

## **COURSE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2012**

Membership of the Committee:

Vera Santry, John Murphy, Nick O Sullivan (Capt) Peter Brady and John Murray (by invitation)

### **Overview:**

The Committee was faced with severe problems throughout the year because of the bad weather, cut backs on staff working time, budget constraints and machinery breakdowns. Indeed the weather completely dictated the work of the committee and many of the plans for the course had to be abandoned or curtailed.

It was envisaged from the start that the committee would link with the Presidents working group to do some work on the course that would add to its overall appearance. However, this was badly affected by the weather and was limited to some repair work on fairways, trimming of grass around trees and, thankfully, the cutting of rough on the back nine holes when it was not possible to use course machinery. Jim Johnson has to be thanked for his efforts in this regard.

In spite of the bad weather and the consequent poor ground conditions the work of cutting and maintaining the grass surface had to continue. At times this looked ugly, but there was little choice and no permanent damage was done to ground. In most instances the marks were caused by the wet soil and disappeared with rain.

At present there are parts of the course which have become very sodden and the grass has rotted because of the wet conditions. It is intended to work on these areas and apply sand and seed where appropriate.

We would like to acknowledge the enthusiasm of the President Tim O Mahony and his efforts to get work done to improve the facilities of the club.

Disease manifested itself on the greens yet again in spite of efforts to keep it at bay. While it blighted the start of the year, it was disappointing to note that reclamation work was slow and compounded the problem.

### **Work Undertaken:**

Notwithstanding the problems posed by the weather, the Committee was determined to work on the course and the following tasks were completed which have added significantly to its appearance and playability:

- New distance markers for the tee boxes were agreed and sited
- The course was re measured and new cards printed
- Local rules were revised and printed on the back of the new cards taking into account that some would be subject to change and should not appear permanently on the score cards
- A new nine hole card was produced.

- Distance markers on the fairways were replaced with coloured stakes marking 200, 150 and 100m
- The course was surveyed by the committee with a view to removing some trees and reveal established hardwoods. A start on this work has been made and throughout the winter the work of removing trees will continue for this purpose.
- The securing of workers through the TUS programme has been very beneficial. To date they have repaired the stone wall on the fourth tee and installed a new pathway on the first hole.
- It is hoped that further repair and development work will undertaken by the workers throughout the winter. Steps to tee boxes, repairing walls, the construction of a new store house for chemicals are some of the scheduled tasks.
- A new tractor was purchased to replace an existing one that had reached its end of life.
- At the moment there are problems associated with machinery that have to be addressed and will cost in the region of 8k. The rough mower will have to be reconditioned at a cost of 5.5k and we will have to purchase a new topper at approximately 2k.
- Control mechanisms continue to be put in place with a view to controlling costs on the course. Fungicides and chemicals are extremely expensive; the average cost of an application is approximately €1,000.
- It is hoped that fund raising activities will be organised to pay for replacements to machinery.
- It is also intended to clean the shrubbery area facing on the car park and plant new shrubs kindly donated by the ladies.

Future:

- While the club is working its way through difficult times, it is important that the course is maintained in the best condition possible.
- This is an expensive operation costing in the region of €50k
- While every effort is made to reduce costs we are limited because of regulations and the effect of the weather on the course.
- A course maintenance schedule has been created to assist in the management and control of the operations on the course and this will provide a good basis for reviewing performance and identifying issues before they become problems.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their time, understanding and courtesy throughout the year.

*Peter Brady*

Chair, Course Committee

28 November 2012