

## 2017 President's Report

11<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

Taking on this roll last year wasn't a hard decision with the future improvement and promotion of this club at mind.

My major consideration was to complete stage 2 of the course refurbishment, a commitment given to the previous president when the course plan was implemented. After meetings with course architect and Project Manager Ross Watson we settled on a course of action engaging a local contractor, Steve Collier to remove trees around the greens and undertake the heavy earthworks. By using a local contractor not only ensured we can access the right equipment but also keeps a big percentage of money in the local area. We also used specialist green contractors, The Lindemann Bros to shape and put the final touches to the greens, bunkers and surrounds.

This operation was undertaken at the time of the year when least disruption to players and a time when the growing conditions would be favourable to new works. Unfortunately, we did not know we were in for such a dry hot period which slowed down the recovery process.

The refurbishment also included the removal of the old half-way shelter and toilet to make way for the new toilet block and soon to be erected shelter.

We engaged the services of 'Daley Water Services' to sort out the inefficiencies of the irrigating system. A new main was connected from the pump to the top of the course and a new branch line to supply water to the new No 9 green.

A 105,000 ltr Rhino tank was purchased with a generous donation by the Ladies Committee. This was erected to supply clean water through the irrigation system thus eliminating the contamination from leaves and sticks and algae from the dam. The dam will now be used as a cosmetic feature and an emergency backup for the course. This system will all be automated, therefore cutting down on lost time to the greenkeeper and providing a constant supply of water to the tank whilst still maintaining the use of the pipeline to water the fairways.

The fence on 2 and 11 has been replaced by the club and erected by a band of volunteers. It was paid for by the Club in appreciation of the sand donated by

Mr Peter O'Shea (the adjoining neighbour) for the first stage of the course refurbishment, consequently saving the club considerable expense. Peter also allowed us to put access gates to retrieve lost balls and take the odd load of top soil as required.

This last year our playing numbers were slightly down, possibly due to the disruption of the course during the second phase of the refurbishment. However, membership is growing and currently stands at 109.

Now that the course is in excellent condition due to some long, awaited rainfall we will be doing a hole by hole fly over of the course with a drone to put on our web site to promote Clifton's Golf Course to attract more social players and hopefully new members.

Thank you to our sponsors who continue to support major events throughout the year. These days are a great financial boost to the club and are always well supported and provide a healthy, social atmosphere for golf.

The donation of trophies by members on Sunday is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank the business houses for their continued support for our Saturday competition, 'The Business House Challenge'.

Congratulations to last year's Club Champions, Quinn Croker, Jack Farrell, Daniel Hedges and Jane Farrell. Participation in the Championships was excellent. I would also like to congratulate all Match Play winners and players who represented the club in the Zone Pennants.

During the year the club engaged the services of Gary Small to conduct a clinic for junior golfers. This attracted 8 juniors and this year we will hold follow up clinics in an endeavour to foster junior golf at Clifton. I would like to congratulate our current junior members Lauchie Meacle and Quinn Croker on their achievements thus far. You boys are a credit to your clubs and an inspiration to all junior golfers.

A big thank you must go to John Keleher who has done a wonderful job of looking after our greens and all the refurbished areas under adverse conditions. This year has been a particularly dry year and the greens are an absolute credit to him. Often the work and effort go unrecognised until some very helpful rain arrives which makes all the difference to the course. Thankyou John.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort by the Club captain, Col Hoey and his helpers each week as this position entails far more than sitting behind the desk on Sundays. Thankyou!

This year we moved our meeting times to Saturday mornings to accommodate members from outside our local area and also hopefully encourage others to nominate for committee. Thank you to the committee for their support throughout the year and I welcome the new ideas that have been brought forward. It is heartening that we have so many volunteers to help whenever needed. This club was built on volunteers and we still rely on you today. So thankyou to those who give so willingly to help maintain and ensure the everyday club management runs smoothly.

Thank you to Bill in his role as secretary and also managing the till, banking and keeping the bar in order and stocked, which is a great help to Gary. Thanks to Gary our efficient treasurer for keeping the financial reports in order and especially for always being available with his equipment at working bees whenever called upon.

Thank you to the ladies committee for providing catering at various functions throughout the year and the cleaning of the men's and oncourse toilets.

This year the club lost two past presidents Mr Ray Chant and Mrs Daff McGee and I would like to recognise their valuable contribution to this golf club.

To those who continually give of their time to run mid-week golf. A great effort and commitment to ensure all golfers are catered for. Thankyou!

I look forward to the year ahead and thank you all for supporting this great club.

Rob Imhoff