



August 2021 Club Newsletter

From the Captain:

Golf is back and we seem near the end of “lockdown”. The Clubhouse is open for business and our caterers are getting some really positive reviews. We need to keep them and the quality they provide so please use the Clubhouse facilities.

The Club Championships were keenly contested at all levels and our winners are:

Gents Scratch – Jamie Whittet

Gents Handicap – Ewan Watson

Ladies Scratch – Fiona Rice

Ladies Handicap – Moureen MacMillan

Gents Senior Scratch – George Sutherland

Gents Senior Handicap – John MacKenzie



Congratulations to them all and also to the runners up.

Unfortunately players who had not identified that they could not play in the matchplay stages withdrew after the draws were made, this meant several members who could have qualified, and wanted to, did not have the opportunity to play. The Club Council has decided in the absence of reasonable grounds members will be unable to play in next seasons Club Championships. This will be a rule adhered to next year and in future years.

Most of you will be aware of the pressure on tee times particularly at weekends. While the return to a degree of normality “post lockdown” has reduced this pressure, Council have decided to close our membership to protect our members access to the course.

The much debated on course toilet is now a reality! In keeping with clubs across the country and modern demands this is an essential addition to our course facilities and hopefully it will be in place for next season.

The Council has received several formal and informal comments regarding etiquette on the course, adherence to golf rules, general behaviour and slow play. Can I remind everyone to be aware of golf rules and adhere to them in particular 3 minutes you have to find your golf ball. If in doubt please play a provisional ball and if you lose ground on the group in front then let the golfers behind you play through. I.e keep up with the group in front and ahead of the golfers behind.

You will notice several changes and sprucing up of the Clubhouse and Greenkeepers facilities over the next few months as we invest in needed work to both areas.

A short plea to members on 2 fronts.

1. We are struggling to support our juniors and any help would be much welcome, in particular if we could find a junior convenor.

2. There are still Council seats to fill and several of our current Council finish their tenure this year. Can I ask members to consider joining the Council to help and influence the Clubs decision making and future. We are quickly heading towards 2025 and the Clubs 150 year anniversary. Any ideas for this would be welcome, also a willingness to participate in this historic time.

Jean Pierre Sieczkarek
Club Captain

Greens update:

I would like to thank members for their patience in the spring as the greens recovered from their two-month spell under ice! Darren, Trevor and Ewen put in a lot of work in the spring to try and repair the damage done by the frost. Thankfully the greens are now starting to recover but the prolonged dry spell has not helped! A lot of new grass seed has been sown on the greens so I am hoping that it will improve the greens further in the longer term.

The greens staff has been doing a tremendous amount of watering to keep the greens in good order during this recent dry spell. Darren has acquired a 1000 litre container from Castle Stuart for free! He has the loan of a trailer and uses it to take the container out to the course once it has been filled with water. He had to buy a pump to then pump the water onto the greens especially the 7th and 13th greens. He has also been using the container to water some of the tees. The pump will also be useful for draining any wet areas of the course during the winter.

The irrigation system is old and in need of upgrading. This autumn, the club is going to install a 10,000-litre water storage tank behind the greenkeeper's shed. There will be a pump put in beside the tank to pump water through the existing pipework up to the 7th and 13th greens. This will give much better pressure at these greens and allow them to be irrigated by conventional sprinklers.

Looking to the longer term, Darren would like to extend the irrigation pipework to the 9th and 11th greens. Currently they are irrigated by a surface hose from the 8th green. After that, the next step is to put in sprinkler heads at the 7th, 9th, 11th and 13th greens. This would be possible once the pump system is working as there would be sufficient pressure to operate sprinkler heads at these greens. In the future, the plan is to install more sprinkler heads on most of the greens. This will obviously depend on cost.

The fairway mower was due to be replaced 2 years ago as it had finished its 5-year lease. Darren decided to not replace it then as it was still working well. However, it is now 7 years old and Darren is looking to replace it in the spring of 2022. He is currently getting demonstrator trials of various mowers to see what one is best.

Ewen has been continuing with his greenkeeping course at Elmwood. Unfortunately, he has not been able to attend the college this last year due to Covid and has had to do much of the course on-line. He will finish his course this autumn.

Finally, some of you will have noticed that there is now a toilet on the course! The blue loo is situated on the right-hand side of the 5th fairway at the edge of the trees. This site is only a temporary measure until a proper toilet is installed elsewhere on the course within the next year. The present situation of the toilet is because it is serviced weekly by Ord Industrial and they did not want to drive through the course.

David Scrimgeour
Greens Convenor

Ladies Section

The ladies' section has enjoyed a great golfing season helped by fairly favourable weather for a change. We have welcomed a few new and returning ladies to our Monday competitions which is lovely to see.

We have new Champions in both the scratch and handicap sections with Fiona Rice becoming our new Champion beating Clare Dingwall in an excellent final and Moureen MacMillan beating Yvonne Martin in the handicap final. Well done to all who played and helped on the day.



Our ladies Greensomes Open, sponsored by the Priory Hotel was won by H Flynn and J Borley from Inverness GC but a very healthy number of MOO teams featured in the prizes.

We will be holding our very popular Charity Open on 12th September with only a few places left for entry, ideas required for which charity the proceeds should go to this time.

Many thanks to Fiona Rice for providing coaching to several ladies over the past month on chipping and pitching, we expect to see falling handicaps as a result!

Its hard to believe that our closing night is only a few weeks away but we hope to see lots of ladies out on a Monday morning throughout the winter months, weather permitting.

Our thanks to shop and bar staff for looking after us on Mondays, to John for his assistance throughout the year, Darren and his team for preparing the course and to Hazel for providing great food for us to enjoy after our golf.

Happy golfing.

Susan Campbell

Lady Council Representative