



## July 2019 Club Newsletter

### FROM THE CAPTAIN:

I'm not fixated with the weather - honest, but what a remarkable change from this time last year when we had wall to wall sunshine for three months! Fingers crossed we will get some sun and dry weather before the year ends!

I start on a sad note as we lost our long standing Honorary Life Member Willie Ingram who passed away on 8th May, in his 86th year. We sent our condolences to the family and it was appropriate to see so many members attend his funeral service on 25th May.

On a happier note, things have been going well in our Club over the past few months and financially we are ahead of budget. We continue to attract new members and I am sure the work being done by Darren and his team is in some way responsible in attracting some of these new members to our midst and I trust they are enjoying the course which seems to be improving at every turn. Hopefully they will also have noticed we continue to improve matters off the course such as the new lighting fitted in the lounge. Work is also underway to change the lighting throughout the Clubhouse and Greenkeeper's Shed. The next step will be to install the added insulation in all loft spaces. This work will be completed before the start of winter.

I hope you agree the new Tee Signs are a welcome addition to the look of the course and I am delighted to hear many of the old signs have found new homes and the monies raised will ultimately offset the cost of the new ones. Please get in touch with our Club Manager if you are interested in obtaining one of the few remaining unique pieces of Club memorabilia.

I am also delighted to announce that WoodBlocX have agreed to renew their sponsorship of our Club Website for another two years. Their contribution over the four year period will have offset the sizeable purchase price of the website and for that we thank them. At present they offer free delivery to all IV Postcodes and we are currently negotiating for even more favourable terms for Club members.

I am sure you will be aware our Solheim Cup Club Ambassador, Liz Watt, has done a sterling job in her role and to date has succeeded in filling a coach to travel from Muir of Ord to Gleneagles on Saturday 14th September. 19 Muir of Ord members plus 7 from Fortrose and Rosemarkie and 6 from Aigas make up the compliment travelling. Those from Muir of Ord who have yet to purchase their tickets should do so as soon as possible.

Our own Solheim Cup Event which is open to all lady members of the three Clubs will be held on Friday, 16th August and is attracting much interest. It will be a foursomes match play competition run on Solheim Cup lines. An Entry Form is available in the Ladies Locker Room.

Well done Liz and thank you for your continued efforts.

The competition season is well under way and it is good to see our Members doing well in collecting the spoils in Open Competitions both at home and away. Congratulations are due to Rod MacIver who notched up a hole in one at the 5th and Gordon Simpson who achieved the same at the 13th when both were competing in the MacEwen Trophy on 2nd June. Mark Sanford had a Hole in One at the 10th hole when competing in the first round of the Senior Championship on 7th June.

Our Club was represented at the Scottish Senior Ladies Championships by Pat Morrison, Susan Campbell, Clare Dingwall and Catherine MacKay at Edzell early in June. Well done ladies for your sterling efforts!

I mentioned in a previous Newsletter the arrangement we have secured with Innes and MacKay, Solicitors, Inverness regarding reduced price for the preparation of Wills and the process of distributing the information letter and leaflet to all members is currently under way. If you have not yet received such a letter please see our Club Manager.

Lastly may I draw your attention to the upcoming Golf Tourism Awards. There is an opportunity to vote online for categories, varying from "Best Golf Experience Between £31 and £60" to "Best Clubhouse Experience". There are information cards to be found throughout the Clubhouse so please avail yourself of the opportunity to pick up a card and make your vote - hopefully for Muir of Ord in some of the categories! This is a great opportunity to further put our Club on the map and receive widespread publicity as part of our efforts to attract more visitors to our Club.

Hamish A. Milne  
Club Captain.

### GREENS

At the beginning of May, the course was starting to suffer from the dry weather. I am pleased to say the ensuing spell of wet weather has brought the course back to normal. It is

now in excellent condition and with plenty of grass growth. Darren and his team have been kept busy controlling the rapid growth. The greens are in excellent condition and have been receiving many compliments from both visitors and members.

The rough has been cut back in various places, most noticeably on both sides of the 9th and 11th fairways. The policy of continual filling of divot holes is paying off and the fairways are filling in nicely after the dry weather of last year. The grass at the right-hand side of the 7th fairway near the green has been allowed to grow up across half of the fairway and the ball does not run down the hill to the right so readily now.

The new turf on the 5th and 9th medal tees has grown in well and both tees are in full use. A nice touch is the coloured paint circles round the red, yellow and blue distance markers and they are more noticeable now. Overall, the course is looking well with very good definition of the fairway and first cut. Similarly, the green surrounds provide excellent contrast to the greens. The course is going to be looking at it's best for the various club championships which take place in the first week in July. Full credit is due to Darren, Trevor, George and Ewen for their excellent work.

David Scrimgeour  
Greens Convenor

## LADIES

The Priory Hotel Greensomes Open was played on the 15<sup>th</sup> June with 52 ladies taking part. P Marshall & H Small from Portmahomack won with a score of 65.5 with our very own Catherine Mackay & Sandra Anderson coming in second place. A good day was had by all and thanks go to the green staff for having the course in such excellent condition, Monica and team for catering for everyone and Gerry for standing in the shop not to mention the Priory Hotel for its ongoing sponsorship of the competition.

Susan Campbell  
Lady Representative

## Handicap & Competitions

The first round of the match play competitions have all been played with the next round due to be played by the 7<sup>th</sup> July.

A decision to change the handicap system for Texas Scramble competitions is now in force with the maximum handicap for gents teams changing to 8, mixed teams 9 and ladies teams 10. Ladies will now be given 2 additional shots when gents play off the white tees and 4 when gents play off the yellow tees in line with other clubs.

Pat Morrison and Susan Campbell represented the club in Scottish Golf's 9 hole competition in Milnathort but sadly did not manage to go through to the finals in Portrush. Well done to Scott Forbes & Graham McIntosh who have reached the 5th round of the Daily Mail Foursomes competition. At present they are still awaiting to hear who they will play but we wish them all the best for their 5th round match.

Susan Campbell  
Match & Handicap

## SNIPPETS

- Drop Zone - as previously circulated by Club Email it has been decided to implement a Drop Zone in respect of balls ending up on the Practice Putting Green. The Drop Zone is marked out in front of the tree at the front edge of the Green.
- As you may be aware Mark Sandford has been absent from the shop as a result of undergoing an operation to remove his appendix. We wish Mark a speedy recovery.
- Congratulations to David Patterson who once again has been selected for the Scotland Blind Golfers Team for the forthcoming International Series.