

Council

2025 has been another busy year with lots of activity in the club. Our course re-entered the top 100 courses in Ireland and we continue to strive to improve our standing. Council met on 14 occasions during the year to ensure we manage the affairs of the club to the best of our ability on behalf of all our members. We would like to pay tribute to those of our members who give of their time in volunteering on sub-committees, on the course, in getting various jobs done that often go unnoticed. Special thanks also to those members who organise our weekly competitions – getting sponsorship, closing off competitions and dealing with the many queries associated with golf. It is important to acknowledge the contribution of our Bunnies, Swans and Winter Thursday group who are an integral part of our club.

In September Balbriggan Golf Club was chosen by Golf Ireland to host the Revive Active and Boys' u-15 Leinster finals – feedback from the clubs involved and from the referee was extremely positive. We are grateful to the membership who sacrificed a three-hour slot on Sunday 28th September to facilitate these matches and it is a testament to our facilities that we have been requested to host again in 2026.

As always we are looking for volunteers to help out in many different capacities. If you would like to get involved and can spare an hour or two we would love to hear from you. Please contact Elaine at admin@balbriggangolfclub.com

Course Report

It has been an extremely challenging year as weather extremes appear to be now "par for the course" with a really stormy Spring, a very dry Summer/early Autumn and followed recently by extremely heavy rainfall. Storm Eowyn in late January caused a lot of damage which despite stellar work by the Course staff and the volunteers necessitated nearly a month of unscheduled work. This work coupled with Adrian Noctor's unexpected final retirement put Robert and his team on the back foot heading into the playing season. Thankfully the full time Course staff team remained intact this year picking up invaluable experience and training.

Over recent years the age profile of our course machinery has caused a lot of grief for the course staff and resulted in high machinery maintenance costs. This year the Club has invested heavily in new machinery with the purchase of a new tractor, rough mower, sprayer and a zero-turn lawn mower. The rough mower was mainly funded through the Sports Capital Grant. Most of this machinery came on board over the last 3 months and the club will see the full benefits of this investment next season. During the peak playing season we had serious issues with our "19year old" tractor while we were awaiting delivery of our new tractor. Fortunately, one of our members, Pat White kindly provided the club with a temporary tractor which really helped out Robert and his team. The Course committee and staff are extremely grateful for this kind gesture by Pat.

The fairway improvement programme continued with 1 bout of "shockwaving", sanding and fertilising carried out on the full course. This programme is proving very worthwhile and highlights the importance of ongoing investment in the course which is after all our main

asset. The fairways are certainly benefitting from both this work and last year's drainage work.

Under the most recent Sports Capital Grant we were awarded a total of €124k and we have utilised a portion of this to partially fund the purchase of the rough mower. The remainder is to be utilised building on the practice ground a chipping green with the same spec as our existing greens and new teeing areas on the 5th and 17th holes. This work was originally scheduled to start in September but our contractor was unable to start then due to an overrun on a contract he's working on in St.Andrew's. We now expect the work to start in late March.

Clubhouse

Repairs and replacement issues addressed as they arose throughout the year including leaks in the clubhouse basement and on the roof of the Pro shop/Office. New hand dryers were installed and the clubhouse radiators were power-flushed to improve the performance of the heating system. A new pump was installed for the showers and a new CCTV monitor was purchased for the office. A barrier was fitted to the front entrance to deter vehicular access after closing time and the car park line painting has been refreshed.

A visit from the fire officer earlier in the year revealed some shortcomings and all of these were addressed to his satisfaction.

The Men's locker room has been repainted and the lockers varnished together with new carpets laid both there and in the Pro shop.

The temperature in the showers has been a source of concern of late and it has been discovered that there is a serious issue with the main water boiler in the basement. This is under investigation and will most likely require a full replacement of the boiler.

A series of regular meetings took place during the year with club caterer during the year as to operations and performance. Our caterer, Nathan has decided to move on and he will finish provision of service at the end of November. We wish Nathan and Rachael all the best in their next venture. We will strive to engage another franchisee but in the interim we will continue to provide a limited service to our members. Details of opening times and food and beverage available will be communicated to members in advance.

Ladies Club

2025 was another successful year. We would like to say a big "Thank You" to all our loyal Sponsors and especially to our Lady Members who contributed so generously to all our competitions.

Get Into Golf

Thank You to Lady Vice Captain Doreen Daly who put in great effort and organisation to make this a success. This year we had over twenty applicants and there is already a waiting list for 2026

We had four new members from last years programme and we are confident we will attract more Lady applicants in 2026

Inter-Club Matches

Many of our inter-club teams were unlucky this year as many of the matches were decided on the nineteenth hole, but all were played in great spirit and hopefully next year we will win go further

Fundraising Weekend

The Fundraising Event took place in August and due to the support of our members over twelve thousand Euros was raised. Thank you to all our Sponsors and our Fundraising Committee who worked tirelessly over many weeks to achieve this amount.

BBBDI Trophy

In September our Ladies were successful in winning the BBBDI Trophy for the fourth consecutive year. This competition is held every year and Balbriggan, Balcarrick, Beaverstown, Donabate and the Island participate.....it was a wonderful day and congratulations to our Ladies once again.

Men's Golf 2025

The new category of Intermediate Plus Membership resulted in a small gain of 3 in Intermediate members this year and along with a gain of 9 in 5 day Male members we were positive overall with Male members as we were down 4 in full Male and 1 in Senior Male membership

The Men's Competition Committee carried out a review of Competition Entry criteria and The Men's Committee approved the following

A player who has a fully formed WHS Handicap Index. (20 scores) of which - Ten (10) of the 20 must have been in competition -Four (4) competition scores recorded on their handicap record in the previous 12 months. We previously adopted GI Rules where the words "Previous Calendar Year" was included instead of "Previous 12 Months" and this has caused an unforeseen circumstance to arise in our weekly competitions where any member for whatever reason who does not have 4 competition scores recorded on their handicap record in the previous calendar year (2024) cannot win any competitions-no matter how many he has played this year. The approved amendment is also player positive for those who have joined the Club recently

From the 1st May there was an adjustment to competition entry fee from three category prizes to two in tandem with an increase in entry fee and a pro rata increase in prize pay-out also introduced

It was also decided by Men's Committee that no additional charges for competition entry will be applied to iGolfers at this time. All of our Thursday Opens were sponsored this year which was coordinated by Chris Herbert and thanks to all those and others sponsors this year.

During the summer months we introduced a 9-hole Evening Summer League kindly sponsored by Niall Cronin.-9 Holes -6 Best Cards -9 Weeks which was very well supported

Thanks to all The Team Managers who helped out this year and although we were unsuccessful in our Golf Ireland Inter Club team events we did have success with the Fingal League Seniors. We withdrew from the Uden Cup this year after an objection by Malahide G. C.

The Club Fundraising August weekend activity raised over €12,300 towards course fairway improvements and The Captains' Charity competition on Sunday 21st September raised €2,050 generated from Competition Entry and Donations for the agreed charity Remember Us and thanks to all who supported these activities

The Annual Prize Presentation Night organised very professionally by Pat Casey took place on Saturday 25th October 2025. A large attendance was present including The President, Lady Captain and nearly all prize-winners. Philip Tracey (Vice Captain Elect) presented all of The Ace Express Golfer of The Year Prizes and we are very grateful to Philip for his continued and generous sponsorship of this event.

At the presentation event a new trophy to honour Willie Rooney was presented by his wife Bernie to The Men's Fourball winners and The Nicky Ennis Trophy was presented by his wife Muriel Ennis

The successful Fingal Seniors Management and Team members also attended the Prize Presentation night and presented The Captain with the winning Pennant and our congratulations to them on their win.

Cadets, Juniors and Juveniles

We had an increase in membership this year and our numbers currently stand at, 58 Cadets, 96 Juveniles and 21 Juniors.

Sarah McCauley looked after the Cadets on Monday evenings. Instructions were given by Nigel and Robert.

We held junior competitions on Wednesday and Friday mornings and these were well attended.

Barbara Kenny looked after the girls and they had many outings to other clubs during the season.

Helen Tarrant looked after the boys and also had many trips to other clubs. The girls and boys both took part in their respective league competitions. Well done to all.

Our Cadets took part in interclub golf sixes competitions and all were enthusiastic to compete .We entered a team in the Fred Daly interclub matchplay but we came up short against tough opponents.

Huge thanks to all who sponsored events, President Maureen, Captain Ger and Captain Marion. Also Nigel for the professional prize and to those who donated money a huge thank you.

We participated again in the junior friendship trophy with Ashbourne and Roganstown.

This year the Wavin cup club matchplay for Juniors was relaunched and was hotly contested for.

It has been a great year for all our young golfers in the club. There is fantastic enthusiasm on display.

A huge thank you to all the committee and volunteers without whom this would not happen. As always I would ask if anyone has some spare time and would like to get involved we would be delighted to have you on board.

Marketing, Media & Sponsorship

2025 has been a great year for Balbriggan Golf Club's marketing and communications, with strong growth across all digital channels and increased visibility both locally and internationally.

Our combined social media following now exceeds 4,000, with 60% increase in engagement. Content around competitions, new facilities, and influencer collaborations performed best, including a viral TikTok video reaching over 80,000 views. The website continues to perform strongly, attracting over 40,000 visits this year, a 20% increase on 2024. SEO improvements have boosted Google visibility both in Ireland and abroad, attracting visitors from other European countries and USA.

We were featured by **The Irish Times**, **Golf Ireland news**, and listed again among **Ireland's Top 100 Courses by Irish Golfer Magazine**, with additional exposure on **Discover Ireland** and **GoGolfing.ie**.

Over 70 sponsors supported the club throughout the year, including Ace Express Freight, Dorian Black, Bridgestone, and many valued local partners. While we did not secure a main sponsor in 2025, we introduced the new Tee Box Advertising Programme, which we aim to expand next year.

Our focus for 2026 will be to continue strengthening awareness through target campaigns for local and international visitors, influencer partnerships, and new sponsorship opportunities + development of dedicated pages for international visitors . Balbriggan Golf Club's reputation and reach have never been stronger & 2025 has been a year of great progress.

Administration

Our club could not function properly without the dedication and professionalism of some very important people. Elaine and Ciara, both of whom are part-time are exemplary in their dedication to Balbriggan Gold Club. It is only when working with these wonderful ladies can one understand the breadth of knowledge and experience they both possess. We are so fortunate to have them.

Nigel, our club professional, who has been with us for over 20 years is the best ambassador one could hope for. He is one in a million and his phenomenal gift for knowing each member by name is only one of his many attributes. Robert, our assistant pro has blossomed since he came to us and he is a wonderful asset to our club.

We replaced our ageing buggy fleet this year with ten HDK Tara premium buggies. They have been very well received by both members and visitors alike. The buggies are made in China and the batteries are made by Li-gen in Tipperary.

Our new solar pv array on the clubhouse roof is up and running and providing up to 50% of the clubhouse electricity. This has been funded by grants from the Community Climate Action Fund in Fingal Co Council, SEAI and a modest bank loan.

Jim Daltún

Honorary Secretary

Balbriggan Golf Club

11 November 2025