

# **CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER**

## **EDITION NUMBER TWO**

### **JUNE 2015**

Dear Fellow Members

Now that the 2015 Season is in full swing I wanted to update you all on several important issues affecting the Club.

#### **JOHN CAVEN**

John has now joined us as a replacement for Alan McMillan, Managing Secretary who is retiring on 2 July 2015. John has already been introduced to many of you since he started on 1 June and I'm sure you will make him feel very welcome. Alan McMillan has served the Club and its members for some 8 years and I would just like to place on record our thanks to him for his dedication and guidance over the years. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Alan a long and happy retirement.



The Captain welcomes John Caven to Glasgow Golf Club and wishes him well in his new position. John is very much looking forward to the challenges ahead and said, "I feel honoured and privileged to be given this role at Glasgow Golf Club. I am looking forward to working with the members and staff and I will endeavour to use my experience to take Glasgow Golf Club forward in a positive and progressive manner".

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

You will all have received either by email or hard copy the Notice calling the Special Meeting to be held in Killermont Clubhouse on Wednesday 24 June 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

The proposals to change the Governance and Structure of the Club are a very important and necessary step in taking the Club forward. The current Council and the Past Captains endorse the proposals which have been slightly revised to take account of comments from members at the Consultation Meeting held in the Killermont Clubhouse on Tuesday 31 March 2015. Whether you attended the Consultation Meeting or not I would ask that you endeavour to attend the Special Meeting. We require a quorum of 50 members and your vote could be vital in Council obtaining the necessary two-thirds majority on the evening.

## **KILLERMONT HOUSE**

The next events on the social calendar are the Summer BBQ on Saturday 25 July and the Carvery on Sunday 26 July. Further details will follow on the Club website and Notice Board.

I would very much recommend to you the Saturday Evening Table d'Hote Menu of £19.00 per person for a 3 course meal which is particularly good value. I would also like to remind members of the availability of several different rooms within the Killermont Clubhouse for private functions.

Members should note that as the new screen is in place in the foyer the payphone has been removed. If members wish to book a taxi then please ask a member of staff to do so.

## **KILLERMONT COURSE**

Despite the disappointing weather conditions that have prevailed thus far, the Killermont Course is considered to be in excellent condition, both from a play-ability and an aesthetic perspective. The investment in major drainage works and the ongoing programme of maintenance have made a significant impact in this regard.

The greens in particular, are considered to be in good condition, with a range of complimentary remarks being received from; members, visitors and during the recent visitation by the Sports Turf Research Institute: Agronomist.

In order to reduce organic matter on certain fairways and improve water percolation, a programme of hollow coring and scarifying was undertaken. Unfortunately, their recovery has not been as quickly as had been intended, as a result of the lower than anticipated ground temperatures. Fortunately, conditions are now improving which will result ultimately in an improved playing surface.

Considerable credit requires to be given to our Course Manager and his dedicated team for their continued efforts in preparing the course.

## **GAILES LINKS**

At this time of year we suffer from meadow grass on the greens, which although unsightly actually has little impact on the putting—other than perhaps making reading of putts a bit trickier! Thankfully this should be gone within the next couple of weeks.

After comments from some members I can confirm that it is intended that a few fairways, namely 2, 5, 9, 14 and 17 will be subject to selective fairway protection next winter but only in selected areas where the balls consistently gather.

We are already planning for Autumn/Winter works which will be advised to members well ahead of the commencement of work. Major projects will include further gorse removal and heather management, works to the mound behind the 4th green and also the installation of a new winter path at 10th going from winter tee to fairway. It is likely we will need to consider a long term solution behind 9th tee such as a fence similar to that we have at the path to the 8<sup>th</sup> tee.

We have seen an upturn in visitor numbers this year and all seem to be very complimentary of their experience. However, we need to ensure that as a member's club, times are available for our members and later this year we intend to introduce an extended online system. This will allow members to see exactly when, out with protected times, there are available slots. Finally, after the golf Fergus and his team continue to look after everyone extremely well and again all who visit enjoy the excellent fare available.

## **FINAL OPEN QUALIFYING - TUESDAY 30 JUNE**

I would thank all those members who have already volunteered to help make the day a very good advert for the Club. If you have not yet volunteered but are available then please email Alastair Gracie, the Gailes Convener, at [algracie@ymail.com](mailto:algracie@ymail.com). More ball spotters/flagmen, crowd control marshalls and live scoring personnel are still required. All volunteers are invited to a Cocktail Party in the Gailes Clubhouse on Sunday 28 June at 6.00 p.m. with a bus running from Killermont leaving at 3.45 p.m. and returning from Gailes at 8.00 p.m.

## **MATCH AND HANDICAP**

The first of the new 9 Hole Medals at Killermont was held in April and they will continue through until September. Entries have now increased to around 30 per Medal and hopefully this format will prove to be more and more popular going forward.

## **SENIORS' PUTTING COMPETITION**

Council have approved a proposal by Past Captain Colin Robertson to conduct an ongoing putting competition during the months of June, July, August and September. This will be open to members of ALL categories who have attained the age of 65 years. Participants can play up to eight 9-hole rounds of the putting green each month and a prize will be awarded to the player with the best Eclectic Score. The competition will be organised by Past Captain Robertson (to whom any enquiries should be directed) with the co-operation of our Professional, John Greaves and our Course Manager, Stuart Taylor.

## **GAILES STROKEPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP**

I would like to congratulate Neil MacRae who is this year's Gales Strokeplay Champion. Neil posted an excellent 69 on the first day followed by an equally impressive 73 from the Black Tees on the second which secured victory. Nicky Gold was a very worthy Runner-Up.

## **GLASGOW GOLF UNION SENIORS' CHAMPIONSHIP AT GAILES LINKS**

My congratulations go to John Hamilton for winning the Scratch Prize at the above and also to Tom McGill and Ian Barclay who were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively in the First Class.

## **THE "MACKIE SERVICE" CHALLENGE CUP**

The 100<sup>th</sup> playing of the Council Match between Glasgow Golf Club and the Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh for the "Mackie Service" Challenge Cup took place on Sunday 24 May 2015 at Killermont. I was delighted that 15 Past Captains agreed to play in the 34 a side match. My special congratulations go to Past Captain John King, who was Captain in 1990 and who has played in all 3 "Anniversary Matches" in 1979, 2006 and 2015. Glasgow won comprehensively and my thanks go to all the Past Captains and the current and past Members of Council who helped contribute to a special day in the Club's history.



## **MARKETING AND SPONSORSHIP**

The marketing of Gales Links in relation to Final Open Qualifying continues, including two weekly "Online Herald" page takeovers which have been booked for the week preceding the Final Open Qualifying and the week of The Open. Plans are in hand to heighten the profile of and showcase Gales Links at the Final Open Qualifying and we are currently awaiting approval of our plans by The R & A.

Quarterly PR emails are being sent to all Tour Operators and our database. Visitor revenue income at Gales Links continues to be encouraging and is in line with Budget.

## **DONALD CAMERON TEAM**

The team, currently playing in Division 2 have performed admirably and in our 5 matches to date have recorded 12 out of a possible 13 points and are sitting on top of the league. Promotion and relegation is over a two year cycle and with one match left the team are in a strong position and should be confident of a return to Division 1. Two of our junior team players have featured in the senior team this year and both Callum Burns and Aran Sinclair are to be congratulated on their performances.

## **DCL FOURSOMES**

This year we have entered a four man team for the foursome's competition to be played at Lenzie later in the month. The players will be Neil MacRae, Graeme Belch, Aran Sinclair and David Elder.

## **CLUB MATCHES**

There are still two Club Matches to play namely 12-a-side against Turnberry on 26 August at Turnberry and 16-a-side against The New Club of St Andrews on 30 August at St Andrews. There will be a mix of Council and Club Members making up both Glasgow teams and entry lists, should members be available, are still on display in both Clubhouses. Ballots will take place in due course and members advised as appropriate.

## **JUNIOR ASSOCIATES**

### **J J MCCARRY LEAGUE**

At the time of writing the scratch McCarry team have played 5 out of 6 matches and achieved 2 home wins, 2 away wins and 1 away loss giving a total of 10 points and topping the table.

### **MARLEY LEAGUE**

This year, for the first time, the club entered a team for the Marley Handicap League. These matches are played on Sunday afternoons and are for players under 15 years of age. Support for this is growing and it is hoped that as the boys' games improve they will gravitate to the McCarry team.

## JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

The recent member mailing has been effective, with our numbers rising from 44 at the start of the year to a current 56.

## INAUGURAL SENIOR v JUNIOR MATCH

This event will be contested on Monday 22 June with the trophy, a silver salver being donated by the family of Past Captain, Jim Bannerman.

## JUNIOR COACHING

Coaching sessions have been ongoing with John Greaves offering walk in sessions on Friday evenings, and starting on Monday 29 July there will be 6 weeks of free coaching every morning from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. There will also be a week long course from Monday August 10 open to children from 10 years old. The cost is £90.00. Coaching will start at 9.00 a.m. and finish at 1.30 p.m. after lunch.

## THE 144<sup>TH</sup> OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP AT ST ANDREWS

John Greaves has managed to organise 10 Under 16 tickets to the Open on Wednesday 15 July. Graeme and Blair will accompany the boys and the cost for return travel by train is approximately £20.00. Anyone interested should contact the Pro Shop.

## COUNCIL MATCH v ROYAL BLACKHEATH GOLF CLUB



Captain Tim Callaghan welcomed the Glasgow Golf Club Team for the Annual Match at Royal Blackheath Golf Club. As always a special weekend in Council's Fixtures which resulted in a win for Royal Blackheath by 2 points. Glasgow held their own on day 1 but failed to rise to the occasion on the Sunday!! The other Council Matches against Western Gailes and Pollok resulted in defeats so the current Council is certainly nowhere near becoming a "Dream Team"!!

### **FINALLY**

An ongoing plea from both Course Managers to all members. Please remember to repair your pitch marks and replace divots. The greens staff would also appreciate it if members refrained from taking their caddy-cars on to the tees and also ensure that bunkers are properly raked after playing your shot. In repeatedly adhering to all of the above this will help ensure that all members can have a more enjoyable round of golf on two excellent courses.

I do hope you all have a successful and enjoyable remainder of the Season.

**DAVID J DONALDSON**  
**CAPTAIN**

**JUNE 2015**