



# **COUNCIL NEWSLETTER EDITION NUMBER FOUR NOVEMBER 2014**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This is the last of four editions of the Newsletter this year. Members of Council continue to be busy delivering on projects and initiatives and have appreciated members' feedback in relation to proposed projects.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Gales One list should stand at approximately 70 by the end of the year. The policy of no promotions to full membership to take place until 1st January 2015 remains at which time any promotions will have been on the list for at least 12 months. A resultant effect of this is that the number of Ordinary members at present is 23 less than the cap of 675.

Recruiting new Gales One members still remains crucial. Council continue to be appreciative of members efforts to bring in new members. The Club is on course to welcome 60 new members in all categories in the calendar year 2014.

The age profile of the membership of the Club going forward is a cause for concern as can be seen from information regarding this subject revealed later in this Newsletter.

It is envisaged that next year's Council will look closely at the implications of bringing in lady members.

## **KILLERMONT HOUSE**

With the current refurbishment of the Members' rooms now complete a brochure is being issued to all members along with the Annual Report laying out what is now on offer in order to encourage members to make more use of the Club's fine facilities. In addition, as was reported in the last Newsletter, members are being invited to bring parties of between 12 and 20 friends and/or business colleagues to play at Killermont (and Gailes Links) at preferential rates (full details in the brochure) and make use of the House facilities before and after play.

The mobile powered wheelchair carrier is now at the Club and available for use to assist disabled access to the House. Key members of staff have been fully trained in its use.

To encourage more members to support Saturday evening dining a table d'hôte menu is now on offer (menu samples are on the Club website).

In order to make effective use of the Club's defibrillators further training has been scheduled towards the end of this month.

## **KILLERMONT COURSE**

All proposed works to Hole 7 have now been completed except the installation of the new artificial teeing area at the rear of the medal tee. This work will be undertaken following the completion of the ongoing works at Hole 10. Members are reminded that they must report any balls leaving the course to the Managing Secretary.

Members are to be thanked for their positive and constructive comments on the proposed changes to Hole 10. Project work is now underway with the main contractor on site from 17<sup>th</sup> November. The work will be supervised by Paul Kimber, our golf course architect and our course manager and golf professional. Paul Kimber has also recommended that we raise, very slightly, the height at the back of the green and this work is being undertaken as part of this project. Several comments were made by members that the hole may benefit from the introduction of a bunker on the left of the green. Whilst this is not being done within the current project it will receive serious consideration as part of next year's projects.

The Club have engaged the services of Kimber Golf to prepare a strategic review of the trees at Killermont. The trees on the course are of significant importance from both a landscaping setting and the playability of the individual holes. This review is not designed to assess the health of the trees (we have a Tree Surgeon who undertakes this element of our woodland management) but to determine their strategic importance. Council have adopted the principle of this review and have consequently committed to a rolling programme of annualised funding to ensure the ongoing management of our estate.

Ropes and trolley stops are now in place for the winter season. Albeit there is currently no ban on the use of trolleys members are again requested to carry their clubs wherever possible.

## **GAILES HOUSE**

The Clubhouse heating system failed recently but has now been fixed. Given the age of the system Council are putting plans in place for a replacement system when the requirement for such a replacement materialises. In order to satisfy Health and Safety requirements repair work has now been carried out to the kitchen flooring area.

Members are reminded of the requirement to wear a jacket **AND** tie where lunches are held after Club competitions.

## **GAILES COURSE**

The winter programme is now well underway. Members will have noticed that a gorse and heather management scheme is now in place and will run for several years. This should lead to a better playing experience.

Following the policy of giving members details of major projects in advance and inviting comment Council can report that member's responses, both written and verbal, are very positive towards the work proposed at the back of the 4<sup>th</sup> Green and bunkering work on 13/14. Previously Council had indicated planned drainage work to resolve problems around 1<sup>st</sup> green/2<sup>nd</sup> tee area. In addition, this work will now extend to take in the 4<sup>th</sup> fairway which has suffered badly from flooding these last few winters. Work on all will commence soon with the exception of the mound behind the 4<sup>th</sup> green where work will be carried out after the Final Open Qualifier next year in order to restrict disruption during the winter months and to allow for a quicker "healing" time in summer.

## **MATCH AND HANDICAP**

Six 9 hole medals are planned for next year in the months of April to September inclusive.

## **MARKETING AND SPONSORSHIP**

As part of the overall effort to promote Gales Links the Club took part in The Gales Golf Classic (with Western and Dundonald). Between 20 and 30 players competed and the competition round at Gales Links proved a success in that the competitors very much enjoyed the experience and a profit of £1,000 was generated.

There has been an upward movement in visitors at Gales Links in the financial year recently ended helped by a spike in visitors at the time of the Ryder Cup. As our venue as the Final Open Qualifier becomes established and is the subject of media coverage (which is already happening) it is hoped that visitor income can be at least maintained at this slightly higher level.

## **JUNIOR ASSOCIATES**

To bring the Club into line with neighbouring Clubs and to encourage juniors to select our Club as the first Club they join, a motion is being put forward at the AGM to reduce the entry age point for Junior Associates to the age of 8.

## **SOCIAL**

Council are keen that families are encouraged to use our dining facilities for Sunday lunch and a St Andrews Day Carvery is currently being promoted for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

## **RECIPROCITY**

Council has been keen to secure more reciprocal agreements with appropriate and like minded Clubs. Details of arrangements with Royal Wellington Golf Club were issued in February and already we have been able to welcome 4 Royal Wellington members to Gales Links and Killermont in September. There may be more next year when the Rugby World Cup is held in England.

Council is delighted to confirm arrangements with Moortown Golf Club (on the outskirts of Leeds) and Panmure Golf Club (on the outskirts of Dundee).

### **Moortown**

A maximum of 8 players per any two days at £20 per player per day. Members can visit a maximum 6 times per year per course. Medal and certain competition days excluded. By exception 3 non-member guests can be included. Moortown was the first course in the UK to host the Ryder Cup in 1929.

### **Panmure**

Green fee of £20 per member. Up to one guest may play with a member at the same rate. Stipulated times of day for play. Medal and certain competition days excluded.

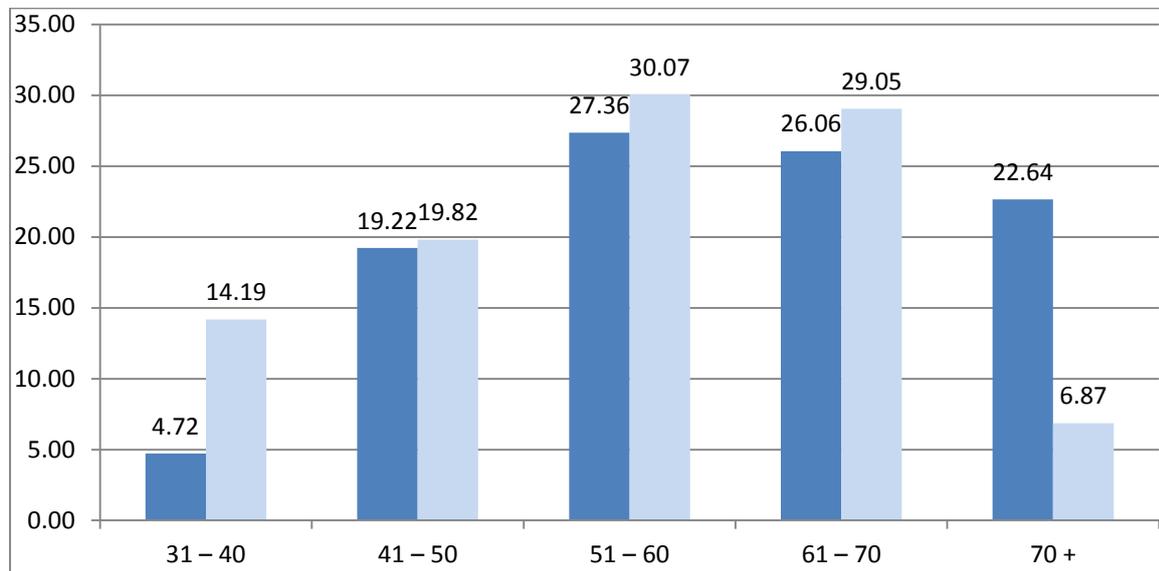
### **Royal Blackheath**

Members are reminded of the arrangements with Royal Blackheath which are that there is no green fee. A member may bring a guest who will be charged the guest of member rate. Any further guests will be charged the daily green fee rate. Visits are restricted to 7 times a year at each course.

The Managing Secretary's office has full details of all these arrangements and any members wishing to benefit from these arrangements should contact the Managing Secretary's office in the first place.

## GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CLUB

Members will be aware that, in common with all golf clubs, we have an ageing membership. This is illustrated in the chart below, which compares the demographic profile of the membership in 1999 with the current 2014 profile and shows the percentage of the membership in each age category. (1999 numbers in lighter shade with 2014 darker shade)



Future projections suggest that this trend will continue.

Against this background your Council has been giving thought to the development of a longer term strategic plan for the club. As members will know, the Captain is appointed for one year, but serves on Council for three years as Vice Captain, Captain and Past Captain. Four members are elected to Council each year and each serves for a three year term. Council therefore comprises fifteen members. As each new Council and Captain takes office there is a degree of continuity and Council has put in place plans that stretch over a number of years, particularly for improvements and projects at both courses. However, the time spent on the day to day running of the Club and issues which are short term by nature do not allow Council sufficient time to examine some of the crucial longer term issues facing the Club in sufficient detail.

Council has therefore taken a decision to establish a Long Term Development Committee (LTDC) and is in the process of putting this Committee together. The Committee will take a more strategic look at the following areas:-

- management structure
- membership
- the estate and finance.

However, with the recent announcement that our current Managing Secretary, Alan McMillan, has given formal notice of his intention to retire on 2 July 2015, the need to address the Governance and Management Structure of the Club requires a more urgent review since the process to recruit a General Manager for the Club is now underway. A Development Committee has been established to specifically look at this area. Past Captain Robin Crawford has been approached and has agreed to Chair the Committee and the other members are:

Clive Miquel (Secretary)

David Horner

Brian Barnett

Andy Dunlop

The Development Committee will report to Council.

The terms of reference of this Development Committee are:

1. To propose alternative governance and management structures for the Club having researched alternatives from other golf clubs and elsewhere.
2. To assess the financial impact of any proposed changes
3. To define the required changes to the Club's bye-laws to enable implementation of the proposed changes.

At this time, the remit of the Development Committee is therefore limited to looking at the governance and management of the Club. Members will be fully consulted early in the New Year, before any proposals are brought to a General Meeting.

## **CONCLUSION**

Council gave a commitment at the end of last year to improve communication with the members regarding the work they were undertaking on behalf of the membership both in terms of the day to day running of the Club and wider projects and improvements. It is hoped the series of Newsletters issued during the year and the open approach to sharing detailed project plans with members before projects commence has gone some way to achieving this commitment.

Council considers its decision to proceed to form a Long Term Development Committee and the already formed Development Committee to be of crucial significance in order that the Club can plan in good time for changes that may be required to ensure the Club remains on a strong footing going into the future.

**GLASGOW GOLF CLUB COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 2014**