

Captain's Newsletter 15th April 2022



Fellow members,

Another good week has passed for golfing with the Erskine Stableford on Saturday 9th going ahead as planned after the overnight weather did not bring the forecasted frost.

A good weekend also saw my football team make the top 6 after a 93rd minute equaliser so all in all a good week.

Competitions

The Erskine Stableford went ahead in glorious sunshine although the biting wind kept everyone on their toes and suitably wrapped up. The magnificent greens were again there for all to see with surfaces starting to quicken up.

Overall, the winning score of 40 points was from Khalid Qayum followed in second by Stuart Mitchell with a commendable 37 points just pipping John Crone into 3rd place with the better inward half. Again, a healthy field of 94 players entered and it was great to see the course so busy during the Easter Break.

Next up is the annual Random Scramble on 16th April with breakfast, lunch and prizes for only £12. So, get your entry in via the SG app. We currently sit with 48 entries at present, so it is looking like a healthy competition.

Lookout also for the first Junior Medal of the year on the 17th of April.

The knockout competitions are now in progress so keep a look out for the closing dates to the rounds to make sure all the ties are completed on time.

Catering/Hospitality

The fish night on 8th April was a success with 49 members taking up the offer of beer battered fish and chips, mushy peas and home-made tartare sauce. Look out for these specials as we progress into the summer months.

Hopefully the outdoor patio will be up and running soon once it gets a wee bit warmer as this area was a great success last year. The furniture is being spruced up and the patio power washed.

Bar and Catering was well mentioned on the Club Survey last year, but we need to support this area if it is to reach its potential. Remember there is a coffee machine on the ground floor when the bar is closed but you need coins to operate this, just like the old days when you used currency. Unfortunately, illness has struck again this week with limited opening times but we should be up and running again for the Easter Weekend.

Course

The course has been in stunning condition with our greens looking fantastic at this early stage of the year. You can start to see some definition around the course and none more so at the 8th where the view from the medal tee is nothing short of amazing.

We are now starting to see the turf around the new pathways at 7,8 and 13 starting to bed in but it will take some time so please take care around these areas with trolleys.



Craig and his team were scarifying the greens in the last week before top dressing them as he gets the greens prepared for the busy months ahead.

Course Rules

Preferred lies will continue through to 30th April on fairways and closely mown areas. Match & Handicap have agreed that preferred lies in bunkers will continue until the 30th of April, then revert back to normal from the 1st of May. I will put out a communication to the members as that date approaches.

Social Events

I am now able to start advertising the first quiz night at the Castle in years. This will be taking place on Friday 27th of May from 7.30. The finer details have not yet been completed but it looks like £10 for a team of up to 4 persons and hopefully a bit of fun through our quizmaster. More details to follow.

Fish Friday returns later in the month so check the notice board on the bar landing for details.

Suggestion Box

Another few suggestions have been noted via the box and the Captain's email. The dog walkers are becoming a problem at the 17th tee car park at certain times. At present we are looking into signage required to highlight health and safety issues as well as the car owner's responsibility.

It is a fine line we draw in welcoming members of the public onto our course and as we are a community club this area of our course is an ideal walking area for them. There are a few ideas being discussed and hopefully a resolution can be found soon.

The broken fence at 15 is problematic and we will try and get some repairs undertaken here. It is around 100m long and will be a significant job given the rock just below the surface. We are however looking into it.

It just remains for me to say, enjoy your Easter Weekend wherever you are and I look forward to seeing many of you in the Saturday Random Scramble.

Yours in Golf

Stevie Scott

Captain 2022