

# News from the Clubhouse

March 2015

Issue 3 Number 3



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Welcome to the March Edition of the Club's Newsletter.

## Course Closure Rules

# Endorsement by Club Committee

At the Committee Meeting on Monday 23 February, the following rules were formally adopted:

- When the Course is Closed due to inclement weather, no one will be allowed on the course to play golf.
- The Club will **NOT** allow golfers to sign a disclaimer to play at their own risk
- Disciplinary procedures will be implemented in future if these rules are not followed.

Note: Golf insurance will **NOT** be valid when the Club declares that the course is closed.

All golfers (Members and Visitors) must adhere to these rules which have been ratified by the Golf Club Committee.

## 2015 Membership Fees are now Over Due



Many thanks to those who have paid their 2015 fees.

If you wish to continue to play on our Course and you have not yet renewed your membership please contact Shona as soon as possible to pay your fee for the new season.

## Stableford Winter League 2014 - 2015



Report submitted by  
Bobby McClymont  
22 February 2015

The Winter League was completed in mid February when the 16<sup>th</sup> week of competition was clocked up after 16 consecutive weeks of play. Sixty three entries made up the biggest field ever in the competition and it included

male, female and senior players, as well as temporary Winter members.

Wullie Dyker clinched the top place with a joint third place finish on the last weekend, after relinquishing an early lead built up on excellent performances back in November 2014.

The full prize-winners list, with all £315 entry fees paid out, is below:

	Pts	Prize
Wullie Dyker	16	£80
Gary Finnie	15	£50
Alex Third	15	£50
Brian Rae	14	£30
Jim Allan	12	£25
Brian Harper	11	£20
Charles Duncan	9	£10
Philip Milne	9	£10
Ron Wilson	9	£10
Ian Gibbon	9	£10
Ian Ross	9	£10
Sandy Morrice	9	£10

To help our Winter League specialists to get through to the end of March and the start of the new Summer season, a SPRING WINTER LEAGUE, run on a similar basis will be provided for the four weeks from Sunday 22 February.

In order to differentiate quickly between players, each week TEN points will be awarded for first place and equals, NINE to second and equals, etc.

All this fun, for only a ONE POUND ENTRY FEE! A sweep will also be available at the Starter's Desk.

### **Kemnay Reciprocal Agreement**



The above agreement has been renewed for another year.

During the summer, this enables members of our golf club to play at Kemnay for £15 per

round and in return Kemnay members are able to play at Newburgh for £15 per round.

Only 3 tee times per day or a maximum of 12 people will be allowed to book each day. Tee times will not be available at Kemnay on Sunday mornings. Tee times for Kemnay members will not be available at Newburgh on Saturday mornings.

Bookings can only be made up to 5 days in advance of when you wish to play. To book a tee time at Kemnay Golf Club, please call their Professional Shop (01467 64225).

When you arrive at Kemnay Golf Club please show your Member fixture card or your Scottish Golf Club Membership card to prove that you are a member of Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club.

### **Rock Foundation Account**

The amount raised to date is £36,250. To date £35,000 has been paid off the loan account. A further repayment of £1000 will be made early in March.

The Club will make its annual loan payment of £10,000 at the end of March and at that point, the outstanding loan will be down to £34,000.

### **Junior Golf**



For the past few years, large groups of youngsters being taught the basics of golf on the practice area has become a familiar sight on Sunday afternoons. I think we can all agree giving kids an opportunity to take up golf and teaching them the rudiments from the start can only be a good thing, not to say essential for the future of the club.

The coaching is conducted as part of the national Clubgolf programme using volunteer members who have undertaken the necessary coaching courses. Naturally coaching has to lead to playing with the junior golfers following a structured pathway beginning with competitions on the 6-hole course, moving to a shortened 9-

hole layout on the main course before playing full rounds.

Much of the coaching this year will be overseen by Robbie Stewart who is heavily involved in the delivery of the Clubgolf programme having recently taken on a role with the organisation as a Coach Developer. Having Robbie based at the club whilst also being involved in the national programme can only benefit the coaches and the kids themselves.

Robbie is very keen for the emphasis this year to be on playing (and fun) for those taking part. This will include getting the kids on to the course whenever possible under the supervision of Robbie and the coaches. Members are asked to be patient if encountering a group and rest assured we will ensure any hold-ups are kept to a minimum.

Any members with kids or grandkids who may be interested in taking up the game are encouraged to bring them along and they will be made very welcome. For further details and to register for this coaching season please contact Shona Reid, Club Administrator, in the first instance and we will be back in touch to confirm details before the coaching starts following the Easter school holidays.

Similarly, any adult members interested in the role of a Volunteer Coach will also be made very welcome. Existing coaches will confirm its great fun and can be beneficial for your own game! Just contact the club for more information.

*Brian Cumming, Clubgolf Coordinator*

### **Men's Knockout Competitions**

Although we have no convener for match & handicap, committee member Alistair Robertson has agreed to organise the match play knock out tournaments. These four main competitions are particularly important to the club and we are keen that they are held as normal.

Within the next week or so entries will be invited for the 'Individual' [Henderson Cup] and 'Pairs' [Gallows Hill Pairs] match play competitions. Please look out for the notice

which will be available from March 14<sup>th</sup> and get your name entered. Check the Notice Board or notices in the Shop for more information.

### **Greens In Brief**



January through to February has presented a range of course conditions including course closures. Thankfully, this has been only rarely.

Warning of exceptionally high tides (the biggest expected to occur on a 20 year cycle!) has required course adjustments including starts at the 10<sup>th</sup> Tee to keep late players clear of water hazards.

One issue needing your support and help is in the REPAIRING OF PITCH MARKS. Many of you do this already. Some going the extra mile and repairing several per green. However, it would be good if EVERY GOLFER did this.

There have been a number of improvements to the course, especially with work on bunkers now underway and we look forward to this continuing now we have a turf cutter. A plan of action is in place to ensure steady development.

One obvious improvement is the new Astro-turf path down to the putting green. Re-varnished benches also help to give our golf course a good appearance. Other critical work is on safety measures to prevent tripping and slipping. Golfers are advised to make sure their spikes are up-to-date and effective.

The curse of rabbit damage is clear for all to see. There is nothing new in this problem. A biography on the legendary Tom Morris has a section dealing with "the Rabbit Wars". That was in 1799! Our rabbit control procedures are in place including the use of rabbit repellent. Here's hoping for fewer lost golf balls!

The introduction of three wheelie bins has helped to reduce the problem of dog waste. These are being well used. So, well done to those responsible dog walkers.

### **Door Entry Security System**

The work on installing the new system is now complete. The previous door entry cards have now been deactivated and if you still have one of these, it can be trashed.

The new Key Fobs have been distributed to members who have paid their membership fee for the 2015 season. If you have paid your fee and have not yet received your Key fob, please collect it as follows:

**Golfers:** Your Key Fob will be available from the Golf Shop

**Social Members:** Your Key Fob will be available from the Bar

Visitors to the Club during licensing hours can gain access to the Club via the front door by using the Intercom which is connected to a telephone in the bar. Bar staff will be able to activate the door remotely to allow visitors to enter the Club.

For Visitors or Tradesmen who arrive before licensing hours, door bells have been fitted to both the front and back door. When the bell is activated, a member of staff will come to the door to let the individual into the Club.

### **Clubhouse Floor Renovation**

The renovation to the floor in the Bar and Restaurant areas has now been completed. Lots of favourable comments have been received about the improvement and the lighter appearance of the floor.

Many thanks to those members of staff and our willing volunteers who cleared the whole floor area on Sunday evening so that it was ready for the workers to begin early on Monday morning.

Thanks to everyone who helped to put everything back on Friday morning so that our catering and

bar service was ready by lunchtime for members and visitors.

As you know, during this time a Gas Shut off valve was fitted in the kitchen to improve the safety of our Clubhouse. Despite a slight glitch on Friday with this valve when the club reopened, it was quickly corrected and was fully operational in time for Martin's Weekend Catering service.

### **Clubhouse Renovation and Painting**



Ian McKen has now completed the repairs to the damaged areas of ceiling in the meeting room and in the alcove where golfers use the computer to enter their scores. The damage was caused by water seeping as a result of a leak in the roof which has been fixed by Jim Warrender. Many thanks to Ian and Jim for their excellent work in repairing these defects.

Doug Morrison and his team of helpers have continued with their task of painting the walls in the meeting room. The only task left now is to repaint the ceiling which will be completed after the Ames Tape has been applied where needed.

The alcove (where round scores have been entered into the computer) has also been painted and the difference is amazing. Many thanks to Doug and George Annand who undertook this task.

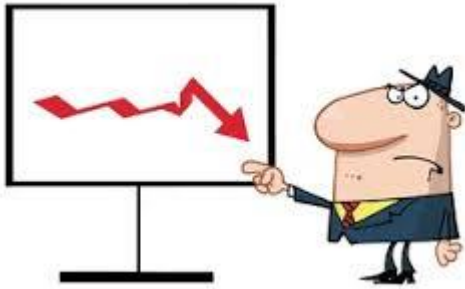
Finally, we have been repainting all the doors in the Clubhouse with a fresh coat of white paint and this task is almost complete. Thanks to Mike Sinclair, Zander Kirk and Ronnie Sinclair for their help with this important task.

### **RFA Texas Scramble – Advance News**

On Sunday 28 June, instead of the Medal Competition, we will be holding a Texas Scramble in aid of the Rock Foundation Account.

This will be followed by a Summer Buffet which will be served in the Clubhouse. Members and Visitors are welcome.

### **Bar Sales**



A recent survey by Beacon (a trade supplier) of some of its 400 Scottish customers (including pubs, restaurants, hotels and golf clubs) has revealed that bar takings were down by between 10% and 60% since the new legal limit was reduced from 80mg per 100ml of blood to 50mg in December 2014.

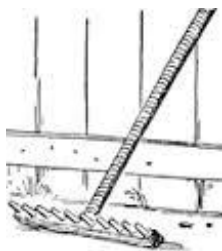
Not surprisingly, the new Scottish Drink Drive legislation is having an adverse impact on our bar income which is an important source of revenue for the Club.

We have introduced Becks Blue which is an alcohol free lager. Please give us your feedback on this after you have tried it.

We are looking at the possibility of stocking alcohol free wine. If there are other soft drinks that you would like to see the Club stock, please pass on your requests to Sandy Penny who will be pleased to hear from you.

Please make every effort to support the Club following a round of golf by paying a visit to the Bar for a refreshing drink and some food.

### **Old Rakes Club**



Over the past few years, the Old Rakes Club has made a tremendous difference to the gardening areas around the Clubhouse and Car Park.

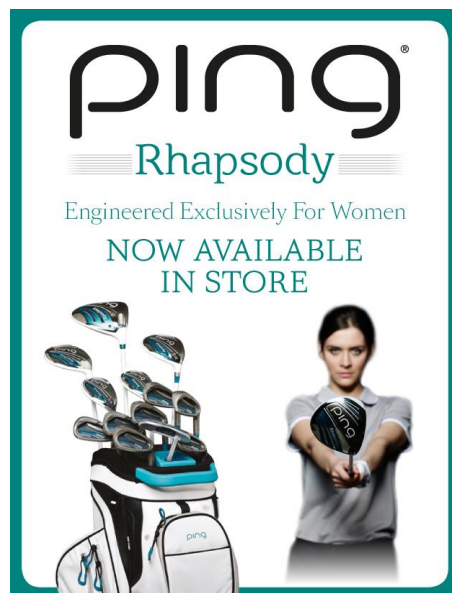
As the work has progressed the number of helpers has fallen away and with Frank Thomson moving to a new home away from the North East of Scotland, we have lost an invaluable member of the team.

Dave Philip and Fred Watson would appreciate some additional help to keep the areas that have been improved over the past two years. Can you spare a few hours to help the Old Rakes Club with the task of keeping garden areas neat and tidy?

If you can, please contact Dave Philip who will be pleased to hear from you.

### **News from Robbie Stewart**

Robbie is now able to offer a PING custom fit service to our members and visiting golfers. Please contact Robbie for further information on this service.



The picture image shows a new ladies range of clubs, which has just been launched by Ping.

Contact Robbie for if you require further information about these new clubs.

Further details will follow in due course.



## Social News

The annual Newburgh Gala will take place on Saturday 16 May. We have booked a Rod Stewart tribute act for that evening in the Clubhouse which will round off the Newburgh Gala Day in an entertaining fashion.

Further information will be available soon.

## Mother's Day – Sunday 15 March



Martin has created a special menu to celebrate Mother's Day, which is available from our Catering Staff on request. Two courses from the menu will cost £12.95 and three courses will be available for £15.95.

To book a table on the day, call 01358 789058 and choose option 4 for the kitchen.

**Note: The usual Sunday Carvery will not be available on Mother's Day.**

## Volunteers Needed - Can you help?

**YOUR CLUB**



We urgently need volunteer help in the following areas:

### Shop

So far this winter, the shop has been staffed by 5 volunteers. As we approach the new season and the

longer daylight hours, additional volunteers will be needed to spread the load more evenly.

Please let us know if you can help and if you could commit to the same day and time each week that would be even better.

*Contact Donald Webster if you can help.*

### Course

As we move into the Summer Season, more volunteer help will be needed to keep the course in good condition for both members and visitors.

We do not need any particular skills but just a willingness to help and if this could be on a regular basis then this would be great.

*Contact Don Hawthorn for further information.*

### Windows

We have a lot of windows to keep clean and if you could commit to looking after just one or two each week that would be a great help.

*Contact Shona Reid if you can help.*

### Closing Competitions

Ideally, we need a group of individuals who would close Competitions on a rota basis. Are you able to assist?

*Contact Bobby McClymont if you can help.*

## Family Nine Hole Golf Time



We are still waiting to hear from families who would be interested to play on our course on Sunday afternoons. The Captain and Robbie Stewart are keen to hear from you so that we can get this initiative underway.