



**Saint Helen's Bay Golf Club
Gentlemen's Annual General Meeting
Friday 29 November 2024**

1. Apologies.

- Russell Burke
- Danny Kenny
- Pdraig Tiernan
- Noel Minogue
- Colm Fitzgerald
- Donal O'Keefe
- Other apologies received at Club AGM

2. Minutes of 2023.

Had been circulated. No matters arose.

3. Captain's Report and Matters Arising.

See report sent by Captain Michael. There were no matters arising.

4. Nominations of Men's Committee Officers.

- Captain: Dermot Walsh
- Vice Captain: Chris Maddock
- ex Officio: Michael Cooney
- Hon Secretary: Russell Burke
- Hon Treasurer: Nicholas Hayes

5. Nominations of Men's Committee Ordinary Members

- Pdraig Tiernan
- Stephen Kearns
- Pat O'Connor
- Gavin Morris
- Vincent Murphy

- Shane Sinnott

6. AOB.

- AOB: MC welcomed Shane Sinnott to committee and thanked Jim Egan for his help on the committee.
- MC wished the best of luck to everyone in the new year and to the committee.
- MC noted a better atmosphere in the club of late.
- DW informed the meeting of the schools' golf initiative. This will hopefully be up and running April/May with Kilrane school. DW asked if anyone interested in joining as instructors.
- TD commented the meeting had been run very well.
- Meeting ended.

7. Appendix: Captain's Report – Men's AGM 2024

Introduction:

Good evening, all, and thank you for your attendance here tonight for our 2024 AGM.

I would like to start by saying thank you to all members for your support during my term as Captain. From the outset, and throughout the year, I received many messages of support and goodwill which were greatly appreciated and provided encouragement & energy to me in what was a very busy year.

Thanks also for taking part in and supporting our competitions during the year. Despite the high number of competition days lost due to the extremely bad weather, and the loss of some members at the start of the year, the Club's financial position remained stable which is very important for our future survival as a Golf Club.

To the past Captains, past Presidents and past Committee members who provided valuable guidance to me whenever I asked for it (and sometimes when I hadn't) - thank you. Your knowledge and experience were invaluable.

Thank you to our Women's Captain Sonya – when we sat down to plan the year it seemed a daunting task, but we worked well together in conjunction with both committees.

Men's Committee:

It is only when you get involved in a committee that you really appreciate the amount of voluntary work that is required to ensure that everything runs smoothly week to week. I was lucky to have an excellent committee who worked extremely hard throughout the year and always made decisions with you, our members in mind. So, thank you – Dermot, Russell, Vincent, Chris, Gavin, Jim, Nick, Pat, Pdraig and Stephen for your excellent work throughout the year.

Inter Club:

Once again, our Inter Club teams were very competitive, progressing very well in a number of competitions but unfortunately no trophies at the end of it all. Having reached the Area final in 2023 our Pierce Purcell team again performed extremely well and reached the Area Semi Final where they lost out to Tulfarris in a very tight match with Tulfarris subsequently winning the area final. I thoroughly enjoyed attending these matches along with Vice Captain Dermot. Thank you to all our team managers

and to the members who represented the club on teams during the year. I am conscious that there is a substantial time commitment and a financial commitment required from all involved and your participation is greatly appreciated. As in all sports, winning competitions is difficult, especially for clubs like St Helen's Bay with a relatively short history but I am confident that we will get there soon.

Sponsors:

Our sponsors play a huge role in ensuring that we have a vibrant competition schedule throughout the year. Some of our loyal sponsors did not continue in 2024 and I would like to thank them for many years of support to the club which was important for us and greatly appreciated. Thank you to existing sponsors who continued in 2024 and to all our new sponsors who came on board during the year.

Festival of Golf and Wednesday Summer Series.

We took a slightly different approach to our traditional Open Weeks in 2024 and launched our Festival of Golf which sought to balance Men's & Women's competitions across 15 competition days. I think it was reasonably successful and most of the feedback received was positive. As with any new initiative we will need to review the outcome and review annually to ensure that it meets the needs of our members and visitors.

Those 15 days are extremely busy for committee members and I would like to thank Chris and all the committee members who were on hand to set up the competitions, close the competitions, and contact the winners for attendance at the prize presentations.

We also launched our inaugural Wednesday Summer Series which was very generously sponsored by Tommy Duggan through Wexford Self Storage and was a huge success. Comparing the same ten Wednesday competitions from 2023 against our ten Summer Series Wednesdays in 2024 we saw an increased participation rate of 68% - representing an additional 250 rounds of golf entries compared to 2023 with a significant increase in visitor participation. All credit is due to Tommy Duggan who approached me in early 2024 with this idea to promote our Wednesday competitions – thank you Tommy.

Captain's Prize & Dinner

I thoroughly enjoyed my Captain's Prize Day on 29th June. Thank you to everyone who took part in the competition and to everyone who attended the Captain's Dinner that evening. Congratulations to the overall winner, Jim Brauneisen, to Nora Kavanagh who won the Women's 9-hole event and to all the prize winners.

ProShop / Restaurant / Course

Thank you to the following.

Ann Byrne, General Manager for her support during the year.

Suzanne, and all who worked in the ProShop during the year, for providing a great service to our members and visitors.

Liam and all staff who worked in the kitchen & bar during the year for looking after us so well.

Kevin and the greenkeeping staff – the weather led to serious challenges in terms of course maintenance but they did a wonderful job and once they got back to reasonably normal weather the course was in splendid condition.

I had regular communication and a good working relationship with all of the aforementioned which ensured that all our events were delivered without any issues.

Development Committee

It has already been acknowledged by President Kieran at our club AGM but I would also like to formally acknowledge the efforts of our Club Committee led by Kieran & Rionach Donlon & the Board of BBGL for the work involved in relation to implementing the Licence Agreement. Also, thanks to BBGL for their efforts to secure additional investment which enabled the drainage work to commence. The Club's financial input to the drainage work was supported by our Fundraising "Open Sweep" and I thank all of you who supported it and particular thanks to Dermot Walsh and Anna Marie Murphy who did all the organising and background work in relation to it.

Central to future development of the course will be our development committee and I wish to thank Tommy Duggan, Joe Kelly and Mervyn Cooney who formed that committee in 2024. Tommy, Joe & Mervyn did not hesitate to get involved when I approached them in early 2024 and I know they will continue this work into 2025.

Conclusion:

Being Captain is a 2-year commitment, and I want to pay tribute to our 2023 Captain, Paddy Dunne. In addition to his help on golfing matters I learned a lot about Kilkenny and I enjoyed a day long tour of Kilkenny with Paddy & the 2023 Women's Captain Susan Connolly in 2023. It was so successful that he invited us for another day in 2024 an invitation we were both glad to accept. The trips were both entertaining and educational in equal measure. Go raibh míle maith agat Paddy as do chabhair agus cairdeas.

To my Vice Captain, Dermot Walsh - your support during my Captain's year was outstanding and I am extremely grateful for everything you did to support me.

I know that both yourself and your incoming Vice Captain Chris will do a great job in 2025 and you can be assured of my support if you need it at any time.

It was an honour for me to be Captain of St Helen's Bay GC for 2024. It was an extremely busy year but I was fortunate to have good health and the energy required to carry out my role and extremely fortunate to have great support from Trina, my committee and you the members.

Míle buíochas le gach éinne a thug cabhair dom i rith na bliana.

I enjoyed it all and I look forward to many more years as a member of this wonderful Golf Club.

Michael Cooney

Captain 2024