfing Society season is now in full swing, as well supported as ever and with some great competitions to look forward to over the summer.

Mixed Competition

The Mixed Competition with Woodbrook Ladies (12 Hole Stableford Scotch Foresomes) was held on the 11th of May. Eighteen teams participated and the event was won by **John K Gallagher** and **Laurie O'Driscoll** with an impressive 31 points.

The Plummers at Home

The Plummers at Home (18 Hole Competition) was held on the 20th May with a total of 161 participants. **Domhnall Blair** was the best of the Plummers with a very strong score of 39 points. Special mention must go to **Seamus Quinn** who won the open Members competition with 45 points which included a hole in one on the 9th.



Presentation to **John K Gallagher** and **Laurie O'Driscoll**, winners of the Plummers / Woodbrook Ladies event held on Thursday 11th May.

(L to R) **John K Gallagher**; **Norma Boland** - Ladies Captain; **Laurie O'Driscoll** and **Tom Moriarty** - Plummers Captain.



Domhnall Blair receiving his prize from Plummers Captain **Tom Moriarty**.

Matchplay Competition

With the first round now complete, the Committee would like to remind remaining participants that the second round of the Plummers Matchplay Competition must be completed by Thursday the 15th of June.

Upcoming Events

A very popular event in the calendar, the Plummers annual outing to Woodenbridge (18 hole competition) will be taking place on Monday the 12th of June. Early booking is essential! This will be followed by the Committee Prize on the 19th of June.

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.

SEAN ALLEN IS BEST CHIPPER SO FAR...

There is stiff competition this year with **Noel Murphy** (8), **Larry O'Reilly** (7), **Norman Taylor** (5) **Robert Argue** (5) and **David Geraghty** (5), but **Sean Allen** is best so far with 10 chip ins.

Orna Flannery made her debut appearance on the 2017 leader board with a fantastic chip-in during her Cullen trophy match v Curragh on **Sunday 28th May**. Her partner **Sean Allen** also recorded his 10th chip in during the same match which they went on to win.

This competition is open to Members of all categories. You can enter by texting **Kieran Murphy**, All Time Best Chipper in Woodbrook at **0872569967**. Each chip-in must be witnessed and it applies to any chip-in anywhere in the world. Putts from side of green don't count nor do holes in one, unless recorded at the 3rd at Torrequebrada Golf club Spain.

Trustees Prize to the Ladies Club

Trustee **Laurie O' Driscoll** and **Norma Boland** presenting the Trustees Prize to **Nicola Coffey** who returned 41 points on the day - off a handicap of 3!

MARY ANDERSON AT ST ANDREWS MEETING OF R&A

Long time Woodbrook Member **Mary Anderson** recently reported back from a meeting she attended at St. Andrews Old Course Hotel, for discussions on the progress of the merger of the R & A and the LGU.

The Secretary of the R & A, **Martin Slumbers** recalled recent developments including discussions leading to the merger which he described as "challenging at times".

He said the R & A were on a learning curve at the moment but he could attest to the passion and commitment of the organisation to the merger and to the development of the game of golf irrespective of gender.

He talked about volunteering - the need for people to come forward and give something back to the game rather than just talking all the time, to make sure that their clubs remain viable for the future. The R & A had strategies in place,

including a growing awareness of the power of the media and dealing with powerful interest groups. He discussed the relationship between elite amateur golf and the competitiveness of professional tour life and the need to explore alternative roles for players who are not able to make a living on tour.

He outlined some of the strategies in place for women's and girls' golf:

1. The promotion of women's, girls' and family golf;
2. Working together with the four women's Unions;
3. Enhancement of elite events;
4. Enhancement of the WBO to make it world class.

Before the meeting ended, it was announced that the incoming President of the LGU, **Gillian Kirkwood**, would take up her position in September.

Happy Golfing

Credits: Editor, **Michael O'Kane**; Production, **Joe Dobbins**; Contributors - **David Cullen**; **Heather Argue**; **John Tyrrell**; **Mary Anderson**; **Kieran Murphy**; **Elva Murphy**.