



## **Captain's Newsletter 10th June 2022**

Fellow members, I hope this finds everyone in good spirits after a week's golf. The temperatures have certainly increased allowing us to again play in short sleeves. There are a couple of notable items this week after an excellent couple of results in the Muirhead Trophy and the Newton Shield.

Let us hope the weather is favourable as we approach Captain's Day on Saturday, fingers crossed we get a healthy entry and some good golf along the way.

### **Competitions**

Sunday saw the Castle retain the Muirhead Trophy in sensational style against our old neighbours OCRGC. A last gasp eagle, par, birdie when 3 down allowed Paul Mulligan and Nic Patterson to salvage a draw and get the all-important half point to secure the cigar box. We hosted the after-dinner ceremony and shared some great stories about the days golf. The final result Ranfurly Castle 6½ - OCRGC 5 ½. A fantastic result and one to cherish for another 12 months.





Team Manager Alan Gordon and myself with the all-important Muirhead Trophy.

The June Medal had 100 entries and the winner was David Gourlay on -2 with an outstanding round of golf. The final result was as follows:

1. David Gourlay -2 (BIH)
2. Harry Reith -2
3. Brian Macalister -1 (BIH)
4. Alan Hughes -1 (BIH)

The Ladies Saturday Medal Qualifier saw some good golf and tight scoring.

Silver Winner - Anne Judge 74

Bronze Winner - Pauline MacEwen 73

Club Championship Qualifying is now complete. M&H will process the scoring to ensure all named qualifiers are correct. At the moment there are a couple of anomalies with the scoring and they will be double checked in due course.

Next up is Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June and Captain's Day. This will be a fun Stableford format and was historically a Club Championship Qualifier, but this has been moved to create what is hopefully a fun day.

There will be prizes for 3 x Gents' categories and a Lady's category also. Nearest the pin at 7 and 14 will also see a couple of pro-shop vouchers donated by Vice Captain Ewen Templeton. At present there are 102 entries.

## **Catering and Hospitality**

Leanna and her team are slowly getting into place and the appointment of a new Chef on Monday is excellent news. All going well, Leanna can get a free run at the summer schedule. Captain's Night still has some availability for those wishing to attend. Those who have not yet made their choices of food can I ask they pre-order as soon as possible.

Watch this space for specials as the new chef settles into position.

Please see the notice board adjacent to the lounges for relevant information.

[Fish Friday – 17<sup>th</sup> June](#)

[Curry Night - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June](#)

## **Course/Greens**

The greens have been nothing short of sensational in the last week or so. The rough has started to show its teeth after the rainfall and the warmer temperatures.

Having successfully interviewed for a new apprentice greenkeeper, we are pleased to welcome Matthew McAulay who will be starting work on the 20th June. This will help bolster Craig's team as we strive to make further improvements to the standard of our golf course.

We are continuing our search for another greenkeeper to enable us to have a full complement of green staff for the rest of the season.

Remember there are divot bags at the starters hut for anyone wishing to take one out to aid the course recovery. Remember and hang the bag up after your round.

## **Social Events**

Captain's Night on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June should set the bar for our social calendar as we move through the season. Golf is the priority at present, and we shall see how the social scene starts to evolve as we move into July and August.

Can I also note for your calendar the Annual gents Prizegiving will be on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of October with Past Captain Geoff Urie the after-dinner speaker for the night. Geoff is very accomplished in after dinner speaking, and this will be a welcome return for him after a long association with our club.

## **Newton Shield Team**

The Newton Shield Team got back to winning ways with a convincing win over a very strong Elderslie side who are aiming to qualify for the knockout stage. The Castle ran out winners 6<sup>1/2</sup>-1<sup>1/2</sup>. Another fine performance as we are starting to hit some form at long last and it was nice to welcome Alan Hughes back into the fold after a long absence from the team.

## **Juniors**

The juniors continue to progress with Resident Professional Stuart embarking on weekly coaching sessions and this will only benefit the young players as they embark on their golfing journey.

It just remains for me to say a huge thanks to everyone who supported the Club in the last week to ensure the Muirhead was retained. Both golfers, and the team behind the scenes, helped make the day a very special one all round.

I tip my hat to our successful team guided by Alan Gordon and ably supported by Dave Stewart. Leanna and her team for a lovely meal and keeping the drink flowing as we celebrated. I must also thank past captain Brian McLaughlin for stepping in at short notice and contributing to the win as we defeated the OCRGC Captain Russel and his Vice Captain Derek 4&3. Brian was instrumental in the win and is certainly a lucky charm and has earned the nickname Guacamole Joe in reference to a Mexican bandit due to his high handicap.

Finally, a huge thanks to Russell Johnstone and his team at OCRGC for their sportsmanship in defeat and making the afternoon special as we basked in glorious sunshine on the terrace. If I have missed anyone out, then I apologise.

It was a fabulous weekend to be Captain of Ranfurly Castle Golf Club.

Happy golfing

Stevie Scott

Captain