

REPORT OF HONORARY SECRETARY
TO AGM OF JOINT CLUB – Monday 04 December 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

2023 has been a very good year for the club. It was a year in which the growth, development and healthy financial surplus of the last three years were continued and previous achievements built upon. 2023 leaves the club able to face 2024 with confidence that a continuation of hard work, careful planning, and dedicated engagement of staff, club committees and members will result in an even stronger club for the benefit of members.

2. JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (JMC) MEETINGS

From the AGM on 05 December 2022 to 30 September 2023 there were 12 meetings of the JMC. The average attendance of the 12 members was 83%. As the Trustees are not members of the JMC, their attendances were not included in this attendance analysis.

Meetings of the JMC were business-like with opportunities for all members to contribute views before decision-making began.

The JMC sought to inform members of the club about its meetings and decisions by issuing an 'Agreed Report' in the club's newsletter on the Thursday following the Tuesday night meeting of the JMC.

3. SPECIAL MEETING OF JMC AND CURRENT AND FORMER OFFICE HOLDERS.

At the request of the Trustees, the JMC called meeting of all current office holders and also officer holders for the past ten years who are still members of the club. The meeting was held on Wednesday 20 September. The purpose of the meeting as set out by the Trustees was to consider "how the office holders might assist the JMC in its refusal to accept a suggestion put to the JMC by two club members that the club's contract with Synergy Golf should be terminated".

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

The externally prepared accounts for the 2022-2023 financial year will be on the club's website from 23 November and the Honorary Treasurer Dominic Holmes will present them to the AGM and take questions from members. Ideally, questions should be submitted in advance of the meeting so that, if required, answers can be researched and full details provided at the meeting. Please submit the questions to : info@kilcockgolfclub.ie

5. PLAYING OF GOLF

Despite a year in which rain closed the course in Kilcock and other clubs on more days than in recent years, the rounds of the golf recorded by the men's committee played in the club very heartening at 17,888, in comparison 19,110 in 2022. Thanks to men's competition Secretary Michael Cronin for these figures from the exceptional statistical records he annually puts together for the club. Other figures from Michael's report include:

Visitors' Golf rounds **1,580** (1,460 in 2022)

Competition Days Course Closed due to weather **43** (20 in 2022)

Days when competitions were played **180** (192 in 2022)

The average number of players taking part in the 178 competitions held during the year was **101**.

6. ROLE OF VOLUNTEERISM

Our club, and many clubs, when founded were run significantly by volunteers. Times and challenges have changed requiring now, in the eyes of many golf clubs, the incorporation of a professional approach to running a club. Today, a golf club is in essence a business requiring a business approach if it is to not only to progress and develop but even to survive.

Despite the need for the incorporation of a professional business approach in the running of a club, the role of member volunteers remains critically important and vital. The club's three committees, made up of volunteers, undertake great work in planning golf and club development.

The club's course volunteers have become known far and wide for the wonderful contribution that they have made in the last number of years. In mid-year officers of the JMC requested to meet with two course volunteers in relation to aspects of their volunteer work on a particular day. Unfortunately, and arising from the request, disagreement subsequently resulted between a number of volunteers and the JMC in relation to how the JMC carried out what it saw as its duties. At the time of writing, it seems many of the course volunteers have withdrawn their service.

Ladies in the club undertake flower bed, car park yard maintenance, club house flower decoration, to name just a few of their contributions. The junior golf programme is heavily dependent on volunteers as is the ladies 'Get Into Golf' programme. Many aspects of the club's Strategic Plan 2023-2026 require volunteers to develop and assist implement them.

Please consider volunteering to help our club – there are other opportunities and needs besides joining one of the three committees and the commitment can be as short or as long as you wish it to be. Contact the General Management Greg in the pro shop. Of course, there is also a great need for members to join the three committees.

7. STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

A separate report is being presented to the AGM on year one of the implementation of the plan.

8. CLUB STAFF

The club is fortunate to have staff so dedicated to the club and working as a team for the club's benefit. Thanks to our course staff, our Pro Shop staff, our club cleaner, our club Bookkeeper, for their dedication and commitment to the club.

9. MEMBERS' SURVEY 2022

Suggestions and comments from the members' survey of October 2022 influenced the content of the Strategic Plan 2023-2026 which was adopted by members at the 2022 AGM on 05 December 2023. A

very comprehensive set of suggestions for improvement of the course and club house environs was received by the JMC early in 2023 from two members of the club. These suggestions and the Members' Survey suggestions have been given to the General Manager for implementation by the course staff and volunteers on a phased basis as resources allow.

9. GOLF SUCCESS

Congratulations to the Super Seniors and their manager Dominic Holmes on the success in retaining the Super Seniors Title. A superb achievement. Well done to all other teams and their managers that represented the club in 2023.

10. CONCLUSION

On behalf of the JMC, I wish to thank all club members and staff who contributed to the success of the club in 2023. I wish to thank JMC members and other members of the club and staff who helped me as Honorary Secretary.

Yours in sport

Eileen O'Toole

Honorary Secretary 2023