



January 2019 Club Newsletter

FROM THE CAPTAIN:

What a difference a year can make! Last winter, our course was covered in ice and snow and unfit for play for weeks on end. This winter however we have enjoyed, apart from a few frosty days, reasonably mild and dry conditions allowing full access to the course. Significant numbers regularly turn out for play on a Saturday, (78 on 5th January), and their enthusiasm not to mention financial contribution is to be commended. No doubt "Mother Nature" will have her say but in the meantime let's continue to enjoy the moment.

I was heartened at the Annual General Meeting on 6th December, that we managed to fill all Council vacancies with the exception of the Treasurer's post. This is in stark contrast to the previous few years when members have been co-opted during the year. I look forward to working with not only those who remained on board but with the new Council members in maintaining and improving the standards already in place.

The new Convenors nominated at the first Council meeting of the year are:-

Finance - Tom Speirs
House - Gordon MacIntosh
Greens - David Scrimgeour
Competition and Handicaps - Susan Campbell
Marketing - David Stuart
Social - John Sieczkarek

Please feel free to approach any of the above regarding any issues or suggestions you may have.

I am happy to inform you our Club has been successful in applying for a £750 Grant from Golf Foundation. The money is to be used in recruiting more Juniors and providing additional equipment and facilities for them. The ongoing appeal for Members wishing to come forward as helpers and perhaps seek a coaching qualification is now even more relevant. If you feel you can devote some of your spare time to ensure the future of our Club, please contact Club Manager, John Forbes.

Hamish Milne
Club Captain

Greens Update

The course has been in very good order with excellent greens for this time of year. It has remained playable all winter up until this last week when snow and frost closed

the course for a few days. Those of you who do not play winter golf are in for a pleasant surprise when you return to the course in the spring. Darren and Trevor have been busy as you will notice as you go around the course. The main changes are:

- The medal tees on the 5th and 9th holes have been re-turfed
- Rubber matting has been laid beside the 2nd tee and on the slope down from the 13th green to reduce the risk of slipping.
- One of the bunkers at the 4th green has been removed (still leave 2 green-side bunkers!)
- The 3 bunkers in the 15th fairway and the one of the 10th have been reshaped and are much better looking!
- The front of several bunkers has been lowered.
- The area of gravel in front of the 9th medal tee is being removed and replaced by turf.
- The green irrigation boxes on the 6th, 8th, 14th, 16th and 17th have been replaced with reconditioned boxes.
- Scrub clearance has been carried out in various areas of the course, most notably behind the 3rd and 15th greens.
- The tee signs from the old Torvean course have been purchased and are being refurbished. Once that is done, they will be put out on the course.

The club is currently down to two greens staff since Scott left in October and Council are currently in the process of recruiting additional staff. A second-hand greens iron has been purchased and will be used as required throughout the year

David Scrimgeour
Greens Convenor

House Update

Keeping a roof over our heads!

It will have been noticed by regular users of our Clubhouse that a series of improvements and necessary running repairs have been carried out over the last couple of years. A very obvious example of such is the complete replacement of the soffits and fascias on the main clubhouse building, work carried out by Tom Mackenzie at a considerable saving to our Club and our gratitude to him is duly expressed. This has not only vastly improved the appearance of our Clubhouse but also means that there will be no need for

ongoing maintenance of that part of the building for many years to come.

Inside our Clubhouse the lounge has been repainted and the curtains and blinds have been renewed and now that we no longer have to sit in a pea-souper of cigarette and pipe smoke they should maintain their new and fresh appearance for a considerable period. The outdated night storage lounge heaters have been replaced with a type which are more energy efficient and practical and there is currently an ongoing project to bring the insulation in the attic space up to a more effective level and thereby stop all this valuable heat being wasted. On the subject of energy efficiency we have also budgeted this year for the replacement of all the light fittings in the building with low energy LED alternatives. These measures will immediately reduce our utility spending and in the long run will pay for themselves.

The lounge carpet which was recently damaged by an escape of water from a leaking hose will soon be replaced at no cost to our Club as our insurance company have agreed that we were covered. Another relatively major job is the problem regarding the failed sealed double glazed units in the meeting room windows. These full height windows will be replaced with smaller units with a fixed half panel below. This will result in a more pleasing appearance and an improvement in the insulation properties of the room.

So all in all progress is being made but there are still a number of issues to be dealt with. In general they are all relatively minor but necessary. If there are any plumbers, joiners or painters out there who would be prepared to offer assistance in dealing with some odd jobs it would be greatly appreciated. To quote that ancient Chinese proverb "A volunteer is worth ten pressed men..... and also considerably cheaper than a contractor". If you think you can offer some expert help or you become aware of any issues regarding the clubhouse which require attention, please contact the Club Manager or House Convenor with details. It is important that we keep on top of the maintenance of the building as it not only avoids the possibility of future major expenditure but just as importantly gives a positive impression to visitors and a creates pleasant environment for the members of our Club. In the meantime we will continue with our efforts to keep the building in good condition.

Gordon McIntosh
House Convenor

Social Update

I have been asked to promote the social aspect within our Club and look forward to listening to any suggestions for events we could hold. It is always encouraging to see events such as the "Sair Heid" so well supported but it would help our Club's finances to have our Clubhouse full on a more regular basis.

The following events have been confirmed so far:-

Burns Supper - 22nd February

Curling Club Quiz Night - 1st March

Jean Pierre Sieczkarek
Social Convenor

Competitions and Handicaps Update

You will be delighted to hear I will be meeting with my fellow Council member, Bill Rainnie and Club Manager John Forbes in a couple of weeks time to review all member handicaps! If you handicap is adjusted either way you will be notified of the change.

Susan Campbell
Competition and Handicaps Convenor

Marketing Update

I am pleased to report virtually all Sponsors have indicated their intention to remain with us for the forthcoming season. We also have a number of other local businesses keen to offer support should the need arise.

At the start of the season three reconditioned whisky barrels will be positioned on the course to act as litter bins. Sponsorship is currently being negotiated and hopefully the bins will not only be used appropriately but also enhance the features on the course.

David Stuart
Marketing Convenor

New Rules of Golf Now In Place

You will be aware that the new Rules are now in place – effective from 1st January.

Please see last issue of Club Newsletter for summary of main changes or access the R & A web-site (randa.org) for clarification and more detail.

I'll just mention a couple of situations that have cropped up since the new rules have come on stream i.e.

- Qu: Are you penalised if you drop the ball from shoulder height (old Rule) rather than from knee height (new Rule)?

Ans: No provided you correct your mistake before playing your next shot. If you do not correct your mistake then you will be penalised 1 shot (if the ball was being played from the relief area) or the general penalty (2 shots) if outwith the relief area (Ref. Rules of Golf 14.3).

It should also be noted that a ball dropped in a relief area that travels outside the relief area must be re-dropped in the relief area.

- Qu. Can I leave the flagstick in when putting and then ask that it be removed when the ball is in motion?

Ans: No. You must stipulate whether you want the flagstick 'in' or 'out' before you putt – and remember that if you ask that the flag be 'tended' then it must be removed from the hole once the stroke has been made (Ref. Rules of Golf 13.2).

It should also be noted that the ball is considered 'holed' even if the ball is jammed against the flagstick and the ball is partly above the level of the hole.

That's all for now folks but please remember to play Ready Golf when and where possible (Ref. Rules of Golf 5.6).

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you wish to ask about any matter relating to the Rules – Mob. 07857034163.

RULES OF GOLF EVENING

Come along to the clubhouse on Friday 8th March at 7.30pm for an explanation of / clarification on the New Rules of Golf. The meeting should last for no longer than 1 hour.

Allan Pollock

Snippets

- As the 31st January fast approaches, a timely reminder that all Membership Subscriptions are due to be paid before that date. Please note we can take Debit/Credit card payments over the phone so if you can't make it in to the Club to make payment then please give the office a call.
- There have been occasions particularly on Saturday mornings, when players have made bookings on the system and failed to appear at their allotted Tee Time. This proves unfair on others who may have chosen than slot as their preferred Tee Time. Please notify the Shop Staff if you are unable to play or cancel the booking on the website.
- The replacement of bunker rakes is at best indiscriminate! If you have occasion to rake a bunker following play, please place the rake in the centre of the bunker.
- Please remember the email address for our Club has been changed for some time to manager@muirofordgolfclub.co.uk Although the old address is still checked from time to time please

ensure you change to the new one in your Address Book.

- An Indian Night is being held in the Clubhouse on Friday 1st February 2019. If you are looking to attend please make a booking with the bar staff or Club Manager by 3pm on Thursday 31st January.
- One of our Members unfortunately slipped and suffered a broken ankle whilst on the 14th fairway on Monday 28th January. Please take extra care when playing during the winter as there are occasions when although all may seem well there may still be frozen ground under the surface. Please also ensure appropriate footwear is being worn.
- There are still spaces available in our 200 Club monthly draw. The cost per year is £12.00 and prizes up to £50.00 are paid out each month. If you wish to join the 200 Club then please contact the Club Manager.