

# AGM 2017

## CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

Well here we are, December 2017 already. If someone had told me this time last year that I would be sitting at the Golf Club AGM as Club Manager I would never have believed it. However, here I am and I am delighted to be here. I would like to thank Don and his Committee for having the faith in me to come on board and carry out this role.

It has been a quick 7 months since I took over from Shona and I must say that I am thoroughly enjoying the job and the challenges which that brings. Big thanks goes to Shona who has been brilliant at showing me the ropes and helping me settle in.

All the members that I have met in the time have been really supportive and welcoming. I am very grateful for that. We have a really friendly Club here, coupled with the excellent facilities both on and off the course. This makes it a welcoming place to come and play your golf.

### THE COURSE

I think that there can be no disagreement that this year the golf course has been in as good a condition that it has ever been. This is testament to our Head Greenkeeper, Dale, his assistant Forbes, and his team of regular helpers, without whom a lot of this would not be possible. Dale takes great pride in what he does and has brought with him a vast amount of experience. This has benefitted us immensely. The positive comments from Members and Visitors alike are still coming in.

### MEMBERSHIP

Like many other clubs in the area we are still showing a few signs of the downturn in the local economy. Our membership is slightly down on the same time last year. We are down a total of 21 playing members across the categories. Hopefully, as things start to pick up again, we will see more people coming back to golf in the near future. Our Winter Membership uptake has been good so far with 23 already signed up. Some of those are looking to extend that to a Full Membership next season. Let's hope we get some more to do the same. We still have a significant number of Social Members who keep the Club busy at any events and function nights that we have, this is up a couple on last year.

The Introduction of Andrew Cooper to the Club this season, as a teaching professional, has encouraged more youngsters with his coaching sessions to get involved in the game. These have been a success and we are hoping that this will continue into next season with these guys who have taken part in the group lessons joining up. The aim is to develop the Junior Section.

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Unfortunately, we lost a couple of our Corporate Members this year. However, we are very grateful to those who remain with us. We very much appreciate their support and hope that they continue to support us into 2018 and beyond. Our list of corporate supporters now is:

- Trac Oil & Gas
- GAC UK
- AB200/Ellon Plant Hire
- Quensh
- Mile End Motors
- Headlam (Scotland) Ltd

### CLUB COMPETITIONS

I would like to congratulate all our Club Champions this year. Derek Mulgrew picked up the Scratch Championship and Phillip Johnston won the Handicap Championship. This year's Seniors Champion was Norman Cox with the Ladies prize going to Karen Shaw. Well done to you all. Derek and Phil will now go forward to represent the Club in the Champion of Champions in 2018.

Congratulations to all the other prize winners from all sections during 2017.

Our Open competitions have, yet again, been very well attended. It is great to see people coming from all sorts of places to play in our Opens. With all the course improvements I am sure this will continue to be the case.

I would like to thank Denny Thomson for looking after GDL Greensomes Team this summer. We had full teams for each match. Although it was an unsuccessful campaign, playing in these events was enjoyed by all those who took part. We will continue to take part next season where we have 3 home matches and 2 away.

We have still been unable to enter the Pennant League, due to not enough players being able to commit. Again it is disappointing that we will not be represented at this level next season.

### VISITORS

We continue to get good numbers of visitors from home and abroad. I hope that this continues to be the case so that others can see how good a product we have here at Newburgh. I will be promoting the Club on our Social media to ensure that we are in the minds of those looking for somewhere to have an outing. I plan to really push for more outings etc for next season and to distribute flyers to all surrounding clubs. I hope this will encourage some of their various sections to consider Newburgh as an outing venue.

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### CLUB PERSONNEL

We had a sad start to the year when, our long time Bar Manager, Sandy went off with a long-term illness which eventually got the better of him. As you know, Sandy passed away earlier this year. He will be missed by all involved in the Club. I could not have written this end of year report without mentioning him.

Sandy had big boots to fill. However, Colleen Lorimer has stepped into the role. We must give a big thank you to Colleen and her staff (Arline, Louise and Lesley) for the running of the bar in what has been a smooth transition. We should also thank Martin and his Kitchen staff again this year for providing our hungry golfers with their pre and post round nourishment.

Thanks also to Pauline, who keeps our Clubhouse spotless throughout the year.

In the shop we thank Oliver again for all his good work, along with our volunteer help in Russell and Bobby who keep the midweek Medal running smoothly on a Tuesday.

Our Greens staff, as I mentioned earlier, have had a huge impact on the course this summer. Dale and his team have got the course in fantastic condition and I am sure he would join me in giving a big thanks to his team of Volunteers, too many to name individually, who assist him throughout the year. We also wish Forbes a speedy return to work now that he is in the recovery stage after his leg break. I would give a special mention, on that point, to Maureen, Donald (Wood) and Ronnie for their help during Forbes' absence. This has been fantastic for keeping everything ticking over.

We should also thank Don, Dougie, Fred and the ladies for keeping the Clubhouse surroundings looking great and inviting.

Again, I would thank Shona for her assistance in making the transition from Admin/Book-keeping to full blown Club Manager a smooth one.

Special thanks go to Donald Webster, Mr Newburgh. He has again been a huge help in all aspects of the Club from the bar to the shop. Although he hasn't been 100% lately he is always here or hereabouts to help out when needed.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

This is a great Club to play golf at and has become a great place for me to work in over the last year in the 2 roles I have had. Don, Bobby, Shona and all the Committee have been a great help. I look forward to continuing what we have started and making this a Club for our members to be proud of.

All the best for the rest of the winter, and the 2018 season ahead.

Paul Manson /Club Manager