

Captains Update - March 2019

Golf on the Hill

The summer season is just round the corner and we have enjoyed a successful winter season. The course has been in excellent condition with many positive comments about the condition of the greens.

Winter League

Participation in the winter league has been high and there have been some very low scores. The weather was kind to us at the end of 2018 with 33 out of 36 rounds being played. The bad weather has impacted more on 2019 with only 29 rounds out of 42 being played with only a few left to play.

Starting with the **8 Best Scores** as at 9 March we are heading towards some exciting finishes :

Section 1 Leaders : Ronnie Calderwood, 498; Mark McDowall, 499; Gordon Scott, 500; and Chris Wooley 500.

Section 2 Leaders_: Gerrard Kelly, 504; John Buchan, 509; Laurie Deuchars, 509; and David Abercrombie, 511.

Eclectics

Section 1: Brian MacDonald, 47; Tony Sullivan, 48; Allan Fraser, 48 and David Logie, 48.

Section 2: Duncan Cargill, 55; Charles Mc Donald, 56; Alastair Suttie, 58; and Laurie Deuchars, 59.

Two successful Invitational Texas Scrambles to coincide with the Scotland Rugby matches.

First one on 9 February with 14 teams playing in a howling gale, but there some very low scores. The winning Team was A Fraser, C Wooley, M McDowall and L O'Connor (guest) with a team score of 52.4.

The Second one was on 9 March with 18 teams participating on the day. The winning team on the day was Jonny Anton, Jonny Belford(guest) and Michael O'Donnell (guest) with a score of 54.2

Athole and Fraser McDonald celebrated their **50th birthdays** in style by offering to buy folks a drink every time Scotland scored against Wales. They must have known they were on to a safe bet with Scotland's record in the Six Nations Tournament. Scotland only scored three times and lost 11-18!! We couldn't quite fit 100 candles on the birthday cake but they managed to blow the 4 out. Athole and Fraser were presented with a bottle each of good quality brandy by the Captain, Crawford Conochie and Vice-Captain, Steve Bissett to mark their birthdays.

New ventures

Your Board has been working hard to offer new opportunities for members. **The Affinity Scheme** with GS Group is open to members who would like financial advice and guidance or insurance cover for travel, home and contents. There are Referral Bonuses for business connections which go on to become a client.

Another new benefit for members will be **Golf Insurance cover** by Bluefins. The Board decided to include this cover in our insurance for the clubhouse etc. Some of these benefits are - Personal Liability Worldwide, £5 Million, Personal Accident cover, £25K (home course only) and non-negligence Third party property Damage* of £20k (£10K limit per claim home course only). There are many other benefits which will be listed on the website.

Professional Coaching

We are delighted to announce that we will have the services of Ally Macdonald once again over the summer season with group lessons. This will start on **Tuesday 30 April at 5.30 - 7pm** for groups of 6 to 8 people and will be held on a fortnightly basis and will cost £6. The second date is 14th May.

Ally is also happy to provide clothing, with or without logos, and his catalogue will be in the Bothy. Please take advantage of these new opportunities.

The Course

Opening day will be **Saturday 30th March** with the Captain v Vice Captain 2 man Texas Scramble.

Summer League will start on **Sunday 31st March 2019**.

The Virginia trophy will be played at the Hill on **Sunday 20th May** when we will welcome a team from King James V1. We are looking for a large team of people to play, so please enter your names on the sheet in the Bothy.

Clubhouse

We had a successful Hogmanay party with 68 people enjoying a three course meal and dancing the night away till well after the bells. Congratulations to Pauline and her staff for organising a very enjoyable Hogmanay.

The Bothy

This will be open once again from 30th March. Boney is officially retiring from staffing the Bothy with the exception for the odd Saturday over the summer season. We thank him for all he has done and he will be a hard act to follow. We will all miss his banter and usual helpful tips before we hit the first tee.

This means that we are looking for volunteers to open and staff the Bothy for every day of the week and there is a rota sheet in the clubhouse. Volunteers can opt to do part of a day or a full day, but your support is essential!

Events

The Craigie Hill Music Festival will be held on Saturday 31st August 2019.

Kilmac will be the main sponsor of this event and we are greatly indebted to Athole and his fellow Directors for supporting this event.

As there are a number of events now, mainly on Friday and Saturday evenings, Pauline and her staff are working hard to ensure these are a success and do their best to ensure people have a safe enjoyable time. These events help towards the financial stability of the club and the Board is continually trying to find ways to increase the income for the club so that fees maybe kept as low as possible.

Fireworks night was held on **4th November** under clear skies and was a great success once again. A fun time was had by all - adults and children alike. A big thank you to all the volunteers who arranged the firework display as well as Pauline and her staff.

Finance

The Board has been trying to keep within a very strict budget this year and we are trying to maintain a stable financial position while having to service outstanding debts.

The **Superball** has replaced the Lotto and hopefully will be another good source of funds for the club. A member chooses 2 numbers for £10 and is asked to pay this by standing order through their bank. A lump sum of £120 could be paid up front. There are three prizes each month £200, £100 and £50. The draw will take place about the middle of each month. There are still numbers available.

Please give this your support as it will help the financial position of the club.

The Board is also continuing to explore ways which will ensure the continued existence of CHGC. A business meeting was held on 21st February and we were delighted with the turnout with over a 100 people attending. Kenny MacKinnon in his presentation made very clear that this **was not an EGM** and that the purpose was to explain the various initiatives that been tried by the Board to balance the books and to sustain the ongoing future of Craigie Hill. The Board then unveiled a blueprint for a nine hole golf course with a new purpose built clubhouse.

Finance to ensure the future of the Hill in the long term could hinge on the sale of land on the lower part of the course. Mr Derek Ross a director of Kilmac made a presentation outlining the various factors and steps that would require to be followed through, if this idea was to move forward.

There were a number of questions and ideas put forward at the meeting from members and a questionnaire has been issued to seek the views and suggestions from the wider membership. Closing date will be Friday 29th March.

Fees

The Board which had not increased the fees for 2018/19 decided that there will be a small increase on the fees for 2019/20 by the rate of inflation (£16.80). The SGU levy has been increased to £14.50 per member for 2019 and will be held till January 2022. If members paid early before end of January they will be rewarded by the issue of 7 visitor tickets to play FOC.

AGM This will be held on Thursday 2 May 2019 at 7pm for 7.30pm

The Club is very grateful to the volunteers who give of their time to the club, the support of the members is crucial for the survival of our club and the many activities. Everyone always says that people will find a warm friendly welcome at the Hill and a course that is always in great condition. This winter it has been in exceptional condition. A big thank you to Stuart Robertson our head green keeper.

We are very lucky to have a large playing membership and it's the people that make any golf club and you are very important. Your Board would appreciate your ongoing support for the club.

Crawford Conochie

Captain