

Kirkcudbright Golf Club

Newsletter

July-August 2020



Captain's Corner

Although we are still in August when I write this, it seems that the weather is autumnal, and it was a bit of a shock to discover that we've already played the final Wednesday Gents competition off the white tees. Some of us will be grateful to be playing some more off the yellow tees. I've been suffering the Captain's curse and having come down from 11.6 to 9.2 during last season (and back up to 10.3), I'm now playing off 11.5.

The Course

I can't blame the course because the scoring this season has been exceptional, and the men's Club Championship final on 6th September will be contested between William Squires and Mark Durham, without doubt, the "form" players this year. Sadly, the current line from Scottish Golf is that no spectators, supporters or caddies are allowed.



The course has stood up to the recent weather very well. I'm sure that like me, folks are struggling to move the ball forwards out of the semi and the first cut of rough, and we are seeing some impacts from the furlough situation when parts of the course were just not touched. One such is the winter green at 11, so people will have noticed the new temporary green at the top of the hill, just past the marker post.

We have extended the men's season until the clocks go back to try to get in as many trophy-related competitions as possible, so the Gents Winter League will not start in early October as in previous years (although the Ladies and EGGS will).

I think we're all praying for a bit of normality for next season.

Continued...

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Captain's Corner (continued)

Important Roles

I'd just like to call out two important roles. I made a big play at the AGM about the juniors' participation and retention, but the pandemic has put paid to any development really on this front. However, the juniors themselves, along with their parents retain a real enthusiasm and still turn out in good numbers. None of this can happen without the considerable commitment of Eddie Carruthers, not just to the administrative side, but also in terms of supporting them in the rules and etiquette of the game as they develop. Thank you Eddie, from all of us.

The other role is that of Match Secretary. Probably the most unforgiving of roles in the club where you get very little acknowledgement, but almost all of the criticism when things are not 100%. Anybody who has done this role in the past, I take my hat off to you and thank you. Current sectional incumbents are Malcolm Kirkwood, Jane Richardson and Alistair Millar, and I want to bring to the attention of the members just how much time they commit to the fixture list, the organisation of the "draws", the collation of, publication and checking of the results. Please be kind to these folks, it's the hardest role to fill for a reason.

Halfway House

As I draw towards the halfway stage in my tenure as Club Captain, I'm wondering what 2021 will throw at us after our flood and the lock-down, hopefully NOT a plague of locusts. Needless to say, the planned improvement in the financial situation has simply not been possible this year, but we are still in a more secure position than many, so thank you for your continued support through these difficult times and circumstances, and if you are able, keeping playing. Keeping fit and being outdoors is the best protection against coronavirus if we get a second wave.



Rod McAllister,
Club Captain.

Ladies' News

As planned, competitive golf began at the end of June with the 2019 Medal Finals.

Congratulations to Laura Ellett (18 holes) and Joyce Armstrong (9 holes). The July Medal was won by Liz Roberts but unfortunately the August Medal fell foul of the weather.

The Club Championship is now in the knockout stages and we look forward to a keenly fought final at the end of September.

Captains Day format saw drivers stay in the bag and a need for accurate putting.

18 hole winner was Laura Ellett with Sheila Semple winning the 9 holes. The best putters on the day were Margaret Stryjewski, Sheila Semple and Liz Davidson.

The Ladies were all deeply saddened by the news of Annette Boston's passing in July. A past captain and dear friend to many within club, she will be greatly missed.

Charity Day

Together with the EGGS, we held a very successful Charity Day on 18th August, when the grand total of £829 was raised for Marie Curie, a favourite charity of Annette's. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the day.

And well done to the winning team: Isobel McIntosh, Gladys Kelly, Rod McAllister and Eric Mackie.

This has not been the easiest of summers this year for lots of reasons. The Ladies would like to thank all those involved in maintaining the club, often in the background, so that we can continue to enjoy our golf over our fabulous course.

Hilary Austin,
Ladies' Captain



In Memory of Annette Beaton

Annette Beaton was born in the Seychelles in 1949. She trained as a RGN nurse at Ballochmyle Hospital and while there, she met Don, the love of her life. She also trained as a Mental Health Nurse at the Ailsa Hospital, Ayr. The family moved to Kirkcudbright in 1979 where she brought up her boys, Malcolm and Donald. She worked in Kirkcudbright Cottage Hospital where she was a most caring and enthusiastic member of the medical team - always cheery and sympathetic to her patients. She retired in 2009.

Annette had many interests : golf, hill walking, biking and latterly bridge, to name a few. She always said she enjoyed the social aspect of golf as much as the score and when asked how she played, she always seemed to have played with a lovely lady from another club. The score was never so important. She held numerous positions on the Ladies Committee in her time and was Ladies Captain in 1996, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She was a vivacious caring, sympathetic person.

The highlight of Annette's year was the Wallace Rosebowl, which she never won but came close on occasions. We remember prize-giving nights as great fun, with Annette at the centre of the entertainment, and the journey home was always eventful. In the words of her favourite singer, she was "Simply the Best".

**Mary Dewar and
Flora McGowan.**

EGGS news

Due to such poor weather, especially on Fridays, we have not had as much EGGs Golf as we would have liked for the last 4 weeks. Fortunately, the weather held up for the Club over 50's competition which had an excellent turnout from the senior members of both men's and ladies' sections of the club. Gladys Kelly won the ladies section with 36 points while Alan Ironmonger won the men's under 70's with a great 41 points and Eddie Carruthers won the over 70's with 37 points (it never leaves you Eddie).

Rab's Claret Jug



The 'Real' Claret Jug, not Rab's

(ladies' captain) for all the help given to achieve this great day for all.

Considering all things, the EGGs section is very active and we have had a high number of entries in most competitions. Even when forecasts have been challenging to say the least. The tee booking and draw system is working well thanks to Alastair Millar and thanks to the EGGs Members for working with the system.

I look forward to reporting a full programme being completed in September and hope we see that spell of dry, September weather we can sometimes have.

Steve Groome,
EGGS Captain.



Golf is a game whose aim is to hit a very small ball into an even smaller hole, with weapons singularly ill-designed for the purpose.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL



Volunteers, please

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help in the Office. If you are happy to offer some time and are okay with computers (for the email, tee booking and the membership systems we operate), answering the phone and dealing with visitors then please get in touch. Even the odd day to cover other absences would be helpful.

"I'd give up golf if I didn't have so many sweaters."

~ Bob Hope ~



Come and Join Us

The EGGs meet every Friday for a 10:00 am start. The draw is being done remotely at the moment but anyone 55 or over who wants good, sociable golf and excellent company is welcome to join us for the princely sum of £2 for a year's membership.

And currently only £2 per Friday sweep, too.

Match News

I don't think anyone would disagree that 2020 hasn't quite been the year we expected it to be. However, we have made the best of it and thanks to a lot of effort by a number of people, we were able to get going once the green light was given.

The online tee-booking system was a necessity, but it has also been a huge advantage. One of the things that has pleased me most is how, almost without exception, people have encouraged others to join them for a game in competitions and nobody has been left without a game. We have been using a WhatsApp group for this very reason so if any of the Gents aren't involved already and would like to be, please pass your name either to myself or to the office.

Although we have taken the decision not to hold Open Competitions this year, we made a special effort to promote the Tassie as special competition, because it deserves to be. 65 players took part on the day, and it was won by Christopher Wilson coming in late with a stunning score of 62.



(Christopher Wilson after his "Major" victory)

Match News (continued...)

The Iain McBeth Player of the Year Order of Merit is in its second year. This is a season long points-based order of merit and is going to the wire again this season. William Squires has a narrow lead over John Picken and Craig Rudd. The full list is available on Master Scoreboard.

The Club Championship Final on 6th September will be contested by two in-form players – William Squires will play Mark Durham over 36-holes. The "B" Championship is between Mikey Taylor and Graham Campbell, while Colin MacLaine awaits the winner of Peter Thompson & Jim Dewar in the "C" Championship.

Up until the last week or so, the weather has been on our side, and after a bit of reshuffling initially, and a few tweaks along the way, I'm hopeful that all trophies will have a 2020 name on them. I'd not have believed that in June!

The August Medal needed a second attempt and the Captain's Cup was played on a number of temporary greens due to torrential rain, but otherwise the course has been in magnificent condition.

We are averaging almost 50 players per competition which is very healthy and has also meant that we have contributed more than £1,000 back into club funds along the way.

We had the rarest of rare events in the Ben Nicholson Trophy on the 16th August. Not one, but **two** holes-in-one were recorded. Lee Gourlay holed his tee shot on the 16th and within an hour Christopher Wilson had done the very same on the 13th.

Also, this was a first hole-in-one for both players.

Rumour has it that Lee's playing partners, James Jamieson & Darren Gourlay, made it from the 16th green to the bar at world record pace.

Congratulations to both of you - well done, lads!

(Lee Gourlay after his hole-in-one, right)



We still have a few trophies up for grabs this season. Both Greensomes competitions will be played as 4-Ball Better Ball to help aid social distancing so please keep an eye on the fixture list for any changes.

Match News (continued...)

Winners

Winners for the season so far are:

Competition	Winner
Centenary Cup	David Harris
Halliday Hair Salon Medal	Robin Murray
Serco Trophy	Kevin Kerr
Royal Cup	Mark Durham
June Medal (Galloway Eggs)	Paul McColm
July Medal	Craig Rudd
TCB Cup	Mark Durham
36 Hole Handicap Shield	John Picken
36 Hole Scratch Shield	John Picken
James Smith Fencers Medal	Graham Campbell
Robert Glover Memorial Trophy	Callum McMillan
Bob Park Trophy	William Squires
President's Prize	Alastair Spiers / John Picken
Silver Tassie	Christopher Wilson
Ben Nicholson Trophy	Billy McTaggart
Maitland Medal	William Squires
McKenzie Tankard	Colin Kennedy
Summer Festivities Trophy	David Davidson
August Medal	Robert Austin
Captain's Cup	Mark Durham

All future competitions will be notified via the golf club web site.

Malcolm Kirkwood,
Match Secretary.



GOLF-A-LOTTO

What do these people have in common ?

David Picken
Colin MaLaine
Drew Craven (twice)
David Porteous (twice)
Bob Mack
Margaret and Bill Allen

Yes, you've got it!

They all won the monthly draw of **£60** in Golfalotto.

There will be further monthly draws, as well as three annual ones of over **£900** and a bonanza prize of over **£3,500** at the AGM in 2022, when this Golf-A-Lotto ends and we begin a new one.

If you're not already a member, you can still join for approx. £3 p.c.m. Or ask for more information from me (Donald) or from the office.

Donald Shamash



Golf is like a love affair:
if you **don't** take it seriously, it's not fun;
if you **do** take it seriously,
it breaks your heart.

ARNOLD DALY



Extension of the Club to 18 holes Stage 2

In Stage 1, as described in the last Newsletter, we had made a deal to buy part of Loch Fergus Farm which has gone to make up what are now all of the 5th, 6th and 7th holes, the parts of the 9th and 12th that are south of the pond at the 9th, all of the 13th and the 14th tee. Much still needed to be done to get enough ground for an 18 hole course that combined the 9 holes that we had with the new land we had purchased.

After long negotiations, we were able to buy a section of the forestry ground which is now the northern part of the 4th hole. They would have preferred for us to buy the whole forest, but our finances were never going to stretch that far.

The part of the 14th in the dip off the tee was a pig farm belonging to the late George Nicholson. Fortunately he had been a golfer (a pretty useful one at that), and he let us have it at a reasonable price.

Boreland

We managed to get a lease on land of the Boreland Farm from the Common Good Fund, and this has been developed into the 10th, the 11th, most of the 9th, and the 12th tee.

Even then, we didn't have quite enough, and Donald had to go back and buy a further 5 acres to make what is now the 8th hole. David met with Alex Smith who was to do the fencing, and the instruction was that the fence was to go up the line through the [knowes](#) that border the 8th fairway. However, Alex pointed out that you couldn't put [stobs](#) in the knowes, and it would have to be either the top of the knowes or the bottom. We opted for the top, as otherwise there was a strong likelihood of cattle damaging the fence. We had to pay for another 2 acres, but looking at it now, it was money well spent.

The next Newsletter will have details of the building of the course.

David Picken and Donald Shamash

Lost & Found Corner

Have you recently lost something on the golf course?
Or have you found something? Or both?

Well, now you have a chance to advertise your lost and found items here in this newsletter.

This issue, we're looking for the owner of this pink, "Castle" tee. There are no real distinguishing marks on it (like you would mark your golf ball with) but there are two tiny spots of mud, one near the top and one near the bottom, that may help you to identify it as yours. It is $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches or 60mm long. Found on the 2nd (yellow) tee a few weeks back.

If you have lost this item, please contact the club office immediately.

The Editor.

PS It will have been sanitised and stored safely for more than 72 hours.

PPS We've still not had any contact from the owner of the shoelace from the last issue and are now getting quite concerned that a golfer is limping around the course trying to keep one shoe on without a lace.



The Last Word (from the Editor)

COVID-19 - it hasn't gone away

Although Dumfries & Galloway has the lowest rate of COVID-19 incidents in Scotland, I'm sure that you'll agree we can't get complacent. Most of us are adhering to the restrictions in place and although the clubhouse and Thai Kitchen are seeing more traffic, please remember to follow all of the guidelines that are putting us at the bottom of the "COVID League" table because that's where we want to remain.

We had a couple of scorching weeks back in July where the ball was running for miles and some of us recorded some pretty good scores. But, of course, it didn't last very long and we have also recently had a day when we have had to close the course due to the amount of rainfall we've had. Oh well, that's the Scottish Riviera for you.

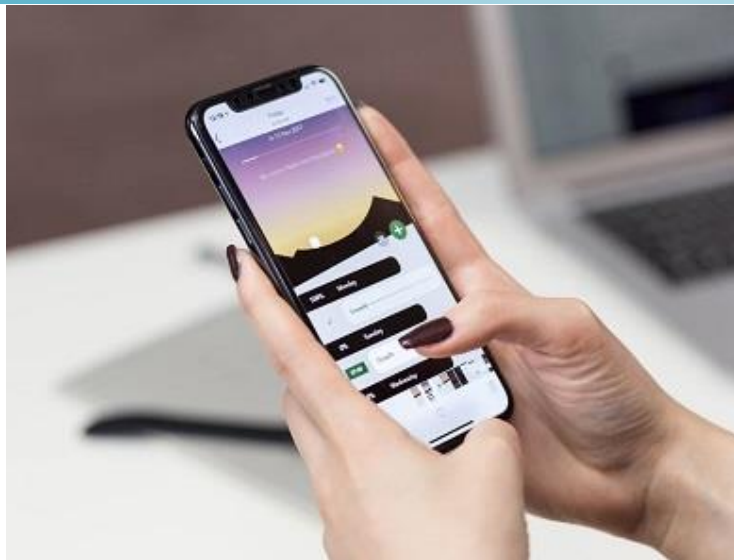
Eucryphia × nymansensis 'Nymansay'

No, I haven't just collapsed onto the keyboard or hit a random number of keys. We have it on good authority that it's the identity of the single tree to the right of the first tee that was in full flower a few weeks ago before the winds got up again and stripped it bare. There has been some considerable research and suggestions as to its identity but we're assured of its botanical name by a botanist (thanks Richard). More details (should you want them) [here](#).

We'll be bringing you more particulars of the flora and fauna around the course in future editions.

Stay safe,

The Editor.



Keep In Touch

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