

# Monthly Newsletter

## KIRKISTOWN CASTLE GOLF CLUB

AUGUST 2026



### Welcome to our monthly newsletter.

What a fantastic month it has been at Kirkistown Castle Golf Club. We've been fortunate to enjoy an exceptional spell of sunshine, and it has been wonderful to see so many of you making the most of the fantastic playing conditions and the great atmosphere around the club. While the weather has certainly been on our side, it has also presented its own challenges. A sincere thank you must go to our dedicated greenkeeping team, whose hard work and commitment have ensured the course has remained in outstanding condition throughout the prolonged dry spell.

As we move into August, we look forward to two of the highlights of our golfing calendar. On Saturday 1st August, we celebrate Mr Captain, Gareth Hodgen's Captain's Day, followed by Lady Captain, Mrs Alison Gowdy's Lady Captain's Day on Friday 14th August. We extend our very best wishes to Gareth and Alison as they enjoy these special occasions. On behalf of all our members, thank you both for your continued dedication, enthusiasm and unwavering support of Kirkistown Castle Golf Club throughout your captaincies. We hope you both have memorable days and enjoy the wonderful support that makes our club so special.

We look forward to seeing you around the course and in the clubhouse over the coming weeks. Here's to another great month of golf, friendship and good company.

### What to expect?

Clubhouse  
Updates

Upcoming  
Events

Course  
Updates

Volunteer  
Spotlight

Results



## Upcoming Events

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

*Mr Gareth Hodgen's Captain's Day*

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

*Flavours Of Friday  
Tapas & Tipples*

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> August**

*Chilled Sundays - Eimear Dynes*

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

*Mrs Alison Gowdy's Lady Captain's Day*

## Upcoming Competitions

- Mr Captain's Prize to Ladies
- Mr Gareth Hodgen's Captain's Day
- Kathleen Poots Salver
- Lady Captain's Prize to Gents
- Mrs Alison Gowdy's Lady Captain's Day
- Bertie Polley Cup / Gilliland Cup
- Peggy Nelson Veterans' Salver
- Golden Jubilee Cup
- McKee Cup

## Mr Captain's Notes

Being Captain of KCGC is a privilege that brings both pride and pleasure. It offers the chance to represent the Club, welcome guests and foster a warm sense of community amongst members.

There is a joy in being involved in the day to day running of the Club, supporting the Inter club Teams and working with the staff and volunteers for the betterment of our great club under the guidance of our Council and convenors.

I would like to thank all our members for their continued support and encouragement throughout my first 6 months in office.

## Lady Captain's Notes

I'm really enjoying my Lady Captain's year so far and want to thank everyone for their support. Our weekly ladies competitions have been so well supported and we've held two successful Ladies Opens with over 100 visitors enjoying our fabulous course & hospitality. We had a great run in the inter-club competitions and a big thank you to team captains and players for their time and commitment. It's been fantastic to welcome new ladies into golf and we continue to meet up on a Thursday evening for some golf and a bit of craic. Finally, I'm looking forward to good golf & fun on my Lady Captain's Prize to the Gents on Saturday 8th August and on my Lady Captain's Day on Friday 14th August.

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## GOLF OVERVIEW



### Competition Winners

#### Ladies Competition Winners

**Professional's Prize to the Ladies** - Janet Ross

**02 Trophy / Flora Brown** - Noelene Waring / Monica Savage

**Ladies Texas Scramble** - Fiona McAufield / Monica Savage / Wilma Savage

**Monthly Medal (July)** - Vice President, Jane Compton (Silver) & Lady Captain, Alison Gowdy (Bronze)

#### Gents Competition Winners

**Richard McCaughey Cup** - Robert Davis

**Dunleath Cup** - Michael Blair

**Summer Stableford** - Hal Wilson

**McKee Cup** - Peter Atkinson

### Junior Section

Mr President's prize to the juniors took place on Monday 29th June. Almost 40 juniors competed for the lovely prizes that Leonard had supplied. Thank you, Mr President.

We hosted the first North Down Sixes event at the club on Thursday 2nd July. Teams from KCGC, Clondeboye, Bangor and Donaghadee had their meal then played on the course. KCGC ended in second place. The other clubs involved will then host the competition at their Clubs throughout the Summer (31st July, 10th August, 29th August)

We fielded a team for the first time in the U18 Ulster Boys foursomes on Thursday 2nd July at Holywood GC. The boys found playing the parkland difficult but enjoyed the experience.

We also played in the Inter Boys Regional qualifier at Castlereagh Hills GC. The boys played well and finished mid table.

For the second time we played in the Sixes regional qualifier and the team came second and are now in the Ulster final in Killymoon 10th August. We are delighted with this result and believe it to be a result of the pre-season coaching. So, a big thank you to Niall.

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### HOLT SHIELD 2026

*Our Holt Shield team bowed out of the competition at the last 16 stage to Fortwilliam GC. Facing some challenging conditions during the away leg, the team lost by an overall scoreline of 5.5 to 4.5. Thanks to Noel Fitzsimmons and Maurice Doran for leading the team again this year.*

# COURSE UPDATE



## CONVENOR'S REPORT

### **Overview:**

**COURSE NOTICE: GREENS AND SURROUNDS**

MEMBERS MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT THE GREENS AND SURROUNDS ARE CURRENTLY PLAYING A LITTLE SLOWER THAN WE WOULD IDEALLY LIKE. WE APPRECIATE THE FEEDBACK RECEIVED AND WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN THE MAIN FACTORS BEHIND THIS.

RECENT SUPPLY CHAIN DIFFICULTIES HAVE AFFECTED THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE SAND FOR TOP DRESSING. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE ALSO EXPERIENCED SEVERAL MACHINERY ISSUES. WEATHER CONDITIONS HAVE ALSO ROBBED US OF ALMOST A MONTH OF NORMAL GROWING CONDITIONS, WHICH HAS LIMITED RECOVERY AND PRESENTATION ACROSS PARTS OF THE COURSE.

IN RESPONSE, THE COURSE MANAGER WILL SLIGHTLY REDUCE THE HEIGHT OF CUT ON THE SURROUNDS. THE GREENS ARE ALREADY BEING CUT AT 4MM, AND WHERE TIME AND CONDITIONS ALLOW, WE WILL INCREASE THE FREQUENCY OF CUTTING AND WATERING TO HELP IMPROVE PACE AND CONSISTENCY.

THE CURRENT HEATWAVE IS PREVENTING US FROM CARRYING OUT ANY VERTI-CUTTING AND TOP DRESSING AT THIS TIME; TRYING TO DO SO WOULD IMPACT NEGATIVELY (ON THE GREENS) FOR THE UPCOMING CAPTAIN'S DAY'S. WHEN ABLE TO DO SO, IT WILL MAKE A CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE.

IN THE MEANTIME, AN AMPLIFIED CUTTING AND ROLLING PROGRAMME WILL HAVE TO SUFFICE UNTIL WE GET SOME SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING WHILE THE TEAM WORKS THROUGH THESE CHALLENGES AND CONTINUES TO IMPROVE PLAYING CONDITIONS.

**REPLACE YOUR DIVOT | REPAIR YOUR PITCH MARK | RAKE THE BUNKERS**

Steve Hewlett | Greens Convenor | Kirkistown Castle Golf Club

## SPECIAL MENTIONS



### FOUR MORE ACES... IS THE HOLE GETTING BIGGER??

RONAN BLAIR | KIRK PATTON | LESLIE CAMPBELL | GARY SHANKS

The aces just keep coming at Kirkistown Castle Golf Club! We've celebrated **another four hole-in-ones this month**, making it a remarkable run of unforgettable moments on the course.

Congratulations to all of our members who achieved every golfer's dream. A hole-in-one is a feat of skill, a little bit of luck, and a memory that lasts a lifetime. It's fantastic to see so many names being added to the growing list of club aces.

At this rate, we think our insurance company might be starting to ask a few questions! They could be wondering if the holes have somehow got bigger... or whether our members have simply become that good!

Well done to everyone involved, and here's hoping the run continues—although the insurers might be keeping a close eye on us!

**Well done, gentlemen!**

### MARY MCKENNA DIAMOND TROPHY

Sincere thanks to Janet Armstrong who led our Mary McKenna Diamond Trophy team to the Quarter Final stages where we unfortunately lost out in a tight contest against Shandon Park GC. Thanks for your dedication and organisation throughout the competition, Janet.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – TIM REID**

*PAST CAPTAIN | CURRENT TRUSTEE | LONG-STANDING MEMBER |  
VOLUNTEER GROUP LEADER*

This month's Member Spotlight is dedicated to Tim Reid, whose commitment to Kirkistown Castle Golf Club has spanned many years.

A Past Captain, current Trustee and long-standing member, Tim's knowledge of the club is second to none. If there's a question that needs answered about the club, chances are Tim will know the answer.

As leader of our volunteer group, Tim's enthusiasm, energy and dedication are truly remarkable. Whether it's divoting, weeding, tidying the club grounds, litter picking or tackling countless other maintenance tasks, no job is ever too big. Under Tim's leadership, the volunteer team has made a tremendous contribution to the presentation and upkeep of our club.

Tim is also a tremendous source of support for the current Council and the wider membership, always willing to lend a hand, offer advice or give up his time for the benefit of the club.

It is only fitting that this month's member spotlight is a full-page feature. While every individual of our member spotlight feature deserves recognition for their outstanding efforts, Tim's leadership, commitment and passion have been instrumental in bringing the volunteer team together and driving so much of the excellent work carried out around the club.

Tim, thank you for your unwavering hard work, dedication and service to Kirkistown Castle Golf Club. Your efforts are deeply appreciated by everyone at the club.



# MONTHLY RECAP IN PHOTOS



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