

Monthly Newsletter

KIRKISTOWN CASTLE GOLF CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2026



The Monthly Rundown

August was another busy, enjoyable and hugely successful month at Kirkistown Castle Golf Club, with plenty happening both on and off the course.

It was a month packed with celebration, competition and community spirit. We were delighted to see Captain Gareth Hodgen host his Captain's Day, followed shortly after by Lady Captain Alison Gowdy's Lady Captain's Day. Both occasions were fantastic days for the club, bringing members together to enjoy their golf, the company and everything our club has to offer.

Our Junior Section also deserves a special mention, with our young golfers excelling on the course throughout the month. Their performances continue to be a real highlight for the club, and it is fantastic to see the next generation of Kirkistown golfers developing and enjoying their game. Away from the golf course, August also saw the launch of our new "Flavours of Friday" evenings, beginning with a fantastic Tapas & Tipples Night. It was great to see members enjoying good food, drinks and plenty of craic in the lounge, and we look forward to building on these evenings in the months ahead.

All in all, August showcased exactly what makes Kirkistown Castle such a special club - great golf, great people and a great social atmosphere.

As we move into September, we hope to see that momentum continue. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the club and make these events such a success.

What to expect?

Clubhouse
Updates

Upcoming
Events

Course Updates

Member
Spotlights

Results



U p c o m i n g E v e n t s

Friday 4th September

*Chilled Fridays - **John McMullan***

Friday 11th September

*Flavours Of Friday - Seafood Night, **A TASTE OF THE SEA***

Sunday 20th September

*Chilled Sundays - **Eimear Dynes***

Saturday 26th September

Music Bingo Night

U p c o m i n g C o m p e t i t i o n s

- Diamond Jubilee Trophy
- Club Professional's Day - Niall Mullen
- Ladies Open - Greensomes
- Richard Ingram Memorial Trophy
- Barbara McCaughey Trophy
- Gogarty Cup
- Medal Winner's Tankard



CAPTAIN'S DAY 2026 - GARETH HODGEN



Competition Winners

Overall Winner - Jim Hodgen 47pts

2nd Place - Alan Carson 44pts

Division One Winner - Samuel Clint 38pts

Division Two Winner - Jeffrey Wilson 41pts

Division Three Winner - David Quee 41pts

Best Gross - Gavin McBride 68 (-2)

Veteran's Prize - Richard McLaurin 41pts

Past Captain's Prize - Eddie Gowdy 36pts

Longest Drive - Michael Doran

Closest To The Pin - Joseph Kelly

Captain's Guest Prize - Sean Lennon &
Noel Fitzsimmons 35pts

Ladies Overall Winner - Susan Morrow 43pts

Ladies 2nd Place - Joan Ditchfield 42pts

Ladies Division One Winner - Lorraine Coffey 40pts

Ladies Division Two Winner - Claire McNally 40pts

Ladies 9 Hole Winner - Carolyn Revie 22pts



COURSE UPDATE



CONVENOR'S REPORT

Whilst the recent rainfall is a welcome sight for all greenkeepers, farmers and gardeners, the dry spell, spanning most of July and early August, has revealed our course's authentic links character: the ball running along firm ground, the wind becoming more influential, and the natural contours playing a bigger role.

Provided the turf remains healthy, these conditions bring out the strategic, traditional qualities of play that make links golf so distinctive.

A links course is the oldest and most traditional style of golf course, and is characterised by:

- Firm, fast-running turf where the ball releases and rolls rather than stopping quickly.
- Natural undulations, humps, hollows and subtle changes in level.
- Sandy, free-draining soil, which helps the course play dry and bouncy.
- Fine grasses such as fescues and bents, rather than lush, heavily watered parkland-style grasses.
- Wind as a major defence, making club selection and shot shaping more important.
- Strategic bunkering, often deep and penal, placed to challenge angles rather than simply punish distance.
- A natural, rugged appearance, with wispy rough, firm fairways, and greens that blend into their surroundings.
- Ground-game golf, where players can run the ball into greens, use contours, and think creatively.

For our Course Manager and Greenkeeping team, the aim in links-style preparation is usually not to make the course look lush and soft, but to make it play as a true links should: firm, fast, fair and running. In practical terms, that means striving to achieve:

- Firmness underfoot, especially on fairways, approaches and greens.
- Consistent, healthy turf without over-watering or over-feeding.
- Dry, resilient playing surfaces that reward well-struck and well-planned shots.
- Good ball roll and natural bounce, so the course's contours influence play.
- Fine grass dominance, encouraging fescue and bent while discouraging coarser, lush growth.
- True but not overly soft greens, allowing putts to run smoothly while still preserving the natural links feel.
- Presented rough and wispy grasses that define holes visually without becoming unfair.
- Sustainable course management, using regulated irrigation, sensible nutrition, aeration, topdressing and careful mowing heights.

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

Steve Hewlett | Greens Convenor | Kirkistown Castle Golf Club

LADY CAPTAIN'S DAY 2026 - ALISON GOWDY



Competition Winners

Overall Winner - Mary B White 43pts

2nd Place - Monica Savage 42pts

Division One Winner - Penny Thornberry 40pts

Division Two Winner - Briege Coyle 41pts

Division Three Winner - Diana Bevan 40pts

9 Hole Winner - Carolyn Revie 20pts

Veteran's Prize - Susan Craig 39pts

Past Lady Captain's Prize - Claire McNally 38pts

Team Captain's Prize - Lorraine Coffey 39pts

Longest Drive - Cynthia Megaw 17th hole

Nearest To The Pin - Jane Compton 11th hole

Nearest To The Line - Briege Coyle 6th hole

Lady Captain's Guest Prize - Gillian Morrow 35pts

Captain's Prize to Gents - Paul McBride 43pts

Novices - Everyone's a winner

SPECIAL MENTIONS



CLUB CHAMPION 2026

ROSS ARTHURS

Congratulations to Ross, coming away with this year's club championship title. With a score of 65 (-5) on day one, Ross held a 2 shot lead heading into day two. A score of 71 (+1) was enough for Ross to take the title this year.

Congratulations Ross, enjoy the car parking space!

JANE ATKINSON | GARRET DYNES | NIALL MULLEN

A very special mention and a huge thank you to Jane, Garrett and Niall for their continued commitment to our Junior Section.

The time, organisation and effort they put in behind the scenes is immense. It can often be a thankless task, but their dedication and enthusiasm never goes unnoticed.

From organising events and competitions to supporting our juniors, both on and off the course, their contribution is helping to create a fantastic experience for the next generation of Kirkistown members.

Thank you, Jane, Garrett and Niall, for your tireless hard work, commitment and dedication. It is very much appreciated by the club and our members.



SPECIAL MENTIONS



H O L E I N O N E

L I Z C H A R L E T O N

A moment of magic on the 11th hole as Liz found the bottom of the cup with one beautiful strike.

Congratulations, Liz - a superb achievement.

ONE SWIFT SWING. PURE PERFECTION.

JUNIOR SIXES VICTORY

On Saturday 29th August, our Sixes team competed in the final game of this season's competition. Competing against teams from the North Down area, Kirkistown managed to come away with the overall victory which is a great achievement against strong opposition.

A fantastic result and one which will stand our Juniors in good stead as they progress in their golfing careers.

Well done to all involved!





SEPTEMBER

2026

KIRKISTOWN CASTLE GOLF CLUB



FRIDAY

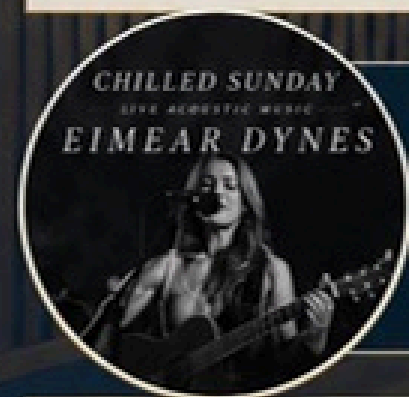
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SEPT

CHILLED FRIDAYS
WITH JOHN MCMULLAN

FLAVOURS OF FRIDAY
SEAFOOD NIGHT
'A TASTE OF THE SEA'

FRIDAY

11
SEPT



SUNDAY

20
SEPT

CHILLED SUNDAYS
WITH EIMEAR DYNES

MUSIC BINGO NIGHT
WITH PRIZES TO BE WON

SATURDAY

26
SEPT



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR



ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE MONTH



DRINKS
PROMOS

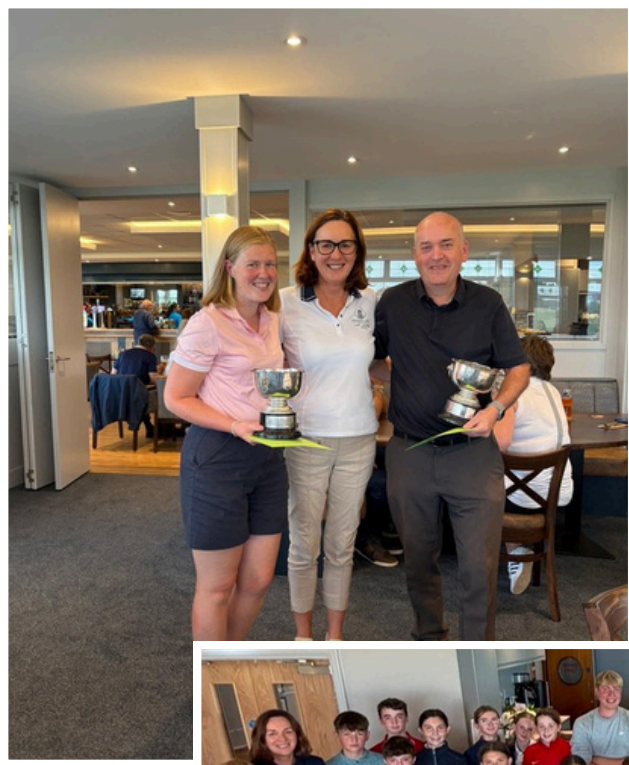


FOOD
PROMOS



WEEKLY
SPECIALS

REA ROSE BOWL & CAPTAINS' PRIZES TO JUNIORS



REA ROSE BOWL MIXED FOURSOMES COMPETITION

Congratulations to Gary Coffey and Katie McKee who claimed victory in this year's mixed foursomes Rea Rose Bowl competition.

In second place, were William and Mandy Hickey.

Well played folks!

Thank you for the members involved in organising this great mixed event.

CAPTAINS' PRIZE TO JUNIORS

Gareth and Alison welcomed our Junior members for their respective "Captains' Prize to Juniors" competitions. The event was very well supported and it is great to see the enthusiasm and commitment from our Junior members. Long may it continue.

HISTORY MADE AT THE WOMEN'S IRISH CHALLENGE

A photograph of a young woman, Beth Coultter, smiling and holding a large, clear glass trophy. She is wearing a white cap with 'PRESIDIO' written on it and a dark blue polo shirt. In the background, the Irish flag is visible against a blue sky with clouds.

BETH COULTER
2026 CHAMPION

On her professional debut, the 22-year old is the first ever Irish female professional golfer to win a title on home soil, winning the Women's Irish Challenge at Malahide Golf Club. From two-time Curtis Cup star, to history maker in her debut tournament as a pro.

A landmark day for Irish women's golf.

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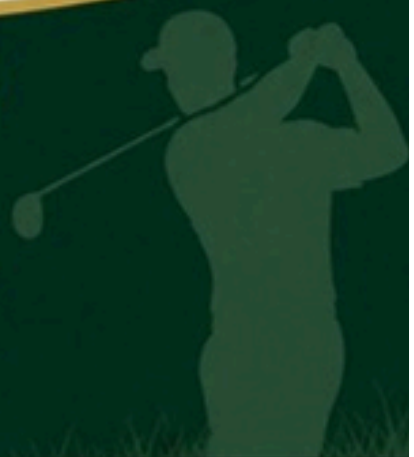


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FOR MORE INFORMATION



MONTHLY RECAP IN PHOTOS



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NEWSLETTER