News from the Clubhouse

Welcome to the May 2015 Edition of the Club's Newsletter

IT'S THAT MAN AGAIN!

GOLF'S OLD MASTER AT NEWBURGH BEATS HIS AGE

It was John Stewart who brought to our attention the newsworthy item and Bobby McClymont who used his reporting skills to spread the word on our own local hero, BOBBY SMITH.

Our Seniors' Convener wrote – "Two weeks ago Palmer, Nicklaus and Player started off the US Masters Golf by teeing off at the first and then retiring to the Clubhouse.

At Newburgh, the Club's Old Master, Bobby Smith, tees off in every Senior competition and invariably completes the whole round. He usually plays five or six times each week.

Bobby celebrated his 91st birthday near the end of last year's summer season by presenting a new trophy the Bobby Smith Cup – for competition among his Senior colleagues at the club.
In the first month of the 2015 summer season Bobby has shown them all how to do it by winning three successive Senior Competitions at Newburgh in April.

In the third, his Stableford round of 38 points consisted of 90 strokes over 18 holes, thus beating his age of 91 on his way to victory. Asked about his performance, he said that he felt he could have putted better, but he had been hindered by blurred vision caused by a cataract which is to be treated soon!"

You may have read all about Bobby in the local press and the P& J but here we do honour to a man who has been and remains a great inspiration to us all. When he made the presentation of his Trophy last year, we were all relieved he let someone else win it!!! However, be warned, he has vowed to be in contention for it next time round!!!

Thank you Bobby. You are a most worthy Honorary Life Member keeping Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club in the news! Keep up the good work.

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MORE PUBLICITY

Another Club initiative has brought Newburgh more publicity. Dave Philip organised the installation of Grip Clad cleats on the wooden steps as a safety measure and the Company have been in touch inviting an article in the Greens Magazine. Dave has provided the article which will appear in the May issue of the Greens Magazine. Thanks Dave.

FATHER AND SON

Golf is a game that offers a great variety of types of competition. But there is nothing finer than when a family team up to bring home the trophies. In this case it was a father and son who combined to do just that. Congratulations to Gareth and Jim Mackie who on Saturday, 4th April in the Monthly Medal Competition won their divisions. Gareth (Division 2) and Jim (Division 3). Mind you it was a close thing. They both won their divisions on countbacks!!!

A REMINDER ON STARTER PROCEDURE

*All players **MUST** report to the Club Shop before commencing play on any part of the course. Failure to do so can cause complications. It only takes a moment to check in.*
Thanks for your co-operation.

EASTER RAFFLE

Thanks to everyone who participated and especially to Arline Seager and Pauline Winslade for donating the prizes for the raffle. Arline provided all the chocolate prizes and Pauline provided the Top hat and Thumper. £194 was raised for the Rock Foundation Account. The Account remains open and donations are still coming in. 'THANK YOU' to all RFA supporters. Keep your support coming and let's clear the whole debt. Already we have reduced the debt from £90,000 to £33,000. One more effort could see it reduced to zero!

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

When Shona, our hard working Club Administrator, sends out global e-mail messages to members be it in any category, she receives a large number that are undeliverable due to e-mail addresses being incorrect or invalid.

Should any of you have changed your e-mail address please update your details in the BRS system. ***However please note when the BRS system is changed this does not automatically change records in the Club 2000 Administration system.***

So we ask you also to advise Shona at secretary@newburghgolfclub.co.uk.
Thank you.

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WORTHY CAUSES

We are all familiar with requests to support our Club financially from time to time. However, we also encourage support of other worthy causes. One of those is the RNLI jar collection. Recently this raised £231.55. Lin Wood, Hon Treasurer Aberdeen & District Lifeboat F/R contacted the Club to say thank you for what she regarded as a FANTASTIC total. In truth the sum may seem relatively modest, but as far as Lin is concerned and we quote "You are just amazing in your generosity and the crew fundraisers are very, VERY GRATEFUL."
Well done to all contributors!

MEN'S OPEN

Entries are still being accepted for the Men's Spring Open on Saturday, 9th May. Bookings can be made on-line or via the Shop. Members £13 and Visitors £20.

PITCH MARKS

Please repair your pitch marks, and an extra one or two for the green keeping staff.

RFA TEXAS SCRAMBLE & SUMMER BUFFET (SHOT GUN START):

The Club are holding a Texas Scramble & Summer Buffet on Sunday, 28th June in aid of the Rock Foundation Account. This event is open to Playing Members & Guests, but also something to invite your family along to afterwards for the buffet.

The costs are:
Member playing including Summer Buffet @ £15
Members Guest playing including Summer Buffet @ £20

Adult Ticket for Buffet Only @ £8.95
Child Ticket for Buffet Only @ £5.25

The tee-sheet for the Texas Scramble is live and bookings can be made now.
Tickets for the Buffet only are now available from the Bar.

Your support of both these events will be greatly appreciated.

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AN APPRECIATION

George Young organised the North East District golf event, which took place in Newburgh on Sunday 26th April. Afterwards he contacted Shona Reid:

"Hi Shona, on behalf of the North East District can you please pass on to your committee our grateful appreciation for the use of your course and facilities to stage the Phillips Trophy on Sunday past.

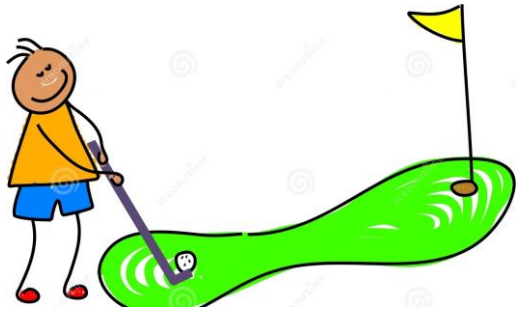
The course was in excellent condition for so early in the year and we didn't have a negative comment from any of the players (which is unusual if they have a bad score) but full marks to Jim Peace and his staff for the preparation and presentation. Also to your caterer who was first class in the quality, quantity and service for what was a very long day for him.

It was just as well we had a two tee start as the last group came off the "9th" green just as the snow began to fall and by the time they got to the clubhouse and returned their cards the course was white and definitely unplayable."

Congratulations to Jim, Forbes and volunteers for course work, to Martin and his staff for catering and all bar staff for making them welcome. This kind of reputation helps the Club to grow from strength to strength.

Have you noticed the stickers on the Club doors that point out the Club is Trip Advisor Recommended. Another feather in our cap! It does no harm and a lot of good to talk your Club up and spread the word it is a good place to belong to or even just to visit and use its excellent facilities.

HEAD GREENKEEPER COMMENT



For this time of year we have pretty good course conditions competing with weather that has been pretty bad! The greens are reasonably smooth which makes for good putting. I am very grateful for the excellent hard work put in by regular volunteers. This is a great support for Forbes and myself. Their contributions help us to receive positive feedback after events such as the Phillips Trophy. However, there is no room for complacency and I would like to see an increase in the number of volunteers. A strengthened team of volunteers will help to guarantee the course will remain in good condition throughout the season. Not everyone will be able to offer volunteer support but remember you can play your part by replacing divots, repairing pitch marks and maintaining tidy bunkers. Thanks to you all!

Jim Peace.

One way to control rabbits???

Has Charles taken up Golf???

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CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Three of our Committee Members Russell Crofts, John Gray and Don Hawthorn will be attending a Scottish Golf Club Business Planning Workshop on the 14th May 2015 in Deeside. Subjects covered will include three of the core areas for running a Club – namely membership recruitment, membership retention and effective club governance. It is hoped this will help to guide our Committee on the way forward in developing our own Club strengths. The Committee has already recognised that there is a case for re-writing our Constitution to bring our Club up into the modern era. Any help we can glean from the workshops will be to our real advantage.

The Committee has also appointed a small sub-committee to examine the best ways to ensure that our membership will increase over the next few years. Its remit includes examining the range of options known as Flexi-Membership and to recommend which of these, if any, might be applicable to our own Club. Membership Retention has become an issue affecting golf clubs throughout the country. In fact, it is a concern shared by many different kinds of sporting associations. Your Committee is actively engaged in determining ways and means that we can presently afford in strengthening our Club. Unfortunately, there are some steps that we are not quite in a position to pursue at the moment as the next item clearly illustrates.

MOVING ON

A WORD FROM OUR CLUB CAPTAIN - MARK GRAHAM

Dear Member,
As you will be aware, Newburgh-On-Ythan Golf Club (NOYGC) has been working with Robbie Stewart for a period of time now in a mutual partnership between himself and the Club.

Both Robbie and NOYGC hoped that this relationship would develop over time into a more permanent relationship with Robbie coming to work for us. Unfortunately, due to the current financial restrictions that the club is faced with, we have not been able to involve Robbie in a more permanent role for the club at this time.

Robbie has been coaching at NOYGC and still had his "roving pro" contract covering the local area. This has been a successful enterprise but not sufficient in itself to provide a living income. Robbie has therefore been left with no option other than to seek a more permanent role to support his income. As such, he has recently informed me that he has accepted a new role with Kings Links Golf Centre as a training coach and also as mentor to the young team of professionals based there.

On a positive note, Robbie wishes to continue his relationship with the Club and still offer his services to our members. King Links have kindly agreed to allow him to do this.

So what does this mean to NOYGC? Well, it would mean the Club was no longer officially associated with Robbie as our PGA Professional. He would be associated with Kings Links Golf Centre. However, Robbie would remain an active partner of the Club, offering our members lessons on site at NOYGC, and maintaining his on-going work with the Juniors through Club Golf. Additionally, he would still be available for the Committee and myself to benefit from his many words of wisdom.

We still hope that one day, in a better financial climate, we would be able to bring Robbie back on a permanent basis. In the meantime, on behalf of the Club, I would like to thank Robbie for his efforts at NOYGC. We wish him all the best in his new role and look forward to seeing him around the Club whenever his busy schedule allows.

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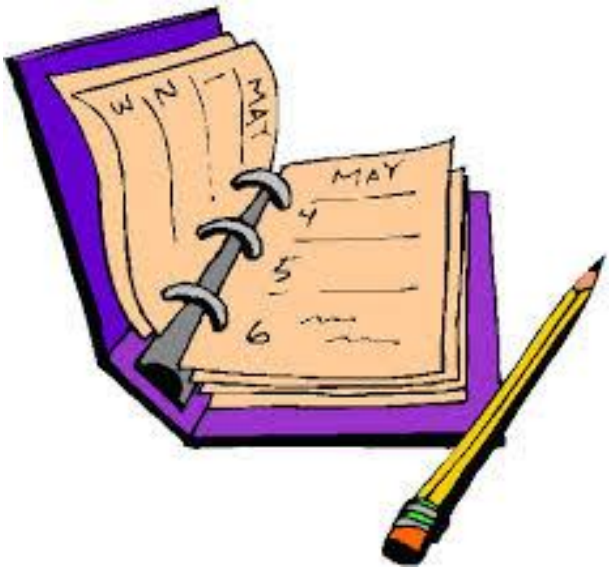

Saturday 9th May
Men's Spring Open

Friday 15th May
Quiz Night

Sunday 17th May
Mixed Open Greensome's

Saturday 30th May
Bingo Night

Friday 12th June
Quiz Night

Saturday 27th June
Bingo Night

Sunday 28th June
Rock Foundation Texas Scramble Open & Summer Buffet

Thursday 23rd July
Senior's Men's Open

Saturday 15th August
Men's Summer Open

Saturday 5th September
Ladies Open

Sunday 13th September
Open Texas Scramble

Sunday 4th October
Autumn Open

Thursday 8th October
PWG Senior Men's Open

Saturday 7th November
Prize Giving Evening & Entertainment

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