



Stackstown
GOLF CLUB

Captains' Welcome

Stackstown 2018 promises to be a very special experience for everyone involved with our club. We have come through a period of enforced exclusion from our clubhouse hospitality facilities for fourteen long months.

Valentine's Day 2017 will long be remembered as the day when the club could have gone up in flames. Instead, the resilience and spirit that is the hallmark of our club's founders and current membership, showed itself as strong and vibrant as ever.

It really is an honor to be Captains in this landmark year, a year that sees a former Stackstown member, Mr. John Moloughney, selected as President of the GUI. Our excellent course and refurbished clubhouse is a fitting witness to the direction and future aspirations of your club.

Ladies, Gents, Juniors, join us in realizing the dreams and hopes that we all foster for Stackstown Golf Club; we owe it to ourselves, and all of those that have departed to the club in the sky, to realise and enjoy our club to the fullest. Stackstown Abu.



Lady Captain Joan Moore



Captain Mick Kennedy

The Monument Hole



To the right of the 15th fairway of the regular course stands the monument to Sean O' Dubhgaill (Sean Doyle). He was shot dead here by a detachment of the Black and Tans on the 19th September 1920 while on a training exercise with the IRA.

Sean and his colleagues were in Kilmashogue when they were surprised by the soldiers and called on to surrender. Most of them stopped, but Sean O'Dubhgaill continued to walk away, and was shot in the back towards the middle of the 15th fairway a short distance from where his monument now stands. The monument itself enjoys the protection of The National Monuments Acts. The citation on it can still be easily read even though it stands there unprotected with minimum maintenance from the elements for nearly 100 years.

Sean's body was taken by wheelbarrow down the present Kellystown Road, which was then a rutted track called Suttons Lane. His head rested on the wheel of the barrow as it was pushed along. A group of local women at great risk upon themselves, blocked the lane in protest. They refused to let the soldiers pass until they rearranged the body in a more dignified position on the barrow.

The incident, particularly the capture of so many volunteers (36) was regarded as a great coup by the authorities and was reported on extensively by the London Times the following day.

Sean O'Dubhgaill was given an enormous funeral in Inchicore and was buried in Esker Cemetery Lucan. His father Alderman Peadar S. Doyle T.D. later became the first Fine Gael Lord Mayor of Dublin.

The area where the volunteers were surrounded had been used by them every Sunday before this incident, and it was suspected that someone locally had betrayed them to the authorities. Suspicion fell on 'The Hermit of Kilmashogue' a Scotsman named James Parker who lived alone in a wooden hut where the 16th tee box is now situated. This area was a working sandpit. The hermit's hut was at the top edge of the sandpit. (A family, the Feeneys lived close by. Their abode was lower down, level with the bottom of the sandpit). The hermit's hut did not have windows, and he communicated with callers from within through a wooden slit. His cause was not helped by the fact that the Tans took him away after the shooting and held him for more than a week. This was a ruse to deflect attention away from him as the information source that led to the ambush. While he was away, locals dug under the hut from the face of the sandpit causing it to fall to the bottom rendering him homeless.

The pit was filled in to raise the ground for the 16th tee box. It was still a considerable distance below the level of the fairway and remained that way until further extensive filling could be found. The opportunity came when Hill 16 in Croke Park was redesigned. The rubble forming the steep bank on The Hill had to be considerable lowered to make a safer gradient. It was taken to Stackstown to raise the 16th Tee Box to the level of the fairway. It is a remarkable coincidence that the material used in the original construction of Hill 16 came from rubble of buildings which were damaged in the 1916 rising in O'Connell Street (Sackville Street), and now lie on top of the hermit's hut and within 100 meters from where Sean O'Dubhgaill involved in same cause was shot.

The next time you play the 15th and 16th be aware that you may be walking on someone else's dreams. Tread softly there.

Noel Burke, May 2018.



GIGS, SIGS and TWIGS

Having come across a Women's Get into Golf Programme while visiting a nearby club, Mary Grogan of Stackstown approached Jennifer Hickey of the Confederation of Golf.

She helped tailor a programme for recruiting new members. This was done through social media and via our own website. An internal committee was formed and the programme was launched.

"We recruited 40 GIG's (Get into Golf) for an initial 8-week taster in year one," explained Mary. "Following this, we offered a 6-month programme, which enabled the GIG's to play on Sunday and Tuesday along with the assistance of our current members who walk with them and guide them around the course."

It is in their second year that the GIG's become SIG's (Stay in Golf) and work to achieve a full CONGU Handicap. "At this point, the SIG's continue playing on Sunday and Tuesday each week and are also invited to compete in the Lady Captain's Prize, Lady Presidents Prize and attend other bigger events within the club."

In the third year of the programme a 3-year transition into full membership begins with staged subscriptions fees and the players become TWIG's (Transitioning Women into Golf).

"As a TWIG, you get almost all facilities of full membership, but the price is graduated - easing the big financial hit of joining a golf club."

According to Mary, the success story has been that, from day one, each GIG, SIG and TWIG are made feel welcome in the club, integrating them into the current membership is a priority.

"Allowing the ladies to grow to love the game and enjoy the social aspects has been the key," she explained, "we have recruited 47 ladies since 2016 and we have another 53 signed up for our 8-week Taster Programme starting in April 2018, an addition of over 100 new ladies into our club."

Despite their already astonishing success, Stackstown have now vowed to increase their membership of young adults introducing a programme for 20 – 35-year old's. "We will be running a taster session for young women in the early summer months. We have specifically targeted several hockey clubs who will be finishing their hockey training for the summer.

The ladies programme has been such a success that we are looking forward to developing the future of the club even more so this year."

Carol Brill - Stackstown & Irish Blind Golf

For most golfers, difficulties in perfecting their swing far out-weigh worries of being able to see the golf ball, but for Carol Brill this is one dilemma she has had to overcome. “Most people can see 180 degrees, but I can only see 3 degrees – so my sight is very limited.” Carol was diagnosed at 21 years of age with Usher Syndrome, a rare genetic disease causing combined sight and hearing loss. She has gradually been losing her sight from a young age and has worn a hearing aid for a large part of her life also.

Four years ago, when her daughter, Sara, was entering first class and would spend an extra hour in school a day, Carol decided she needed to take up something new to fill her time. “I fell into golf almost by accident,” she explained, “I looked up blind sports online and I tried different things like walking, cycling, and I then came across Blind Golf.”

Irish Blind Golf run regular clinics in Leopardstown Golf Range as well as hosting several outings a year. The squad consists of 11 men and now Carol makes up the only woman.

“Originally I thought golf was for older people,” she admits, “I think that perception came from my Dad, he always used to say, ‘No I’m not retiring yet, I’m too young to play golf!’”

It didn’t take long for this perception to change for Carol. “I felt so welcomed by everyone at my first clinic and outing, I was set back with injury shortly after I started but I was determined that this was something I was going to enjoy.”

And enjoy she has. Along with the assistance of her Guide, Teresa Schutte, Carol has now contested all over the world – from Italy to Australia. Her travels have produced many memorable moments but one in particular stands out; “Well recently I hold a 30ft putt playing with Lady Captain Joan from Stackstown which was amazing!” she laughed, “but winning the Ladies Irish Open last year was a defining moment. I beat the World Champion by 15 strokes!”

Despite her success and the support of Irish Blind Golf, Carol dreamed to have a golf club to call home. “I longed to join a golf club, I just didn’t know how to go about it. Teresa [guide and Stackstown member] mentioned that the Get into Golf (GIG) was about to begin and that maybe I go and get involved.”

This was the second year of the successful Stackstown GIG programme, for Carol it has been a game changer for her; “It’s such a positive environment to start golf in. I feel like I am going to come on leaps and bounds now in my golf because of the programme.” She also feels that she has a new group of friends since joining. “It’s just been brilliant. The women behind the programme have been so fantastic, they have been so encouraging and nothing has been a problem. I now want to stay on as a member not just for the golf but for the wonderful camaraderie and support.”

Taking up the game has not been without some anxiety, “Initially going to the Club I was very nervous. I didn’t know whether to declare my sight as you never know what people’s reactions will be. But the fear was unnecessary, I have been absolutely embraced – Mary [Grogan], Teresa and all the other ladies have been so positive and encouraging.”

“For me, golf is a physical escape, it’s like doing yoga or meditation. When you’re visually restricted, it can be exhausting, you have to watch where you’re going all the time, but when you’re on a fairway - it’s so liberating. I don’t mind what the weather is – I find it so exhilarating. I just wish I found golf sooner, but I suppose better late than never!”

Determined more than ever, Carol has high hopes for 2018 with the support of her new club mates; “I’ve been selected for the World Championships in Rome later this year and I’m also going to play in the Celtic Cup, the British Open and the Italian Open – I fancy my chances this year because I now have a group which we’ve named ‘The Girl Guides’ who have enabled me to play more and more - they take turns to come out and guide me through a few holes – I haven’t regretted a day since joining Stackstown, I love it!”

In May of this year Carol competed in the Celtic Cup an International event between Ireland & Scotland. Carol won the trophy and is pictured below.



Joker Update

Since its inception the Joker Team committed to putting the funds raised towards Course Development Projects. Below are some of the fabulous signs that have been put up.

The jackpot has been raised to €3,350 and FRED is hoping he will see daylight and make someone's day. Only 9 numbers remain and it's anyone's guess as to where he is hiding.

Get your entries in ASAP with a chance to win this great amount.



Clubhouse Update

Fire Damage



Building Works



Juveniles



Girls Captain Ciara



Boys Captain Eoin

Saturday Golf and lessons now in Stackstown

The Junior committee have been running golf on Saturdays after the time sheet and are delighted to have the parents involved this is much appreciated. The time is usually 4.30 or 5.00 pm start. This give the boys and girls an allotted time to go out and play a few holes on Saturdays.

Lessons are now taking place in Stackstown at 3.00 pm to 4.30 followed by a few holes to practice. Next lesson is Saturday 19th May you must email to book lesson. Email: stackstownjuveniles@gmail.com.

Golf Summer Camps Stackstown

Stackstown are running Golf Summer Camps this year and coaching on the camps are by our PGA Professionals Michael Kavanagh and Anthony O'Hanlon. The camps will take place in Stackstown Golf Club you may book a place by emailing sgcproshop@gmail.com or phoning Stackstown Pro Shop: PHONE 01 4949558 or 01 4941993.

Summer Camps at Stackstown with Michael Kavanagh				
Month	Age	Dates	Times/Price	Price
June	11-16	Monday 11th - Friday 15th	09:30 - 15:00	€195
June	11-16	Monday 25th - Friday 29th	09:30 - 15:00	€195
July	7-11 & 11-16	Monday 9th - Friday 13th	09:30 - 15:00	€195
July	7-11 & 11-16	Monday 16th - Thursday 19th	10:00 - 12:00	€79
July	7-11 & 11-16	Monday 23th - Thursday 26th	10:00 - 12:00	€79
August	7-11 & 11-16	Monday 13th - Friday 17th	09:30 - 15:00	€79
August	7-11 & 11-16	Tuesday 7th - Friday 10th	10:00 - 12:00	€79
August	7-11 & 11-16	Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd	10:00 - 12:00	€79

Tip from the Pro



Pro Tip at the First Tee

When you arrive at the first tee, take a moment to identify the shape of the hole and what the architect had in mind. The word fairway comes from a nautical term that describes a safe passageway through potentially dangerous waters. If you keep the ball on the short grass, it stays out of harm's way. Most of the danger in golf lies to the sides of your route, so make it part of your plan to start each hole by hitting the fairway, even if you must sacrifice some distance. In other words, don't immediately opt for driver.

If you've got the first-tee jitters, here's how to calm down: Look straight ahead, then close your eyes and, without moving your head, angle them so they look up at the sky. As soon as you feel your eyes begin to flutter, take a deep breath and hold it for a count; then expel the air and open your eyes.

Once you're calm, it's target time. Most of your clubs have a distance and a landing area built in, but your driver distance is open-ended, and this can lead to mindlessly overpowering the ball. Therefore, anytime you have a driver in hand, choose both a direction and a destination—a specific landing area for your tee ball. For the direction, aim at something on the line on which you want your ball to fly. It might be a mound, a tree in the background or even a cloud in the sky. For the destination, pick a tire track or a discolored patch of grass in the section of the fairway from which you want to play your next shot.

Pro Shop Upgrade

As many of you know there is a huge amount of work being carried out to refurbish and upgrade the Pro Shop. This new development is to launch a new Swing Studio along with a Fitting Centre and Simulator. In the fitting centre members can be fitted out for drivers, fairway woods, hybrids, irons, wedges, putters and even balls! All leading brands will be available. There will be over 60,000 yes 60,000 combinations of heads and shafts to choose from. Members will be able to play the top courses of the world in the Simulator. Lessons can be done both outside on practice grounds and inside in Swing Studio. Booking can be done via the Pro Shop and Michael hopes to have it up and running by mid-June. Michael is Irish Club maker of the year 2017 and fitted out our National Team.

Exciting times ahead for the Pro Shop

Club App

Stackstown are now up and running on Club App. This allows you to go into the app at any time and see how the club's matches are going. ClubApp is a Web-App so it can be used on ALL Smart Phones, Tablets & Computers. So, if you can't make it to the game then you will be able to follow our progress from anywhere in the World! The scoring is live and instant when in the match screen! You can also follow other clubs and other Inter Club matches. ClubApp Live scoring which keeps all members in informed.

Social Media

As a Club we have committed to improving our communications via social media. We are using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram more often. When you see a post please feel free to like and share. Also, if you get an opportunity or spot something photogenic on the course please take a photo and we can use it on either of the platforms mentioned above. It is a great way of promoting our club. We would appreciate any help or feedback on this. Please contact Paul in the office at admin@stackstowngolfclub.ie

Out and About Photos







Winners Enclosure

