

## Captain's Notes

Welcome to the last newsletter before the start of the summer playing season.

Probably, like myself, you can't wait to ditch the thermals, mitts and the universally dreaded fairway mats! Unfortunately, although the use of mats during winter periods is not exactly loved, it does indeed help with the condition of the course in preparation for the much-anticipated summer.

Just when everyone was getting used to the unseasonal playing conditions, the weather changes back to the good old Scottish norm. Roll on summer!

I certainly look forward to meeting many of you at the opening competition on the Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March so please come along if you can. Along with good weather and the revamped 12<sup>th</sup> it will be a great start to the season. The mild conditions over the past couple of months have certainly helped with the work being completed ahead of schedule. Well done to the Green staff.

Enjoy the new season.

Steve David

## Ladies Section

The first Medal of the year was very well supported with an additional tee time required. Another two new members participated in the competition which is very encouraging.

The summer Match play Knockouts have been drawn and the number of entrants have increased from last year. The draws are displayed in the ladies locker room so please ensure matches are played by the due date of the individual rounds.

There are nearly 50 ladies with their names on the list to attend the Dinner on 22 March so hopefully the lady members and their guests will have a very enjoyable evening.

## Junior Coaching Resumes



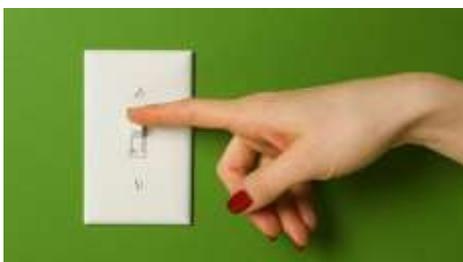
The Juniors are back after a wee winter break. The coaching is on Saturday afternoons followed by a few holes on the course for those who are able. We have several volunteer helpers this year, Ruth Gillanders, Sheila Page, Linda Kirkpatrick, Anne Mallinson, Ian Macdonald and David Ritchie. With over 40 juniors coming along - the future of golf is looking bright. We hope that several of the juniors will go for handicaps this year so that our junior competitions/medals can once again be played with a good level of entry.

We are hosting 2 Scottish Golf Junior events in March; a safeguarding children workshop on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 6pm to 9 pm and a Junior Forum on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Members playing on Saturday afternoons need to be extra careful at the 18<sup>th</sup> as the juniors are usually on the practice area so please shout loudly if your ball is heading right.

## First Aid at Work

Allan Knox and Jane Cuthill are now fully qualified First Aiders, having undergone a 3 day first aid course. Keiran Gibson attended on Day 1 which was the Emergency First Aid Course. We now have 3 qualified first aiders as Mark Laing already holds the qualification and all the green keepers have now had emergency first aid training. If you didn't already know the Club has 2 defibrillators on site, one at the Pro Shop and 1 at the 11<sup>th</sup> Tee. These can be life-savers and can be used by anyone once they are opened instructions are delivered automatically. Please don't be afraid to use one in the event of a cardiac arrest as it could save someone's life.



## Electricity Consumption

We are trying to reduce our ongoing running costs as much as possible and electricity is a major cost to the Club.

Can we ask members to help us by switching off any lights they see on which are not needed.

We will look at other ways to reduce our electricity consumption and if any members have any expertise in this field please let us know - your advice would be much appreciated.

## Non-members Using the Clubhouse

As a private members' Golf Club we wanted to communicate the Club policy in relation to non-members. We hold a registered club licence which means we can only serve members, members' guests and day visitors who pay a green fee.

We can and we have opened the club to non-members on occasion by applying for an occasional licence. This costs £10 per application and we can do this up to 12 times per annum.

On the few occasions when members of the public turn up at the Club we always look to accommodate them. We don't turn anyone away and we look for a member of staff to sign them in.

When we sign members of the public in we let them know we're a private members' club and we advise them that should they like to come back they need to join the Club or be with a member. We've treated these conversations as good opportunities to sell Aberdour and have been successful in recruiting new members this way.

The Clubhouse is generally quiet enough to accommodate a small group of non-members on the rare occasions that it happens.

We don't currently plan to open up the Clubhouse to non-members, although this is something we may look at in the future to ensure that the bar and catering service can be continued at the existing level of service. Any such changes to our license would, of course, only be made following appropriate consultation with members.

## Hole in One Benefit

Under our current members' insurance policy there is a Hole in One Benefit which pays out £100 for every hole in one which takes place at Aberdour Golf Club in a Club Competition.

Previously this was only available in individual stroke play competitions but can now be claimed for a hole in one in a stroke play, match play or a competitive team match. To claim, a copy of the scorecard needs to be sent to the insurers, signed and verified by a Club official.

This benefit doesn't cover bounce games or non-competitive matches and can't be claimed for a hole in one at other courses.

If you do get a hole in one in one of the formats mentioned above it is up to you if you buy drinks for everyone in the Clubhouse, for your playing partners or put a bottle up on the Bar. However if you do this you need to pay the Bar directly and then claim against the members' insurance policy. The £100 will be transferred to your bank account or a cheque will be sent out.



The green staff have started cutting grass again which signals the start of the season is not far away. At the beginning of the month the reconfigured 12<sup>th</sup> hole came into play. Due to carrying out the work in better weather, unlike last year, there is little or no remedial work required to the hole or surrounding area.

If you have played recently you will have noticed that work is being carried out on the paths. A new track has been constructed between the greenkeepers compound and end of the trees at the 16<sup>th</sup> hole, it is hoped that this will improve on the badly rutted area that has existed there in the past. In addition the path and sleeper wall adjacent to the 18<sup>th</sup> tee is in the process of being renovated. The remaining gravel paths will be completed by the start of the season.

Mark and his team work extremely hard to provide us with a good quality golf course. During the winter Mark has the course open when other courses in the area are closed and has us on the main greens when most courses, if open, are on winter greens. It is therefore disappointing to find that that he is repaid by many greens being peppered with pitch marks. At this time of year a ball will not travel very far from where it lands so it should not be difficult to locate and repair a pitch mark. Mark and his team would be very grateful if you would repair pitch marks.

Enjoy your golf in the coming season and should you have any feedback relating to the course please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself.

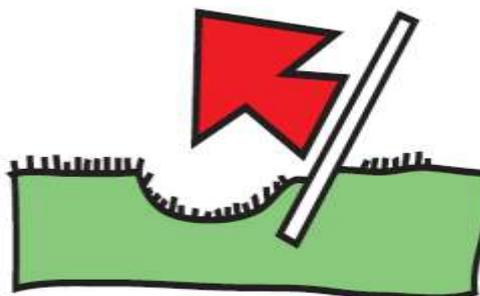
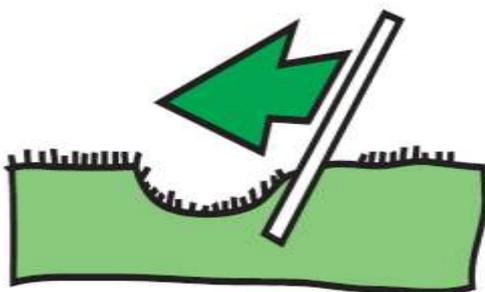
### Pitch Mark Repair Guidance

Pushing the bottom of the depression upward only tears the roots, and kills the grass.

**Right:** Using the prongs to push grass at the edge of the depression toward the centre



**Wrong:** Using the prongs as levers to push up the bottom of the depression





## Course Development Update

Spring is here... well almost and with that comes the newly re-opened 12<sup>th</sup> hole.

We have now completed the Course Development Work for 2018/19 and we fully opened the 12<sup>th</sup> hole on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March; opening up the bunkers, the newly turfed areas and the full green for play.

The work has been completed successfully with the newly turfed areas knitting in well. We have even undertaken a first cut of some of the swale and run off areas.

As the grass continues to grow we will do more cutting over the next few weeks - once we have some more growth. We have started to identify cutting lines on the green, so we will see the green slightly change shape, moving more into a figure of 8 shape which will give us the ability to have a clearly defined fringe before the run offs and bunkers.

Overall the feedback we have received has been positive, but we are really keen to hear from you and get your thoughts – Feedback helps us learn and develop for the next part of the project.

You will have noticed that we have marked some areas around each of the bunkers with arrows. This is where we would like you to enter and exit the bunkers over the next few weeks which will help to control the wear and tear around the new bunkers. **Please help us and follow these routes** and please make sure you **rake the new bunkers** once you have played from them. We want to encourage members to rake the bunkers with **both hands** thus making sure we move the sand to the right places in the bunkers and avoid pile up round the edges with no sand in the middle.

We now turn to what happens next on course development. Working with David Hanlon on Finance, we have started to budget what we can both afford and want to spend in 2019/20. More to come on this over the next few months. We want to continue the momentum and we've agreed to keep working on the back 9 holes so our planning turns to where to focus next. The Course Development Committee will be getting together over the next few weeks to look at the options for the 2019/20 programme of work.

## Door Entry and Swipe Cards

We have had some problems with the door entry system recently but these have now been resolved so if your card is still not working on the doors please let us know. The default code has been changed for security reasons so it can no longer be relied upon and the buzzer on the front door should only be used if there is no other option. There is a list of daily numbers which we give to visitors so if your stuck you can always ask for the daily number from The Pro Shop, Bar or Office.

# Match News

## SUMMER MATCH PLAYS 2019

The match play draws for the 2019 season are now available on the clubhouse noticeboards. Please check your fixtures and take note of the play-by dates next time you are at the golf club. The draws are also now available to view on the club website under the "Competitions" heading.

All players are mutually responsible for organising their ties and if you are struggling to contact an opponent, please speak to the Match Secretary as soon as possible. Putting your phone number on the draw sheet would be helpful, but please note that this does not constitute an attempt to contact the other player.

## WEST FIFE WINTER LEAGUE

For the third successive season, an away semi-final proved too much of a hurdle for Aberdour to overcome as Gary Cruickshank's side lost 4-0 at Balbirnie Park GC on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The club would like to express their gratitude to Gary for running the team this winter, and to all of the players who gave up their time to represent the club.

## GENTS MEDAL COMPETITIONS

With the main playing season just around the corner, we thought it would be a good idea to remind members of the general rules which apply to booking and participating in medal competitions.

The booking facility for each medal opens three weeks in advance, with the pre-booking period ending 8 days in advance of the competition. For midweek medals, players can book into a specific tee time and can add playing partners during the pre-booking stage. For weekend medals, players book themselves into half hour zones and there is a draw for playing partners. Pre-booking is available via the HowDidIDo website or the clubhouse touchscreen. Players may book outwith the allotted medal times, subject to availability, 6 days in advance via the club website booking portal, but we would request that if you advise the Pro Shop/Match Secretary in order that they may flag your booking as being for the competition.

Players are not permitted to change their tee times without the expressed permission of the Match Committee, and such requests will only be considered under exceptional circumstances. Withdrawals should only be made via the Pro Shop or the Match Committee. As we often have waiting lists for weekend medals, failure to advise the Pro Shop or Match Committee makes it difficult to monitor and fill blank spaces in the start sheet.

On medal days, players should check-in with the Pro Shop at least 10 minutes prior to their allocated tee time. This allows the Pro Shop to juggle pairings and tee times if necessary due to late cancellations or no-shows. Any players who do not turn up for their designated tee time, and who do not advise the Pro Shop or Match Committee beforehand, will be banned for the next two medal competitions. This also applies to anyone who removes their name from the B.R.S system without advising the Pro Shop or Match Committee.

## OPENING COMPETITION

Entry sheets are now on display throughout the clubhouse for the Opening Competition on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. This event is open to Gents, Ladies or Juniors, and is usually well attended as Aberdour golfers take part in the first official competition of the new season.

Usually a Texas Scramble format (or similar), this is a fantastic way to meet other members as the draw for team mates, which will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, is completely random.