

Club Newsletter

January 2019

Captain's Report

With the Festivities well behind us, our thoughts naturally turn towards the start of the incoming golf season. For Elgin Golf Club, January is the month when our main income comes in: the annual membership subscriptions. On behalf of Council, a huge thank you to all of you who have already paid your subscriptions.

For those who have yet to make their subscription payments, a gentle reminder that membership fees are due by **1st February**, at the latest. Should you be unable to meet that deadline, please speak with Barbara-Anne as soon as you can.

Council. The Club Council is now back to full strength with Hamish Simpson co-opted as the Course Convener. Thank you for volunteering, Hamish.



Role	Name	Notes
Vice-Captain	Ian Savage	
Finance Convener	Ella Simpson	Chairs the Finance Committee
House Convener	Susan McAllister	Chairs the House Committee
Sustainability & Environment	Iain Hamilton	Chairs the Sustainability & Environment Committee Seniors' Captain
Projects Convener	Bob Garrity	Chairs the Projects Committee
Child Protection & Golf Development	Susan MacKenzie	
Men's Match & Handicap	Kevin Buchanan	
Ladies Match & Handicap	Allison Burgess	Ladies' Captain
Course Convener	Hamish Simpson	Chairs the Course Committee

All the Conveners are busy meeting with your respective committees, planning for the season, further developing various projects and conducting a thorough financial review of every aspect of the Club. I will provide inputs on all the projects that they have in hand, starting this month with Sustainability & Environment (Ian Hamilton) and Course Matters (Hamish Simpson). My February newsletter will provide a financial situation progress report.

Sustainability & Environment. The sustainability project commenced during 2018. It focuses on three areas: resources, waste, and the environment. By resources we mean energy, water and raw materials and the aim is to use them as efficiently as possible. With waste, the aim is to reduce it to an absolute minimum, increasing the amount of recycling and minimizing the cost of disposal. The environmental aspect is concerned with managing the course in an ecologically responsible way: encouraging wildlife, ensuring the sustainability of the course, and providing the most attractive possible setting for golf.

The main motivations for this project are responsibility for our environment, a desire to use resources wisely and therefore save money, and to ensure that we meet all our statutory obligations. Other benefits would be awards such as Golf Environment Organisation (GEO) certification, which can help with grants and other support.

A lot of small but important things have already been done. For example, significant savings on energy are being made by moving towards LED lighting throughout the clubhouse; recycling bins have been introduced in the office to dispose of waste more responsibly; on the course we have beehives and are re-using old sleeper steps to build grass collection boxes. If you would like to look at all the initiatives and the details, there is a folder in the office containing the project's objectives, an audit of what has been done and updates on progress. If you would like to contribute, either ideas or practical help, let the office know or speak to Ian Hamilton or any council member.

Course Matters. In view of the Club's finances, and for the purpose of identifying realistic and achievable projects, the Course Committee has completed a review of all maintenance programmes.

Winter Maintenance Programme.

The aim between now and the start of the season will be to complete the current work, with no new projects to commence. An updated 'traffic lights' chart is attached; note that the blue areas show the work that has been put on hold – that which will not be undertaken for now at least.

Aeration of Tees, Aprons, Walkways and Fairways has been completed.

Hole No 1. All work completed.

Hole No 4. All work completed. However, there is an ongoing situation regarding the infestation of a bug that was found in one of the pallets of turf. A sample has been sent to STRI, but no resolution has yet been identified.

Hole No 6. The bunker has been filled and the recontouring of the bank and apron to incorporate a new winter green has been completed. Reshaping by hand needs to be finalised, work on the new bunker is still ongoing and, finally, re-turf to be completed. The clear out of the quarry behind the green is ongoing work.

Summer Maintenance Programme.

Tining and Top Dressing (Greens). This will take place in the Spring and again after the 5-Day Open, date to be defined.

The quantity of Top-Dressing sand required will be 150 Tonnes as recommended in the last STRI Report.

Finally, the two-week Summer Maintenance Programme will be removed, and this work will be undertaken as a part of routine course maintenance.

Routine Maintenance.

Path 10th Green. This will be filled and levelled as a part of normal work rotation.

Dead Trees to the left of the 12th fairway. These will be removed and additional trees to replant this area will be sought.

Additional Matters.

Moving of the Shoe Cleaner. The Green Committee will investigate options for relocating the shoe cleaner noting the issues associated with each of its previous and current locations.

Water Tank area (left of 1st tee). Following clearance of the fallen trees (Storm Deidre), this area is now wide open. The Green Committee will investigate some form of aesthetic screening.

Your Club still needs You!

To use the bar and dining facilities.

To volunteer for divot repair, a committee, or a project.

New for 2019. Those eagle-eyed amongst you who have been looking through the fixtures on the Club's website, will have noticed that new for this season is a Friday evening 12-hole social (fun!) golf and supper mixed competition.

The dates are: 19th April (not 12th as publicised as I'm away at a wedding on 12th!), 19th July, and 13th September.

Ian Savage (vice-captain) and I will decide on the format for each round.

The overriding rule is that partners must change for each round.

Finally – administrative notes.

Pro Shop. Steve Hales. As he heads for his second (or is it third!) retirement, thank you Steve for your support to Michael and always being a helpful and friendly assistant. His employment will finish at the end of this month

Admin Office. The Office will continue to be open for the normal hours with Joanne on duty.

However, for family (child care) reasons, Barbara-Anne's office hours will be 9am to 2.30pm on a daily basis until further notice.

A slightly belated Happy New Year, but my timely good wishes to everyone for an enjoyable and successful year of golf ahead.

Marian Evans

Congratulations to our 200 Club Winners

1st - Hamish Grant

2nd - Graeme Mackenzie

3rd - Bill Lasseter



**PROSECCO
DAY!**



*Saturday 9th
February
4pm-7pm
£30pp*

*Includes unlimited prosecco
between 4-7pm & Tapas*

Disco from 7pm

Tickets available from the bar

What's On

Prosecco Day - Saturday 9th February - 4-7pm with a disco from 7pm. Tickets are available from the bar.

High Tea - Sunday 10th February. 4pm—6pm. Booking Essential .

Beatles Tribute - Saturday 18th May - Tickets and more information available soon.