



April 2019 Club Newsletter

FROM THE CAPTAIN:

Well the winter didn't really take that long to pass and now we are up and running on what I am sure will be yet another fantastic season of golf at our Club.

I am sure by now all of you will have been out on the course and noticed the changes which have taken place. Darren and his team have been exceptionally busy over the winter and hopefully you will all approve of the decision to cut back and remove a lot of the scrub. I am sure the course will be a step up again from last season. Our Greens Convenor gives a full report on matters below.

Unfortunately the weather did take its toll on the Lewy Body Dementia Charity Opens held over the weekend of 15th, 16th and 17th March. Probably the wettest day of the year failed to deter 50 seniors from braving the elements in support of the cause. Well done to Darren Hexley on winning the Gents Open, Barry Syms the Senior Open and Catherine MacKay the Ladies Open. A tremendous total of £7092 was raised for the Charity and huge congratulations go to Cormac Miller, his wife Christine and daughter Kara for their efforts in pulling this together.

The Club Competitions are now under way and congratulations to David Paul on winning the Tuach Cup, Gordon Simpson the Rover Cup and Pat Morrison who won the first Ladies Medal of the new season.

Between 4th March and 25th March our Level 2 Coach Bert Nicholson and several helpers provided 296 schoolchildren at 6 local Primary Schools with golf "Taster Sessions" This was an initiative aimed at giving an insight into the sport, hoping some of them would join our Junior Coaching Programme. The sessions were well received by the school staff and the children with applications to join our Club already being submitted. A big "Thank You" to Bert and the helpers for the support, without which this initiative would not have been possible.

Hamish A. Milne
Club Captain

GREENS UPDATE

The golf course is now back to full playing conditions. On the fairways, lift and placement of the ball within 15cms (6 inches) is in play until the end of April. In the rough you have to play the ball as it lies! The course is in excellent shape so there are no excuses for not getting that handicap down.

Darren and Trevor have done a tremendous job over the winter and there are a lot of improvements to the course. Staffing is now up to three and a half people for the season with George Sutherland being appointed to a part-time general worker position over the summer. On the 1st April, our Club welcomed Ewan Neil who started as an Apprentice Greenkeeper. A new utility vehicle was purchased in February and is proving to be a very useful addition and replaces an old machine which had reached the end of its life. The course itself has been further enhanced by the erection of the new Tee Signs.

Several of the bunkers have been reshaped and all have been trimmed round the edges. The front of some of the bunkers has been lowered thus they are more receptive to the odd stray ball! Some of the bunker faces have been sharpened making them slightly more difficult to get out of! The scrub around the big stone beside the 12th yellow tee and 13th green has been cleared so it is now very visible. The rubber matting at the 2nd tee and the 13th green has knitted in well and is now in use.

All the greens were verti drained in early March and received a light covering of sand. Each has been ironed and top dressed with the heavy rain last week doing its work! As usual all we want now is some heat to get everything growing but all in all for the time of year the course looks in excellent condition.

David Scrimgeour
Greens Convenor

MARKETING

All Tees are again sponsored this year and we welcome new sponsors, Ian Cattenach Car Sales, G & A Barnies & Campbell's of Beaulay. Please support all these businesses whenever possible as without their support we would be missing considerable income.

Twilight golf is a well-supported way of attracting casual golfers and this year we have put together a package which will reward those who play our course a set number of times. Further details will be displayed on our website soon.

David Stuart
Marketing Convenor

LADIES SECTION

There was an excellent turnout for the opening night on Monday, 1st April with 26 ladies playing. We enjoyed a game of Dice Texas Scramble which proved popular and good fun. It was a rather cold and miserable night for golf but that didn't deter the good spirits. The stovies and macaroni cheese were most welcome when we got in. It was good to see everyone, including those currently unable to play due to recent surgery, come along after the golf. A quiz on the new rules of golf was held and proved quite interesting and helped all understand them a bit better. The ladies were reminded to enter their team for the Charity Open in September as soon as possible due to its popularity and to ensure a place. We look forward to a good season and hope the sun shines every Monday!

Susan Campbell & Liz Watt
Ladies Representatives

SOLHEIM CUP

You will by now have received emails regarding the Solheim Cup (the Ladies equivalent of the Ryder Cup) and note that it is being played at Gleneagles between 12th and 15th September this year.

On Saturday, 14th September, a 34 seater coach with full facilities will leave Muir of Ord Golf Club at 7am and return approximately 8.30 - 9.00pm. This offers a great opportunity to watch some of the top lady golfers in the world compete. The Captain of the European Team is Scotland's own Catriona Mathews.

Response to attend the event has been excellent and only a few seats remain available on the coach at a cost of £20 each. If you wish to join us on this trip please contact either myself by email at lizwatt23@gmail.com or Club Manager John Forbes.

We also intend to have a competition which will be a version of the "Solheim Cup" at our own Club this summer to support the event.

Liz Watt
Solheim Cup Ambassador

RULES OF GOLF – INTO THE SEASON

Now that we are well underway into the new season – and Tiger has won again – all would seem well in the world of golf!

Just a couple of points worth mentioning to you at this time:

Local Rules

Our local rules have been updated (on noticeboard and on request from our Club Manager) to bring them into line with

our new Rules of Golf. Not much has needed to be updated but the removal of loose impediments from bunkers now applies (previously just the removal of stones) and you can get free relief if lie of ball, stance or swing path are affected by the stumps of bushes which have been removed i.e. nearest point of complete relief and one club length from the reference point.

Match Play

With the Club Match Play draws having been made it is worth mentioning that the General Penalty for a Rules infringement is 'loss of hole'. It should also be noted that should you see your opponent do something which is contrary to the Rules then it is up to you whether you bring him/her to task. In stroke play it is mandatory that you do so. Therefore, if you are all square coming down the 18th and your opponent causes his/her ball to move accidentally (incurring a 1 shot penalty and required to replace the ball – and he/she doesn't) do you turn a blind eye?

Please remember to play Ready Golf when appropriate – in Match Play you still have to play in turn.

I'll be happy to answer any queries that you may have regarding the Rules – Mob. 07857034163.

Allan Pollock

SNIPPETS

- Helen Stuart of our Bar Staff went through a successful hip replacement last month and continues to make progress. We wish her a speedy recovery.
- Our Vice Captain, Tom Speirs is now the very proud owner of a new putter! The rumour his old putter traded him in for a new owner is way off the mark! The putter, to the value of £200 was very kindly donated by Walter Laidlaw who put the prize up for the leading player over the winter Saturday Competitions.
- Please remember to repair pitch marks on the greens and rake bunkers correctly when you have played out of them. Members please remember to not play more than two golf balls at a time when out on the course and please limit practising to the practice area.