



Junior Section Report for 2023

In what was the first year of the Junior Girls and Junior Boys back playing together, 2023 has been a hugely successful year for the Greystones Golf Club combined Junior Section.

At the Club's 2021 AGM members passed rules to create a formal Junior Section and a mandatory Junior Convenor to manage junior girls and boys golf as one section. The reasoning behind this rule change was to recognise the importance of junior golf within the club. The Junior Convenor, is also an officer of the club, sits on Council and reports all activities of the Junior Section to Council.



Following the decision of the members at the 2021 AGM and as part of a One Club approach as recommended by Golf Ireland, Junior Convenor, Peter Anderson, and his committee managed the amalgamation of the sections in 2022. The playing and coaching aspects of the consolidation were completed in 2023 with boys and girls now playing together on Saturday afternoons.

Unfortunately Peter had to stand down as Convenor earlier this year. Captain John asked Neil Lawless to step into the role and this appointment was endorsed by Council. Another notable resignation from the committee this year was that of Iris Haughton. Iris had looked after the junior girls section for the last 15 years and, following the amalgamation of the two sections, Iris decided the time had come for her to move aside. Thank you Iris for your valuable contribution over the years.

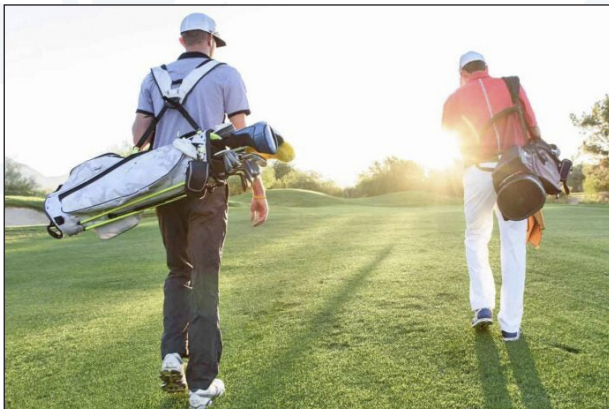
The current Junior Committee members are as follows:

Neil Lawless (Chair), Ann-Marie Darcy, Jennifer Moore, Linda Walsh, Helen Murphy, Martin Haugh, Declan Murray, Brian Murray, Michael Joyce. David Lewis, as club pro, also attends our meetings. There is a 50:50 split on the committee in terms of parents of junior girls and boys.

Our 2022/2023 winter coaching programme for the girls and boys ran from November to March with Professional Davie Lewis and his team providing golf coaching. The addition of a Strength & Conditioning programme for our lower handicap girls & boys was a great addition to the winter programme. This coaching was provided by John Lane. Coaching throughout the playing season included Saturday coaching by Barry Massey – thank you to Barry. We have recently started our 2023/2024 winter coaching programme at Greystones driving range and at the Club.

Appropriate coaching programmes are being delivered based on player ability/ interest. 72 juniors (48 boys and 24 girls) are availing of the winter coaching programme. It is worth nothing that more girls are availing of the coaching this winter compared to last winter which is very encouraging. The coaching is provided by David Lewis and his two assistant pros Ben Crowley and Keith Carty. Our winter programme of strength and conditioning training has also begun for our senior boys and girls.

While our committee did have concerns about any possible impact that might follow the amalgamation of the boys and girls on Saturdays, the participation has in fact increased in general and has increased by 60% for the girls when compared to last year. This is, of course, very encouraging. Beginners now play a new 7UP course in addition to the White, Red and Blue tee courses which they play as they progress in terms of ability. The addition of this 7UP course allows novices to learn to navigate the course quickly while also gaining playing experience on the course early in their golfing journey.



This year saw a combined Captain's Day for the section as well as combined competition days for the President's prize and for the Professional's prize to the junior section.

These combined events were very successful with excellent participation by both our girls and boys. 51 played in the Professional's prize. Vanessa Gulliver won the 7UP's, Aoife Dempsey won the Whites, Lili McInerney won the Reds

and Tom Murphy won the Blues prize and prevented the girls from taking a clean sweep on all the prizes!. The next major was the Captain's Prize. 53 played and Dylan Cavazza won the prize. The final major was President Marguerite's prize. We had our biggest turnout of the season with 61 juniors playing. Emma Haugh won the girls' prize and John Byrne won the boys' prize.

We also had excellent participation in our fun scramble events, which marked both our junior golf start of season and end of season. Both events saw the clubhouse full of happy girls and boys socialising after their games which was great to see.

In terms of interclub success on the course, 2023 was an outstanding year also.

Our under 12, Sixes team, managed by Martin Haugh won a Leinster South pennant and participated in the All-Ireland finals on an extremely wet September Sunday in Grange G.C. Interestingly Greystones was one of only two clubs who had a 50:50 split of girls and boys on the team, with most clubs only playing the minimum requirement of two girls.

Our Boys and Girls Interclub teams had a great day out at Elm Park but neither qualified from the qualifier despite playing some good golf and representing the club admirably. Thank you to Iris Haughton and Michael Joyce for looking after the girls and boys teams on the day.

Our Under 15 Boys team, managed by Ben Crowley & George O'Brien came good with an excellent Leinster win, beating Blainroe in the final. Greystones have now won this competition four times since its inception. No other club has won this competition more than twice.

Our Girls' and Boys' Wicklow Cup team played a good campaign, many thanks to Declan Murray and Declan Murphy for looking after this team so well.

The Girls Interclub matchplay, managed by Iris Haughton also had a good campaign, only bowing out at the semi-final stage with a loss to Blainroe.

Our Boy's Irish Junior Foursomes and Fred Daly teams were both managed by Karl Holmes and Peter Anderson this year. Both teams won Leinster South pennants for the club and participated in the All-Ireland Finals in Limerick in August. While our Junior Foursomes team lost out in the quarter-finals, our Fred Daly team beat the much fancied Douglas team in the quarter-finals and Lurgan in the semi-final before losing narrowly to Portrush in the final. Both teams represented the club superbly throughout the competition.

Many thanks to Tom Byrne who, once again ran the Wicklow Boys in August. This year's worthy winner was Junior Captain, Jamie Anderson. We have applied, through Golf Ireland, to have the Wicklow Boys afforded WAGR status from 2024. If successful, this should be a significant change in terms of the championship status on the Irish Boys Junior Golf calendar.

The second running of the Wicklow Girls took place in August and was a great success. Thank you to Lady Captain Celine and her committee for organising and running this event which is well on its way to becoming an established event in the Irish Junior Girls Golf calendar. Once again the event was run in conjunction with a Golf Ireland Festival of Golf which is aimed at players of all abilities. Thank you to Golf Ireland's Neil Kilgallon who managed the Festival of Golf element of the day with the assistance of many members and parents. The Wicklow Girls trophy was presented by Carmel Wood to the winner Emma Haugh.

Sincere thanks to Wood Group Homes who generously sponsored both the Wicklow Boys and the Wicklow Girls events.

The club ran a Junior Girl "get into golf" initiative in May which saw over a hundred and

fifty girls from local schools come to the club for an introduction to the game and receive some basic coaching. Many thanks to Patrice Dowling for managing this event.

Despite busy timesheets the club showed its support once again for junior golf by hosting the Fred Daly Leinster Final, the Dublin Schools competition and participating in the TY Golf programme. Thank you to Patrice Dowling for running the 2022/2023 TY programme and to Helen Creedon who is running the 2023/2024 TY programme.



We had two players play representative golf for Leinster in 2023, both Dylan Holmes and Junior Boys Captain, Jamie Anderson contributed to a Leinster win in the under 18 Inter-pros which were held in Tipperary in August.

Toby Murphy was on four, pennant winning teams this year, Fred Daly, Boy's Irish Junior Foursomes, Leinster Under 15s and Men's Junior Cup. This may well be a record within the club.

Jane Lumley won the Golf Ireland medal of the year for her outstanding performances in June, July and August. Jane lost 11 shots during the season and other notable handicap changes include Aoife Dempsey who went from 54 to 27 during the year and Emma Haugh who dropped 16 shots.

Our senior men's and women's teams also had an excellent year in 2023 and our junior girls Sophie Lumley and Shauna Seifried won a Leinster pennant playing in our Ladies Senior Foursomes Leinster South win. We believe this

may be the first time in the club's history that Junior Girls have played on a Senior Ladies, pennant winning team. Our Junior Boys were also a vital component of our Men's Junior Cup success (winning Leinster South and reaching the All-Ireland final). Well done to Jack McGovern, Toby Murphy and Will O'Riordan who played on this Leinster South and All-Ireland finals team.

In general, we should be extremely proud of all our junior golfers and the manner in which they played their golf and represented our club throughout the year.

While we have achieved tremendous team success this year the focus of the committee over the last two years has been to provide opportunities for all juniors to play and enjoy golf. We plan to continue to encourage juniors to participate, develop and improve through coaching while also encouraging players to be competitive and to participate in teams where appropriate. The Junior Boys section in the Club has always been strong and with the recent changes to the Junior Section we want to ensure the same opportunities and successes are afforded to our Junior Girls.

A big thank you to Isabella Stewart and Jamie Anderson for their contribution to the running of the sections in 2023 as Girls' and Boys' Junior Captains. Isabella now holds the lowest handicap of any lady in the Golf Club after

spending some time in the US working on her game as part of her Transition Year programme.

We are delighted to announce that the Junior Committee have asked Sophie Lumley and Dylan Holmes to take on the Junior Captain roles for 2024 and that both have accepted. No doubt they will do an excellent job also.

We would like to thank all the parents who volunteer and go on the Saturday roster. This support is vital in allowing our team provide golf and coaching throughout the year. The committee would also like to thank David Lewis, Ben Crowley and Keith Carty who provide excellent junior coaching and to Karl Holmes who generously provides subsidised golf balls in the driving range for the junior coaching programmes. We would also like to thank the team captains of the various boys and girls teams and President Marguerite, Lady Captain Celine and Captain John for their great support and encouragement to the juniors and the Junior Section this year.

Finally we would like to thank all our fellow club members for their continuing support and for the time and resources that are given by the Club to the Junior Section. All this support is very much appreciated.

***Thank You
Junior Committee
November 2023***

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