



COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

EDITION NUMBER THREE

AUGUST 2014

INTRODUCTION

Members of Council have been very busy over the last few months delivering on their individual and collective responsibilities on behalf of the membership.

This summer edition provides illumination and clarification on a range of issues and initiatives.

MEMBERSHIP

The Gales One list now stands at 66. No promotions to full membership will take place until 1st January 2015 at which time any promotions will have been on the list for at least 12 months.

Recruiting new members remains **crucial** if the Gales One list is to at least be maintained and hopefully grown so members are again encouraged to bring forward suitable candidates. Thanks are due to members who have already brought forward candidates so far this year.

SPECIAL MEETING

The Special Meeting called by certain members to consider Proposals for the future plans for the course at Gales was held on 13th June. Council's Counter Motion deeming the Proposals unconstitutional and contrary to the Rules of the Club was passed by a significant majority.

As promised all along Council has now issued Summer 2014 and Winter 2014/2015 work programmes for the course at Gales allowing a four week window for member comment (refer to the Gales Course section for detail).

KILLERMONT HOUSE

The refurbishment of the Members' rooms is now complete.

Members are encouraged to make more use of the improved facilities for business meetings and private dining. A brochure to promote this initiative will be issued to members soon.

The review of picture hanging within the House is still to be concluded.

The commitment to install a disabled access facility as described in the May Newsletter remains and is scheduled to take place by the end of the year.

Regarding the Club's defibrillators it is important that as many members as possible are trained in their use in order that they are operated to their greatest potential. To this end further CPR training is being planned for early October.

The 3 month dress code trial for Saturday medals has now concluded. Some members took advantage of the relaxation but not many so future Saturday medal days will revert back to the existing dress code rules but members are very much encouraged to make use of the members bar and dining room in addition to the spike bar.

KILLERMONT COURSE

Hole 4 has now been played in its altered format for 18 months with the removal of two large bunkers which were difficult to maintain and the addition of a new bunker at a higher point on the left. Council has taken professional advice but improving the profile of the hole is far from simple. A number of proposals bringing forward what would have to be major alterations were considered but were very expensive, would probably not be cost effective and may have detracted from the hole itself and so were rejected. Going forward, research will continue on improvements that may be attainable.

Hole 7 continues to be problematic in terms of balls leaving the course. All residents affected have now been visited by the Managing Secretary and the Greens Convener to discuss the issue. One resident reported that a ball had flown past a foot from his head. In addition the Club has taken professional health and safety advice. As a result plans are now being put in place, in the first instance, to install further protective work to the existing fence but, of greater significance, to put together a plan to re-align the hole to what it used to be in the past. This will involve allowing the rough on the left of the fairway to grow with the bunkers being repositioned at a future date. Trees on the right will be lopped and some trees at the dogleg removed and some of these replanted on the left side of the hole and improvements made to the drainage on the right (plans were already in place to improve the drainage but at a slightly later date). Detailed plans are now on display in the Clubhouse for members' perusal and comment.

Consideration is currently being given to the 10th green and its surrounds and, in particular, the possible removal of the first greenside bunker on the right. Professional advice is being engaged in this regard.

The possibility of raising the 12th tee to improve sighting of the fairway is under review together with improving the area between the 11th green and the 12th tee.

Of some concern it has to be reported that green staff have witnessed a member taking his caddy car over a green and an increasing number of members taking their powacaddys/trolleys on to tees. All that such actions do is effect damage to our greens and are very frustrating to the greens staff.

GAILES HOUSE

A secondary heating system (back –up electrical heaters) is to be installed in the McLaren Room in order to guarantee warmth in one of the public rooms during cold spells.

With the updated security system now operational it is proposed to re-activate the card entry system later this year. Sufficient advance notice will be given to allow members to replace damaged cards. Re-introduction of the entry system will allow Council to discharge their responsibilities towards safeguarding the Club's assets and give safety protection to the Club's House staff.

GAILES COURSE

Gorse removal has now taken place at the 4th and 10th holes.

Further removal of gorse including in front of the 3rd tee, around the 7th blue tee forward from the area in front of the tee all along the left hand side towards the greenside bunker and some minor removal at the 14th will take place shortly.

Council has now considered the 15 written responses to the summer and winter works programmes. Members were very much in favour of the proposals and some took the opportunity of offering constructive suggestions in other areas. Most of these suggestions are already under consideration within the Council's five year forward plan for the course which, in itself, is constantly evolving but the winter programme has been revised to include some of the suggestions as follows:-

- Path to 15th will be extended (as originally planned) to allow easier access to back of tee and to future teeing area being considered.
- A rolling programme of tee enhancement to be introduced planning to improve all tees over a period of several years. Those most in need will be dealt with first, probably 7th, 9th, and 10th.
- Trees to the rear of the 3rd green to be properly maintained and the limbs growing along the ground to be removed.
- Removal of trees to the front of the 3rd championship tee (line of sight)
- Removal of trees at the 11th blue tee (line of sight). The angle of the tree limbs does not allow pruning only.

Members' suggestions not included in the revised winter programme will be considered for action going forward. In particular, active consideration, including taking professional advice, is currently being given to the area at the back of the 4th green which is likely to give rise to changes.

FINAL OPEN QUALIFYING

Without question, a great day for Glasgow Golf Club in general and Gailes Links in particular. The R and A were very complimentary on the condition and presentation of the course and the Club's ability to provide the member resource (over 80 members) to ensure the event was run in a very professional and efficient manner. Thanks are very much due to Brian Dickson, Fergus McAinsh, Jim Brown and all the volunteers.

As a bonus the qualifier was won by a high profile competitor with a fine score of 9 under par. Marc Warren went on to play well in The Open itself and played particularly well in the US PGA coming in joint 15th. He has also just won a European Tour event in Denmark. In addition, a new course record of 63 was carded by Jamie McLeary who came second in the qualifier.



MATCH AND HANDICAP

Medal monitoring will continue until the end of the season and appears to be having a degree of success.

The Club has secured approval from the SGU to hold 9 hole medals over holes 1-9. Scorecards and handicap conversion tables are now available and dates for medals in the remaining months of this season will be announced shortly.

MARKETING AND SPONSORSHIP

An alternative initiative to generate visitor income is to be launched shortly. This will involve members being allowed to invite a party of guests (between 12 and 20) to either course at a preferential green fee. Dates for any such parties would be strictly controlled by the Club and bookings would be taken at “quieter times”. Other clubs, including Prestwick, run similar schemes with success.

JUNIOR ASSOCIATES

Over the summer months coaching has proved to be very popular. Indeed, some of the boys being coached are not currently (yet!) members of the Club.

The Club’s team competing in the Andy Kellock Cup at Cawder this month are to be congratulated in finishing 4th out of 14 teams and only 3 strokes behind the eventual winners. Well done to :-

- Mathew Irvine
- Andrew Kitson
- William Prentice
- Mathew Robertson
- Aidan Sloan
- Luke Steven

CONSUMPTION OF DRINKS IN THE LOCKER ROOM

Members are reminded that if they wish to enjoy the television facility in the locker room accompanied by a refreshment they must bring such refreshments upstairs themselves AND return empty cups and glasses afterwards.

SOCIAL

Plans are in place to hold Sunday family carvery lunches on a more regular basis.

Members are reminded that the Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 21st November. Put the date in your diary. Details will follow in due course.

DONALD CAMERON LEAGUE

Despite strenuous efforts in some trying weather conditions the team continues to gain strength and increased its points tally from the previous year. Thanks are very much due to all who represented the Club in the matches this summer and, in particular, our hard working team manager David Horner with valuable back up from John Greaves. .

CONCLUSION

All competitions have been very well supported so far this year and thanks are due to competing members and, indeed, to the wider membership for their support of the Club both on the courses and in the clubhouses.

**GLASGOW GOLF CLUB COUNCIL
AUGUST 2014**