



Captain's Newsletter 5th August 2022

Fellow golfers, welcome to the latest newsletter as we head into August. The weather has until now been a bit warmer although still showery and typical of the West of Scotland. I hope you have been able to get out onto the course which has been in great condition as Craig, our Head Greenkeeper, starts to get all his team back from sickness and leave. We can certainly see the difference and I would also point out we have advertised for another experienced greenkeeper to try and give as much support to the group as possible.

The new flags and tees at the practice area has been popular and in particular with our younger members who have been out honing their short game skills. The small greens will get better as they are cut more often.

Well done to the Ladies and our Greens Convener on the sterling work at the flower bed in front of the clubhouse. This is looking much tidier and will hopefully bring some colour to the area as we move through the summer.



You will also note there is a £1 supplement for the monthly medal and only the monthly medal. This is to raise some cash towards the upkeep of the garden in front of the clubhouse and other areas throughout the golf course. Basically, your supplement enters you into a nearest the pin at one of the par 3s to win a nice bottle of malt whisky, don't worry if you don't like whisky next month, it might be a nice wee bottle of gin. So, lend your support as it is only a pound.

Competitions

The black and yellow Stableford on Thursday 28th July was won by Steven Lamont with an impressive 39 points followed by George Owers on 35 points.

Morgan Trophy

The scores in this competition were as follows:

1. Kevin Barr/Brian Glover -10 (60)
2. James Armstrong/James Armstrong snr -9 (61)
3. William Adam/James Robertson -6 (64)

Some great scoring as Kevin Barr gets onto the leader board again, although his partner was apparently the corner stone of the pairing.

Senior Open

Another extremely successful seniors open at The Castle; the results were as follows:

1. Iain Aitken 66
2. Stuart Young 67
3. Alan Gray 68

The course par was 69 and only 3 players broke this, so well done to the winners. The following were the age group winners:

AGE 1

1. Stuart Young 67
2. David Guthrie 69 (BIH)
3. Robert Murray 69

AGE 2

1. Iain Aitken 66
2. Alan Gray 68
3. Steve Jack 69

AGE 3

1. David Cambridge 71
2. Bobby Holms 72 James Andrew 73 (BIH)

Well done to all the winners from a field of 123 players from across the country.

The ladies Saturday Stableford was won by Alison Templeton with an impressive 39 points.

The Ladies Dorrie Hunter Stroke results were as follows:

SILVER

1. Sheila Biggart -3 (71) (BIH)
2. Louise Cooper -3 (71)

BRONZE

1. Kate Scott -1 (73)
2. Karin Mackenzie par (74)

Again, well done to all the winners from a field of around 21.

Next up is the August Medal as the tee sheet is starting to fill up with times available from 1100hrs onwards.

Regarding competitions, Match & Handicap are still seeing players not finalising their scores properly and this leads to delays one way or another in closing the competitions. Remember, if the app asks you to sign later then there is an issue and incorrect scores will be marked in pink.

Your score is not verified until there are no pink scores showing on the card, and you have signed the card by yourself and by your marker or playing partner. Remember, you can still use the iPad on the first landing to enter your score as we did before lockdown/Covid.

Take a little time at the end of your round to verify the scoring as it is really very simple. Any issues that require to be raised must be done before midnight to Match & Handicap to allow them to close off the competition.

Catering and Hospitality

Friday 5th August is curry night and Leanna and her team will, as always, continue to keep you fed and watered on these Friday night specials.

Course/Greens

The course continues to be a credit to Craig and his staff. The greens are rolling like a dream as he has protected them over the spell of extremely hot weather. The rough has been cut down between 9 and 10 as well as in front of the tee box at number 3.

Paul Morrell led a band of members to undertake the fairway and tee divoting and this was successful although the fairways are in superb condition. There are one or two areas being attacked by the crows seeking out the grubs and hopefully we can have measures in place soon to stop this behaviour. Unfortunately, it is now illegal to use pesticides so our green staff must take a cautious approach on how to stop this.

Greens Convener Brian Glover is currently devising a 3-year plan to take the course forward. This will include several bunkers being removed and the remainder of the drainage projects on the greens as we start to see the surfaces playing better for longer into the winter months.

It is also worth noting there are sponsorship opportunities across the golf course for advertising businesses or even donating towards a project.

The 2 paths at 9 and 15 are in a poor state of repair due to the constant adverse weather influencing the surface and the Greens Convener is seeking out a solution to this once and for all. However, the cost to make good these paths is in the region of £30k hence the delay in finding that solution.

I am sure you will agree the course is currently in splendid condition and hopefully we will start to see further improvements over time.



Social Events

The Awards Night is in October, so this is just to give you advance warning and probably one of the biggest nights on the Ranfurly Castle calendar. A black-tie event celebrating the winners and losers over the season. I have secured past Captain, and renowned after dinner speaker Geoff Urie as our entertainment for the evening as well as being treated to a 4/5 course meal. Watch this space for announcements regarding ticketing which will be limited to around 60/70.

Juniors

No new information regarding the juniors although the practice area has been getting used by some and is a great way to get into the game.

Shop

The shop is currently carrying some great clothing ranges full of colour with many items discounted in price. Certainly, worth having a look.

And finally

The Mixed Open on Sunday 8th of August has secured a Charity Partner in the form of Brain Research UK. Alison and Ewen Templeton have set up this partnership after a recent family bereavement and they have managed to obtain some magnificent raffle prizes. Indeed, the prizes on offer range from a Powercaddy FW3 electric trolley to a 4-ball at Bothwell Castle GC. There is also an array of bottles located on top of the fireplace all to be won. The cost of the raffle tickets is a bargain at £10, with all proceeds going to a great cause. Please lend it your support as we try and raise a substantial sum of money for a great charity.

I hope you all get out there on the course over the next week or so in between the showers if possible.

Happy golfing

Stevie Scott

Captain