



# The Oozler



*A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Members, Guests,  
and our Staff*

B A L B R I G G A N G O L F C L U B V o l 1 . E d 4

## SPECIAL MEMBER INCENTIVE OFFER

Propose a New Full Member and receive €50 credit on your Smart card.

When your proposed New Full Member renews membership in 2019, receive a further €50 credit on your Smart Card.

Propose a New 5 Day Member and receive €30 credit on your Smart card.

When your proposed New 5 Day Member renews membership in 2019, receive a further €30 credit on your Smart Card.

Terms and Conditions Apply

## Clubhouse Dates

Santa & Magician 2pm	Sat 9 Dec
Christmas Party Night	Sat 9 Dec
Candlelight Dinner	Sat 15 Dec
BGC Bottle Draw	Sat 16 Dec
Christmas Joker Draw	Sun 17 Dec
Lounge and Restaurant closed for renovations from 8th Jan to 26th Jan	
Clubhouse Reopening	Fri 26 Jan

## MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS TURNING A CORNER

Declining membership numbers is a critical issue for most clubs. We are no exception. We have a course which is the envy of many clubs and which covers over 150 acres. Maintaining such a vast tract of land to the pristine condition we enjoy is hard work and expensive too. We are blessed to have a hard working professional team and a dedicated army of volunteers.

The old saying says "you must cut your cloth to suit your measure". This is all very fine if you are talking about cloth—we are talking about a Top 100 golf course. In every other area of the Clubs asset base we have imposed austerity without compromising on course maintenance. Spending on our course has never been compromised. The funds needed for the upkeep of this asset come from members contributions. The simple calcula-

tion is obvious; the more members we have, the more investment we can make in our facilities—including the course.

Our declining membership, coupled with other forces in the golf marketplace, forced us to look at new ways of attracting membership applications. The Club's Marketing and Membership Committee has worked tirelessly to (a) attract new members and (b) retain members.

This year, we have succeeded in attracting almost 40 new members across a number of categories. This has had the result that membership subscriptions have not been increased. The influx of new members has had a positive effect on our finances and has introduced a new dynamic into our Club.

## SPORTS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017

Having made an application to the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport's *Sports Capital Programme* we were shocked to receive the news that our application was deemed "invalid". The reason given, for rejecting our application, was "restricted membership". The DTTS rationale is that, because we require a proposer and seconder for new members, our membership process is exclusive.

A number of golf clubs, with identical membership procedures, were successful in their applications and the Hon Treasurer has lodged an appeal with the DTTS on behalf of our Club.

## BGC Clubhouse – A New Beginning?

Members and guests all agree that we have one of the best parkland courses in Ireland. Part of our campus has been subject to austere times over the past number of years but times move on and decisions were made which set out an ambitious programme of improvements in the Club's facilities.

Members voiced their opinions about the heating, lounge comfort, locker rooms and showers. The first work to be done saw the heating updated and the lounge/restaurant windows and

doors replaced with triple glazed alu-clad units. The locker rooms were also redecorated. We then enlisted the talents of interior designer Aveen Clancy and, in January, her design for a new feel to our lounge will be revealed. Further work is in the pipeline. We thank our members and guests for their patience while we endeavour to bring our clubhouse facilities up to the standard of our course.

*To play The Joker, while the lounge is being renovated, see panel on the right.*

### FIND THE JOKER!



Do you want to enter the draw in advance? It's easy!

- 1) Pick an available number e.g. 45.
- 2) Put your money in the envelope e.g. €10 for 5 draws.
- 3) Write your name & contact number on the envelope.
- 4) If your selected number is drawn in any of the first four weeks during the period you will then be allocated a new number for the remainder of the period. This number will be the lowest available number.

# The Oozler

## AGM 2017

The Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 29 November. Barry Callaghan's arrival at 8.22 pm filled the quorum of 75 required and allowed the meeting to convene.

The Agenda was gone through in quick time with 3 Notices of Motion, each dealing with the quorum for meetings, passed without debate, as were the accounts and the annual Council Report.

The incoming Lady Captain, Beatrice Magee undertook to raise funds and work on the possible production of a slimmed down version of the Fixture List for those who sign up for a copy.

The President, Muriel Ennis called a halt to proceedings within 23 minutes of the commencement of the meeting. This is believed to be new all-time record for holding the AGM.

The changes to the Rules of the Club now provide for a quorum for each Club separate meeting to be set as a percentage of the voting members rather than an absolute number of members.

The motions, proposing changes in the calculation of a quorum, were prompted by the fall in membership numbers.



### BGC COUNCIL

As approved at the AGM, your Council are;

**President** Muriel Ennis  
**Captain** Tony Hamilton  
**Lady Captain** Beatrice Magee  
**Vice Captain** Pat Kinsella  
**Lady Vice Captain** Marie White  
**Hon Secretary** Sean McCormack  
**Hon Treasurer** Ian Fraher  
**Members**

Eamonn Copeland  
Gerald Gallen  
Sam Johnston  
Margaret Ryan

### IRISH GOLFER MAGAZINE TOP 100

In the latest IGM Top 100 rankings, Balbriggan Golf Club was rated 87th out of more than 430 golf courses in Ireland, North and South. We were listed in the top 50 parkland courses in Ireland and rated 6th best parkland course in County Dublin.

Congratulations to Peter Byrne, our Course Superintendent, and his professional team of greenkeepers who consistently deliver the course in top condition. Thanks also to the Course Committee and the band of dedicated volunteers who take on many tasks to keep our course looking it's best.

### NEW BETA CLUB V1 APP

The **BETA ClubV1 Members Hub/APP** has been enabled for our club. Please note that it is a "BETA" version so not all functions work yet and there may be teething issues with performance etc. Full instructions, on download and installation, have been emailed to you AND are on the Club's website.

### BALBRIGGAN GOLF CLUB PROSHOP

Looking for a great Christmas present look no further. We have several specials offers available in the Pro-shop.  
Gift Vouchers  
Golf Package available for Golf Lessons  
20% Off Golf Bags in stock  
10% Off All Shoes in stock  
10% Off Club Sweaters in stock  
20% off Ladies & Gents clothing in stock

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFERS

Tell your family, friends and contacts about our Limited Special Offers. Full details on the Club website or call the Proshop or Office at 01 8412229.

### Full Membership €999

Full Membership, including all the benefits enjoyed by 7 day Members including; Full 7 day playing rights, official GUI/ILGU handicap, access to weekly competitions, use of all Member facilities, Member discount for your guests, Member discount on buggy

hire, Member discount at the bar, full voting rights and many more Membership privileges.



### 5 Day Membership €775

Full use of all Member facilities Monday to Friday. Member discount for your guests, weekly competitions, official GUI/ILGU handicap and many more Membership privileges.

To date, 40+ applications have been received (12th Dec '17).