



E-NEWS

DECEMBER 2018

Captains Notes

Welcome to my last message of this year. I hope that 2018 has been a good year for everyone.

A fantastic Summer, possibly one of the best that I can remember, coupled with all the redevelopment work, can only see things getting better with age. I am really impressed just how well the 12th hole is looking, even at this stage. I can just picture myself wondering what's the best way to get out of these swales! Putt or Chip?

The Greens certainly benefitted from our decision to core earlier in the year, a trend that the majority of local Courses seem to have taken up. The Greens have come in for particular praise from visitors and members alike.

Since becoming Captain in September, I am amazed at the encouragement and kind words received from members, thank you. I will be honest; it has been an eye opener for me, but one which I take on with relish.

Perhaps the biggest change scheduled for next year is the new Rules that take effect from 1 January 2019. Many existing rules have been simplified, with many designed to speed up the pace of play. I am sure that many a friendly debate will ensue over some of them too. A light-hearted and friendly Rules introduction night is planned early in the New Year, just to make life that wee bit easier. I hope that many of you are able to attend and I am sure that it will be fun and educational at the same time.

As always at this time of year, I would like to reflect on those that sadly are no longer with us, my sincere thoughts go out to all those affected by their loss.

To all members and their families, have a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2019

Steve David

Captain

Moto Caddy Repairs

Just a reminder that John in the Pro Shop is qualified to repair Moto Caddy trollies. He can assess the problem, buy in any parts, if necessary, and repair. This can be done in as little as 24 hours ! He may even be able to assist with other makes of trolley.





Annual Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st December

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the hamper raffle, bought raffle tickets, came along on the day and to all those who helped on the day itself and in the run up and to Alan Matthew for generously donating the coffees, mince pies and shortbread. We made an astounding £700.00 for the charity which is Alzheimer Scotland. A cheque will be presented to the charity in due course

Scottish Golf National Conference

I attended the SG National Conference on Saturday 1st December at the EICC in Edinburgh. There were about 500 attendees. We heard all about the initiatives from Scottish Golf last year and some for the coming year. Most of these are focussed on increasing Junior and Ladies participation and development in the sport. The main event of the conference was the unveiling of a new Scottish Golf App which would replace any existing booking system. The App would be free to affiliated clubs and their members and would enable members to book tee times, competitive or otherwise, at any courses, including their own. It would be made available to non club members for a monthly fee and any bookings would be subject to a minimal booking fee. This income would provide funding for Scottish Golf to further develop the game and to provide more services to Clubs and members. It all sounded very good but there are some unanswered questions which will need to be addressed. As a Club we have registered interest in the App and await further information. You can watch the live stream of the conference on You Tube – it lasts about 3 hours long but you can fast forward to the last hour to hear about the App.

Red Squirrel on the Golf Course



As you know red squirrels are very rare here but we do have one on the course. Ian (John) Anderson who plays very early most days feeds the birds, squirrels and any other wild life on the course and he has seen and has captured the red squirrel on camera.

This photograph is at the wall at the 6th/7th holes.



13 GOLFERS PROVE A LUCKY NUMBER FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

A group of 13 members have raised £800 for charity by playing golf. The group was formed in 2012 to encourage former players of the village amateur football team and their friends to participate in some social golf. The idea to raise money for charity soon followed. Since then over £3,000 has been raised with, for example, charities supporting people with Parkinson's, Prostate Cancer and Alzheimer's all benefitting from the groups fund raising efforts.

To raise the funds the golfers make a charity donation of £1 for each game played. The group, known as The Aberdour Sporting Development Club Charity Sweep, was unanimous in the view that Rachel House Children's Hospice should be this years nominated Charity. The picture shows the golfers with Laura Campbell who accepted the cheque on behalf of Rachel House.

Fixture Lists and 2019 Stickers

These are available to pick up from the Clubhouse. They will not be sent out to members unless specifically requested. You can pick them up in the Pro Shop, in the Main Lounge or from The Office.

Christmas and New Year Opening

The Pro Shop will be closed on 25th and 26th December and on the 1st and 2nd January. The course will be open, weather permitting, but no tees can be booked. It's a case of first come first off! There will be The Ne'er Day Bottle competition on the 1st January from 08.30 through to about 11.00, depending on entries, and a complimentary bowl of warming soup and a wee dram will be provided in the Clubhouse after.

The Clubhouse will be closed on 25th and 26th December and also on the 1st and 2nd January. There is a small private function on the 1st and also catering for the Ne'er Day bottle.

Match News

WEST FIFE WINTER LEAGUE

Aberdour's 100% record in this season's Scratch League came to an end on Sunday with a 4-0 home defeat against reigning champions Dunfermline. However, despite that reverse, the club will end the year as league leaders with three matches to play, a schedule which starts with a trip to Pitreavie on 15th January.

Gary Cruickshank's Handicap team are also joint top of their section after a 3-1 home victory against Glenrothes 'B' on 2nd December. The squad complete their 2018 fixtures with a tricky away game at Thornton on Sunday, their last action before the festive break.

MACROBERT THISTLE CUP (GENTS WINTER 4-BALL)

The group stage of the Gents Winter 4-Ball is coming to a close with the deadline for sectional matches just three weeks away on Wednesday 2nd January 2019. Several groups have been completed and we thank those members for arranging their ties timeously. With the mild weather so far this winter, there have been no course closures which has greatly helped in getting ties played.

SUMMER MATCH PLAYS 2019

All Gents, Ladies and Mixed match play competitions are now bookable via www.howdidido.co.uk or the clubhouse touchscreen. To book online, simply sign-in to your How Did I Do account, select "More" from the menu bar at the top of the screen, and click on "Knockouts". A list of competitions will be shown and you can enter as many or as few as you wish. Please read the rules of each tournament before entering. The deadline for entries is Saturday 9th March 2019 and all players must have a valid competition handicap as of that date.

ANNUAL HANDICAP REVIEW

The Annual Review of Handicaps, as required by CONGU, will take place this month where the Match Committee will analyse player performance in all competition formats throughout this year, before deciding on any handicap revisions. Any player whose handicap is amended, whether upwards or downwards, will be advised in writing and any changes will take effect from 1st January 2019.

RULES NIGHTS

The Match Committee will be running a couple of rules evenings in January to inform members regarding the changes being implemented by the R&A and USGA for 2019. In preparation for these events, we would encourage members to pick up a copy of the Players Edition of the 2019 rule book from the golf club and have a read through it before attending the rules night. Confirmed dates will be advised in due course.

Saturday Ladies Eclectic Competition

The ladies are embracing this competition with all five tees taken up each Saturday. This is a great turn out weekly and the competition is "hotting" up – obviously not literally! The format which means picking up when you can't better any hole also helps keep the pace moving quickly. Entry is through the Pro Shop and can be booked one week ahead.



Children's Christmas Party

What a great party! Everybody said they enjoyed themselves. The disco was fab with flashing lights, artificial snow, party games, dancing competitions and even a visit from The Gringe (big green monster for those who don't know), Even some of the adults joined in.

Alan provided tasty snacks in baskets this year. The kids loved this and fairly tucked in. Alan and his staff did an amazing job keeping the children and adults fuelled up.

Santa arrived from across the golf course driven by his helper John. All children received a present this year. This was either A cuddly teddy that changes colour or cosy gloves that flash a sequence of bright lights (Fun but also handy for dark school mornings). Thank you to all the members who generously donated money for these very much appreciated gifts. Your donations covered all the cost of the presents.

Thanks to Ruth Gillanders who organised this event and to all her helpers who mucked in. It was quite a task with 48 children attending but everyone agreed it was good fun. Any donations left over will go towards this Saturday's indoor sports afternoon being held for our junior section from 1pm to 4pm

Ruth, Sheila and Allan would like to thank everyone who has helped out with the juniors this year and wish them all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



FROM TEE TO GREEN

If you've played recently you will have noticed that the bunker work to the 12th hole is well advanced, with the lining and sand still to be completed. Thank you to all who helped Mark and his team with the turfing, your assistance is much appreciated.

With the bunker work at the 12th nearing an end the focus for the greens staff is now the winter programme, which over the last 2 months has been deferred to allow the bunker work to be carried out. The main focus of the winter programme this year is upgrading/repairing the paths (non-tarmac) around the course, in addition all existing bunkers will be renovated/repared, boundary wall repairs will be carried out and the area adjacent to green keeper's shed will be tidied up.

During the winter, areas of the course will be roped off and alternative access routes marked, these routes may change from time to time. We would ask that members follow these routes to protect/minimise damage to the course over the winter months.

If you have any feedback relating to the course please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself.

Jim Pearston
Greens Convener

Tee Time Pressure

A recent e-mail about booking tee times was sent out by Jane Cuthill. This came about as a result of a number of members complaining that they couldn't get tee times in the morning. However when we looked back at the days, which were a problem, tee times were actually available. It was not directed at any particular individuals nor was it intended to offend. It was merely to highlight the demand especially in the winter months and to remind people to cancel tees that are no longer required and in plenty of time so that they can be re-used. It was also to point out that booked tees do often become available later in the week.

**WE WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR**