

## Club Catering

The Governing Body recently confirmed the appointment of our new caterers, Michael O'Dwyer and John Ryan. Both Michael and John bring a wealth of experience and are very well qualified to make a success of their new role.

Michael has been in the catering service for twenty years and comes to us with the reputation for professionalism and excellence. John has been in the bar/hotel/catering business since 1986, and has vast experience of all aspects of the hotel and catering industry.

A competent catering service is essential in a modern and progressive golf club and we ask and encourage all our members, their families and friends to support Michael and John in their new venture.

## Membership Update

In November 2008 and January 2009, you approved proposals put forward by the Governing Body in relation to amending the Articles of Association, and new membership categories were introduced.

For a Club to attract new members, visitors and societies, it is a prerequisite that it be vibrant and competitive, not alone locally but also in the marketplace. As you know, we have taken significant steps to attract new members in this, our Centenary Year. To date in 2009 over 70 new members have been welcomed into the Club. In addition, the revamping of our website and other proposed marketing initiatives will ensure that our Club is competitive.

## Newsletter Rules Information - Water Hazards

In this edition we have decided to address the issue of Water Hazards as this is a relatively new phenomenon for us in Thurles.

What to know about Water Hazards:

- Yellow Stakes define a Water Hazard and Red Stakes define a Lateral Water Hazard.
- A Ball is in the Hazard when any part of it touches the Hazard.
- The Margins of the Hazard extend upwards and downwards, so anything above the Hazard, e.g. a bridge, is in the Hazard.

What are your options when a Ball is in the Hazard?

- Play the Ball out of the Hazard, without grounding the club.
- For Yellow or Red Stakes play from where the last shot was played from, under penalty of one stroke.
- For Yellow or Red Stakes, under penalty of one stroke, drop a ball behind the Hazard, keeping the point where it last crossed the Hazard between you and the pin.
- For Red Stakes Only, under penalty of one stroke, drop a ball within 2 club lengths from where the ball last crossed the Hazard and not nearer the hole.

Questions:

1. What do I do if my ball lands on the bridge on the 4th Hole in Thurles?

As the bridge lies over the Hazard it is part of the Hazard. You may play the ball as it lies or you may take a penalty drop following the Water Hazard rules.

2. If I am playing the ball from the bridge can I ground my club?

Yes, because the ball is lying on an Immovable Obstruction.

3. I hit my tee shot on the 3rd Hole in Thurles. It hits the rocks and goes into the water. Can I drop my ball at the far side of the Hazard?

No. The rocks are in the Hazard. Therefore the ball last crossed the hazard from the tee side and must be played from the tee box again or from the tee box side of the Hazard.



# Thurles Golf Club

## Newsletter

Issue 1: April 2009

### Message from John D. Maher, President 2009

As President of Thurles Golf Club in our Centenary Year I hope you will enjoy this first edition of our Newsletter. This Newsletter has come to fruition following the suggestions at the AGM to improve communication amongst members. I hope that this initiative will keep you informed about all aspects of the Club, especially about special events during this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P.R. sub-committee for putting this Newsletter together and I wish you all a most enjoyable and successful year both on and off the golf course.

With every good wish,

*John D. Maher*

### Message from David Crowley, Captain 2009

It is a great honour to be Captain of Thurles Golf Club, particularly in our Centenary Year. 2009 sees three other clubs golfing for 100 years. By the time this publication goes to press, I will have attended, on your behalf, functions at Laytown, Bettystown, Bandon and Douglas as a guest of their Centenary celebrations.

Our Centenary Open Week starts on June 13th, and we will host visiting clubs and special guests for a Centenary celebration on June 20th. I hope you will take part and make it a week to remember.

One of the primary objectives during my tenure as Captain was to improve communication with members. Our website is currently being revamped, we have introduced member texting and printed this newsletter as part of our ongoing plan. I would welcome any comment or feedback on this communication initiative or indeed any club matter.

The golfing season is well and truly under way and all committees are working hard to ensure that everything runs seamlessly in this exciting year. This year we are hosting the Barton Shield area playoffs and, in August, we host the Senior Cup, Junior Cup and Barton Shield Munster Finals. Hopefully we will be more than neutral observers!

Best wishes for the year!

*David*



L-R John D. Maher, Jacqueline Corbett, David Crowley

### Message from Jacqueline Corbett, Lady Captain 2009

It is with great pleasure that I, as Lady Captain, welcome you my fellow members to this our first newsletter.

Through the forum of this newsletter I would like to avail of the opportunity to wish my fellow Captain David, and President John every good wish in this our Centenary year.

I would also like to pay tribute to my hard-working committee and indeed to all our committees. A huge thank you to the staff both on and off the course, and to our new caterers I extend a very warm welcome, may you always be "fully booked". At present, the Ladies Club is gearing up to compete in team events around the country and I wish all the selectors the very best of luck, hopefully we can be as successful this year as in the past.

We have a number of golfing and social activities planned for 2009 and with your support we can make it a year to remember..... Maybe even remembered for 100 years!

Yours in golf,

*Jacqueline*

## Junior News

Aidan Ryan is our Junior Captain for 2009 and we wish Aidan all the best for the year. The juniors are busy practicing for the first round match in the Fred Daly Trophy against Slievenamon Golf Club. It has to be played by the 13th of April and will be played in Thurles.

During the Easter Holidays there will be a junior singles on Wednesday 8th April starting at 9.00am. For all the Junior Boys and Girls there will be lots of prizes to be won on the day and all are welcome. It will not be long until the juniors get their summer holidays and there is lots of competitive golf organised for the summer months. Aidan Ryan's Junior Captains Prize will be held during the summer months, date to be advised. On 5th August we will host the inaugural Tipperary Boys and Girls Open Championship.

Ger Jones our Club Professional will be on hand to coach and advise the juniors with their golf swings and their putting strokes during the year.

*John Corbett*

## Message from the Professional – Ger Jones

Custom Fitting: The Pro-Shop is doing its best to keep up with modern trends. We have recently received the latest in custom fitting technology from Cobra. The Cobra fit to speed system is one of only 22 in the whole country and is regarded as one of the best available on the market. Call and see Simon or myself for more information or booking.

Teaching: Both Simon and I are available Mon – Sat. for tuition, either on an individual or group basis. Booking in advance is necessary. We use the VI Computer Analysis System thus ensuring you receive the same attention to detail as the professionals!

Centenary Clothing: We now have a full range of Centenary crested clothing in stock – sweaters, shirts and windbreakers for both men and ladies. Members are entitled to a 10% discount on goods. So I hope that we all have a successful season and that for once the weather will be our friend!!!

*Ger Jones*

## Mens Committee News

Since being elected to office, the Mens Committee have made the following decisions.

1. The 11th hole has been designated a “call through hole” and a sign is to be erected.
2. The competition entry fees are to be kept at last years prices.
3. It is proposed that all “winter golf” prizes as and from the 1st October 2009 should be in the form of vouchers or winnings transferred to the members G.U.I. card.
4. In the absence of a course ranger, the Mens and Ladies Club Committee members, together with invited voluntary members, will provide a Course Ranger service at specific times and are empowered to ensure that normal protocols are complied with on the course.
5. The Committee would like to advise members of their obligation to attend at prize giving ceremonies where they are to receive a prize. In doing so they honour and respect both the Captain and our much appreciated sponsors who so generously support the Club.

## Ladies Committee News

The Ladies Spring League has started with strong scores being recorded for the initial rounds. It culminates in a match play-off between the two best scoring teams. The AA Championship draws have taken place with teams from Thurles in the Senior Foursomes, Junior Foursomes, Junior Cup, Intermediate Cup, Minor Cup, and Challenge Cup. The competitions begin on the 18th of April. Thurles has been drawn against Tipperary in the first round of the Miele All Ireland Interclub Fourball which has to be played by 28th of April.

Thurles has also entered the Boyne Trophy and the Tipperary League. Lorraine O Keefe and Marian Finn will represent Thurles Golf Club in the Irish Mail All Ireland Fourball.

An initiative is being introduced to attract juvenile girls to the game of golf. Marian Finn, Junior Convenor for the club, in conjunction with Ger Jones will start training sessions on the 21st of March, with girls interested in taking up golf as a sport.

The Lady Captain's Prize will take place on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th of July 2009. Ladies must have played two 18 hole competitions to be eligible to play (3 18 holes for new members!). Let's hope we have the good weather that Jacqueline is hoping for!!

Entries to Competitions: We are changing to a new system to enter competitions and also to enter cards once the competition is complete. This will kick off on the 7th April on our first 18 hole competition. Ladies will be assisted through the induction period by members of the Committee. There will be a notice on the Notice board informing people of the change and the details.

## Centenary Year

2009 is a very special year for Thurles Golf Club as we celebrate our Centenary. On 21st January 1909 the first meeting of Thurles Golf Club took place in the Courthouse in Thurles. The 21st January 2009 marked the launch of the Centenary Year when members of the Governing Body, Mens and Ladies Committees, invited guests and Club members met in the Courthouse, where the minutes of the first meeting were read and the Centenary Year was officially launched.

On 15th February, after the Captains' Drive-In, President John D. Maher raised the Centenary Flag and the Centenary Banner is also on display.

One of the highlights of Centenary year will be the Centenary Week from 13th to 21st June. There will be various Competitions for all members including a Centenary Gold Medal Singles for men and ladies, a Silver Medal for juveniles and other team events. On Saturday 20th June, Thurles will have a Centenary Day for representatives of the other Centenary Clubs, representatives from all Tipperary Clubs and invited guests.

Another highlight will be the Centenary Book, which will be published at the end of the year.

## Course Development and Maintenance Update

Over the past few months, development and maintenance work has continued around the golf course.

The work completed to date includes:

- Old cross bunkers filled in on 2nd fairway.
- Trees removed on left of 2nd green, and area cleaned.
- 3rd and 6th teebox extended (Mens) and a new teebox constructed on the 8th hole (Ladies).
- Cross ditch to the left of the 7th hole and to the right of the 8th hole cut and cleaned.
- Old bunker to the right of the 8th fairway filled in (original 3rd hole).
- Left hand side of the 8th bunker grassed.
- Dead tree on the apron of the 8th green removed.
- Some irrigation and repairs carried out to the holes on the back 9.
- It is envisaged that the main focus over the next few months will be drainage to the front nine.

*Seamus Troy,*

Course Chairman

## Course Etiquette

- Please ensure that pitch marks are repaired at all times.
- The failure of players to replace divots on the fairways is becoming a problem.
- Please play your part in maintaining our course.