

AGM 2022- CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Introduction

Being Club Captain for the last 3 years has been a big challenge, but overall, an enjoyable experience. The club has faced many issues, some of which are detailed below, and more detail will be given I am sure in the various presentations tonight. Throughout these challenges I have been supported by many people within the club and my thanks go to them for their help, assistance, and ideas. The committee I have served with have been a great support and I thank Norman Cox, Shelley Johnstone, Steven Sharp, Graeme Watson, Craig Scott, Maureen McFarland, Jay Dobson Lynda Carnie, Bob Davidson, and Paul Manson for all their hard work and commitment over the last few years.

I also would like to thank the members of the club who have continued to support us throughout the year and hopefully will continue to do so in the future. I have said this many times, we have a fantastic course with huge potential and with a new young and enthusiastic Greenkeeping team in place we will only see the benefits as we move forward. I would hope that all get behind them and offer them support and encouragement as they strive to make improvements. We as a club must strive to try and attract new members of all ages into the club and the continued support of existing members in welcoming new people to the club will be an important part in that.

Financial

The financial position as we are all aware has been very perilous over that last 12 months, however with the support of the membership and generous benefactor things are looking much better, although we must continue to increase membership numbers, visitors, and corporate memberships if we are to be successful as a club moving forward. You will all no doubt have seen the updated forecasts distributed to the membership showing the influence the extra benefactor donation has on the clubs' finances, giving the club a fantastic opportunity of being viable in the long term. Norman will update everyone on the current financial situation in more depth in his report.

Staff

Our staff continue to do a fantastic job for the members and visitors.

Paul Manson as club manager is the point of contact for many of us and for visiting golfers. Paul has performed extremely well and professionally given the circumstances and scrutiny he has been placed under over the last 3 years. The membership does not see what goes on behind the scenes, or on a day-to-day basis, and without him the club would not be running at all. Hopefully, the recent updates to the membership have cleared up job roles and responsibilities and this will go some way to making Pauls job a little more enjoyable for him.

We have seen several staff changes over the last few years, with Louise departing the Greenkeeping team in late 2021 and Mathew Smith coming in as full time Assistant green keeper.

Since then, James also left us at the end of the summer and there have been further staffing changes.

Our existing Course manager Dale Robertson has recently left the club for pastures new, and we wish him all the best on the next chapter of his working life. This opened the Course Managers position and Mathew Smith has since accepted this role. Mathew brings with him a high standard of work and great enthusiasm to make Newburgh as good as it can be, and I wish him all success.

With Mathews promotion, we have welcomed Wayne Gibson to Newburgh as an Assistant Greenkeeper. Wayne has previously worked alongside Matthew at Auchmill and comes with 8 Years' experience in both head and assistants' roles.

Our other assistant green keeper, Forbes is currently still undergoing treatment for an illness, and we wish him a speedy recovery. Currently, he remains an employee of the club and we will update the membership on any changes to this situation.

We wish the new team the best of luck and look forwards to seeing how Newburgh develops over the winter and into the new golfing season.

Further to the above and on behalf of the committee I would like to thank everyone who volunteered and helped in so many areas. I would also like to thank all members of staff for their hard work and dedication in the running of the golf club in what has been a difficult 3-year period.

Corporate Sponsors

We continue to be grateful to our corporate sponsors for their continued support. This support is invaluable and extremely beneficial to the club. The club is extremely grateful for the support from the financial contribution these members bring but also in assisting the club with some aspects of the running of the club. A big vote of thanks to you all for your support, it is invaluable.

We are continuing to take on new corporate members and we plan to hold several more corporate open days next year. I am certain with the course looking as good as expected this will only encourage more to join.

There are still some hole sponsorship opportunities available, and we have secured a "hole cup" sponsor for next season. We are always open to ideas so if you have any please contact the committee or Paul in the first instance.

Catering

The bar and catering continues' to be run by Mark and Christine Graham with "The View" bar and restaurant being popular amongst members and visitors. While there being remains a contentious issue for some in the club, I must reiterate that they are contributing a large sum of money to the club per annum, Circa £36,000 with this likely to increase to £42,000 shortly with energy usage and every rising prices, it is highly unlikely that we would be getting anywhere near this if we had another franchise in or had in-house catering

Summary

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have been captain of the club over the 3 years, but I have decided that I will be standing down at this AGM.

I had a vision of moving Newburgh forwards and driving us on, have I achieved that, in some ways, but not in others. The last 12 months have been the hardest of my life, but we have ridden out the storm and everyone involved in the club, whether in a staff role, volunteer role or member should be very proud of the way everyone has pulled together.

I wish the new committee well in taking the club forward and I am sure that with the formation of the subgroups feeding into the main committee, things will not only run more smoothly, but will ensure that Newburgh Golf Club keeps moving forward.

Further to the above, if you have not yet registered an interest in becoming a committee member I would encourage you to do so. Without the committee and people willing to do the roles the club cannot function as required.

Thank you once again for all your support over the last 3 years, it has been very much appreciated. See you all on the golf course and in the general parking spaces!!

Jonathan Dobson