



Captain's Newsletter 17th June 2022

Fellow golfers, it has been yet another week of inclement weather with significant rainfall windy and, above all, very cold for the time of year. We continue to hope for some favourable weather moving forward. Another good week of golf has gone by none the less and Captain's night was a roaring success and a sincere thanks to everyone who came along on the night. Here are the latest goings on at The Castle.

Competitions

Captain's Day was almost a washout with the late starters getting the best of the weather. The course remained playable in probably the worst day of weather in the year. The results were as follows:

Gents' 1st Class:

1. Calum Campbell 36pts (prize-shoes)
2. Khalid Qayum 35pts (prize-quarter zip top)
3. Paul morrell 35pts (prize-umbrella)

Gents' 2nd Class

1. Steve Jack 31 pts (prize-shoes)
2. Pat Cullen 31 pts (prize-quarter zip top)
3. Tom Nixon (prize-umbrella)

Gents' 3rd Class

1. Harry Reith 33 pts (prize-shoes)
2. Brian McLaughlin 30 pts (prize- quarter zip top)
3. Peter Doak 28 pts (prize-umbrella)

Ladies

1. Eunice Muir (prize-shoes)
2. Eleanor Cannon (prize-polo top)
3. Pauline McEwan (prize-knitted top)

Nearest the pin

7th – Steve Jack (prize- £25 shop voucher donated by Ewen Templeton)

14th—Eunice Muir (prize--£25 voucher donated by Ewen Templeton)

A big thanks to everyone who took part on the day in the most challenging of conditions and well done to the prize winners. Prizes can be collected from the shop or exchanged for a similar product with one criteria, that the clothing must be endorsed with the club logo. Thanks.

Member Guest Day Update

There are less than 2 weeks to go to the Member Guest Day at Ranfurly Castle on Saturday 25th June, so please book up now to have a great time on the golf course with your friends.

There will be two 1st prizes to be won, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. £250 of golf shop vouchers for the member & a 1 year lifestyle membership for your guest.

Other great prizes will be announced shortly.

Hot rolls, coffee and tea will be available to purchase at the clubhouse on arrival.

The last few remaining times are still available.

So come on and get your name into what will be a fantastic day of golf.

Catering and Hospitality

Just a reminder that the 17th of June sees Fish Friday, so please book via Leanna or one of the team at the bar. At £10 this is a bargain!

This will be followed on Friday 24th which will be a curry night. The delicious sounding vegetable pakora, chicken curry and nan bread all for £10.95, so book your table at the bar and give Leanna 24 hours' notice to allow preparations.

We now have a full complement of staff in the bar and catering so hopefully after the issues lately, Leanna can get a good run for the rest of the season. So, let's support the club and try our menu and remember you have a £50 bar levy to be used up.

Course/Greens

The greens have continued to have routine maintenance through mowing, rolling, aeration, nutrient inputs with around 15 tons sand being applied throughout May.

When the weather and club diary suits over the next couple of weeks, staff will carry out some more aeration with 6mm solid tines followed by some top dressing. We are still seeing quite a significant amount of pest damage, so hopefully more sand will smooth the surfaces out even more.

Tees and approaches

Tees and approaches suffered very badly from the drought last year. Green staff managed to carry out some maintenance before the winter which did see some recovery, however, we do have some badly worn areas on some tees (4th and various others) along with some approaches in similar conditions. Craig, our Head Greenkeeper, plans to do some similar work to other tees as we have done at the 4th to try and get some better grass coverage.

Tees and approaches do have excessive levels of thatch accumulated over the years through lack of maintenance and sand top dressing. This may be affecting the quality of the turf. Craig is sending some soil samples away to the agronomist and this will help determine what levels of thatch we have and if there are any nutrient deficiencies within the soil that may be affecting turf growth. Once Craig has the results, he can then produce a maintenance plan to improve the turf quality on the tees and approaches.

All approaches have been verti-cut which will provide better surface short term.

Fairways

All fairways are getting a second application of Iron and Nitrogen, tank mixed with growth regulator. With Member Guest Day coming up, this will give us some nice colour to the fairways.

Craig plans to carry out some surface scarification in the next week or so. This will help stand up grasses and remove any dead tissue giving us better definition and lies on most areas of the fairways.

Over the next few weeks there will be a focus on getting the bells and ball washers painted after they have been prepared by removing rust and flaking paint.

I have noticed quite a lot of divots on the fairways again. I would therefore ask that, if possible, you take out a blue divot bag from the starters hut and repair one or two during your round to aid the fairways recovery.

This was one set of divots I came across on the 16th green fringe where, incredibly, someone has taken 6/7 divots out of the surface by trying to hit balls over the trees at the side of the green. Absolutely ludicrous behaviour. I sincerely hope that this was not a member and was maybe some of our local friends who utilise the car park at 17 for recreational smoking!



Social Events

Captain's Night proved to be a great success with 60 for dinner and entertainment by Platinum Duo. They provided 3 x sets of Abba, 70s and modern. The dance floor was packed from the off.





Newton Shield Team

The team had a superb 5-3 win over a strong Kilmacolm side who are one of the favourites for the trophy this year. Great wins for Mac Menzies, Alastair Froid and David Provan with notable halved matches from Andy Cunningham, Alan Canning, Allan Hughes and Ian Mitchell taking us over the line. 6 of the 8 matches went down to the 18th green. Great performance as we seem to be hitting some form late in the day.

Juniors

A great Newton Shield win from the juniors against Elderslie as we recorded a 10-2 win. 5 wins and a loss. Gregor Rawson just came up short against a strong opponent, but he was followed by a great team effort with wins from Ben Love, Iain MacLean, Ramsay McLeod, Harry Provan and Lorne Rawson.

Junior Convener David Provan is now liaising with OCRGC as he looks at developing a Junior Muirhead Trophy. This could be the future players of The Castle competing for the trophy in years to come.

Seniors

The seniors' team is in good shape following a resounding 5-1 victory on Monday morning over Erskine GC. A few youngsters making their debut in the team coming away with a couple of excellent wins. Next up is an away match at Elderslie which will be a tough encounter given the league placings. The following is the league table prior to our win on Monday.

[Seniors League Positions 2022](#)

That's all for this week and I hope you are able to get out onto the course and we get favourable weather at some point.

Happy golfing

Stevie Scott

Captain