



October 2018 Club Newsletter

FROM THE CAPTAIN:

The summer and golfing season of 2018 seems to have really flown by and now we are heading for the winter period which, I hope, will not be as severe as last. It has proved to be a very busy summer period for our Club with visitor numbers well in advance of previous years. The Management and Council continue to work hard at attracting visitors as they provide a valuable source of income for us. It is pleasing to note we already have bookings from Tour Companies for next season but we cannot be complacent as there are many challenges just around the corner.

Much has happened since my last Newsletter, most good but some very sad. The sad news of course has been the loss of member Mike Fraser who passed away after a very short illness on 2nd October. Mike was an unassuming character about our Club and over the past few years did so much voluntary work to keep the course looking it's best. I briefly mentioned to him some time ago, how disappointed I was at the amount of litter being discarded on our course despite litter bins being positioned at most tees. Over a couple of days Mike set about sorting out the problem and gathered twelve black bin bags of rubbish and continued to do that right up to the end of September. He was also a volunteer assisting Tom Mackenzie and others at the fitting of the new UPVC fascias and soffits. He also wired up the clock now back in position and fingers crossed keeping to time! During the severe weather at the start of this year, Mike regularly cleared snow and spread salt on the car park ensuring staff and Members had a safe passage to the Clubhouse. He will be sadly missed around our Club.

On a cheerier note, our new Head Greenkeeper, Darren Hexley is now in post and setting about putting his mark on the course. In collaboration with the Greens Convenor a Winter Programme has been drawn up and a resume is to be found later in this Newsletter.

We are sorry to lose Scott Clark from our greenkeeping staff. Scott, who has been with our Club since 2010 has taken up other employment within the village and we wish him well for the future. An addition to the staff will be made when appropriate to do so.

On the playing side I am pleased to report Ian Hopkinson achieved a Hole-in-One on 28th September at the 10th hole in the Friday Senior's Competition.

Well done to the Muir of Ord Team of Scott Forbes, Shaun Johnson, Greg Forsyth and Jamie Whittet who represented our Club in the Northern Counties Cup at a very windy

Royal Aberdeen earlier this month. They won their First Round match against Reay Golf Club but narrowly lost in the next round to Tain Golf Club on the first extra hole.

In more good news I am delighted to have welcomed Liz Watt to the Council for remainder of the year. I hope Liz will consider seeking election at the fast approaching AGM to be held on 6th December. On the matter of the AGM, Nomination Papers will be displayed on the main Notice Board from Friday 9th November.

PRIZEGIVING

The Annual Prizegiving was held on 20th October within the Clubhouse and I was delighted to see a full house. I was however, disappointed in the number of recipients of prizes who failed to notify their absence on the night. Our Manager sends out Invitations to all Winners and Runners Up with a specific request to notify him if they are unable to attend. Out of courtesy a reply if unable to attend is surely not too much to ask. A photograph of some of our Winners is shown below.



A quick reminder to those who won vouchers is they may be spent in the Bar, Shop or put towards Membership Renewal.

I am disappointed to report there have been instances of Member's equipment being interfered with in the Gent's Locker Room. Members pay a small fee each year for the convenience of storing their belongings, including trolley's, in the Locker Rooms and it would be hoped this was a safe place for doing so. It now appears not. I would ask all Members to be on their guard and report any instances or indeed information as to who may be responsible to our Manager.

Hamish Milne
Club Captain

GREENS

All the greens have been cored and sanded. The help of members with this work is appreciated. The use of a greens iron after the coring helped to smooth out the greens. We are now playing off the winter tees and the white posts are out on the fairways. Please note there are now white posts on the 9th and 11th fairways. A small number of mats are being ordered and will be available to buy in the shop. These can be used on the course to avoid taking the ball to the edge of the fairway. Please remember to take your ball to the side of fairway if you are in between the tee and the white posts.

Golf buggies – these have been well used this summer. However, it has been noted that some members are driving the buggies onto the tees. Buggies should never be on the tees or greens. In very wet conditions the club reserves the right to ban the use of buggies until the course dries out.

Due to the hot summer many areas close to the greens are very worn. Some of these areas have been roped off to keep golf carts and buggies out to give the grass the best chance of recovery. If a ball strikes any of the ropes or posts surrounding these areas then the shot may be replayed.

A full winter programme of work has been drawn up. The main items in it are:

- Turfing of the 5th mens medal tee and the 9th tee. Both tees suffered from the dry summer and were not in in good shape. They will be levelled and re-laid this autumn.
- Bunker work – several of the bunkers on the course need re-shaping e.g. the 2 bunkers on the LHS of the 15th fairway and the bunker in front of the 10th green. There are 3 bunkers in front of the 4th green. The one on the left-hand side nearest the whins is not serving any useful purpose and the plan is to remove it. Other bunker work will be carried out depending on the weather.
- Scrub clearance - Many areas of the course are being smothered in whin and gorse bushes and they are also taking over some of the heather areas. Also, some bushes around the course are dead and unsightly so they will try and clear many of these areas. This work will be carried out as time and weather allows.
- It is intended to lay rubber matting initially at the 2nd Tee and the incline approaching the 13th green. The matting will be dug into the ground and placed on top of fresh turf, the matting has gaps in it to allow the grass to grow through the matting.
- Replacement of watering points - Many of the green boxes which house the watering points beside the greens are damaged and in need of replacement.

David Scrimgeour
Greens Convenor

NEW RULES OF GOLF – JANUARY, 2019

You will probably be aware that the R &A and the USGA have put their heads together in an effort to provide golfers with a Rule Book which is easier to understand and implement.

An illustrated 'Player's Edition' has been produced and, although still running to 160 pages, is undoubtedly a big improvement in being more user friendly – it's even got pictures in it!

Copies exist for your collection throughout the Clubhouse and are also available from John, our Club Manager.

Without going in to any great detail here are a few bits that are more obvious changes:

THE 20 MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF 2019

1. SEARCH TIME - REDUCED FROM 5 MINUTES TO 3 MINUTES
2. BALL MOVED DURING SEARCH - REPLACE NO PENALTY
3. EMBEDDED BALL - FREE RELIEF ANYWHERE THROUGH THE COURSE
4. MEASURING A DROP - USE LONGEST CLUB (EXCEPT PUTTER)
5. DROPPING - DROP FROM KNEE HEIGHT RATHER THAN SHOULDER
6. TAKING STANCE ON WRONG GREEN IS NOT PERMITTED
7. BALL UNINTENTIONALLY HITS PLAYER OR EQUIPMENT - NO PENALTY
8. DOUBLE HIT - NO PENALTY. NOW ONLY COUNTS AS THE 1 STROKE
9. TOUCHING SAND IN BUNKER INCIDENTALLY IS PERMITTED
10. LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS CAN BE REMOVED ANYWHERE INCLUDING HAZARDS
11. DROPPING A BALL OUT OF BUNKER - 2 PENALTY STROKES
12. WATER HAZARDS - NOW CALLED "PENALTY AREAS"
13. TOUCHING GROUND IN PENALTY AREA - NO PENALTY
14. BALL MOVES ON GREEN AFTER BEING MARKED - REPLACE WITHOUT PENALTY
15. BALL ACCIDENTALLY MOVED ON PUTTING GREEN - REPLACE NO PENALTY
16. ALL DAMAGE TO GREEN CAN NOW BE REPAIRED
17. POSITIONING A CLUB FOR ALIGNMENT IS NOT PERMITTED
18. CADDIE ASSISTING WITH ALIGNMENT IS NOW NOT PERMITTED
19. PUTTING WITH FLAG STICK IN HOLE IS NOW PERMITTED
20. BALL WEDGED AGAINST FLAG STICK AND SIDE OF HOLE IS DEEMED AS HOLED

There are, obviously more bits and pieces to look at – and we can do that in the near future. Local Rules will also have to be refreshed in light of the new Rules.

Once again please do not hesitate to contact me should any of the existing Rules require clarification (Mob. 07857034163).

In the meantime please remember preferred lies are in operation – fairways only. If you take a preferred lie you must mark your ball, clean if you wish and replace within 6 inches of original spot no nearer the hole. Just flinging the ball down somewhere near, moving it with your club or kicking it doesn't apply!!

You must take your ball to the nearest side when playing between the teeing ground and the white stakes – you can place the ball at the side. No need to drop it – from any height!!!

Enjoy your winter golf (hope we don't get a bad winter).

Allan Pollock

Snippets

- This year's Christmas Menu's are now available. Hard copies can be collected from the bar or they can be viewed on our website www.muirofordgolfclub.co.uk
- Next year's fixture lists have been compiled and are now displayed on the relevant notice boards.
- Due to the very dry summer there are certain areas of the golf course which may become slippery when they are wet so please take care.
- Another successful Quiz Night was held on Friday, 26th October with ten teams competing. Our Quizmaster, Gordon MacIntosh, assisted by his son Graham put together ten testing sections of questions and the winners were, B Syms, D Syms, S Cropper and J MacDonald. Thanks to all who came along and a special thank you to Gordon and Graham for their efforts and adding their own brand of humour (both in content and presentation!) which was much appreciated.
- The "200 Club" is still up and running with Tickets available at only £1 a month from our Club Manager. With monthly money prizes of up to £50, can you afford not to be in it?
- Our Junior Coaching Programme under the guidance of Bert Nicholson continues to prove both successful and popular but could still do with more volunteer helpers. If you could spare a few hours a month to come along and assist our coaches you would be very welcome. If interested please get in touch with our Club Manager.
- Due to a very generous offer from Marben Comms this year we will be running an eclectic competition for the Saturday Winter Stablefords. The winner of the eclectic will receive a new putter to the value of £200".