



THURLES GOLF CLUB



Newsletter

Issue 3: April 2010



President Jack O'Keefe, Lady Captain Julianne Ryan and Captain Pat Davy at the Drive-In.

Message from President 2010

It is a truly great honour for me to be President of Thurles Golf Club as we begin our second century of Golf. To all members of the Club, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your vote of confidence in me in taking on the role of President for 2010.

Over the years, Thurles Golf Club has always had a wonderful reputation with visitors, and this is very much reflected in the repeat booking of many societies and Charity Classics, and 2010 is no different.

I would like to wish all members and visitors an enjoyable year of golf, and as always, you can be guaranteed a hospitable welcome when you play Thurles.

Men's Committee 2010

Captain;	Pat Davy
Vice-Captain;	Jimmy O'Neill
Hon. Secretary;	Pat Murray Snr.
Hon. Treasurer;	Larry Moloney
Ex. Officio;	David Crowley
Handicap Sec.;	Kieran Kennedy
Competitions Sec	Joe Clohessy
	Bob Coughlan
	Walter Doyle
	Jack Ryan
	Jimmy Ryan

Ladies Committee 2010

Lady Captain;	Julianne Ryan
Vice Captain;	Orla Mc.Kevitt
Hon. Secretary;	Brigitte Behan
Hon. Treasurer;	Lorraine O'Keefe
Ex. Officio;	Jacqueline Corbett
Handicap Sec.;	Fionnuala Corcoran
Competitions Sec.	Louise Maher
	Colette Brolan
	Mary Coffey
	Triona Gleeson
	Dot Whelan



Governing Body 2010 Front l. to r. Mary Coman O'Neill, Orla Mc.Kevitt, Julianne Ryan, Jack O'Keefe, Pat Davy, Jimmy O'Neill, Joe Kelly Back l. to r. Fergus Moriarty, Brigitte Behan, Jean Butler, Marian Finn, Tom Ryan, Michael Craddock, Pat Murray, Seamus Troy, Edward Maher.

With every good wish

Jack O'Keefe



Message from the Captain

It is a great honour for me to have been elected as Captain of Thurles Golf Club for 2010, more especially as my period of tenure marks the beginning of the second Century of golf at Thurles.

The winter weather, now thankfully almost at an end, presented unprecedented challenges for our Club. However, the lengthening evenings bring thoughts of better days to come and Spring and Summer begin to occupy the mind.

May I wish our loyal members an enjoyable and fulfilling year and extend to our visitors the warmest of welcomes.

Best wishes.

Pat Davy.

Message from the Lady Captain

As Lady Captain of Thurles Golf Club I extend a warm welcome to members and visitors for 2010. We look forward with anticipation to enjoyable golf, renewed friendships, great weather and success in the club colours, but above all to having the fullness of health to participate in all our club has to offer.

Last year was special with the celebration of our Centenary Year. We looked back with pride and appreciation on what had been achieved by those who have gone before us. Though times were tough they gave much to make Thurles a premier Golf Club.

History has a habit of repeating itself and once again our club faces tough times but together we will succeed, as those before us did, with the help of our greatest asset – our members.

Julianne Ryan

Junior News

The Junior Committee of Thurles Golf Club is pleased to announce the appointment of James Ryan to the position of Junior Captain for 2010. James succeeds Aidan Ryan who was the inaugural Junior Captain in 2009. James has been a member of Thurles Golf Club for 6 years and currently has a playing handicap of 5 which he hopes to further reduce in the coming year. James has represented Thurles Golf Club at various levels including Junior Foursomes and Fred Daly and hopes to continue this progress in 2010 in junior and senior events.

Ger Jones ran a successful two day Golf Camp on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th of February which coincided with the Mid-Term break from school. This golf camp catered for approximately twelve juniors and the tuition covered all aspects of golf. Catering for the juniors was provided by Michael O'Dwyer on both days. Further camps are likely to be organised during the summer months by which time Mark Ruddy will have commenced as Ger's assistant. We look forward to an interesting and challenging summer of golf at Junior level.

Walter Doyle

Mens Committee News

Since being elected to Office, the Mens Committee, under the leadership of Captain, Pat Davy, has taken the following decisions and initiatives.

1. Despite the financial constraints, the Committee has decided to enter all the traditional competitions in 2010. The Captain has appointed team Managers who will liaise with prospective team members in due course.
2. Following debate at Committee it was decided that prizes for singles competitions would remain at last years levels.
3. We are pleased at the excellent response of the Course Committee to our request, on behalf of a number of members, to examine how the "Orchard" might be made more user-friendly. Our sincere thanks to Seamus Troy and the staff for their prompt and welcome attention.
4. The Committee is delighted that Mark Ruddy has been appointed as Assistant to our Professional, Ger Jones. We wish Mark well in his new appointment.

Ladies Committee News

The Ladies Spring League has started with strong scores being recorded for the initial rounds. It culminates in a match play play-off between the winners of Group 1 and Group 2.

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 24th of April 2010. Thurles has been drawn against Nenagh in the first round of the Miele All Ireland Interclub Fourball which takes place before the 15th June 2010. Thurles has also entered the Boyne Trophy and the Tipperary League.

The initiative introduced last year to attract juvenile girls to the game of golf is continuing this year. Orla McKeivitt, Junior Convenor for the club, in conjunction with Ger Jones will start training sessions in April with girls interested in taking up golf as a sport. It is also hoped to run the 'Women in Golf' initiative to encourage more ladies to take up the sport. Information will be available in the Ladies room.

The Lady Captain's Prize will take place on Tuesday 29th June 2010 and Sunday 4th of July 2010. Ladies must have played two 18 holes competitions to be eligible to play (3 x 18 holes for new members!). Let's hope we have the good weather that Julianne is hoping for!

The BRS

BRS is the No 1 provider of online tee booking software solutions in both Ireland and UK. The system, now used by 40% of the clubs in Ireland, is a great management tool for our committees and administration office. It allows us to manage all aspects of the clubs bookings including green fees, competitions and it sends automatic email confirmations and reminders. The system will help build a marketing database and use the 50+ reports to maximise revenue and course usage.

BRS is simple to use.

- Go to the golf club website www.thurlesgolfclub.com
- Click on Members
- Click on Tee Times
- Register as a BRS User (you will need your GUI Card Number)

Or ask any member of the committee for a demonstration if you are having difficulties.

We are currently updating our website and would be delighted to hear feedback on any aspect of our new technology from our members.

Course Development

A Winter Programme was drawn up and, in spite of the weather, was carried out. Work done included:

- The removal of evergreen trees on the 2nd, 4th and 6th.
- The construction of paths to protect the course in wet conditions
- The drainage of Bunkers
- The cleaning out of the orchard.

Work will continue throughout the year including the building of the Ladies tee box on the first, planting of more trees and hollowtining which takes place in mid April.

Squash

Congratulations to the following Juniors from the Club who will play for Munster in the Interprovincials in Belfast in April; Frances O'Connell, Fiona Humphries, Rory Purcell, Michael Purcell, James Symons, Ella McLoughney, Áine Symons, Aoife O' Dwyer, Ciarán Maher, John Humphries, Shane Maher, Rachel Power, Corrinagh Humphries and Darragh Butler.

Congratulations to Antony Maher who played on Munster's Senior Squash team at this year's Interprovincial Finals and who has been selected to play for Ireland's over 40s team in Scotland on 15th – 16th May.

Congratulations to Ciarán Maher on his selection to play for Ireland in the Boys under 15 section of the Junior Internationals being held this year in the Heriot-Watt University Edinburgh on 9-11th of April. Ciarán is currently ranked 4th in Ireland under 15.

Thurles has a Senior Men's team competing in this year's Midland Senior Squash League and hopefully they will get through to the semi finals. The Thurles team is: Antony Maher, Liam Butler, Liam Maher, Darragh Butler, Ciarán Maher, John Cahill and Gerry Connaughton.

Beginners Coaching and Junior Squash.

Coaching for beginners continues on Wednesday nights and on Saturdays for Juniors from 2pm until 5pm. If you are interested in trying out squash contact Gerry Connaughton, or Sinead Hanafin the club's new Children's Officer.

Message from the Professional

Pro Shop:

It seems as though the long hard winter has finally passed and we are at last under way with golf in 2010. Let's hope that this year will bring us some long overdue good weather!

There are a few items of interest in the coming season in the Pro-Shop.

Assistant Professional:

I would like to welcome Mark Ruddy onboard as the new Assistant Professional.

Mark is well known to and liked by all of the membership and I am sure you will agree that he will be a fantastic asset to the Pro-Shop.

Swing Studio:

I am currently in the process of installing an indoor Golf Academy in the Clubhouse. This will facilitate golf lessons and custom fitting. With the inclement weather we are used to, this facility will provide an opportunity to have a lesson, or to be custom fitted, without having to rely on the weather.

The Academy will contain state of the art equipment such as a projection screen, which will allow you to see the flight of your ball, the vector pro launch monitor and the GASP computer coaching system(as seen on Sky Sports)

I hope that this addition to the services provided will further enhance the overall facilities provided at Thurles Golf Club.

I look forward to seeing you all in the coming season.

Ger Jones

GUI & ILGU fixtures 2010

Thurles is hosting a number of Union events this year for both men and ladies including the following;

Irish Mixed Foursomes:

June 19th & 20th

Munster U 15 Boys: June 28th

Ladies AA Singles 1st Round:

Sunday 25th April

Miele All Ireland Fourball Regional

Finals: Monday 9th August

Munster Championship Girls Open:

Monday 16th August

Membership Update

As of mid March, 20 members have signalled their intention not to renew their membership. On the other hand, the Club has approved applications and welcomed 11 new members. The full extent of the economic downturn and its impact on club membership will have become fully apparent at the end of March. However, up to March, indications were quite positive. Members, who have not, to date, paid their subscriptions, are asked to contact the Club office with an indication of their intentions for joining, or otherwise, in 2010. The Club values highly each and every one of its members, hence the desire to obtain a clearer picture of individual wishes.

Course Etiquette

As we did in last years newsletters, we, again, appeal to all players, both Club and Society, to respect our course and ensure you play your part in maintaining it in pristine condition at all times. We refer in particular to the problems caused by:

- (1) Failure to replace divots, an ongoing problem.
- (2) Failure to repair pitch marks, a basic and very simple requirement of each player
- (3) Failure to rake bunkers.

If each and every player were to adhere to his/her responsibility in the foregoing areas then the playing experience at Thurles Golf Club would be considerably enhanced.

Please play your part in maintaining the course as you would wish it to be.

Centenary

We would like to extend a special word of thanks to the Centenary Committee for ensuring that our special year was celebrated in an enjoyable and appropriate manner and congratulate them on their production of the Centenary Book which traces the history and achievements of the Club throughout its existence.

Rules of Golf

In this issue we have a Rules Quiz. Entries with Name and Contact Number may be given to Ashling in the office before April 27th. The winning entry will be drawn on Sunday 2nd May and the prize, a Wine Hamper is sponsored by John Mc.Nally.

State whether each of the following statements is true or false;

1. A red stake defining a lateral water hazard may be removed at any time by the player. True False
2. In strokeplay, if a player's ball accidentally strikes his bag he incurs a two stroke penalty. True False
3. On the fairway a player may remove soil or sand from the area where he is preparing to drop the ball. True False
4. A player may place an umbrella or a club in a bunker before playing a stroke from the bunker. True False
5. A marked ball is replaced and a gust of wind moves it before the marker is lifted. It must be replaced in its original position. True False
6. A half eaten pear may be removed from the bunker. True False
7. A player may play a left handed stroke with the back of the head of a right handed club. True False
8. A player may declare his ball unplayable anywhere on the course. True False
9. A ball is out of bounds when any part of it lies out of bounds. True False
10. A player may remove a stake defining Out of Bounds because it interferes with his swing. True False
11. A player may not remove dew or frost from his line of putt. True False
12. In a strokeplay competition a player discovers after 10 holes he is carrying 15 clubs. The penalty is disqualification from the competition. True False
13. When lifting a ball to identify it, it may be cleaned. True False
14. A player sees his ball going into the tree on the 11th. However he cannot retrieve it or identify it. The ball is treated as a 'lost ball'. True False
15. A player's ball is buried in the rough. In order to identify it he touches it and rotates it. There is no penalty. True False

Name:



Contact Number:

Catering

The restaurant is now fully opened for the season. A new menu is available and Michael would like members to let him know if there is anything in particular they would like to see on the menu. A carvery service unit has been introduced this week so members can check it out. There is also a new range of coffee available. Bookings are still being taken for private parties such as Communion and Confirmations and more details can be got by ringing Michael on 087 9006675.