



NEWBURGH-ON-YTHAN

NEWSLETTER  
WINTER 2021

*THE SEASON IS OVER AND  
WE LOOK AHEAD TO 2022  
WITH OPTIMISM*

**I**t has been a while since we had a Newsletter out, and we look to get back into the habit of getting a more regular edition sent out with a view to there being one per quarter. We hope that these will be jam packed with information to keep you up to date with all that is going on. The same sections will appear each time, and these can be found on the contents page.

We have one extra section this time.... "Meet the New guys" ....

So, open up and enjoy the read.....

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# GENERAL CLUB NEWS



We have reached the end of another Season, here at Newburgh Golf Club and we have just about managed to get through the other end of the covid 19 pandemic unscathed. It has still been a difficult time; however, the good thing is that we have been able to get the guts of a full season played across the sections.

Over the last few months there have been a few changes about the club. Shona Reid retired from her post as Admin Assistant in October after 14 years at the club. Shona received gifts from the club, staff, and various members, all of which were very well received and appreciated. We wish Shona well in her retirement.



James Warren has started at the club, in position of Golf Operations Assistant. You will see a lot of James as he will be based in the shop

area of the club Monday to Friday. You will hear a bit more about James in the "Meet the New Guys" section of the Newsletter. Another new Face around the club is Matthew Smith, who has just joined us in the position of Assistant Green Keeper. Matthew joins to bolster our small team of green keepers as we strive to improve on the course. There will be more on Matthew later in the newsletter also.

We now have a member's area, at the top of the lounge and also a member's discount card scheme which has in the region of 65 participants now. These were the main things that have come out of our survey this year, and these have been met. Other areas covered within the survey were surrounding the golf course. Appointing a third full time person will hopefully help to alleviate some of the concerns people have surrounding the golf course. In the coming weeks/months we hope to see a huge benefit in having an extra person on board.

As we are now into the winter months and light is at a premium, can we remind everyone that pace of play is important to ensure that everyone can get round and enjoy their round of golf over the winter. If you are losing pace with the group in front and fall more than a hole behind, please be mindful of those behind you and let them through when it is possible. When playing a stableford competition pick up if you are unlikely to score any points on a hole, this will also help with the pace of play.



Our new green keeping shed is taking shape nicely with the shed itself currently being erected. The next stage will be to ensure that the inside is kitted out with everything that is required. A new shed has been on the agenda for a number of years now and it is very pleasing to see that we are finally at the stage we are at now. We had hoped it would be up and operational by now, however between materials not being available and the weather of late we are not quite over the line, but the first stage of the project should be complete in a couple of weeks' time.



This is the most up to date picture of the shed with only the front and main door to be put on to complete the main construction.



It's been sometime since I last penned anything for the newsletter....in fact it was back in the spring and a lot has happened since then!

Looking back over what has been a challenging year and coming out of lockdown restrictions, I think the season has been extremely successful across the board, the gents competed in the Abercrombie & Pennant Leagues, as well as the Greensomes with the team getting narrowly beaten in the semi-final.

The internal club competitions were hotly contested this year with many new faces playing some great golf to take home the trophies. Congratulations to our champions, Craig Smith, Derek Mulgrew, Lynda Carnie, and Ian Mundie, and a big thank you to all who turned out for the captain vs Club Manager match and attended the prize giving which was a great success.

On the course has been a huge challenge for the green keeping team this year with a cold spring followed by an extremely dry spell giving the team cause for concern at times. But Dale and Forbes managed to keep the course in the best condition they could.



With our new member of the greenkeeping team, Matthew Smith starting last week, this will no doubt mean the course will be looking even better with the extra pair of hands, allowing essential works to be carried out over the coming months and years. So please all say hello to Matthew if you see him on the course and welcome him to Newburgh, I wish him all the luck in his new role and the Committee will continue to provide support to the greens team as much as possible.

At last, the new Greenkeeping Shed is almost erect and it won't be long till the guys can enjoy somewhere, dry, safe, and secure to store the new machinery we have invested in to help them bring the course along. It's been a long time coming to fruition, but this will provide a place for the machinery for many years to come, reducing exposure to the elements, decreasing repairs, and increasing the longevity of the kit.

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing" - with the winter league underway this may be a very appropriate quote! However, I am sure the hardier souls amongst us will be out there every week come rain, shine or snow enjoying the fresh air. Can I remind everyone to repair their own pitch mark plus another please? We are fortunate to get to play on the full summer greens almost all winter, and if we want them in the best condition possible come spring then this goes a long way to helping recovery.

And finally with the AGM fast approaching it would be great to see as many people as possible attend. It is in the best interest of members to attend, have their chance to air views and vote on club matters.

As always, if you have any questions or require any help, let me or Paul know.



Congratulations go to Craig Hay Smith this year after he was crowned Club Champion for 2021. Craig edged past former Champion Derek Mulgrew in a final round where Derek, started 9 shots back but shot a round of 71(-1) to miss out on a play off by one shot. It made the final holes all the more interesting, but Craig held on to become the champion for 2021. Derek picked up the handicap championship trophy. Both players will now go on to represent the club in the EE champion of Champions event in 2022





The Gents season, again, had a disrupted start with a few of the early season competitions not being played for. We eventually got started with the first event of the Season being the May Spring Open, on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

We did manage to see winners of all the trophy events from May onwards with one to note, being the first ever winner of the Donald Webster Stableford League (David Burness). Covid had postponed this by 12 months, so it was finally good to have our first winner of the new competition. Congratulations go to all the trophy winners from the section this year.

On the team, we re-joined the GDL Pennant League after a 2-year absence and it was tough going with a strong opposition in the section. Newburgh finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the 6-team league.

In the Greensomes League, however, the Newburgh boys reached the semi-final, losing out to Craibstone at this hurdle. We finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league behind Inverurie before making the trip to Craibstone.

This year saw the teams sponsored by E&M Electrical, Mile End Motors and 2 Circles who will continue their support next season as part of the 2-year deal.

Next season's fixtures are being put together over the coming weeks with the club championship likely to return to a more traditional time of year, in June. Again, we will send out a digital version of this, as was done last year.

We hope that all is back to normal in 2022, competition wise and we can have winners of all the trophies up for grabs.



Firstly, congratulations to our 2021 Ladies Club Champion - **Lynda Carnie** - who won a close fought final beating Karen Shaw on the 18th. Lynda will now go on to represent Newburgh in the "Evening Express Champion of Champions (Scratch)." Jane Middleton will represent us in the handicap section - good luck Ladies.

Thankfully, 2021 saw a little more "normality" with regards to our golf season and we managed to play all trophy competitions which was fantastic. Our regular Wednesday & Sunday golf was really well attended this year, so hopefully similar levels of participation will continue in the years to come.

In the 2021 Champion of Champions (the first time Ladies' have been included!) Karen Shaw and Maureen McFarland both played in the Scratch section. Karen lost narrowly (2&1) in Rd 1 to Lynne Terry of Cruden Bay, with Maureen winning her Rd 1 tie but then going on to lose 3&2 to eventual winner Julie Henderson of Inverurie.

On the Team golf front, disappointingly the ALCGA (Aberdeenshire County) League was cancelled this year, so our Ladies didn't have the chance to show Division 1 "what we're all about" but hope to put that right in 2022 with resumption of the League. We did however, put on

a good show in the Robertson Cup with a resounding 1st round win (11.5-4.5) over Ellon. Our next match against Peterhead came down to the wire, finally losing 9-7 on what was the hottest day we've ever known at Newburgh. Special thanks go to AMPLA (sponsors of our Team tops).

One event worthy of special mention is the Loving Cup (NOYGC Annual Ladies v Gents match) where the Ladies retained the trophy for the 3rd year in a row - come on Gents, you need to have a serious team talk and get your game together for the 2022 fixture!!

Our Ladies Open unfortunately had to be cancelled this year due to horrendous rain which saw the course closed for the day. Fingers crossed 2022 is kinder to us when we hope to host both a Ladies Individual Open and a Ladies Tri-Am. Again, we can't thank Lady Helen Wood enough for her continued support and sponsorship of our Open.

With the season now drawing to a close, we'd like to congratulate all our 2021 Trophy winners and look forward to starting all over again on 2022. We have a small but enthusiastic group of ladies who continue playing through the winter, including the Sunday Winter League, and would welcome any others who would like to join us. Why not give it a go, the weather's often not as bad as you would think.





Despite our 2020/2021 winter fixtures being totally wiped out with continued restrictions and a slow start to the summer season including the loss of most of April's fixtures, the Senior's summer season went steaming ahead with our usual jam-packed programme of events.

Notwithstanding some alterations to the planned schedule, the programme was successfully delivered including our three Open events, three Outings, Buchan Senior's participation and a healthy series of friendly fixtures which included Craibstone for the first time this year.

The Senior section proved to be in very healthy shape this year with the addition of several new members supplemented by a few existing members who participated on a regular basis for the first time this season. This did put some additional pressure on tee time availability on a Monday and Wednesday, there was a lot of head scratching and deliberation going on in the background to fit everyone in, but we got there with the usual help from Paul and the office team.

The Senior's prizegiving will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December at 1300hrs in The View Restaurant following a Texas Scramble, shotgun start that morning.

The Senior trophy winners are already announced but a special mention must go to Ian Mundie who has been crowned this year's Senior Champion, well done Ian.



We hope you have all had a great golfing season and hopefully picking up some trophies at this year's prize giving. This season has been a very challenging time with the start of the season April and May being very cold and then June and July very warm and hot with no rain and drying winds this made looking after the course very difficult for Forbes and myself. The season eventually did calm down a bit and we got some moisture into the golf course. This allowed us to get some fertiliser on the whole course, even the fairways for the first time. The course at present is still struggling from the summer dry spell and a lot of the walkways round the course have become very black and bare and have not yet recovered so these areas are fenced off. It looks like a bit of an obstacle course but needs must to get these areas to recover. We are now back into regular greens maintenance with shallow spiking and topdressing through the winter

season being the norm, as long as the weather allows. Thanks very much and good luck with the rest of the golfing year.



MEET  
THE NEW  
GUYS



Firstly, I would like to state how happy I am to become a part of the Newburgh team. I am a big believer in improving local and Scottish golf, therefore, I am excited to take part and help develop the club further. There is a lot of potential for Newburgh Golf Club, especially with the uniqueness of the course, the six-hole course, restaurant,



measured ambition from the management team. This combined with friendly, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable members provides a perfect platform for growth. I have always taken an active part in sport; golf has been at the forefront since I was 10 years old. Last year I completed my Golf Management BA(Hons) Degree. In conjuncture with my Degree, I had the opportunity to work in America for over a year at Chateau Elan Winery and Resort located in Braselton GA. This was a fantastic opportunity for me to evolve personal and professional skills, additionally seeing golf in a totally different perspective.

Anything else you want to know don't hesitate to come and see me in the shop Monday to Friday.



My name is Matthew Smith I have been a Greenkeeper for round about 10 years, on and off. My previous role was Head Greenkeeper at Auchmill GC. I play golf when I get the chance and I am currently playing off a handicap of 2. I also like to go to the gym when I can. I am delighted to be joining the team here at Newburgh Golf Club and see a bright future for the club. I have worked with Dale before, when we were both at Newmachar and I am looking forward to teaming up with him and Forbes. I look forward to meeting everyone whilst on the course and in and around the club.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



The Annual Golf Club AGM returns this year after the impact of Covid-19 and not being able to have one in 2020. We hope to see good numbers at this year's meeting as we are sure that there will be plenty to discuss and questions to be asked.

The AGM takes place on December 6<sup>th</sup> with a 7.30pm start time. Please make sure that you give yourself plenty of time before hand to get registered as an attendee and collect the paperwork as you come in.

We are having a Christmas Raffle, with the prize being a basket full of treats from our club shop. There will be a sheet in the shop where you can pick your number for £2.50. The winning number drawn on December 24<sup>th</sup> (or once all the numbers have been sold) will win the hamper. There will also be other 4 ball prizes to be won.



Full details of what is in the hamper can be found in the club shop.



# Events @The View Restaurant Newburgh

Sat 11th Dec  
**Festive Party Night**  
Live DJ  
Ticket Only Event

Sat 18th Dec  
**Festive Party Night**  
Live DJ  
Ticket Only Event

Xmas Day 2021  
**Christmas Day Lunch**  
Pre Booked Tables Only

Hogmanay 2021  
**Special Party Night**  
Live DJ  
Ticket Only Event

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