

INTRODUCTION

This Report should be YOUR report. Paul issued all members with a survey inviting comments on the state of play in Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club. In the event 175 members responded which strangely, so far as surveys go, is not too bad. Overall the feedback has been very positive and your Committee is grateful for that. In this year that I am standing down as Club Captain, having served four years in that role, I wish to record my profound gratitude for having had such a good Committee. My thanks go to Bobby McClymont as Treasurer, Richard Charles, Russell Crofts, John Gray, Shelley Johnstone as members, and Paul as Club Manager member. A lot of work is carried out behind the scenes and many hours have been spent addressing issues, reworking previous items and dealing with new challenges. So well done Committee and thank you! New challenges lie ahead and we look to the new Committee to carry on the good work.

CLUB MANAGER

Paul has settled well into his new role as Club Manager. He has done and continues to do an excellent job. He understands what golf is all about and that is important. But he also knows how to raise the profile of the Club and how to market our wares in a way that augurs well for the future. We have also enjoyed Paul's bi-monthly Newsletters which keep the membership informed in a fresh and lively manner. His competence is such that any would-be Committee member or office-bearer need have no fears about taking on too much. Paul carries the main burden of responsibility for the running of the Club. I wish him well in his continuing role. We remain grateful to Shona Reid for the continued support she lends Paul on administrative matters. They are a great team!

BAR and CLUBHOUSE MANAGEMENT

Colleen Lorimer has worked tirelessly in her responsibility for managing the Bar and Clubhouse. Stocktaking and record keeping take up a lot of time in addition to the physical demand in overseeing all of the various activities. Colleen has been ably supported by Arline, Louise and Lesley and we are grateful to them all.

Martin Buhler and his catering staff scored well in the recent Club survey. With Paul's encouragement and support Martin has successfully introduced a number of new features. Pauline and her constant companion HENRY continue to ensure the Clubhouse is kept in an orderly and clean fashion. Thank you Pauline.

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Dale and Forbes have continued to maintain our golf course in pristine condition. The Club regularly receives positive feed back from both members and visitors. Small touches make a big difference - such as broken tees cups, safety Bell on the 14th and new bins (Thanks to Mile End Motors & Leslie Simpson's generous donation). The major headache still to be completely resolved is that of the damage caused by rabbits. This has been tackled head on with a major re-turfing exercise taking place. Additional methods of culling are currently under consideration. The Committee remains grateful for the dedication shown by a number of regular volunteers who do sclaffing, rabbit hole filling, bunker raking, and pin positioning. Doug Morrison, Maureen McFarland, Donald Wood, and Fred Watson put in extra work for which we are grateful. Voluntary help remains an important feature in maintaining the high standards we have become used to.

ADMINISTRATION CHANGE

We noted last year how the Committee had introduced a range of administrative and financial changes. We have benefitted from these changes in the actual running of the Club. A major on-going issue is the proposal to establish new sheds to improve working conditions of our Greens staff. Real progress has been made. It is our intention to present a fully-costed proposal to the members at an EGM in the coming months. We wish to ensure the fullest possible consultation with members before embarking on what is bound to be a relatively costly process.

NO CHANGE

Some things have not changed and one is the support we receive from TRAC Oil & Gas by continuing to act as Club auditors and supplying us with attractive scorecards. Our thanks to TRAC. Likewise we remain grateful to our Corporate Member Quensh for their continued support in advising us on Health and Safety matters. Thank you Quensh. Paul has also thanked our other corporate supporters.

COMPETITION EVENTS

Competition events continue to run smoothly. However, it would be good to form a team of regular helpers to administer the various competitions. The staffing and stocking of the Club Pro Shop is an integral part of running competitions and we are indebted to a team of regular workers. Special thanks to Scott, Calum and Louise for staffing the shop on a regular basis - and to Russell and Bobby for their steady back-up.

A very successful Prize Giving Afternoon took place in October. This was a major change from previous years. Well done to Paul for his idea and hard work in implementing it. Congratulations to Lynda Carnie and Brian Harper - our worthy Club Champions. Paul has listed all the prize winners. Our thanks are also due to Graeme Watson, Convener of the Men's Seniors Section, for his oversight of a very successful programme.

Once again we are indebted to Graham Lorimer (Quiz Nights) and Arline Seager (Bingo Nights) for reminding us there is more to life than golf! These are very worthwhile events. We appreciate the time spent in organising them - as we do for the introduction of Table Tennis, an additional feature aimed at encouraging a greater use of the Clubhouse and for the enjoyment of members, social members and guests.

JUNIOR SECTION

We thank Andrew Cooper for helping to stimulate interest among the younger players and wish him well as he moves on to pastures new. As Paul has indicated in his Report this is an area that needs greater promotion.

FINALLY

It now falls to the new Committee to continue the running of the Club. I shall not be interfering in their task. However, a last word before I go! Here are some points I personally consider important.

- A small committee (eg maximum 7)
- A single Captain open to both genders
- A full time Club manager
- Transparency in decision-making
- Skills-set support rather than formal sub-committees
- New Greens sheds and aim for increase in greens staff numbers
- Ideas for effective Rabbit cull
- Maintaining healthy volunteers system
- Consider paid employment for maintaining Clubhouse surrounds
- Establishment of golf documents archive
- Careful supervision of finances and aim for annual increments to staff

Thank you all for the encouraging support over these past years. Go well!
And now "Over and Out!"

Don Hawthorn
Club Captain
26th November 2018