



August 2018 Club Newsletter

From the Captain:

You may recall in the June Newsletter, I wrote I was hoping for the good weather to continue but I did not envisage how long it would last! It really was a scorcher and I have never seen so many bare legs on view on the course!

The extreme heat and lengthy dry spell caused obvious problems for our course but we are indebted to our Greenkeeping Staff of Jim, Trevor and Scott for keeping the greens in remarkable condition. The fairways will take some time to recover but with more rain showers about that will surely happen.

I was saddened to hear of the deaths of two of our Members since the last Newsletter. Graham Short, a member for over 25 years died on 21st July and Alan Hercher, a Member since 2011 passed away after a short illness on 10th August. Our thoughts are with the families of both.

I would remind all Members a collection is being taken to mark the retirement of our long standing Head Greenkeeper Jim Hamilton. Jim finishes work with us on Friday, 31st August after 35 years' employment both as Club Professional and Head Greenkeeper. If you wish to contribute you may do so at the bar or to our Club Manager, John Forbes. A presentation to Jim will take place at 3pm on Friday, 31st August within the Club Lounge and all are welcome to attend.

As I alluded to in the June Newsletter, our Club was to stage the Scottish Left-Handed Championships on Sunday, 17th June. I was pleased to note a significant increase in participants compared to the past few years when the Competition was held at Newtonmore and even more pleased to learn

our own John R. MacKay won the Scratch - not for the first time! Well done John.

The Club Championships were held during week commencing 2nd July and congratulations go to our new 2018 Champions:-

Men's Scratch Champion - John R. Mackay

Men's Handicap Champion - Nathan MacKenzie

Ladies Scratch Champion – Pat Morrison

Ladies Handicap Champion – Alison Mackay

Senior Men's Champion - Ian R. Black

Junior Champion – Scott MacKenzie

There have been the following Holes in One recorded since the last Newsletter:-

Steven Hercher, 10th Hole – Club Championship 1st Round Saturday 23rd June 2018. Well done Steven!

John Forbes and I completed our Sponsored "James Braid Challenge" of playing all seven Trail courses over the two days, Sunday and Monday, 15th and 16th July. As a result we were donated the sum of £2522 which we have divided equally between our Club and the Highland Hospice. I would like to thank you all for making this a very successful fundraiser and can assure you the money going to our Club will be spent wisely on further improvements to the fabric of the building.

As I informed Members earlier, we are still looking to attract new Council Members and would urge you to give this serious consideration. We have three Meetings remaining before the Annual General Meeting in December and volunteering now would give

a flavour of what is involved and expected. If interested get in touch with me or Club Manager John Forbes.

Hamish A. Milne

Club Captain

RULES IS RULES!

I trust that you are having an enjoyable summer's golf and that you are doing your best to work within the Rules – not always straightforward though that may be!

Hopefully, you are all implementing our 'Ready Golf' guidelines – devised to keep things moving on the course and, consequently, to help avoid slow play.

In the meantime I have a couple of situations for you to consider and, respectfully, clarify for you should you be unsure of procedure.

- You play a lovely pitch to the 8th green but - to your consternation - your ball strikes your fellow competitor's stationary ball and is deflected off line. The fellow competitor's ball must be replaced – in fact a ball in motion, on any part of the course, which strikes a ball at rest and moves it means the struck ball must be replaced.
- A well struck drive off the 11th tee unfortunately veers left towards the pond and you 'know' or are 'virtually certain' that the ball is in the hazard. Once you reach the hazard you cannot find your ball. You now have three options:

(a) Go back to the tee and play 3.

OR (under penalty of 1 shot)

(b) Drop a ball behind the hazard (as far back as you want) ensuring that you drop on a direct line from the pin through the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard.

OR (under penalty of 1 shot)

(c) Drop a ball within two club lengths – not nearer the hole – of where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard. This option only applies to lateral 'red stake' hazards.

If you do not 'know' or are not 'virtually certain' that the ball is in the hazard then the 'lost ball' rule applies.

Our Club Manager, John Forbes, can get you a copy of the 'Rules of Golf' or / and 'A Quick Guide to the Rules of Golf' on request.

If you have a Rules query that you think I can help with please don't hesitate to contact me (07857034163). I'll do my best to help.

Happy golfing!

Allan Pollock (Scottish Golf Rules Qualified – honestly!)

SNIPPETS

- Members are reminded that prior to casual play they should ensure their name is added onto the Club Booking System. This may be done on personal computer, mobile or calling into the shop (if open) or at the Bar.
- Well done to our junior member, Scott MacKenzie who was invited to play in the Spey Valley Pro-Am on Wednesday 20th June. It was a great experience for Scott and he thoroughly enjoyed the day. Please see photo below of Scott along with his team for the competition.

