

## **CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017**

Welcome to my end of year Captain's newsletter.

### **Courses**

Both courses have been affected by considerably more rain than has been the case in recent years.

At Killermont for the four month period to end of September we were 200mm over the average with few completely dry days. At Gales we have had only three dry days in November, four in October, seven in September and eleven in August. Despite this higher rainfall both courses have been presented to the usual high standard by our hard working greens staff. Perhaps we could assist them by repairing pitch marks and keeping our trolleys off the tees.

The greens staff at Gales are performing deep, solid tining work on the greens which is expected to improve drainage and the surfaces. The restoration program continues and there are detailed notes on the website relating to this winter's program of work.

### **Clubhouse Developments**

Plans have been available to view at both courses and members will be canvassed on their opinions in the New Year. For some members the details will take a while to digest. The plans are not achievable overnight and, depending on the response from members, the work could be done in one go, phased or not at all. The vision for Killermont is bold and far reaching and takes account of the changing attitudes of the younger generation. Future leisure time activities are not expected to be conducive to the current layout and offering provided by the clubhouses. There are requirements to ensure the plans are acceptable to Historic Scotland and the appropriate planning offices.

The development plans at Gales are simpler and geared towards improving the approach to the course, the entrance to the clubhouse and enhancing the member and visitor experience. The plans would not be affected by planning approvals and could be commenced sooner than any proposed development at Killermont.

Indicative costings of both projects and the expected outcomes from improved facilities will be available early in the New Year.

## **Competitions**

Our fourth and last staging of Final Open Qualifying was held at Gales in July. All competitors were very complimentary of the course and especially the restoration work. Of the qualifiers you may have noticed that the American Julian Suri has appeared on a number of leader boards, one to follow over the years.

The Club Championship was won for the sixth time by Jonathan King, beating Neil MacRae in the final. Jonathan subsequently won the Glasgow Golf Union, Champion of Champions at Cawder. Very well done Jonathan.

The Senior Championship was, once again, won by Past Captain David Donaldson for the third consecutive year and the fourth in all.

The Browning Trophy (Junior Champion) winner was Murray McVicar.

The team, managed by Angus Cameron, completed the year in second place in the Donald Cameron League. Never having won the league before this was a terrific effort by the team. Thanks to all the members who played and represented the Club and also to the previous manager David Horner who prepared the groundwork over recent years. Good luck to the team for next year when they may go one better.

The Junior team brought home the JJ McCarry Trophy. Thanks to all who played and good luck for next year. We look forward to the trophy being retained. Our Junior Team Manager, Keith Macnair, and the Professionals have done a great job over the year. Junior coaching is very well attended and it is great to see so many participating.

## **Membership**

The lifeblood of our club is the members. Our junior section is thriving and we hope that in the future many of our existing Juniors will become full ordinary members. With ever more qualified young graduates leaving for work purposes either in England or further abroad this route to increasing our numbers cannot be our sole route. We need to continually introduce new members to the Club. With the Vice Captain I have interviewed many new applicants over the year. Some have been unaware that our waiting list for ordinary membership is currently about a year. This is a matter that should be better known as we need to dispel the idea that to become a member of Glasgow Golf Club takes many years on a waiting list. The clubhouse developments will allow us to improve our offering to prospective new members.

## **Open Membership**

I trust everyone is now aware that we have a link on the club website where views on this subject can be expressed.



## **General Manager**

Our new General Manager, Christopher Spencer, commenced work on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. He was previously the General Manager of North Berwick Golf Club and brings with him a wealth of experience both in running a members' golf club and working with tour operators. During the three month period when we were without a General Manager our office staff at Killermont stepped into the breach and dealt very well with the extra demands. Our thanks to them all.

Finally, can I thank all members for giving me the opportunity to be your Captain. It has been an honour and a privilege.

Ken Mactaggart  
Captain