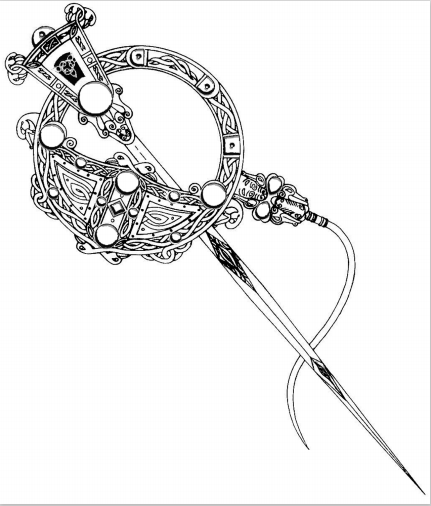
**Royal Tara Golf Club**



**Annual Report & Accounts 2021**

**Royal Tara Golf Club**

**Annual Report & Accounts 2021.**

**Notice of the**

**Annual General Meeting of the Joint Club**

**Notice is hereby given that the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Joint Club will be held**

**using Zoom Video Conferencing**

**at**

**7.30 pm on Wednesday 1st December 2021 for the following purposes:**

1. To approve the minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020.

2. To consider the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021.

3. To elect the Auditors

4. To elect the Officers

5. To elect the Members of the Board of Management

6. To consider and if thought fit to pass the following motion.

**Motion:**

That the 2021 annual subscription rates for Full Members (exclusive of Golf Ireland affiliation fees and levies) shall be: €1068.00

Proposer: Luke Bowden

Seconder: Ian Gavin

7. To transact Any Other Business as is incidental to an Annual General Meeting by permission of the Chairperson.

**Questions to the Meeting:** Because limitations of the Zoom system we will be unable to take live questions on the night.

Please submit on or before 24th November any questions you may have for the meeting to the Hon Secretary at [davebyrnemanagement@gmail.com](mailto:davebyrnemanagement@gmail.com).

A link to the meeting and instructions on joining will be forwarded before the meeting date.

**Any subsequent questions should be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary by E Mail or letter after the meeting. These questions will be answered by way of a general notification to all members.**

**Thank you for your understanding.**

**By order of the Board of Management**

**Dave Byrne**

**Act. Honorary Secretary**

**19th November 2021**

Dear Member,

Nomination for Board of Management in line with Clauses 7.2.3, 7.2.8 and 7.2.9 of the Constitution, I would like to advise that we have 3 positions to be filled on the Board.

House Convenor (1 Position)

Business Development Convenor (2 Positions)

A member who wishes to be nominated for these positions should submit a completed nomination form (attached below) to the Hon. Secretary by Tuesday 23rd November 2021.  
  
  
Dave Byrne

Acting Hon. Secretary  
Royal Tara Golf Club  
  
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~  
  
  
Nomination to Board of Management Joint Club  
  
  
Nominee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
Position / Role \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
  
Proposer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
Seconder \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Management 2021**

Chairman Mr. Tom Byrne

Captain Mr. Seán Brennan

Lady Captain Mrs. Barbara O’Rourke

**Hon. Secretary** Mr. Ray Keogh

Hon. Treasurer Mr. Luke Bowden

Hon. Course Secretary Mr. Mark O'Rourke

**Vice Captains** Mr. Bob Turley & Ms. Regina Lynch

**Act. Hon Secretary** Mr. Dave Byrne

##### Committee

Mr. Tom Heneghan

Mr. Ian Gavin

Ms. Siobhan Kelly

###### Trustees

###### Mr. Paul Brady, Mr. John McGrath, Mrs. Lucia Farrell

**Ladies Committee 2021**

## Lady President Mrs. Maree McGrath

## Lady Captain Mrs. Barbara O’Rourke

## Lady Vice Captain Ms. Regina Lynch

## Hon. Secretary Ms. Anne Randles

## Hon. Treasurer Mrs. Siobhan Carey

## Hon. Competition Secretary Mrs. Marie Foley

## Hon. Handicap Secretary Mrs. Mary Breen

## Committee

## 

## Mrs. Bridget Davis

## Mrs. Kathleen Dillon

## Mrs. Paula Carr

## Mrs. Lil Hennelly

## Mrs. Mary Alice Kelly

## Ms. Siobhan Kelly

## Mrs. Dolores O’Sullivan

## 

**Men’s Committee 2020**

#### President Mr. Liam Lynch

## Captain Mr. Seán Brennan

**Vice-Captain** Mr. Bob Turley

## Hon. Secretary Mr. John Connolly

**Hon. Treasurer** Mr. Luke Bowden

**Hon. Handicap &**

**Competition Secretary**  Mr. John Lyons

**Committee**

Mr. Larry O’Rourke (ex officio)

Mr. Jim Donnelly

Mr. Ian Gavin

Mr. Noel McLoughlin

Mr. Kahal Monerawela

Mr. Brendan Mulvey

Mr. David O'Brien

Mr. Jerry O'Donoghue

Mr. Bill Slattery

**Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting of the**

**Joint Club of Royal Tara Golf Club**

**Held via Zoom Professional Conferencing on 2nd December 2020.**

Chairman Capt. Sean Brennan welcomed all and outlined the Zoom process and implications for the holding of the AGM. (Voting Process and Questions submitted to be answered under AOB)

The Chairman recalled those Members who had passed away during the year:

*Ray Byrne, Tom Coone, John Curtis, May Drea, Jerry Fitzpatrick, Frank Gileece, Joe Hickey,*

*Herbie Hughes, Raymond Kelly, Gertie Loughran, Nuala Loughran, Dolores McCooey,*

*John Mulvihill, Leo Murphy, Liam Murphy, Louis Murray, Charlie O’Shaughnessy, Adam Whiston.*

In his opening address he thanked the long-standing members of Royal Tara Golf Club for their loyalty and support during a very difficult year. He welcomed the many new members who joined throughout the year and expressed a wish that they would continue to enjoy their experience throughout 2021. He recalled the key events that took place in 2020 (Captains Drive -in, Captains Day and Presidents Day for New Members) and looked forward to a more active social calendar for 2021.

**1. To approve the Minutes of the 19th AGM held on the Wednesday 4th December 2019**

The minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Joint Club were taken as read and on the proposal of Lady Capt. Barbara O’Rourke and seconded by Capt. Sean Brennan were put to the members and approved by Poll.

**2. To consider the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020.**

As there were no questions relating to the Annual Report it was taken as read.

Capt. Sean Brennan asked the Hon Treasurer, Mrs. Theresa Brennan, to present her report on the Accounts.

Hon. Treasurer Theresa gave a brief presentation of the income streams and main expenditures and reported that, in spite of the impact of Covid 19 on the income side, (Bar down €60k, Green fees down €57k) the Profit and Loss Account showed an excess of income over expenditure of €8k for the year ending 31st August 2020. She stated that this was due mainly to the subscriptions from the influx of new members €30k, the Covid Wage Subsidy €38k and Grant Amortisation €12k. Sundry income is down €15k. resulting from the non-retention of unused funds from Restaurant Cards in 2019 and no Service Charges from Restaurant. As it has been agreed that there will be no transfer of unused members Bar and Restaurant funds in 2020, this will impact on next year’s accounts. She stated that although the 200 Club Draw contributed €7k. in 2020, it was disappointing that out of 800 members only 101 joined the draw. She stated that as Bar Sales continue to decline and Bar contribution was down €36k, the future viability of the Bar was something that required careful consideration in 2021.

Overall, we had a net increase of 121 new members and the full impact of this increase will be realised in 2021 as most joined after first lock down (June). She pointed out that, 51 of the new members recruited were under 35 and that this had a positive impact on the age profile of the club. She stressed that retention of these new members would be critical for the survival of Royal Tara into the future.

She stressed that, in a very difficult year, we still managed to Purchase new machinery (184k) supported by Capital Grant €60k and spend a further €24k on kitchen upgrade.

In conclusion Theresa outlined the challenges and plans needed to face into 2021.

Finally, she thanked the Trustees, Officers and Board Members over the past 4 years for their support, in particular Luke Bowden and the Finance Committee. She also wished incoming treasurer Mr. Paul Algar the very best of luck in his new role.

The Hon. Treasurer's report was, on the proposal of Mr. Tom Byrne and seconded by Mr Mark O’Rourke put to the members and approved by Poll.

Chairman Sean thanked Hon. Treasurer Theresa for her efforts and excellent work as Hon. Treasurer over the past 3 years and previously as Chair of the Strategic Committee and wished her well in her retirement from her role as Hon. Treasurer.

**3. Election of Auditors**

On the proposal of Mrs. Theresa Brennan and seconded by Lady Vice Capt. Regina Lynch, Messrs S. P. Muldoon & Co. were retained as auditors for the coming year by way of members Poll.

4. **Election of Officers:**

As there were no other candidates proposed the following candidate were deemed elected.

On the proposal of Mr. Ray Keogh and seconded by Mr. Mark O’ Rourke, Mr. Tom Byrne was re-elected Chairman of the Board of Management.

On the proposal of Mr. Tom Heneghan and seconded by Mr. Michael Killeen, Mr. Ray Keogh was re-elected Honorary Secretary.

On the proposal of Mr. Sean Brennan and seconded by Mr. Tom Byrne, Mr. Paul Algar was elected Honorary Treasurer.

On the proposal of Mr. Frank Gleeson and seconded by Mr. Michael Killeen, Mr. Mark O'Rourke was re-elected Honorary Course Secretary.

**5. Election of Trustee:**

In paying tribute to the outgoing Trustee Mr Denis Smyth, Chairman Sean recalled the long and dedicated service that Denis had given to Royal Tara Golf Club including his terms as Captain and President and his wise council down through the years as the ‘Go To’ person for all things custom, practice and advice. He wished Denis and Brenda a long and happy retirement.

As there was no other candidate proposed Mrs Lucia Farrell was elected Trustee of Royal Tara Golf Club on the proposal of Tom Byrne and seconded by Ray Keogh.

**6. Election of Members of the Board of Management**

As there were no other candidates proposed, the following candidates were deemed elected:

House Convenor:

On the proposal of Mr. Mark O’Rourke and seconded by Lady Vice Capt. Regina Lynch, Mr. Tom Heneghan was re-elected as House Convenor.

Business Development Convenor (2 Positions)

On the proposal of Lady Capt**.** Barbara O’Rourkeand seconded by Vice Lady Capt. Regina Lynch, Ms. Siobhan Kelly was elected to the Board.

On the proposal of Frank Gleesonand seconded **by** Michael Killeen, Mr Ian Gavin was elected to the Board

Chairman Sean thanked the outgoing Business Development Convenors for their service and commitment to Royal Tara. Mr. Michael Killeen server for 6 years (4+2) on the Board. Regarded as a ‘Utility Player’ he was involved in recent years on the Business Development Committee having played a part in the Marketing side of Royal Tara previously. Mr. Frank Gleeson served 4 years on the Board, recently heading up the Business Development Committee and previously as Catering Liaison to the Board.

**7. A.O.B**

We received one question under A.O B submitted by Mrs Shirley Lynch under the topic of ‘The importance of Social Media in promoting our club and facility’ she asked:

Q. (a) Who is managing the Social Media Accounts of Royal Tara?

(b) Are all the comments and posts those of an individual or of a Social Committee?

In addressing the question Chairman Sean Stated that:

The Facebook Account was initially set up by Dr. Declan Bedford and taken over by Captain Sean.

Currently we have 1468 followers and 2255 people currently. The juvenile Section is managed by Mrs Lucia Farrell.

Our Twitter Account is managed by Mr. Tom Halpin. Currently we have 657 followers.

Comments therefore are those of Captain Sean, Tom Halpin and Mrs. Lucia Farrell.

Commenting further, Chairman of the Board of Management Mr. Tom Byrne stated that the Strategic Plan had identified the need to develop a Communication Policy and that the process had begun in early 2020, However, as Covid 19 impacted on the ability to hold meetings, this process had

Slowed somewhat, A Draft document was prepared, and it was hoped to progress this early as possible in 2021.

As there was no other item on the agenda, Chairman Sean called on Lady Capt. Barbara O’Rourke to close the 20th Annual General meeting of Royal Tara Golf Club.

In her closing address Lady Capt. Barbara recalled the many enjoyable events held throughout a very difficult year and thanked the staff and members for their loyalty and support during 2020. In conclusion she wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Capt. Sean Brennan Ray Keogh**

**Chairperson**  **Hon. Secretary**

**Hon. Secretary’s Report 2021**

**Introduction:**

It is unusual, if not unique, that the annual Royal Tara Golf Club report is signed off by two Secretaries. I was approached in October by some members of the Board of Management, advised of the special circumstances, and asked to act as Secretary till the year end. I accepted and with Ray Keogh’s guidance stepped into the role of acting Honorary Secretary. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge Ray Keogh’s significant contribution to Royal Tara Golf Club in his capacity of Honorary Secretary and wish him a speedy recovery. I thank Ray for his patience and guidance to allow me to undertake this role within the Club.

The Government guidelines dictated what we could and could not do in relation to playing golf, service in bar and catering. We were closed from the 1st January and only reopened our golf course, with restrictions, on Mon 26th of April. Eventually we were back playing competitive golf from the 7th of June.

Our bar and catering facilities also opened for outdoor service and takeaway on the 7th of June. Under the watchful eye of our House Convener, Tom Heneghan, gazeboes and additional tables and chairs were provided and set up in the courtyard area. A near Mediterranean, alfresco setting, gave us the platform to enjoy many a sunny afternoon and evening in good, socially distanced, company. Fergus in the bar and our caterers, under the guidance of Sinead, rose to the challenge and provided us with fantastic service and really great food. Many thanks to Fergus and our caterers led by Sinead for looking after us so well. Special thanks to Honorary Secretary Ray Keogh, our Captains’ Sean Brennan and Barbara O’Rourke and Competition Secretaries John Lyon and Marie Foley for keeping us fully informed of the ever changing guidelines and restrictions through BRS, e-mail and social media.

A very special note of thanks to our President Liam Lynch for his very generous sponsorship of the magnificent clock located beside our first tee. This clock brings a fantastic feature to our Club and already has been used as a backdrop for team and visitor photographs. Very many thanks Liam.

**Notable Club Events:**

Lady Captain Barbara held a very successful presentation lunch, in the courtyard, on the 24th of July in celebration of her Captain’s prize day. The afternoon was extremely well supported and Lady Captain Barbara was applauded in recognition of her great presence and leadership over a difficult two years.

President Liam’s Prize giving was held on the 4th of August. Due and proper recognition was shown to President Liam for his unstinting service to Royal Tara and as a great ambassador for our club on the inter club competitive front.

Captain Seán’s Prize was held on the 14th of August. Seán’s plans were slightly disrupted.

The plan was for the qualifying round scores to carry over to a final round. Unfortunately severe weather put paid to the qualifying round but, thankfully, didn’t dampen the enthusiastic reception given to Seán on the night of his prize giving.

The competition for President Maree McGrath’s Prize was held on Saturday 4th September.  
The presentation of President Maree’s Prize was held the next day on Sunday 5th September, at 7pm in the Clubhouse. Maree’s dedication and service to Royal Tara was duly recognised by the Ladies committee and the attendance.

**InterClub Success:**

A terrific year for Royal Tara Golf Club: Four pennants:

Granard Cup: All Ireland qualifiers, Leinster

The Intermediate Ladies Team: All Ireland Bronze Medal Winners and Leinster North Winners.

The Irish Mixed Foursomes Team: All Ireland Bronze Medal Winners and Leinster North Winners.

The North Leinster Mixed Team: Outright Winners

**Finance:**

The financial results for the year show a surplus of income over expenditure of €166,505.

Membership subscriptions benefitted from the influx of new members in 2020. Because the membership year is different from the financial year it is normal for the change in member numbers to be reflected in the financials for the following year so our membership income was €90,000 greater than prior year.

Because of the closure of the course due to Covid19 from the end of December 2020 and with no indication of when we would reopen there was great uncertainty about the Club’s revenue streams. This uncertainty allowed us to avail of Government wages subsidies totalling €52,248. There were other supports sponsored by Government also such as various reopening grants and a Golf Ireland grant which totalled €51,305.

Interestingly because of the closure of the clubhouse for many months our Clubhouse running costs were reduced by approx. €20,000.

On behalf of the Board of Management I would like to thank the Men’s and Ladies’ Clubs who as usual made a significant contribution to the finances of the Club. Thanks also to our sponsors for their support.

**Membership:**

There has been a slight increase in our full membership numbers, 5 to be exact. Our over 70’s membership has declined by 6 and our over 75’s has increased by 7. Our student members have decreased by 10. The real positive has been the increase in our juvenile numbers by 62.

The average number of juvenile members in clubs across the country is 65. This will serve us well in the future.

**Course Report:**

Despite yet another turbulent year our Course Superintendent Jim McIlroy and his staff continued to work tirelessly to maintain the quality of our golf course.

The early part of the year was spent working on our Tree Thinning Programme with a significant amount of pruning carried out and several trees prudently removed to allow other more dominant trees to flourish. New trees were also strategically planted.

During the winter months drainage works were carried out onseveral greenside bunkers with the sand being subsequently replaced with a better-quality sand. Jim and the team also carried out extensive drainage works to a number of areas on the course that required attention.

Prior to the re-opening of our golf course the Practice Facility received an upgrade with a new, high quality, full length practice mat. Then later in the year, due to the popularity of the facility our old ball machine was not fit to cater for the demand on range balls and so a new machine was purchased with a greater ball capacity and a contactless payment system.

Certain areas of our course were purposely left uncut to create natural meadow areas where wildflowers will bloom throughout the pollinator season. We hope to add to our green credentials in the coming years with the inclusion of further meadow areas.

Later in the year our course machinery fleet received a much-needed boost with the purchase of a new utility tractor, Greens Iron and Leaf Collector.

At different stages of the year Jim and his team carried out the process of over-seeding our greens and fairways. As explained earlier in the year the over-seeding process is all-important to the future proofing of our course.

Once again, the sanding of our fairways and tee-boxes was carried out. This process is essential in order to firm up ground surface which in turn aids in improving playing conditions as a whole in particular during the winter months.

Finally, the new men’s tee-box is now ready to be utilised on the 5th Hole of the Bellinter Course meaning the hole will now play as a par 5 thus bringing the par of the course back to 35. The addition of this par 5 will hopefully bring a whole new dynamic to the Bellinter Course.

**Business Development Update 2021**

A quiet year given Covid and restrictions so we were reluctant to approach businesses, hopefully this will change next year.

Eighteen signs were erected in Cluide and Tara Course and fourteen sponsorships sold.

Currently working on the Bellinter Nine and we will have them ready for early 2022.

With the continuing support and management of Michael Killeen, John Connolly and the Business development Team they had planned to restart the 200 Club Draw in March 2021 but Covid 19 restrictions delayed their plans for a further 3 months.

The 200 Club recommenced the Draw in June 2021 when we held the 1st draw as an outdoor event after the Friday mixed. With the lifting of restrictions, we have been able to hold the monthly draws in the club house. With generous support from members we currently have 100 balls in the draw each month.

The team continues to promote the draw as it supports the development of junior golf and course maintenance.

All the time, but especially during the Covid-19 stay-at-home order, it was important to keep our members engaged in the club. Luckily, we live in a digital age, making it easy to stay connected.

This year we reactivated our social media platforms via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

This has allowed us to increase our communication and interaction with members, local business, national and international golfing audiences. These platforms along with Club Net have allowed us to update members live during our successful year on the course, capturing the winning putts for our teams, promoting our course and amazing images of Major prize winners of 2021.

Looking forward, the short term/long term objectives of the Club’s business development agenda are being reviewed in light of the change in revenue mix brought about by the pandemic over the past two years.

**House Report:**

Our Club has survived over the years on the dedication of our volunteers, who when called upon, deliver exceptional, service to our Club. These volunteers are too numerous to mention individually. It suffices to say that they are the usual reliable band of members.

Our front hall, Lobby, stairwell, landing and office received a fresh coat of paint and with some new lighting has enhanced and refreshed these areas of our Club House.

Ducting and cabling for President Liam’s clock at our first tee was provided.

Outdoor furniture and gazebos were purchased and erected to facilitate outdoor dining..

Ongoing cleanup days kept our plants and shrubs looking well, again with the help of our usual volunteers.

Toilets on the way to the 1st tee on the Red (Tara) received an overdue facelift. Woodwork was repainted and new flooring and lighting have been fitted.

Many thanks to our wonderful teams of volunteers. A very special note of thanks to Bill Slattery, who, on a daily basis, carries out necessary housekeeping work on our behalf.

**Junior Golf:**

Junior Golf had a very busy and enjoyable year, we started after lockdown in May with coaching for over 100 juniors and finished with an October league. We introduced a new app Spond to help us communicate with parents and arrange competitions and other events. Also we used on-online payment system SumUp for competitions fees and other fees. We had over 30 parents Garda vetted and revised and extended some of our child protection policies. We also brought in a club rental scheme. We have 240 junior members, 65 is the average number of junior members per club in Ireland. We had a very successful junior golf fundraising classic in August and finished off the summer with a BBQ party and prize giving. We were very proud when one of our junior members Hannah Guerin was capped for Ireland at u16 level against the Netherlands in August, only the second member of our club in its 115 year history to attain such an honour. The other, of course, was our Club Professional John Byrne. Thanks to everyone who helped with junior golf this year. Thanks to all our sponsors.

**Conclusion:**

I would like to thank the Chairman, Officers, Trustees and members of the Board of Management for their support and patience during my introductory period to the Board.

The Men’s and Ladies Clubs deserve special mention for providing us with a comprehensive programme of golf throughout the year.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the members, Declan and Anna for their dedication and support to the members, the Men’s Club, the Ladies Club and the Board of Management.

Their attention to detail, dealing daily member queries and new member applications goes unseen by the majority of members.

I would also like to thank our Professional Mr. John Byrne for his support and his almost daily promotion of Royal Tara on social media. His activities promote the profile of our Club and increase footfall and green fees. His assistants Pat and Stephen have moved on during the year to progress their careers. We wish them well. A new professional, with vast teaching experience, Emmanuel Riblet, joined John on the 19th of August. Emmanuel has already made his mark with our junior golfers and will no doubt enhance the skills of our senior golfers over the coming years.

To Jim McElroy and his staff, I would like to express on behalf of the Management and Members of Royal Tara Golf Club their thanks and appreciation for the magnificent presentation of our course during the year, particularly the flexibility shown in adjusting their work schedules to accommodate the restrictions imposed by Covid 19.

For Capt. Seán, Lady Capt. Barbara, President Liam and Lady President Maree, 2021 proved to be another challenging year. They individually and collectively contributed greatly to the wellbeing of our Club. Thank you, Captains and Presidents.

**Because of the magnificent support of our members and despite the challenges we faced with the pandemic the Club is in a much better place now from a golf and financial perspective. As a Club we are fortunate to have such great member’s support.**

The Board of Management are pleased to announce that members smart card balances for bar and catering will be carried over into 2022.

I wish you all health and happiness for the coming festive season and good golfing for 2022. Finally, on behalf of Ray and myself, I would like to thank the members for their support, encouragement and courtesy afforded to the office of Honorary Secretary throughout the year.

Dave Byrne Ray Keogh

Acting Honorary Secretary Honorary Secretary

**Annual Report 2021 – Ladies Club**

**Hon. Secretary’s Report 2021**

Looking back, 2021 was a year of sunshine, vaccinations, renewed friendships and outdoor dining and, thankfully, un-interrupted golf once the courses reopened on 29th April. The year itself marked a number of firsts – starting with the re-election of both Captains for a second term and prolongations of the Vice-Captains’ terms of office. The combined leadership and experience of Captain Barbara O’Rourke and Vice-Captain Regina Lynch brought great stability to the club at the start of a second year of covid-induced uncertainty.

The delayed start to the year gave some of us time to get our heads around another first - the new World Handicap System. 2021 was also a first for Golf Ireland, the amalgamated golfing union for all golfers. The emphasis of the new golfing body on gender equality and the promotion of women’s golf is to be welcomed. The club’s ratification of the Women in Golf Charter and the appointment of Lucia Farrell as the first female trustee are significant milestones in the drive for Royal Tara Golf Club to be a leader in intergenerational golf and gender equality.

Given covid related restrictions on group and indoors events, the 2021 Social Calendar was relatively bare. A highlight of the year was Captain Barbara O’Rourke’s garden-fete themed lunch and prize giving, held in glorious July sunshine, one of the abiding memories of the year. The club also hosted a very successful Play in Pink charity day raising €2,220 for Breast Cancer Research, generously sponsored by Therese Nolan and Ramona Mulligan.

Holding all four Major competitions in a truncated and busy golfing season was no mean achievement given the enduring threat throughout the year of a course closure due to the pandemic. Huge acknowledgement must go to the Hon. Competition Secretary Marie Foley who managed to run a full fixtures year in a challenging year.

The Winners of the **4 Majors** in 2021 in chronological order were:

**President Liam Lynch’s Prize**: Majella O’Brien (39) 42 pts

**Captain Barbara O’Rourke’s Prize**: Karen Collins (28) 135 nett

**Captain Sean Brennan’s Prize**: Ciara O’Donoghue (23) 42 pts

**President Maree McGrath’s Prize**: Karen Canavan (30) 43pts

The Winners of the **Medals** were:

May – Catherine Colgan, presented by Jane Hughes

June – Breda McGuinness, presented by Marie Tooher

August – Sarah Byrne, presented by Ramona Mulligan

September - Siobhan Greally, presented by Brid Cosgrove

There were two notable **Holes in One** during the year:

* Mary Colgan (1 July 2021 7th hole Bellinter 9)
* Marie Nolan (8th August 2021 4th hole Tara 9)

And the results of the **Matchplay Competitions** were:

**Single Match Play Winner**: Ciara O’Donoghue

Runner Up: Theresa Brennan

**Fourball Match Play Winners**: Marie Foley and Teresa Maguire

Runners Up: Karen Canavan and Lavinia Lynch

On the external front, the following members were successful in Club Qualifiers and went on to represent Royal Tara G.C.:

**Breffni Shield**: Liz Turley & Dolores Davis and Teresa Maguire & Kathryn Walley

**PGA Tankard**: Ann Clarke-Doggett

**Granard Cup:** Theresa Brennan and Ruth Kerrigan

**Australian Spoons**: Nett: Siobhan Magee and Mary Power

Gross: Marian Cleary and Niamh Carroll

Congratulations to Theresa Brennan and Ruth Kerrigan on winning the Granard Cup regional final in Millicent G.C. and for representing Royal Tara at the National Final in Balbriggan G.C. in October. Congratulations also to Marian Cleary and Niamh Carroll for qualifying for the All-Ireland Finals of the Australian Spoons.

Royal Tara’s 2019 ILGU Silver and Bronze Medal winners, Breda McGuinness and Ruth Kerrigan respectively, qualified to play in the 2021 regional finals and congratulations to Ruth who won her Bronze Medal Regional Final in Blackbush on 30th August with a nett 66 and represented Royal Tara at the National Bronze Medal Final in Headfort G.C. in October.

On the interclub front, the Breffni Shield Final held in Royal Tara in September was won by Virginia G.C..

Inter-club success was undoubtedly a theme of 2021. Our team managers were:

Senior Cup & Senior Foursomes Lucia Farrell

Junior Cup Theresa Brennan

Intermediate Cup: Margaret Sheridan

Minor Cup: Marie Donnelly

Challenge Cup (28-36): Alice Collier and Sandra Collins

Junior Foursomes (15-30): Jane Hughes

Irish Mixed Foursomes: Lucia Farrell and Ray Reynolds

Revive Active 4-ball: Liz Turley

North Leinster Mixed: Deirdre Byrne and Dave Byrne

Royal Tara’s fantastic achievement over the last few years in bringing on a number of our junior members enabled us to field a Senior Cup team, proudly managed by Lucia Farrell – another first in a long time. It was, however, the success of our Intermediate Cup team, managed by Margaret Sheridan, our Irish Mixed Foursomes team, managed by Lucia Farrell and Ray Reynolds and our North Leinster Mixed team, managed by Deirdre and Dave Byrne, who made 2021 a year like no other.

Both the Intermediate Cup and Irish Mixed teams are 2021 North Leinster Champions. Both teams progressed to the All Ireland Semi Finals and are All Ireland Bronze medallists. Hot on their heels, our North Leinster Mixed beat Headfort G.C. in the final and are worthy Champions. Needless to say, to finish the year with one pennant and champion team is a brilliant achievement: to win four is monumental and a fitting tribute to the efforts of our two Club Captains and to the dedication and contribution they have made to Royal Tara over the last two challenging years. A particular mention should also go to our two Presidents and supreme Club Ambassadors, Maree McGrath and Liam Lynch for the support they gave to all club teams.

Success however was not just noted by the adult members of the club. Our Junior Golf had a very busy, enjoyable and successful year. We have 240 junior members in Royal Tara, significantly more than the national average of 65. The introduction of new apps proved extremely helpful in organising competitions and other events. Over 30 parents were Garda-vetted and the Junior Committee revised and extended its child protection policies. A club rental scheme was also introduced during the year.

Our Junior girls continue to hit new heights. The club is immensely proud of Hannah Guerin who was capped for Ireland at u16 level against the Netherlands in August. Hannah also won the U15 Silver Salver in Seapoint in September and finished 2nd in the Girls Golf Ireland Order of Merit. Niamh Carroll also had a great year, winning the best nett at the Irish Girls Close Championship 2021 (Dorothy Glendenning Salver, last won by Alice Davis in 2003) and qualifying for the Girls Junior Medal national final in October.

None of these achievements occur by accident so, on behalf of Captain Barbara, can I extend a sincere word of thanks to our Junior Convenor Gary Clynch, his able assistant Ruth Kerrigan and to all the parents and members of the Junior Committee for all their hard work and dedication to Junior Golf during the year.

Success breeds success and we were delighted to accept 19 women into Royal Tara’s Get into Golf Programme in 2021. A concerted recruitment drive will be undertaken to grow numbers further in 2022.

As we all know, there is a broad swath of people, both members and staff, who work tirelessly on our behalf. A special word of thanks to the Board of Management, and in particular the Hon Secretary Ray Keogh, to the Men’s Committee, to Declan and Anna in the Office, to Fergus, Sinead and the bar and restaurant teams, to Jim and his Greenkeepers team and to John and his team in the Proshop.

A sincere thank you once again to Mary and Jim Bannon for their fabulous planters around the Clubhouse and to Mary-Alice Kelly for her dedication in ensuring the Club House always has the most beautiful floral arrangements. The beauty of Royal Tara was captured numerous times during the year on our Twitter and Instagram accounts, which combined have over 1200 followers. Thanks to Siobhan Kelly and Tom Halpin for their entertaining posts and for building Royal Tara’s social media profile.

Once again, the Women’s Committee, led by President Maree and Captain Barbara and all volunteers are commended for all their hard work and commitment to Royal Tara and its members. Royal Tara is a members’ club and at no time has this been more evident. From the work of the Committee and those maintaining the club house and its surrounds, to the volunteers who worked with the juniors and get into golf members, to the team players and army of supporters who followed them throughout the year, and to our social media platforms, thank you for making 2021 so memorable.

Anne Randles - Hon. Secretary – Women’s Club

**Annual Report 2021 - Men’s Club.**

We started 2021 in much the same way as we left 2020 with Covid having a significant impact upon our golfing activities.

However it must be acknowledged that the layoff allowed our Course Superintendant Jim McElroy and his team to continue in 2021 the great work that they had been doing in 2020 and that has given us a 27 hole golf course that is in magnificent condition and that we can be truely proud of.

Having re-opened at the end of springtime we have been able to have a great summer of golf, both competitive and casual.

The weather was kind to us and it was great to see the full or nearly full timesheets all through the week.

We should also recognise the contribution of Sinead and her team in the restaurant and Fergus in the Bar who kept us “fed and watered” over the golfing season and beyond.

Finally we should acknowledge the drive and enthusiasm of both President Liam and Captain Sean over the past 2 years of an interrupted and challenging time in office and thank them for their leadership.

**Competition & Handicap Report.**

On the 12th of May 2021, competition golf returned following on from Covid 19 restrictions.

Strict guidelines had to be adhered to at all times such as:

* Pins to remain in the cup
* No rakes in bunkers.
* Players to mark their own score.

The new **World Handicap System** launched in November 2020 but due to Covid19, no golf was permitted for the early part of the year.

The monitoring the new WHS really only commenced from the re-introduction of competition golf on the 12th of May.

**Competition Formats**

Wednesday – 2 Man Team (Semi Open)

24 weeks (2764 players entered – average 111 players per week)

Thursdays – Singles Stableford (Open Competition)

**Weekend Competitions**

In the main the weekend competition format was singles stableford. We held a small number of team events. We would have played more but we needed to play as many single competitions to ensure members had 20 scores on their golf Ireland system (20 scores was the number outlined for a member to hold an accurate World Handicap Index).

**Notable Competitions**

Monthly Medals (June to September)

Hamper Series (4 x Singles, 1 x Team, 1 x Mixed Team)

**Captains Prize**

Captain Seán Brennan had his Captains Prize on the 14th of August.

The plan was for the qualifying round scores to carry over to the Captains Day but due to severe weather the first qualifying day was cancelled, and so Captains day was a single round competition played on the Bellinter & Tara course.

The winner of the 2021 Captains Prize was Michael Clarke

**President Liam’s Prize** was held on 31st July and was won by David Maher.

Following on from a break in 2020 we re-introduced a couple of other competitions for 2021

**Winter League** (currently in play)

Run over 5 weeks – best 4 rounds will count toward qualification for final day.

Top 72 players will qualify for final round on 11th of December.

**Golfer of the Year**

Congratulations to Tom Boland who was the 2021 Golfer of the Year

Golfer of the year was calculated from the best 4 scores from all the medals and the President’s prize.

**Competition Prize Allocation**

The aim is to have consistent prizes allocated for each competition.

Many thanks to all our sponsors through-out the year, your continued support is very much appreciated from all of us at the Club.

**Handicap Review**

Since the 12th of May 2021

60 new member handicaps were allocated.

Handicap indexes were allocated in accordance with guidelines set out by Golf Ireland & our Handicap committee.

When the new WHS was introduced on the 2nd of November 2020, a significant number of members handicap index allocated were too high for their ability. A full review took place to ensure the handicap indices where fair for the member & the field in competition.

The 2021 Handicap Review took place on Thursday 4th of November. Each member who had their handicap index amended has been contacted & subsequent changes will be sent to Golf Ireland for approval.

**Thank you** to all members of the Club for all their help & support over the past year - without their ongoing support we could not do what we do.

**Inter Club Report**

For 2021 Golf Ireland have divided the country into eight Regions – Royal Tara GC are in Leinster North.

We entered nine Golf Ireland Competitions - Senior Cup, Barton Shield, Irish Mixed Foursomes, Junior Cup, Barton Cup, Jimmy Bruen Shield, Provincial Towns Cup, Pierce Purcell Shield and the All Ireland Fourball.

All teams played well and some fell in rounds 1 and 2.

The Junior Cup team suffered a narrow defeat in the North Leinster Quarter Final.

The All Ireland Fourball also suffered a narrow defeat in their North Leinster Quarter Final.

The Irish Mixed Foursomes had a number of comprehensive victories and beat Sutton GC in the North Leinster Final.

They then took their place in the All Ireland Final Series of matches in Strandhill GC.

They defeated Letterkenny GC in the All Ireland Quarter Final, unfortunately they lost a very tight match against Rockmount GC in the All Ireland Semi Final.

The team are North Leinster Champions and All Ireland Bronze Medal Winners.

We also entered The North Leinster Mixed Foursomes (run by Headfort GC) and the Walker Cup (run by Co Meath GC). The Walker Cup team finished in second place.

North Leinster Mixed Foursomes team won all their matches to progress to the Final where they played our local rivals Headfort GC, the first match was played in Royal Tara where we took a 4/1 lead into the second round of matches. In the second round, our teams held their nerve to win the competition - 2021 Champions.

**Junior Golf**

Junior Golf had a very busy and enjoyable year. Activities started in May with coaching for over 100 juniors and finished with an October league. A new App, Spond, was introduced to help communicate with parents and arrange competitions and other events, and an on-online payment system, SumUp, was used for junior competitions fees etc. In excess of 30 parents were Garda vetted and a number of child protection policies were reviewed and updated. A club rental scheme was introduced to assist some juniors in defraying start up costs.

Junior competitions employed a mix of 3/6/9/18 hole events throughout the season. A very successful junior golf fundraising classic took place in August and activities concluded with a BBQ party and prize giving.

The Club competed in the boys under 15 interclub going out in the 3rd round, and also in the Golf Sixes.

There are presently 240 junior members in the club, approximately 70% of whom are boys.

The Committee wish to express our sincere thanks to Gary Clynch and Ruth Kerrigan for the endless hours they commit to fostering Junior golf within our Club.cleardot

**Fundraising & Sponsorship**

The Men's Committee wish to sincerely thank all those sponsors who continued to support the Club during 2021.

The 200 Club Draw continued through 2021 albeit with some interruption during the lockdown period.

We should also recognise the contribution of Sinead and her team in the restaurant and Fergus in the Bar who kept us “fed and watered” over the golfing season and beyond.

Finally we should acknowledge the drive and enthusiasm of both President Liam and Captain Sean over the past 2 years of an interrupted and challenging time in office and thank them for their leadership.

John Connolly

Hon. Secretary Men’s Club