



Captain's Newsletter 2nd June 2022

Fellow members,

Another week of mixed weather as we start to see temperatures rise and about time too. The heavy midweek rainfall was welcomed by the green staff to get the playing surfaces again back to their best. Here is the latest news from Ranfurly Castle.

Competitions

Medals Finals Results

Medal Finals 1 st Class	1 st - Thomas Houston:	2 nd - Bruce Gibson
Medal Finals 2 nd Class	1 st - David Lamont:	2 nd - George Colquhoun
Medal Finals 3 rd Class	1 st - James Barr:	2 nd - Don Bremner

Overall winner, and recipient of the Sandeman Salver – Thomas Houston

The *James Coats Memorial Par* Competition was played in fairly good conditions with the greens back to their best. A field of 96 entrants competed against the golf course and it produced a 5-player tie in first place and to find the winner we had to introduce a countback. The following were the placings after the countback.

1. Kevin Barr 2 up (BIH 5 up)
2. Campbell MacKenzie 2 up (BIH 1 up)
3. John Mowberry 2 up (BIH A/S)
4. Todd Jamieson 2 up (BIH A/S)
5. Mitchell Cullen 2 up (3 DOWN)

Well done to those in the placings with only 7 players beating the course.

The Thursday Stableford was won by Robin Freeburn on 38 points, closely followed by myself on 36 with Raymond Gormley 3rd on 35 points having the better inward half over Steven Lamont.

Saturday 4th of June sees the June Medal and the last Club Championship Qualifier so good luck to everyone as the weather looks to be set fair.

The ladies had their June Medal Qualifier and the winning scores were as follows:

1. Gillian Donaghy +2 (76 BIH)
2. Sheila Swinnerton +2
3. Senga Nixon +3

Well done to Gillian and again some great scoring out there.

Course/Greens

The greens have started to recover from the cold spell in May and the last week has seen them return to their best rolling really nicely and speeds starting to increase. You can certainly see the definition throughout the course and also the deep rough starting to get up. It certainly pays to stay on the short stuff on our generous fairways.

The colour at holes 12 and 17 is nothing short of magnificent and I am sure you will agree that the rear of the 5th is starting to develop. The areas where astro turf has been laid as paths is now starting to knit in with the grass verges and can only improve the look of the course.

One notable change is at the 9th where the rough has been allowed to grow down the middle of 9 and 10 and now gives a clear definition between the two holes. Again, both have generous fairways, and it pays to make sure you hit them. The rough is wispy akin to links type terrain so you will generally find your ball but will certainly be left with a difficult shot.



Catering and Hospitality

Unfortunately, Leanna has been struck with what is becoming a hospitality curse with our new chef of 3 weeks deciding this was not the job for him so, once again, we are on the lookout for a suitable replacement. Catering will therefore be restricted for the time being until we have someone in place.

In the meantime, can I ask that you are patient in what has been a very difficult period. This scenario has been experienced across all aspects of hospitality.

Events

The Member Guest Day is on Saturday 25th June consisting of 2 x shotgun starts, morning and afternoon. These are starting to fill up nicely so get your name down for either the morning or afternoon shotgun. Food and some drinks will be the order of the day, not one to be missed. It's been a while since we could undertake this type of competition so let's get supporting it. The added bonus is there is a significant prize fund of over £2500 worth of goods. Some of the prizes are a GAP membership for RCGC, 4 balls at some prestigious courses (need to enter to see where) and some bespoke whisky's courtesy of a member.

Anyone with any ideas for a social event should contact either myself or Paul Lyons through the Captains' email account. Hopefully we can start to get some social events up and running as we head through the season.

Newton Shield Team

The season is not going as well as hoped and a midweek defeat at the hands of OCRGC was a tough one to take. Our season has been blighted with the inability to field our strongest 8 players at any one time and we are regularly down 2 or 3 of the top golfers in the club. The team continues to strive for better results and will keep plugging away.

Juniors

Our Head PGA professional Stuart is now undertaking coaching sessions with our younger members. In the last week he has given putting advice and next week is looking at bunker play. The Newton Shield continues and some of the team are doing very well against opponents with single figure handicaps which is a great achievement. David Provan our Junior Convener continues to be upbeat about our prospects as our junior membership continues to grow.

Muirhead Trophy

Sunday 6th of June sees arguably the biggest inter-club competition of the season, The Muirhead Trophy. As current holders we go in against our Old Course Ranfurly Golf Club in reasonable shape but again with a few prominent absentees from our team.

24 of The Castle's finest will tee up at 9am on Sunday to keep the Cigar Box in our possession. Good luck to all our players and play well.

I hope you have a great week golfing, and the weather looks to be set fair as the temperatures rise, so get out there and enjoy our wonderful course

Happy golfing

Stevie Scott

Captain