



Captain's Newsletter 22nd July 2022

Fellow golfers, I hope this finds you well and you are getting the most out of the fabulous spell of summer weather we are finally enjoying. Warm dry temperatures have been the order of the day and certainly shows our golf course up at its fabulous best. It has been a pleasure to enjoy those views across to Ben Lomond and all the way back to Glasgow with some sun on our backs.

Hopefully, we can get a nice run of weather towards the end of the playing season.

This will be my first newsletter since the 1st of July so hopefully I can get some good content in regarding what is going on and has been happening with all things Ranfurly Castle.

Competitions

The July Medal on the 2nd was won by Nic Patterson with the scores as follows:

1. Nic Patterson -2 (68)
2. Tom Nixon Par (70)
3. Alex McKendrick +1 (71) BIH
4. Brian Glover +1 (71) BIH
5. Raymond Gormley +1 (71)

Division 1 was won by Nic Patterson, Division 2 by George Colquhoun and Division 3 by Tom Nixon.

Tough windy conditions were reported yet again making the course a few shots more difficult, so well done to Nic for a great score in breaking par.

The ladies July Medal results were as follows:

Silver

1. Lillas Snodgrass +2 (76)
2. Joy McLeod +7 (81)

Bronze

1. Patricia Pennel +2 (76) BIH
2. Senga Nixon +2 (76)

Greenkeepers Day saw an entry field of almost 100 golfers and the result was as follows:

1. Kevin Barr 36pts (BIH)
2. Paul Mulligan 36pts
3. George Colquhoun 35pts

Well done to Kevin Barr coming home in 22 points to pip Paul Mulligan, Kevin's putter was obviously working again. The putting green in his back garden is obviously paying dividends at long last!

The **July Strokeplay** on the 16th of July saw some favourable playing conditions reflected in the scoring with the results as follows:

1. Billy Hunter -6 (64)
2. George Owers -3 (67) BIH
3. Paul Mulligan -3 (67) BIH
4. Jim Park -3 (67)

Well done to Billy on a fabulous score, one of the season's best in competitions.

On the same day the **Ladies Saturday Stableford** was won by Kate Scott on 29 points closely followed by Sheila Swinnerton on 28 points.

The **Ladies Walker Quaich** saw Kate Scott shoot a superb -4 (70) winning the overall net result as well as the BRONZE section. The Silver section was won by Nancy MacGadie on +5 (79). Anne Judge had the best Gross score on +17 (91). Well done to all those taking part again with some great scoring out there.

Next up for the Gents is the **July Stableford** with an entry field of over 100.

All competition information can be found on the SG app.

Practice area improvements

The practice area adjacent to the 17th tee has been amended significantly in the past couple of weeks to incorporate an academy area for juniors. There is now a 6-hole course for practice with specific tees also in place. This can be used by anyone to hone their short game skills and the small greens will get better in time.

There are a couple of asks: please **do not** hit from the newly cut greens as this will cause untold damage and, if you are using the smaller tees, then **please repair your**

divots. There is still the opportunity to hit driver from the bottom of the area as well as iron play from the top. You can also use the flags as yardage markers, but you might need to get the yardages through a laser or step it out.

Big thanks to member Robbie MacKillop along with our Greens Convener Brian Glover for setting this up.



Catering and Hospitality

Catering and hospitality continue to develop positively here at The Castle as Leanna refines her team to give us the best possible service under difficult circumstances. Having been at other golf courses this season, we are not alone in experiencing difficulties in staff recruitment and retention, however, we seem to be heading in the right direction. The **Fish Fridays** continue to be a success with one this evening, (22nd July) - spaces are still available. There will be a **Curry Night** on the 5th of August with all the details listed below.

[Fish Friday 220722](#)

[Curry Night 050822](#)

Course/Greens

The course has looked superb throughout the season with a slight dip aesthetically recently due to the dry weather. The greens struggle with dry and warm weather as it causes some of the grasses to stress. Craig has already given a briefing relating to this end and has to keep the levels to stop any adverse effect on the surfaces. I must say the greens did look and rolled amazingly on Wednesday after a cut and roll.

The rough continues to be a slight bone of contention and some of the areas in front of the tees will be taken down and the Greens Convener is looking at the area between 9 and 10.

The fairways are still extremely forgiving with a significantly wide first cut. If in doubt hit a provisional.

Craig has also had staffing issues lately due to annual leave and sickness, but I am sure we can all see and appreciate the great work he and his team are doing. He should be up to his capacity in the next few days. We are advertising for another green keeper so hopefully this will progress fairly quickly and we can continue to see further improvements around the course.

There will be a divoting team out on Monday 25th driven on by Paul (Skip) Morrell. The divot bags located at the 1st hole have been a great success resulting in the great fairways we have and show how quickly they repair once sanded and seeded.

I also decided to donate the Captain's Bell at number 15 after the last bell had broken and needed repairing. You can now hear this bell on the tee box at number 14 - so no more excuses!



Social Events

There are no social events planned yet, as we are still mid-season, but we hope to start putting things in place as we approach late August and into September.

Juniors

No new junior news at this stage as the youngsters take a welcome break from school. We have also recently taken in several new young members as we try to develop a significant junior section. For any further information please contact the Junior Convener David Provan via RCGC.

SHOP

Feel free to pop into our Pro-Shop which is well stocked with everything you could want as a golfer. If it is not in stock, Stuart or Dawn will endeavour to get it in. We price match on goods and members receive a 10% discount on most, if not all, shop items.

Stuart our resident professional is starting to draw together his Professional's Day on 20th August. Last year we had an entry field of over 140 players with some great prizes on offer, so we hope to emulate that this year if we get the weather! Keep an eye for the Pro Shop Newsletter for further details.

and finally;

having at long last come out of the Covid pandemic, and seen the rules and regulations returning to normal, I am now asking that members ***return to using the changing facilities within the clubhouse for changing clothing and shoes rather than using the car park area.***

The Clubhouse main doors close at 9pm every day - please bear this in mind if you wish to utilise the facilities after a game later in the evening,

I hope you have a great weekend and can get out onto our fine golf course in the coming days.

Happy golfing

Stevie Scott

Captain