

E-News

September 2019

Captain's Notes

A warm welcome to the September newsletter which is the last one before the AGM on the 18th of this month.

The colder months are just round the corner, summer is eventually leaving, and I am sure we all agree that it's been a pretty wet season; the weather folk are now saying that it will be a very cold winter in store for us all. I sincerely hope that they have got it wrong, having personally found the weather predictions very unreliable to say the least, fingers well and truly crossed for a good winter. The coring has now been completed, so hopefully we all can witness the benefits in the coming months.

This year two long established members of Council will be standing down after many years of sterling dedication and service to the Club. Sheila Page is stepping down as Ladies Match Secretary and Jim Pearston is taking a well-earned break from the position of Greens Convenor. Both Sheila and Jim know the Club and its members inside out, having been members themselves for a good few years. I thank them both for their outstanding contribution to Aberdour Golf Club.

As you all know this week the GB and European ladies will be battling it out, just up the road at Gleneagles, in the bi-annual Solheim Cup. May we all wish them the very best of luck. A great boost for Ladies golf in general.

Happy golfing
Steve David



Congratulations to Champ of Champs Lia Maxwell

Every year Lady Champions from each Club are invited to play in a Fife Lady Champion of Champions competition held at Burntisland and this year our very own Lia Maxwell won. Well done Lia that is quite an achievement!

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 18th September
At 7.15 pm
In The Clubhouse

All voting members are invited to attend
(Gent & Lady Ordinary, Gent & Lady Senior, Life, Honorary and Youth members)

Junior Locker Facility

With a £1000 grant from the Dunfermline & West Fife Sports Council and a further generous donation from The Dalgety Bay & Inverkeithing Rotary Club we are planning to install some weather proofed junior lockers under the members lounge area. This will mean that some of older juniors will be able to leave their clubs etc., at the club and make their own way down to play golf when they can.



Bowlers v Golfers

In memory of Paul Halleran this annual bowling match took place on Friday 30th August. The weather was not great so it was decided to play on only one rink with 3 ends per team. I think 4 teams played for each club. This worked really well and it was even better fun than the normal full 6 to 8 rink competition of about 11 ends each team. The bowlers won on the night by only 1 shot. The jeering and egging on by team mates made the night! Paul Halleran would have loved it. Maybe next year the

golfers will snatch the trophy. Thanks to all those members who represented the golf team whether you ended up playing or not. The photograph shows the Golfers Captain Alec Parker handing the trophy over to Bowlers Captain Brian Kelly before everyone tucked into some lovely food prepared and served by Sandra Smith and Janette Smith.



Energy Savings Project

We spend a lot of money on electricity and gas each year (c17k) and we are looking at how we can save money in this area and what we can do to reduce our carbon foot print. We have asked Resource Efficient Scotland for some help and have had a site visit and are now waiting for a report. If any member has any experience or interest in this area please let us know as we could do with someone to investigate and oversee this project.

The Need for Visitors

Members often complain about visitors on the course. The problem is without them subscription fees would need to bring in a further £100k to the Club and this is probably about £100-£150 per member. It is also the visitors who “prop” up the clubhouse catering and bar income. Without visitors the franchise would not be viable and the Club would need to run the bar and kitchen which would need subsidised, again by an increase in fees.

Visitors are a good source of members especially if they are local or become local. Their recommendations travel far and wide. So whilst it can be frustrating we need to continue to take visitors and make them feel welcome at the Club.

We try hard to get a balance but admit sometimes that doesn't work for whatever reason. The upcoming Solheim Cup, for example, has led to an increase in small party bookings so the 2 weeks either side of the Solheim Cup are quite busy. The greens coring work in August has also pushed more visitors into September.

The statistics for this season so far (May to August) show that visitor & party bookings take up about 12% of our tee times which includes the open competitions. 62% of tee times have been used by members including club competitions, member guest times, team games, and sweeps, and 25% of tee times are not booked which includes some course closures due to bad weather and preparation for Opens.



Recycling

We are hoping to reduce our landfill waste and we need your help. Please try to use the bins on the course, as labelled. There should be a bin for plastics and tins, one for glass and for all other rubbish. The more that we can recycle the more we can save. Any suggestions on how we can further reduce our landfill waste are more than welcome.

School Visits

Ruth Gillanders and Sheila Page with help from Elspeth Miller have been visiting the local primaries, Aberdour, Dalgety Bay and Donibristle, offering golf taster sessions to the Primary 5 classes (8 & 9 year olds). They spent 3 afternoons at each school and the children really enjoyed it. Some have even started to come along to the Saturday Coaching Academy. A brilliant initiative and well done to Ruth, Sheila & Elspeth who say its great fun and that they thoroughly enjoy it too.



Here are the Primary 5's from Donibristle PS having great fun with the golf kits that Ruth, Sheila and Elspeth take along to the school.

Match News

WINTER 4-BALL COMPETITIONS

Online booking has now opened for the MacRobert Thistle Cup (Gents) and Paul Ramshaw Trophy (Senior Gents) Winter 4-Ball competitions. The entry deadline is Saturday, 5th October and the draw will be made the following day. As usual, the initial round of the competition will be a group stage, with the knockout portion of the two competitions beginning in the New Year.

All entrants must have a valid competition handicap at the time of the draw, and must retain their playing handicap throughout the winter. No play is permitted before 0900 on Saturdays between November and February (this is earlier than the 0950 limit imposed last year).

WEST FIFE WINTER LEAGUE

Gary Cruickshank and Allan Maclean will lead our Scratch and Handicap teams respectively in this year's West Fife Winter League. The Scratch competition is scheduled to start on Sunday, 20th October with the Handicap league beginning one week later.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCORES/CARDS FOR HANDICAP

As we approach the end of the summer playing season, a gentle reminder that time is running out to submit three cards to retain your competition handicap for 2020. Please clearly mark the date and tees used when submitting an additional card. In order to do so, there can be no more than two temporary greens in play, and the course cannot be shortened by more than 100 yards.

Completed scorecards, which must be marked and signed by a fellow member who holds a valid competition handicap, should be deposited in the relevant scorecard box in the clubhouse.

Players must also ensure to advise the Pro Shop before teeing off that they are playing for handicap.

ANNUAL PRIZEGIVING 2019

The annual prizegiving event, where we recognise the various trophy winners for this year, takes place in the clubhouse on Saturday, 16th November with a 7 p.m start.

As in recent years, we will have entertainment in addition to the main presentation of prizes, so why not come along and celebrate the success of your fellow Aberdour members.

A New Face in the Pro Shop

Lady Member, Pam Brannan, has joined the Pro Shop team and started with a morning this week.

It will be good to see a female face back in the Pro Shop.

Pam will help Colin, John and Allan get some more time off.

Pam knows the Club and a lot of members so she will fit in quickly.

All the Best Pam.

The following information was taken from the latest Agronomist's Report for his visit carried out in August 2019: *"This year has seen exceptional rainfall which in May was 30% higher than average, in June 90% higher, July 10% and to date in August 70% more than the average for the month with still a week remaining: in addition the temperature for July and August has been 2 degrees C higher than average. If grasses need two things it is moisture and warmth"*

The wet and warm summer has stimulated a lot of growth, which has led to a slight accumulation of organic matter on the surface, which holds moisture and makes greens softer and therefore slower. In addition to the usual regime of verti-cutting, top dressing, rolling and fertilising we purchased a brush to comb the grass up prior to cutting.

Coring time is never a happy time for golfers as they see it disrupts the course during the golfing season. We have looked at the timing of coring many times and we keep coming back to late August as the optimum time to core. It is an essential piece of work that needs to be carried out. If carried out early or late in the season when there is less sunlight and warmth the healing of the cores takes much longer. Two years ago we cored the 17th at the end of October and it did not recover until the spring of the following year. Carrying out coring at this time of year ensures that the cores heal quicker hopefully in a 2 – 3 weeks with the larger cores taking a little longer.

This year we used larger cores on some greens as when we walked the course and took samples and moisture readings these greens showed slightly more accumulation of organic material and the moisture content of the greens was higher. The larger cores should help address these issues. Hopefully like last year coring will extend the period when we had good greens well into November.

Thanks again to all members for their patience while we carried out the coring works.



Ladies Solheim Evening

18 lady members enjoyed a fun USA v Europe 11 Hole Stableford match on Thursday 12th September. Team Captains Pam Brannan (USA) and Sheila Page (Europe) were very attentive and supportive of their teams as they drove around the course offering much needed encouragement. The Captains buggies were appropriately decorated as were the Captains and their teams. The

very rowdy Americans won by an impressive 22 points! All players and their captains then enjoyed a lovely themed meal in the Clubhouse provided by Alan and his team. Honorary member Jean Bald joined us for dinner and presented the prizes to both teams. Our only hope is that the Professionals up at Gleneagles end up with a different result. Photograph is of the winning team prior to play.