

FERMOY GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER MAY 2012

The Committee of Management (CoM) is committed to providing information to members and consequently has decided to publish this Newsletter on a regular basis to keep members informed of developments within the club.

Overview: We have lost members over the last two years which has created a financial problem for the club and forced the CoM to examine all aspects of the club's operational activities to meet the challenge posed by a declining membership.

Membership:

While attempting to attract new members, the club has lost 80 members this year.

The loss in revenue arising out of this is approximately €60k.

It is clear that corrective action has to be taken if we are to survive into the future.

Administration:

The CoM decided that the present administrative system was not appropriate in the current climate.

It was with deep regret that this was communicated to the Secretary Kathleen Murphy and a final settlement of her entitlements was agreed.

The CONI would like to thank Kathleen for her service to the club and recognises the contribution she has made over the years. We wish her well in her future.

Likewise the CoM considered the position of the professional on site and have communicated to Brian that it is a service we can no longer afford. We are in discussion with him and hopefully we will be able to resolve issues relating to the termination of the service in an amicable manner.

Course staff, (with the exception of the head green keeper) have been put on a three day week for the foreseeable future.

All of these decisions have been made in an attempt to control expenditure and they have placed considerable stress on each member of the COM and the respective Captains and President of the club.

Secretary Manager

Going forward, the CoM will appoint a Secretary Manager to run the administrative affairs of the club

A job description and appropriate contract will be drafted.

There will be an open competition for the position and an independent Interview panel will be established for the purpose of selecting the best qualified person for the job. In the meantime, the CoM asked if Denis Twomey would be willing to act as secretary in the interim period to ensure that the club can function until such time as the Secretary Manager is appointed.

Denis accepted the invitation and the CoM is indebted to him for this.

The Course:

It was very disappointing to experience disease infestation again this year in spite of our best efforts to prevent it.

However, much work has been carried out on the greens over the last number of weeks and the improvement to the putting surfaces is evident.

It is to be regretted that there was a delay in undertaking the remedial work and we would like to apologise to members for that.

The work is now in hand and the greens will make a full recovery in a short time.

In the meantime we have supplied soil samples for analysis and are following a programme of intense aeration and sanding on the affected greens.

Members can help in the recovery programme and the maintenance of good playing surfaces by repairing pitch marks and resisting the temptation to take the bail out of the hole by use of the putter!

New signage for each tee (M and L) is prepared and will be properly sited on tee complexes over the coming week.

Working Group

The Presidents Voluntary Working Group is active in painting the clubhouse and will also become involved in other activities throughout the year. Members are encouraged to give some time to the group by turning out any Monday after 4.00 p.m.

A very unwelcome development is the number of people using the course without paying green fees. We ask for Volunteers to act as course marshals and if sufficient come forward we are confident that we can rid ourselves of this scourge quickly. It is our course and we should guard it zealously. Anyone interested in acting in this capacity should contact the Captains or the President of the club.

Finally we would like to extend a warm welcome to all who have recently joined the club and wish them good luck with this wonderful game and hope they will continue to enjoy our course for many years to come.