

# Monthly Newsletter

KIRKISTOWN CASTLE  
GOLF CLUB

JULY 2026



## Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come.

### Welcome to our monthly newsletter.

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone for their fantastic support and engagement following the launch of our first edition. The positive feedback we have received has been greatly appreciated and has made the inaugural month a real success. This Newsletter is for our members, and we want it to reflect your ideas and interests. If you have suggestions for future articles, events or topics you would like us to cover, please do not hesitate to share them.

June saw us host our first One Club President's Weekend, which proved a huge success. Full details of all our winners feature later in the Newsletter. Our Inter-club teams experienced mixed fortunes throughout the month, with some teams still fighting for places in the next rounds. July is shaping up to be an equally busy month both on the course and in the Clubhouse - we hope to see you soon.

We were delighted to make the first draw of our 50:50 Split the Pot Competition which was won by the ever present members of the "Sunday Club", collecting an impressive £470 - Well done and thank you to all who organised and contributed.

### What to expect?

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Clubhouse  
Updates

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Upcoming  
Events

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Course  
Updates

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Volunteer  
Spotlight

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Results

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## Upcoming Events

**Wednesdays 3-7pm**  
Wednesday Lite Bites  
New menu **now available**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July**  
Chilled Friday with  
**John McMullan**

**Themed Menu Evenings**  
7<sup>th</sup> August - Tapas  
11<sup>th</sup> September - Seafood

## Upcoming Competitions

- Professional's Prize to Ladies
- Richard McCaughey Cup
- O2 Trophy & Flora Brown Salver
- Philip Dynes Memorial Cup
- Ladies Open - Texas Scramble
- Richard Ingram Memorial Trophy
- Monthly Medal
- Warper Cup

## Volunteer Spotlight Alison Bell

As a past Lady Captain, Alison Bell knows from first hand experience the valuable contribution our volunteers make. Alison has been volunteering for our club for the past 30 years and at present plays a vital role running the BRS system for the Ladies. She sets up the weekly competitions, organises the draw and works closely with Lady Captain Alison to ensure everything runs smoothly. She also finds the time to be a member of our 125 Sub Committee and is helping to shape the plans for this important milestone next year.

Alison's contribution is greatly appreciated and her willingness to support both members and the club does not go unnoticed.

Thank you Alison, for everything you do.

**KIRKISTOWN CASTLE**  
— TRUE LINKS GOLF —  
EST 1902

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

*Thank You*

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUED SERVICE AND SUPPORT TO KCCG

Our volunteers are the heart of Kirkistown Castle Golf Club.

Your time, dedication, and passion help keep our course in exceptional condition and our club thriving.

We are truly grateful for all that you do for our members, guests, and community.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

THIS MONTH, WE PROUDLY RECOGNIZE:

**ALISON BELL**

★ ★ ★

KCCG

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## GOLF OVERVIEW



### Competition Winners

#### Ladies Competition Winners:

**President's Prize to the Ladies** - Tracey Dempsey

**Florence Calvert Trophy** - Janet Ross

**Nellie Garrett Foursomes Qualifier** - Mairead Breen & Geraldine Hughes

**Monthly Medal (June)** - Janet Armstrong (Silver) & Claire McNally (Bronze)

#### Gents Competition Winners

**President's Weekend** - Robert Milligan

**Brian McVea Cup** - Dermot Woods

**Esdale Dowling** - Sam Hosick & Oliver Campbell

**Captain's Mixed Competition** - David Cully

### President's Prize-Giving

**Overall winner** - Robert Milligan 43pts

**Runner Up** - Barry Coulter 42pts

**Section 1** - Peter Bailie - 38pts

**Section 2** - Jonny Nixon - 40pts

**Section 3** - Ricky Jamieson - 40pts

**Best Gross** - Neill Simpson - 68 (-2)

**Veterans** - Leonard Brown - 37pts BB9

**Ladies Overall Winner** - Tracey Dempsey - 37pts BB9

**Section 1** - Lady Captain, Alison Gowdy - 36pts

**Section 2** - Mary White - 37pts

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### HOLT SHIELD

Congratulations to our Holt Shield team who topped their group in this years round robin. Taking a 3-3 draw against Cairndhu, the guys then proceeded to take 6-0 victories over both Larne & Balmoral. Next up for Noel Fitzsimmons, Maurice Doran and their team is Fortwilliam in the last 16.

# MR LEONARD HAMILTON - PRESIDENT'S DAY



## P R E S I D E N T ' S W E E K E N D R E C A P

IN A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR KIRKISTOWN CASTLE GOLF CLUB, MR LEONARD HAMILTON HELD OUR FIRST PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND IN KEEPING WITH OUR NEWLY ADOPTED ONE CLUB MANTRA.

THE PRESIDENT'S PRIZE TO THE LADIES WAS HELD ON FRIDAY, WITH EVERYONE ENJOYING A WONDERFUL SELECTION OF TRAYBAKES AND SANDWICHES THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

THE GENTS TOOK TO THE COURSE ON SATURDAY, WITH THE WEATHER FAVOURING THE LATER STARTERS. DESPITE THE CHALLENGING CONDITIONS FOR SOME, THE COMPETITION WAS PLAYED IN GREAT SPIRIT AND ENJOYED BY ALL.

AS THE DAY DREW TO A CLOSE, EIMEAR AND JOE DYNES PLAYED US INTO THE EVENING WITH SOME EXCELLENT MUSIC, SETTING THE PERFECT ATMOSPHERE BEFORE EVERYONE ENJOYED A DELICIOUS BUFFET-STYLE MEAL.

THE CELEBRATIONS CONTINUED WITH DJ TOMMY PROVIDING THE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE EVENING AND ENSURING THE DANCE FLOOR REMAINED BUSY.

A TRULY WONDERFUL WEEKEND, ENJOYED BY ALL.

**THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT**

# COURSE UPDATE



## GREENS REPORT

### **Overview:**

The green keeping team continues to deliver a structured and intensive programme of works across both the golf course and the machinery fleet. The purpose of this report is to give members a clear overview of the work being undertaken and explain why these operations are necessary. It highlights the practical steps being taken to protect course quality, improve playing surfaces, maintain machinery reliability and secure best value for the Club.

Much of this work takes place either early in the day, between periods of play or during carefully selected maintenance windows. While only some operations can be visible to golfers, they are essential to sustaining healthy turf, improving consistency and ensuring the course remains resilient through changing weather and growing conditions.

### **Rolling of Greens**

Rolling is used to improve smoothness, trueness and pace on putting surfaces without relying solely on lower cutting heights. This is an important part of maintaining play ability while protecting plant health. Rolling can help refine the surface after mowing, light maintenance or periods of uneven growth, and it supports a more consistent putting experience for members.

Members are thanked for their patience and understanding when maintenance work is visible on the course. The short-term disruption caused by operations such as tining and top dressing is outweighed by the long-term benefit to the quality, health and enjoyability of the course.

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

Steve Hewlett | Greens Convenor | Kirkistown Castle Golf Club



PHOTO CREDIT: DYLAN CAUGHEY

## VISITORS TO KIRKISTOWN



Throughout the month, we have been lucky to welcome visitors from various countries and visiting golf societies.

The month kicked off with a group from the Isle of Man sailing to dock in Portavogie, before travelling to play 18 holes on our beautiful links course and provided positive feedback on the course condition.

We then had a group of Norwegian golfers come along and enjoy 2 rounds of golf, as well as a wonderful lunch and dinner in Charlie's Bar & Bistro.

A very colourful group from Edenmore Golf Club brought some added colour and atmosphere and they visited on their Lady Captain's away day; a great day was had by all.

Next up was a group of French solicitors, who came in great spirits after having visited some other local courses. The group enjoyed a round of golf and stayed late into the evening enjoying our food and beverage offerings.

**We continue to welcome visitors from all around the world, something we are incredibly proud of.**

# BETH COULTER CORPORATE DAY - A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

We were delighted to host the Beth Coulter Corporate Day, a fantastic event held in support of Beth's journey as she embarks on her professional golfing career and raised funds for the exciting road ahead.

The day was expertly hosted by BBC presenting legend Stephen Watson and featured an outstanding line-up of guest speakers, including Ulster and Irish rugby legend Rory Best, Olympic boxing medalist Aidan Walsh, and North West 200 record holder Alastair Seeley, who entertained guests with their stories and insights throughout the evening.

The event began with breakfast being served before golfers took to the course for a 12:00 noon shotgun start. Blessed with glorious sunshine throughout the day, players enjoyed on-course refreshments while taking part in what proved to be a memorable day of golf.

Live entertainment commenced in the afternoon, followed by dinner at 5:00pm, setting the stage for the evening's highlight – a live auction at 7:00pm. Thanks to the incredible generosity of those in attendance, the auction raised a phenomenal amount towards supporting Beth's professional career.

A special thank you must go to Neill Simpson for his outstanding work in organising the event and for showcasing Kirkistown Castle Golf Club in such a positive light. His efforts helped ensure the day was a tremendous success for everyone involved.

We would like to wish Beth and her family every success as she takes the next exciting step in her golfing journey, and we look forward to following her progress in the professional ranks.



## SPECIAL MENTIONS



### A MONTH OF ACES!

### SEAN HEALY & DECLAN QUIGLEY

It has been a remarkable month at the club, with not one but two holes in one recorded, adding to the one in May. Congratulations to Sean and Declan on achieving every golfer's dream. A hole in one is a truly special moment, combining skill, precision, and perhaps a little bit of luck, but it is certainly an achievement to be celebrated. We are delighted to recognise both Sean and Declan for their fantastic shots and to share in their celebrations.

**Well done, Sean and Declan!**

# INFORMATION REQUESTS

**W E W A N T T O H E A R F R O M Y O U !**

## **125TH ANNIVERSARY**

As we celebrate our club's 125th Anniversary, we're looking for your memories, photographs, stories and memorabilia. Whether you have something to share or simply want to chat with the committee about the celebrations, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact any of the 125 committee members listed below:

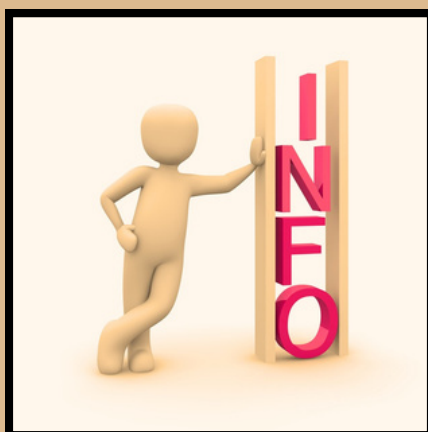
*Mary Gallagher | Vice-Captain, Michael Breen | Lady Vice-Captain, Susan Craig | Vice-President, Jane Compton | Lorraine Coffey | Joan Ditchfield | Alison Bell | Imelda Byers | Gerard Lennon*

## **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Have a story idea, photographs from the club, or something you'd like featured in the newsletter? We welcome contributions from all members. Please contact any Council member or get in touch directly with our Marketing & Communications Convenor, Michael Doran.

## **COURSE STORIES**

Every round has a story! Tell us about your hole-in-one, albatross, eagle or personal best. Just as importantly, we want to hear about the rounds you'd rather forget- the bunker nightmares, unexpected adventures and golfing mishaps that make us all smile. Share your stories with Council and help bring our newsletter to life.



# MONTHLY RECAP IN PHOTOS



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