

# NEWBURGH-ON-YTHAN



NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2021

## 2021.... THE SEASON AFTER THE ONE TO FORGET!!

The year 2020 was one that no one will probably forget but would like to. We are back for 2021 and have relaunched the Newsletter with features from all around the club. You will see general information on the club, input from all the sections of the club, then greens team, Captain's Corner, upcoming events, and news from The View Bar & Restaurant.

So, step inside and take a look...

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# GENERAL CLUB NEWS

The new season is almost upon us and we look forward to a more structured and consistent approach to 2021. We hope to have a full calendar of fixtures throughout the sections with some other anecdotes thrown in along the way.

Our Annual Winter League had to be cancelled, eventually, this year due to the continued lockdowns and restrictions related to Covid 19. This will now resume for 2021/22 winter season with all current participants carried forward into the new league season. We look forward to now having an uninterrupted season with plenty of good days on and off the golf course to be had at the club.



We have some exciting news with regards to the club shop. We have come to an agreement with Gamola Golf and the shop will now be fully stocked by the retail outlet. This will give members a more extensive range to choose from with both Logo and non-logo clothing and all sorts of accessories etc with regular stock rotation. We will also have the opportunity to get access to Hardware product fitting days. We hope that everything will be in place when we can finally open our doors again on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Graeme Masterton from Gamola, who is now



also a member of the golf club, said “*We are looking forward to working with the club and being able to offer a fully stocked store for the members, offering a wider choice and variety than currently available. It will lead to an exciting start to the season.*” More details will be available nearer the time.

We have some items of stock left at the club before we embark on the new venture, some of these items can be found on our online shop, which can be purchased and collected from the shop. Anything else that is not on here, contact Paul for more information. The clubhouse has been closed over the past few months, with the exception of the toilet facilities, and this has given us the opportunity to get the electrical works finished with regards to the lighting. We now have energy efficient LED lights throughout the building with PIRs fitted so that lights in communal areas, such as the Gents Locker room and downstairs foyer only come on when there is a presence in those areas. We have also replaced the flooring at both the front and back door of the building. We will also be freshening up the downstairs foyer area so when you come back into the club there will be some changes since the last time you were in. The clubhouse will open up again on April 26<sup>th</sup>, providing all is well. We look forward to welcoming you all back inside. The personal interaction with members and visitors is one that we pride ourselves on and we cannot wait for this to be possible again.

Scottish Golf have published a Road Map that gives us a look at how things will progress through to the end of June 2021. This can be found using the link below. We are almost there, with just a short time left before we can have some sort of normal so be patient, we are getting there.

<https://scottishgolf.org/covid-19-update-30-march-2021/>

# CAPTAIN'S CORNER



**A**T LAST, the end is in sight....and with the latest announcement from the Scottish Government, much desired competitive golf and further freedoms are only a few weeks away now!! As we enter the new season, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members who have re-joined and welcome all the new members to the club, it is great to have you on board!!

The club is now in the strongest position it has been in for a number of years, not just membership wise but also fiscally and a big thanks goes to Paul and the CoM for their hard work and dedication to the club as we continue to strive to make improvements on and off the course for all to enjoy and hopefully some of the following news shows we are getting there!!

I had previously mentioned some exciting news and can confirm the following: we are waiting on Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department confirming our application for the erection of a new greenkeeping storage facility has been approved, all being well, work should be starting in the next 3-4 weeks...fingers crossed! As well as

improvements to the current greenkeepers area, we are going to get some new machinery to replace the aged and broken equipment, which will not only help the team to continue to improve the course condition, but also help them work more efficiently and with improved facilities the equipment will remain in a much better condition in the years to come.

We have a golf content creator coming to the club in May to do some filming and a course Vlog which will appear on their YouTube & Social Media Channels. Keep an eye on all our social media channels for updates!

With the opening up of hospitality again from the 26th of April I would ask that members support our catering franchise who have suffered hugely over the last 12 months. By supporting them, you are supporting the club and we all hope that this season they will get a really good run at it and we can all enjoy the food and a wee drink after a round.

Further to the above and following on from the note about Gamola Golf taking over the running of the shop, I think this not only gives the club a fantastic opportunity to have a fully stocked shop with the latest technology and clothing available, but it opens up the club and catering to further customers who may not otherwise have come to Newburgh.

I hope everyone continues to stay safe and that we have a great season. As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel

free to contact myself or Paul and I look forward to seeing everyone on the course and in the club house soon.

## GENT'S SECTION



Although the season has been delayed start, with regards to competition golf, we are all looking forward to getting our competitive heads back on again. The first Gents competition is likely to be the Tuesday medal on April 27<sup>th</sup>, with the first Saturday being the Gents Spring Open on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Other highlights in May will be the Seve Trophy, The Dunn Challenge & the Horn Cup amongst others.

The rest of the Gents fixture list will remain the same, as published, for the remainder of the season with, unfortunately the Trophy Competitions that were due to be played earlier having to be cancelled for the time being. However, we will attempt to fit the Lifeboat Shield and Loutit trophies in somewhere if possible. The Henderson Cup and Gallows Hill pairs match plays will also return this year and names are already being taken for this. If you have not done so already then get in touch with Paul if you want to be entered.

The Gents Section make a return to the Gordon District Pennant League this season, after a few years of being absent, and we also we the return of the Gordon District Greensomes League after last year was cancelled. This year both teams have sponsors, and we are in the

process of getting the polo shirts for the team members. The sponsors are: Mile End Motors, E & M Electrical and 2 Circles (North East). The Pennant Team also has a ball sponsor with the Electric Center providing logo'd balls for team members. We would like to thank all of the sponsors for agreeing to do this during these difficult times.

## LADIES SECTION



2020 has been a challenge in more ways than one, with the golfing calendar being hit badly. We did however play our Ladies Club Championship with the victor being Maureen McFarland in a close-run match with Karen Shaw. Both Maureen and Karen will represent the Club in this year's "Evening Express Champion of Champions" - good luck Ladies.

During the last year, the Ladies have been working hard on maintaining the flower beds & grass areas around the clubhouse - special word of thanks goes to Jane Middleton, Sarah Shackleton and Shelley Johnstone for all their hard work. There is always plenty to do so if you would like to be involved let us know.





Looking forward to this season, with weekly fixtures all set, it will be great to see everyone back on the course and getting to grips with the new World Handicapping System and how that impacts each of us from round to round. Our "in house" competitions will be running again this year and entry forms will be posted on the Noticeboard, please make sure you enter! The Ladies Open will be held on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Aug and a big thank you to Lady Helen Wood for kindly sponsoring our event again this year.

Following on from their achievements in previous years, our Ladies will be playing in the Aberdeen Ladies County Golf League - Division 1 no less, and we wish them well in their matches this season. In addition to league matches, the County also hold regular golf outings which is an ideal opportunity to play varying courses around our area. Anyone who fancies joining the "County" is more than welcome and should contact Shelley Johnstone who is our County Rep. The Ladies team has a sponsor this year, who are Ampla (A Female Sports Management Agency). The Ladies Team will soon be decked out in some new sponsored tops.

With the easing of current restrictions in a few weeks, our formal weekly competitions will begin on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April which will now be changed to a Stableford to ease us all back in and hopefully we can

enjoy the hospitality of The View afterwards. For those of us who were fortunate enough to have sampled their food during the last year, it is highly recommended and an incredibly positive addition to our Club.

## SENIORS SECTION



2020 - That was the year that was, and I guess one that we won't forget in a long time. Covid restrictions saw us in and out of lockdown nationally and locally putting quite a strain on all aspects of the running of our club and from that respect I would like to thank Paul and the committee on behalf of the Senior Section for all the hard work and energy they have continued to put into providing clear guidance during an ever changing and evolving situation. Thanks to the Senior Members for their continued patience and understanding through these difficult times.

Of course, this is not all over yet, however I am hopeful that we will see a return to normality (how many times did I say that last year?) as the number of infections continue to fall and the number of vaccinations continue to roll out across the community and age groups.

I would like to add a note of thanks to the greenkeeping staff for their continued hard work in maintaining the course to a wonderful standard that we can all be proud of. The work around the course over the last year had been phenomenal and it's great to see what a massive improvement can be made with a little vision. Off the course I am extremely impressed by the work being done to enhance the club's status and communications through the use of the various social media platforms, the Senior Section certainly saw an uptake on winter membership and hopefully this will also translate into an increase in full members going forward. Having a great course that is playable 12 months of the year certainly helps.

Our Summer 2020 competition programme was severely curtailed and given the situation towards the end of the year the decision was made to cancel the 2020/2021 Winter Programme in its entirety.

However, and looking forward with positivity, we have our usual 'packed' 2021 competition programme which should kick off in earnest on Monday April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Of note:

- Our usual three 'home' Open competitions, May (rescheduled), July and October
- Our three outings to Alford, Kemnay and Turriff
- Our annual matches with Portlethen, Peterhead (away), Ellon and a newly introduced home and away match with Craibstone

Most of you will have received a copy of the 2021 competition programme from me electronically, if you haven't seen that then drop

me a note and I'll send you a copy  
([graeme.watson3@btopenworld.com](mailto:graeme.watson3@btopenworld.com)).

At the time of writing there is still uncertainty around the status of the Buchan Seniors this year, that is whether or not it will go ahead. Bobby McClymont and I will keep you updated on any developments on that front.

It may be some time yet before we see a return of the Starter system in the downstairs foyer, however the management of competitions from the shop worked very well for a good part last year and will be a good starting point for this summer season if necessary. On the issue of Starters, we have had a few of our regulars step down over the last year or so, it may be a while before any are needed, but we desperately need some fresh blood to step up and support the section to manage the running and closing out of competitions. If you feel up to it then please let me know.

Wishing you all the very best for a busy and successful 2021 on and off the golf course.

## NEWS FROM THE GREENS TEAM

The team has been very busy catching up on the winter projects after a horrendous spell of rain snow and then hard frosts over the last few months. A decision was made at a committee meeting after a proposal by me to repair 3 bunkers that were in a real sorry state, the bunker at the 3rd fairway was terrible the face of the bunker



had rotted away and collapsed and the mound on the top was far too high to maintain so it has now been rebuilt and reshaped. The next was the one on the left of the 5th green this was also the same as the 3rd but also had been attacked with rabbit holes, so this is now also finished. The last one to get done was the one at the 18th on the right short of the green again it used to be covered in gorse full of rabbit holes and looked very tired and was very rarely used so it has been filled in.

I would also like to add that the future development plan for the course is to add some bunkers at certain holes so this will hopefully tighten up the course in some areas. Some of the other outstanding jobs I hope to do is the short path from the 9th green to the road and along and around the 10th tee, both these areas are all wet muddy and not up to the standard the club expects so both areas will be tidied. The next job is to remove the old artificial grass down the 17th tee as it is very old and worn and extremely dangerous and lastly the area at the 16th fairway where the gorse was removed some areas will be planted out in marram grass and I am sure it will also green up very quickly as the weather heats up.

The greens have now been deep spiked and will be regularly top dressed to keep them firm and true then also get the greens tees and for the first time the fairways fertilised and then start regular maintenance. I would like to finish by saying that as the mats are stopped and preferred lies are now on the fairways, could everybody please remember to put back their divots and repair pitch marks as this will be a great help to the team.

Thank you and here's to a great golfing season for us all.



## **GOOD HOUSE KEEPING**

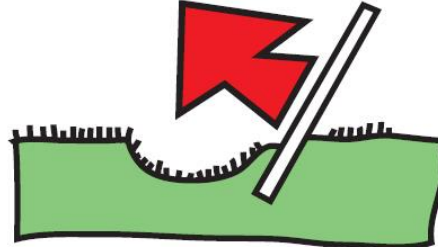
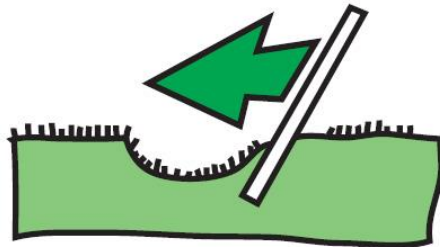
We are now back playing off the grass again, with preferred lies. The transition back to grass from mats can sometimes be a difficult one the start with and more divots can be taken as a result. Can all players ensure that they are replacing divots, this will not only help the green keeping staff but also contribute to the look of the course. Another part of good housekeeping is pitch marks. It takes less than 30 seconds to repair a pitch mark properly, so if we can ask that everyone repairs their own pitch marks. If this happens then we will have none. We pride ourselves on having some of the best greens in the North East and we would like to keep it that way.

Pushing the bottom of the depression upward only tears the roots, and kills the grass.

**Right:** Using the prongs to push grass at the edge of the depression toward the centre



**Wrong:** Using the prongs as levers to push up the bottom of the depression



## UPCOMING EVENTS

The club, this year, celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the clubhouse. As you are aware, 1999 Open Champion and local hero Paul Lawrie officially opened the clubhouse on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001. We hope to be able to invite Paul back to the club for us to mark this occasion, in some way, during this year. We are still waiting to see how this would work with the ongoing Covid situation and are currently talking to Paul's people to work something out. We will have more information in time for the next newsletter, if not before.





# THE VIEW BAR & RESTUARANT



Reopening  
Monday  
26th April



Table Booking Available Online  
[www.theviewnewburgh.co.uk](http://www.theviewnewburgh.co.uk)