

Kirkcudbright Golf Club

Newsletter

April/May 2018

Captain's Corner

With both the ladies' and gentlemen's sections of the club already having had very successful major competitions, the season really feels under way now. For the course to be in such condition after the cold weather we have had is truly remarkable and a huge credit to our greens staff for which I am extremely grateful and I am sure I can speak for everyone when I say that.

The catering being provided by Thai Kitchen has been a huge success with members and visitors alike. The EGGs have just had a match with the seniors from Moffat and needless to say they were delighted with the course and even more so to find a Thai buffet waiting for them. I won't apologise for again asking you to spread the word far and wide and especially to those providing accommodation and services to visitors.

We had an extension to play preferred lies (on the fairway) until 16th May but now we have to play as it lies, so in your own and everyone's interest, please make a big effort to repair divots and, of course, pitch marks on the greens.

Another big thank you to everyone putting in so much time and effort to keep the club running. The results of your labours are appreciated by all.

Play well,

Jon,
Club Captain.



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Ladies' News

Competition News

Despite the changeable weather, we have had a good turnout for our club competitions. Winners of the March Medal were Margaret McGarrie (9 holes) and Jane Richardson (18 holes).

Club Opening Day on the 1st of April was a great success and the Ladies had fun hiding Easter Eggs and planting April Fools.

The following Tuesday we played the 2017 Medal Final which was won by Janet Roff. The much coveted Medal Cup will now have pride of place on her mantelpiece for a whole year!

A record number of ladies turned out for the RLNI Charity Day. Congratulations to Gillian Rowlinson who snatched 1st place on 'the better inward half' from Susan King. We all enjoyed the day and thank you Malcolm for organising the competition.



A recent photograph from the 16th tee

On Tuesday 10th April we played our Coronation Foursomes Qualifier. Gillian's winning streak continued and, with her partner Lynn Kane, goes forward to represent Kirkcudbright Ladies in the Area Finals later this year. They can choose where to play from a wide selection of venues throughout the whole of Great Britain and Ireland and the final is at St Andrews in September.

Other ladies playing nationally are Gladys Kelly and Susan King, our Silver and Bronze winners, respectively, in 2017. They are off to the Revive Active Scottish Women's Regional Final at West Linton on the 18th May. They are aiming for the final at The Dukes Course, St Andrews.

Gladys is also competing in the Daily Mail Foursomes with her partner Margaret Stryjewski. Having had a bye in the first round, they won against Castle Douglas in the second. We will know by the end of April who they will meet in the third round. The final for this competition is in October, venue as yet unspecified.

Gladys and Margaret were drawn against Southernness in the 3rd round of the DM FOURSOMES are now through to the 4th round. April Medal results = 9 holes - Mira Dodds, 18 holes - Janet Roff. We have also been to the Cally for our May Day outing and announced the winners of our winter comps.

Ladies' News continued

Kirkcudbright Ladies actively support our Regional Ladies Golf Associations

Galloway Vets is for ladies over 50 who are members of any golf club in the Stewartry or Wigtownshire. They play 3 games a year at different venues on Mondays. First is an 18-hole medal round, second a Greensomes game (drawing for partners) and finally an 18-hole Stableford competition. This is great way of playing different courses and meeting new friends. For more information, contact Margaret Locke (Secretary) or Janet Roff (Captain) at Kirkcudbright Golf Club.



Galloway Ladies County Golf Association (founded in 1972) draws their membership from clubs within the old county boundary of Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire. They play 6

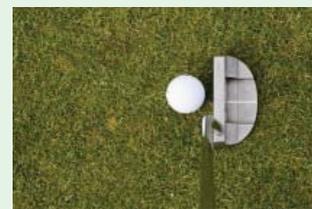
Isobel,
Ladies' Captain.

games per year at various venues with this year's first being played at Southernness on the 22nd of April. In May, Kirkcudbright Golf Club is hosting the Galloway Ladies Championship, the Rennie Salver and the Junior Cup. Membership is just £8 for adults and £4 for a junior (under 18). Funds are used for junior development and to support the team in South County Matches against Dumfriesshire and the Borders. The Kirkcudbright Ladies representative is Isobel Watson.

First Ladies Open

At home, we are preparing for our first Ladies Open Competition of the year. The Cresset, on the 13th of May, is a Texas Scramble. "Open" means anyone from any club can play, so why not ask your friends from outside the club to form a team with you? It's a great format for less experienced golfers. All members of the team of 4 players tee off. One of these drives is chosen to be used for the next shot and all the team play a second shot from this spot (the player who hit that drive plays their ball and the other members of the team then place their balls and play from the same spot). From all of these second shots, one is chosen again and all play a third shot from there – and so on until the ball is holed. Each team returns one score for each hole and the team with the lowest score for the round wins.

The entry sheet up in the Ladies Clubroom - come and join in the fun!



Members' achievements

Rod McAllister matched Karen's achievement of 3 x "2s" in the same round (see last issue) but on more familiar ground here at Kirkcudbright. His "2s" were at holes 9, 13 and 16, on opening day in 2016 (Mackies as witnesses). "It was downhill from there, mind you, that year" he laments.

Rod also once got back-to-back eagles at Royal Dornoch (on the 8th and the 9th) - without using his putter!

Well done, Rod, and thanks for sharing this with us.

If you have a special golfing feat or memory you could share, please let us know.

Did you know?



There are 300-500 dimples on a regulation golf ball.



St Andrews Golf Course was established in 1552.



125,000 golf balls a year are hit into the water at the famous 17th hole of the Stadium Course at Sawgrass.

Notes from the Treasurer

Subscriptions

Very little to report in this issue except that subscriptions are coming in slowly and Visitor Income is similar to this time last year. I had hoped that both would show increases to reflect the improved catering that we now have, but perhaps it's unrealistic to see a change quite so soon.

If you haven't yet paid your subscription for 2018, please make arrangements to do so as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Donald Shamash,
Treasurer.



Wildlife update

A red squirrel was recently seen on the course. "Wow", you're thinking. "Big news!" Well, actually it is because their numbers have been dropping regularly since the introduction of the grey squirrel and there has also been a recent report of Squirrelpox virus in Heathall Forest.

See more at
[https://
scottishsquirrels.org.uk/](https://scottishsquirrels.org.uk/)

Match News

Slow start

The Gents season has started quite slowly, due in no small part to the wet weather we have experienced. The first two Wednesday sweeps have been disappointing - the first was played on a shortened course due to the wet conditions and the second was a complete washout!

The 2018 Kirkcudbrightshire Team Championship has changed to a match play format this year and we have been drawn at home to Colvend on Monday 7th May. The 6-man team will be selected in due course.



Competitions

The Gents had their first competition of the season from the White Tees with the April Medal sponsored by Halliday's Hair Salon. Gary Middlemas was the winner with a score of 86-19=67.

The first silverware of the season went to Calum Ingram & Craig Currie, shooting an impressive 48 points in the St Mary's 4-BBB. Robin Murray, Colin Baty, Nathan Watson and Michael Taylor have all shown some early form winning the sweeps so far, too.

Stuart Brown and Gillian Rowlinson were both winners in a successful RNL Stableford.

The club match play competition sheets are up so please support these events if you can. It's a good way to play with different people.

The Gents Championships are taking place earlier this season than previously so please keep an eye on the fixture list for full details on that.

The entry sheets for the Club match play competitions are now up on the noticeboard and I would encourage everyone to participate in these if they are able. The draws will be made towards the end of May.

Kirkcudbrightshire 4-Ball (update)

Due to Brighthouse not raising sufficient pairings for the Kirkcudbrightshire 4-Ball this season, we have been allotted a 5th pairing.

Jamie Menzies & Ian Menzies will now join the original 4 pairs representing the club.

Thanks as always to the office team for all their support.

Malcolm Kirkwood,
Match Secretary

EGGS

EGGS' report

This past month has been a little bit about dodging the weather.

On Friday 9th March, the EGGS Winter League reached its conclusion with a win in the final round for Billy Campbell with an excellent 45 points but this was not enough to catch the runaway winner of the competition, Tommy Learmonth.

The summer season began in earnest on Friday 30th March with the Captain's Prize. It was a chance to get back to a nearly full-length course and some of the holes which had been a drive and a very short club caught out players who were now required to hit two full clubs. The competition was a triumph for newer members with Paul Stirling finishing second with 40 points only to be beaten on countback by Dave Harris (in his first outing with the EGGS) with a better inward half.

Sadly, the awful weather at the start of the month forced us to call off our home match with Eden Golf Club Mallards scheduled for Wednesday but we were able to play our sweep on the Friday.

Andy McMinn,
EGGS Captain.



*As you get older, three things happen.
The first is your memory goes and
I can't remember the other two.
Sir Norman Wisdom.*



Greens Report

Leather Jackets

We have also not had any major projects to distract my attention from getting greens ready earlier. And this has helped also with getting a good grip on leather jacket numbers on the greens. I have been able to irritate them with a couple of products in the late autumn when they were at an early stage (a couple of weeks mature). I don't think this will have killed them all but may have injured a percentage which may then have left them open to infection. Time will tell but I'm not seeing the impact I had last spring.

Thatch

There is still a level of [thatch](#) we need to address but this is also starting to reduce due to a better soil profile and a thatch-degrading fungi being applied when possible. The evidence is very clear with a marked improvement on the 7th green which was really focused on last year.

...continued overleaf...

EGGS results from recent weeks

April Medal

1st - Willie Watson 35pts
2nd - Ian McConchie 33pts
(better inward half)
3rd - Jon Gibbs-Smith 33pts

Peter Roberts, Billy McCartney, Paul Stirling and Andy McMinn also had 33pts!

Glenluce Outing for the Coca-Cola Cup

1st - Stewart McKean 38pts
2nd - Andy McMinn 36pts
3rd - Paul Stirling 35 pts

Bill Jeffrey Quaich Mixed Greensomes

This was won by Jane Richardson and Jon Gibbs-Smith (see page 7).



Coming up...

The DC Dodds Trophy (mixed Greensomes) on 11th May.

We also have a home match against Glenluce on 28th May.

Greens Report (continued)

Verti-Draining

I'm sure you have noticed we are taking a lot of rain, but I feel we are ahead of the game with the standard of the greens. We possibly wouldn't have had them at this stage until early May last year. This is partially down to the fact we are on our second year with the Verti-Draining and really starting to see a break-up of the compaction we had on all greens.

Verti-Draining helps alleviate waterlogging and deep aerates the ground to promote healthy growth. The 'Verti-Drain' decompacts soil on by inserting equally spaced holes in the turf which allow water and air to filter through to the grass roots.

Verti-Drain units which can use tines from 10mm to 30mm, depending on individual requirements.

Other projects

We got about 30 tonnes of earth moved into the 18th tee with your help a couple of weeks ago in addition to last year's 70 tonnes. We are now needing to move in some decent topsoil to build the levels. I would like to hire a digger (possibly during the summer) and source the soil from an area to the right of the 3rd tee to finish the 18th tee and make it ready for turfing.

I have yellow water hazard markers still to go out at holes 3, 9 and 14.

We had to get an irrigation company in to repair the burst at the 15th green from last year. This is done now and should be ready for the season ahead. We just have to pressurise it and check the sprinkler heads.

All machinery is running, sharpened and some has been serviced. No real issues there, though. The usual bearings and other minor things needed to be done but all should be ready for the new season. We had a little wear on one of the Verti-Draining arms a couple of weeks ago so this has been welded and re-drilled.

The new rough cutter arrived but it's not been used much as three seals were worn. We found two on the back axle and one on a lift arm. Rickerby's have since repaired all three. Also, this machine is two feet wider than the previous one and generally larger so I've had to thin a few trees in certain areas to accommodate it. I'm hopeful this will save us a lot of time and fuel when cutting the course rough.

New staff

Willie McMillan started on recently and me and Jamie are on our 6am starts now.

My intentions are to have Willie cutting fairways (instead of Jamie) when we get going and also changing the fairways from being striped to just an up-and-down cut.

Jamie will now be able to stripe the rough now with the new rough cutter (to add presentation) and to get more out of it.

John Houston,
Head Greenkeeper.

Recent Competition Winners

Bill Jeffrey Quaich Ladies and EGGs Foursomes

The EGGs Captain, Andy McMinn (left) presents the winners Jane Richardson and Jon with the trophy. The EGGs have kindly donated the entire entry fee to the ladies' charity for this year which is Parkinson's UK.



The Selkirk Arms Open

Our first Gents' Open competition was won by Kirkcudbright member Craig Currie with a score of 83—18 = 65, a full 3 shots ahead of his nearest rival.



Jon presenting Craig with his trophy

EGGS Opening/Captain's Day 2018

Dave Harris was the winner of this event and here he is at home with his trophy and first prize.



Catering News

Menus and Opening Times

On the following pages, you'll find new Menus and Opening Times for the Thai Kitchen. We've had lots of excellent feedback from golfers and the public telling how delicious the food is, so, if you've not yet tried it, do it soon.



at



Standard Opening Times

Monday Daytime	10:00 - 15:00
Tuesday Evening	17:00 - 21:00
Wednesday Daytime	12:00 - 15:00
Wednesday Evening	17:00 - 21:00
Thursday	<u>Closed</u>
Friday	10:00 - 20:00
Saturday	11:00 - 20:00
Sunday	11:00 - 15:00

Other times by arrangement

GOLFERS
Please place your food order
prior to starting your round
Thank you



The menu for the Thai food is...

**Thai
Kitchen**

at



Clubhouse Lunch Thai Menu

Green Curry with Chicken or Prawns

Traditional Thai Curry

Pad Thai – Noodles with Chicken or Prawn

Traditional Thai noodles in sauce

Massaman Curry with Chicken or Prawn

Traditional Thai curry with mild peanut sauce

Sweet and Sour with Chicken or Prawn

With a Thai twist

Penang Curry with Chicken or Prawn

Aromatic Curry from South Thailand

Red Curry with Chicken or Prawn

Traditional Thai Curry

Chicken or prawns with Cashew Nuts

Fried vegetables in Oyster Sauce

Khao Pad Gai / Goong

Traditional Thai fried rice with Chicken or Prawn

Tom Yum Gai / Goong

Thai hot and sour soup with Chicken or Prawn

Tom Kha Gai / Goong

Thai spicy soup with coconut and Chicken or Prawn

Fried Chicken or Prawn with ginger

Fried Chicken or Prawns with Thai Basil

Fried Chicken or Prawns with garlic

All served with steamed rice - £6.00

Fried Rice – 50p extra

Prawns – 50p extra



...and for those who prefer the more traditional fare...



at

Kirkcudbright



Established 1893

Clubhouse Lunch Menu

Homemade Soup	£2.00
Homemade Soup and Roll	£2.50
Hot Rolls	
Bacon	£2.00
Sliced Sausage	£2.00
Egg	£1.50
Tattie scone / egg / haggis extra	£0.50
Scrambled Egg on Toast	£2.00
Toast & Egg	£2.00
Omelette	£3.00
Cold Rolls and Sandwiches	£2.00
Cheese & Onion <i>or</i> Cheese & Tomato	
Egg <i>or</i> Egg & Tomato	
Chips	£2.00
Chips & Cheese	£2.50
All Day Breakfast	£5.00
(bacon, sausage, haggis, egg, tattie scone, beans)	

**For Specials, please see the
board in the clubhouse**

The Last Word (from the Editor)

Doesn't time fly?

I can't believe that over a month has passed since the last newsletter went out. Anyway, this is a bumper issue that covers April and May but we should be back to the once-a-month publication rate by June. This does mean that this issue is a little larger than usual, though. And some of the content will be out of date. Apologies for that.

After "The Beast from the East", it looks like Spring has finally arrived and we're getting some sunny (or at least dry) days on which to enjoy our golf.

May I remind you that Club subscriptions are now very much overdue and that it's never too late to join Golf-a-Lotto. Full details can be obtained from the office.

I've had a few contributions from our members so a big thank you to them.

Don't forget, if you have anything at all to share with your fellow golfers, please let us know.

Email : office@KirkcudbrightGolf.co.uk

The Editor.



Keep In Touch

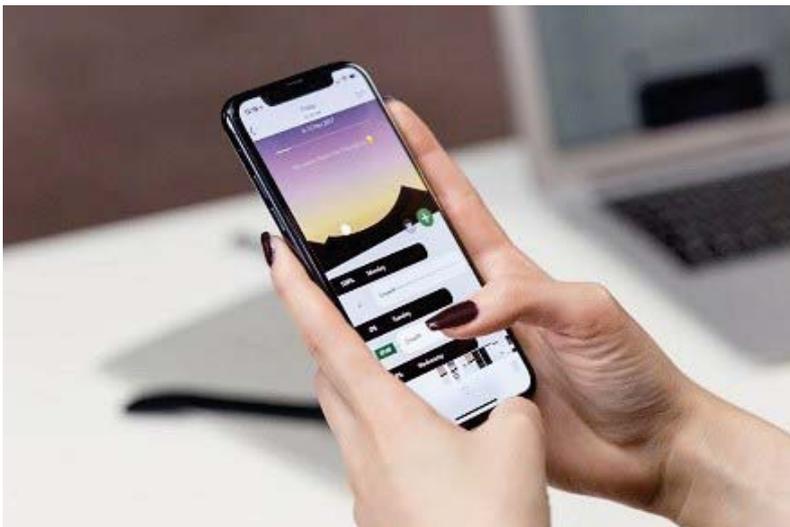
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