

Muir of Ord Golf Club Newsletter

April 2010 Edition



A message from the Captain...

It was good to see 70 members at our AGM on 3/12 last when several issues of importance to the club were fully discussed. Foremost of these, as always was the fixing of the annual subscription which was agreed @ £315 for full membership with £14 (ladies) or £10.30 (men) having to be added to cover SGU and SLGA levies. In these difficult times your council felt that an increase of 5% was reasonable and we still have one of the lowest annual fees in the Highlands. From the accounts approved at the meeting you will have seen that the club incurred a deficit of £10K for the year to 30/9/09 which is a cause for concern and the review of subscription was partly designed in an attempt to eliminate any deficit for the coming year. Of equal significance however is the continuing necessity of a bank overdraft each year to keep the club going and the council has resolved to keep this borrowing to an absolute minimum, partly by acquiring all equipment on lease.

Council took on board and discussed in depth the three other major matters raised at the AGM ie. pool table, locker room/trolleys issue and entry procedure for men's competitions. Let me assure members that we took all conflicting opinions into account. Taking the pool table first, we have decided to give this a trial for a few months and the table arrived at the end of March. A game costs 50p. and whilst this may not generate a lot of income I hope it will increase use of the club house and bar. Turning to the second issue, members will have seen the new trolley rack now installed in the gents locker room. Council is very indebted to two of our members who put a great deal of work into this but who wish to remain anonymous.

The idea is that LOCKER HOLDERS ONLY may store trolleys on the rack if unable to get them into a locker. Those doing so should please ensure wheels are cleaned. I hope that this will go some way towards solving this problem and council will monitor the position over the coming season. Lastly, we thought the only way to cope with the "draw" controversy, in light of replies to our poll is formulation of an entry sheet with spaces for both alternatives and this has been introduced. Again, the position and reaction to this will be monitored over the season.

From your fixture list for the coming year you will have seen that we are to reintroduce a 4 Day Open (Ladies and Gents) from 19th to 22nd July. This will be sponsored by Roy Homes of Inverness to whom we are very grateful and hopefully will become an annual event. As well as attracting entries from far and wide – some are in already. I hope there will be a good turnout of our own membership so mark your diaries now! Sponsorship makes a huge difference to the financing of all our opens and I'm delighted to say that we have been able to secure backers for each and every one. A list of all 2010 opens appears on the website, updated to show sponsors and again, I hope you will mark your diaries and spread the word around as and when you can. We still have several opportunities for sponsorship so if you'd like to help or know of any candidates please be sure to let me or another member of council know. All sponsors are given the offer of putting promotional material on our website. Their contribution to our funds is a very welcome one and the more there are the merrier our treasurer will be.

Your council is ever mindful that our club belongs to the members and will always endeavour to act in the best interests of the club. It would be naïve to believe we can please everyone but we will do our level best to represent all points of view. To assist us in this please be sure to bring to our attention any matter you wish addressed.

Lastly, we would really like to increase use by members of our excellent club house. At present we don't have a social convenor but I would dearly love to see someone accept that position to help assess what can be done about building up the fellowship of members.

So far we've had a wonderful ceileidh at the "Sair Heid" (despite appalling weather) and two very successful quizzes with another one scheduled for 29th May. The ladies have inaugurated a fortnightly get-together too so there is clearly scope here. A Bingo night has been fixed for 17th April under the supervision of expert caller Brian Matheson. Ian Beaton, our former captain is to host another fuschia night on Thurs 20th May. This was very popular last year and several members were sorry to have missed it so please note the date. Alex Boyce has plans on the go for another race night, hopefully on Sat 25th Sept so look out for that too. Despite a poor attendance our last race night was great fun so I hope we can swell the numbers in 2010. Any volunteers or ideas welcome. Callum is working on another "Glenmuir" fashion show of which more anon and we are running our "New Members Night" on Thurs 22nd April. We have a great club and a great course – enjoy both in 2010!

News from the 'Bodachs'

Looking forward to the coming season from the 'Seniors viewpoint' is very encouraging. We have a robust attendance for our weekly and keenly contested stableford competitions. The winter weather made December to February a bit disheartening, but hope springs eternal and now that the worst seems to be past, we can once again take to the fairways (or rough!) and wonder what we were doing wrong and why the putts refuse to go in. We will soon hear the plaintive cry at the 1st tee - 'Did anyone see where my ball went!?', and the frequent reply, 'Yes, but I can't remember!'. We all need the exercise, so keep coming back week after week to try again, and one day I know we will succeed. In the coming weeks our seniors committee will be arranging dates for our popular 'away days' which will give us all something to look forward to. Lastly, we extend our best wishes to some of our members who are on the injured list and trust that they will be able to join us again soon. The same applies to any other Bodachs (55+) in the club who might like to join us - a warm welcome awaits you each Friday. Keep swinging!!!

Ian Black - Seniors Captain

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Junior Section Report...

Over the past 3 seasons, our junior section has been anything but an easy ride for me. Lack of support out on the course, in particular with our younger kids on Wednesday evenings, has been something we have tried to address, but without any success. It is of vital importance that the kids of the future are shown the correct etiquette on the course, so that they conduct themselves in the manner expected by our full members. In light of all this, please spread the word that any assistance would be greatly appreciated, and to contact Allan or myself if you can spare the odd Wednesday afternoon this coming season, or beyond. Our Junior Section during 2009 continued to thrive with numbers ranging from 25 and 33 kids attending on a Wednesday evening, and anything between 15 and 20 playing competitively on Sunday afternoons during the season. Away from those kids out on the course, we also have nearly 20 novice members who have been following the ClubGolf coaching program and being coached by our volunteer coaches on a regular basis throughout the season. One pleasing aspect from all this is the fact that from these numbers, we have 15 girls being coached by volunteer coaches Pat Morrison, Eveline Hutton and Margaret Latimer. Hopefully, all these kids will continue to enjoy the facilities we have on offer here at Muir of Ord and grow to become future star players, after all our Junior section is the future of our club.

Currently, we have 9 fully qualified Level 1 ClubGolf coaches and 1 Level 2 coach delivering the ClubGolf program. It can be quite difficult sometimes to make the transition from player to coach, but one I think each of the coaches enjoy. Assistance out on the course with our youngsters on a Wednesday evening is vitally important, ensuring they are following the proper etiquette expected from our full members, and a plea goes out annually to help, but to no avail. Why not come along during the season to watch for yourself the future of Muir of Ord Golf Club and develop our juniors?

Ian Cameron - Junior Convenor

Fairways and Greens

This winter has seen the course closed for the longest period in years (I might say within living memory, but there are a few octogenarians out there who might disagree!), due to the snow cover. Although the snow gave good protection to the course, the heavy fall has damaged much of the Whins and Gorse on the course. To many people's delight (Ken Mackay for one!), this has meant that the large Whin bush about 70 yards in front of the 7th tee has been removed. Other areas that have been damaged will be tidied up by Jim Hamilton and his staff over the coming season. Fortunately the two main projects for this winter, the drainage in front of the 14th green and the drainage of the 'pond' in front of the 11th green were started before the snow arrived. A drain has been put in, and runs from the 'pond' at the 11th green, round the back of the 9th green (thus draining the wet patch that was starting to develop there), down the right edge of the 9th fairway and finally crossing to link into an existing drain behind the bunker on the left side of the fairway. From there the water drains to the ditch behind the 10th green. The drain has been installed and all that is required is to backfill this drain and relay the turf. I am pleased to say that the pond has disappeared and the area is now drying out well. Turf still has to be relayed in front of the 14th green to complete that work as well.

The greens and fairways mowers have now been replaced, as the previous contract had come to an end and a new one taken out. This will allow Jim and his staff to maintain the course to the high standard they have achieved over the last few years.

David Scrimgeour - Greens Convenor

Open Dates for the coming season...

Sun 11th April - 18 Hole Open
Sat 24th April - Open Scramble
Sun 9th May - Mixed Open
Sun 16th May - Three Lady Team Open
Sun 6th June - Open Scramble
Sat 19th June - Ladies Open
Sat 10th July - Three Ball Better Ball Open
19th to 22nd July - Four Day Open
Fri 23rd July - Junior Open
Sat 7th August - Glen Ord Open
Sat 11th Sept - Ness Motors Open
Fri 17th Sept - Seniors Open
Sun 19th Sept - Ladies Charity Day
Sun 26th Sept - Autumn Open

200 Club results

March 2010 - Drawn 31/03/2010

£50 - No. 66 - I. Bruce
£25 - No. 79 - J. D. McKie
£15 - No. 38 - W. C. MacDonald
£10 - No. 52 - S. J. Smith

February 2010 - Drawn 04/03/2010

£50 - No. 54 - W. Rainnie
£25 - No. 49 - G. Knapp
£15 - No. 74 - H.E. Fraser
£10 - No. 130 - E. Chisholm

January 2010 - Drawn 04/03/2010

£50 - No. 152 - I. Bremner
£25 - No. 27 - J. Robertson
£15 - No. 80 - D. Finlay
£10 - No. 115 - C. Tulloch