

## FERMOY GOLF CLUB

### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER APRIL 2013

The meeting was held on Tuesday 23 April last where the following issues were considered:

#### **Signage:**

The COM approved the erection of directional signs on the course to replace existing and damaged ones. It was also decided to upgrade the signage in keeping with health and safety considerations. The Course Committee would make recommendations.

#### **Illness and Reduction in Annual Subscription arising:**

While the COM has always treated applications for a reduction in the annual subscription arising out of illness, the issue was discussed at length in view of the number of applications being received and the possible consequences for club revenue. While it must be said that all applications for a reduction received to date have been genuine and medically supported, it was decided in the best interest of members to draft a policy on the issue to avoid any confusion in the future.

#### **Access to Timesheets for Competition:**

The issue was again discussed and the COM reiterated the decision arrived at during a previous meeting. The Captains of both clubs reported that further discussion had taken place regarding access to the timesheets and a formal notice is to be placed in the clubhouse regarding the outcomes of that agreement. The basic thrust of the agreement is as follows: Saturday Men's Competition time; Societies or green fees may be considered after 1130. Sunday: Men Competition to 11.30 (exclusive).

Sunday: 1130 – 3.00 p.m. Members competition time – Ladies and Gents can play their respective competitions. If there are spaces available during this time it may be assigned to green fees or societies. **For details of the agreement members are encouraged to consult the notice in the clubhouse.**

#### **The Course:**

The COM was informed that the greens were disease free and had been solid tined and sanded. In addition they have been scarified and verti cut the result of which will be that they may remain bumpy and slow for a period. This is necessary work and will lead to an improved putting surface.

The weather has not helped with the course. Poor growth and intermittent rain has held the work back. However, the course continues to recover and the cosmetic work undertaken at the first and the entrance to the back nine in addition to the new signage is adding to the overall appearance of the course.

The rough mower was reconditioned and it is now necessary to purchase a replacement topper. We have requested a demonstration of a machine that will replace the topper and provide a better alternative for our needs. Members may have seen the result of the demonstration on the course around the rough areas and among the trees.

The removal of trees that have reached their end of life and their replacement with hardwoods and gorse is part of the overall strategy for the future development of the course. The objective is to restore as much of the natural flora as possible to the course. It is also proposed to cover some of the tree stumps with soil to create grassy mounds – again once a characteristic of the course location. These mounds will be gentle in nature to allow cutting and maintenance.

The departure of John Murray as previously reported came as a surprise to the Committee and it was decided that while wishing him and his family the best of luck for the future, it would be in the interest of the club not to appoint a new head green keeper at this time, but to work with the current staff on a temporary basis to see if the course could be managed to the expected standards. Denis Twomey and Peter Brady were instructed to put the necessary arrangements in place and to monitor the work through the course committee and established performance indicators.

**New Members:** The meetings noted the applications for membership and we would like to formally welcome all those who have joined us over the last number of weeks. We hope that the interest in the club will continue to grow and with it, an increase in the membership numbers.

**Fund Raising: 5/6/7 July Annual Fundraiser.**

The COM encourages all members to support the forthcoming fundraiser for the club and any other activity designed to increase income. This year income from the fundraiser will be used to purchase machinery for the course and other improvements that will benefit members.

Committee of Management