

Kirkcudbright Golf Club

Newsletter

March/April 2019



Captain's Corner

We welcome the new season with anticipation and optimism. The optimism for my golf swing is likely to be unfounded (again) but thanks to the dedication and hard work of many I believe we can look forward a great season for Kirkcudbright Golf Club. I make no apologies for again heralding the efforts of so many members in giving us the club we enjoy so much.

Despite the recent weather the course is in incredible condition. In recent years we have begun to take for granted the continual improvement we have witnessed and enjoyed. We must not do this, the development of the course by John and his team working under the budget constraints they have has been truly remarkable and we are very grateful.

We are delighted to see Duangjai and Mark back from their break and the new additions to their menu are going leave members and visitors alike spoilt for choice.

Many thanks to all those involved in providing the compressed air shoe cleaners, especially the funding from the EGGs. The shoe cleaners are now fully commissioned and much appreciated.

Many thanks also to Bud Gordon and Mary Robertson for their generous donations for the Club logo greens flags which look great.

We seem to be blessed with new rule changes more and more often but this year there are some big ones, so we have restarted "Rules Corner" in this newsletter and will highlight some in each of the next few editions. Please read them carefully – the game is difficult enough without incurring penalties unnecessarily!

As we return to main greens may I take this opportunity to ask everyone to take time to repair pitch marks carefully, both your own and any others you might see. It makes a tremendous difference to the condition of the greens.

Finally I would just like to wish you all a great season, full of good golf and **good company. I'm looking forward to seeing all who can make it to opening day on Sunday (March 31st).** Just turn up for 9.30 and Eddie and Maurice will organise us for a multi-tee start at 10am.

Jon,
Club Captain.

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Ladies' News

Competition News

The Ladies' Winter League finished on Saturday 10th March, although the winter eclectic carried on 'til Saturday 17th. Our Past Captain's golf and Lunch was also Saturday 17th and we had 13 ladies playing golf and 20 Ladies for Lunch.

I had organised an additional guest to speak about our chosen charity this year, which is Dumfries & Galloway Befriending Project. The Project offers young people who are experiencing challenges at home, school or in the community, the opportunity of extra support and regular positive adult attention.

Befriending coordinators in Dumfries and Wigtownshire carefully match the young person with a volunteer and support the match by arranging regular and frequent progress meetings. Training is provided for the adult volunteers.

Dee Salver sponsorship

Jan has been busy and we now have everything in place for the sponsorship of the Dee Salver for the next three years. Thanks, Jan.



Charity Lunch

Flora's Charity is having their end of season lunch on Tuesday 19th March. The money raised this winter is going to buy a bench for the new garden that is being developed by volunteers at School Close, Kirkcudbright and any monies left over will go towards the purchase of an inflatable mattress.

Ladies summer golf started on Tuesday 13th March with a 2-woman Texas Scramble.

We just need some warmer weather now.

Isobel,

Ladies' Captain.

Match News

Winter League Results

The golf season is almost upon us again and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to getting going full of optimism.

The Winter League came to a conclusion on Sunday 17th March and was eagerly contested as always.

The winner of the Winter League was David McLachlan with 377 points, holding off Alastair McGowan (372) and Alan Milligan (369) in close pursuit.

The Winter Eclectic was won by Mickie Taylor with a nett score of 50, holding off Alan Milligan & Bob Patterson both one shot behind.

The Magic Two's Race went to Bob Patterson with 7 Magic Two's during the winter, including one on the final week to ensure a one shot victory.

Winners of the Winter Pairs were James Jamieson & Lee Gourlay with 280 Points, one ahead of Tom Hinchliff & Michael Kirkham.

Two's Final

The Two's Final was on Sunday 24th March and was the traditional end to the winter season. There were 28 people eligible to play and the winter prize giving (prizes sponsored by James Erskine) took place following the Two's Final. This was won by Tom Hinchliff with 38 points. The results of it can be found here:

<http://www.masterscoreboard.co.uk/results/Result.php?CWID=26264&View=3741>
If you need a password for it, it is winter.



Other Competitions

Our club opening day is scheduled for Sunday 31st March where a fun Texas scramble is planned—Come along on the day for the draw at 09:30 and a shotgun start at 10am.

Our Wednesday competitions then start on Wednesday 3rd April with an 18-Hole Stableford Sweep and a 9-Hole Stableford Sweep. We will continue to run handicap counting 9-Hole events every Wednesday for anyone unable to play 18 holes.

The next significant event will be the RNLI Stableford, on Sunday 7th April and is for both ladies and gents. The gents will just be turn up and play basis which the ladies are also very welcome to do, but may prefer to play at designated times if preferred by ladies committee.

The entry sheet is up on the noticeboard for the Selkirk Arms Open, our first open competition of 2019 and the matchplay sheets will go up soon. Please get involved.

Malcolm Kirkwood,
Match Secretary



Gents Club Competitions

The entry fee for Gents club competitions is £3.00 and after a successful trial during the winter we have removed the entry sheet on the table in the Gents changing room and moved to the Master Scoreboard Player Sign-In system. Now, before playing in any competition, please pay your £3.00 in the normal way and sign-in on the computer in the corridor opposite the office. It is the same process that we use for entering scores after playing except you select "sign-in" and follow the instructions. Easy!

New Trophy

We also have a new competition this year - *The Iain McBeth Trophy*, has been generously donated. As many of you know, Iain was Match Secretary at Castle Douglas Golf Club and passed away suddenly earlier this year at the age of 32. He was a good friend of our club, regularly attending our open competitions and was a two-time Tassie winner. The competition will take place as an Order of Merit event with players accumulating points from our white tee events throughout the season including singles, pairs and matchplay. Full details will be posted in the clubhouse.

EGGS' news

New EGGs

We have been pleased to welcome 4 new EGGs members during this year who have all joined in well with the golf and gossip that is the EGGs. I am sure that the reputation of the EGGs as a vibrant, friendly senior section of the club does a lot to attract people to join Kirkcudbright Golf Club as opposed to other clubs in the area. Friday sweeps are well attended and our last sweep attracted 33 players which is a great number for a Friday in February.

Winter League

We have played the last two rounds of the winter league this month and things could not be closer. The overall winner has had to be decided by looking at the best discarded round after the best four rounds from six resulted in a dead heat. In fact the first and second places were separated by one point only when the best discarded rounds were examined. Watch this space for the announcement of the Winter League Champion.



Volunteers, please

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help in the Office, particularly as we enter the main season and go to longer hours and (preferably) a 7-days a week service. If you are happy to offer some time and are ok with computers (for the email, tee booking and membership systems we operate), answering the phone and dealing with visitors then please get in touch. Even the odd day to cover other absences would be helpful.



Results

Delayed Winter League Round 5

1 st	Ian McConchie	44pts
2 nd	Eddie Carruthers	40pts
3 rd	Tom Brown	38pts

Winter League Round 6

1 st	Alastair Millar	41pts
2 nd	Paul Stirling	40pts b.i.h.
3 rd	Ian McConchie	40pts

On behalf of the EGGs I would like to thank John and his team for presenting the course throughout the winter in excellent condition.

Andy McMinn,
EGGS Captain.

Come and Join Us

The EGGs meet every Friday for the draw at 9:45 and anyone 55 or over who wants good sociable golf and excellent company is welcome to join us for the princely sum of £2 for a **year's membership.**

RULES CORNER (page 1)

Over the next few newsletters we will try and give some more insight into the new rules that have been introduced for 2019. In this edition, we will look at ...

Penalty Areas

This is what we used to call water hazards (yellow stakes/lines) and lateral water hazards (red stakes/lines) but are now called Yellow Penalty Areas and Red Penalty Areas. Now, courses can have other areas - not just water or ditches - as Penalty Areas but we don't have that at Kirkcudbright yet, nor is there any immediate plan to do so. But it is better to start thinking of our ponds and ditches marked with yellow or red stakes/lines as Penalty Areas.

You are allowed to try and play your ball in a Penalty Area if you wish, with no penalty. Also, as a change, you can ground your club and take practice swings *in* the Penalty Area.

If you do not wish to play your ball in the Penalty Area then you can take a penalty drop out of it. For Yellow Penalty Areas the dropping rules are much the same as before: see Diagram 1 below. You still have the option of either playing again from where you played the original shot (see option 1 below - "stroke and distance relief") or somewhere on a line back from where the ball entered the Penalty Area, in line with the flag ("back on a line relief", see option 2 below).

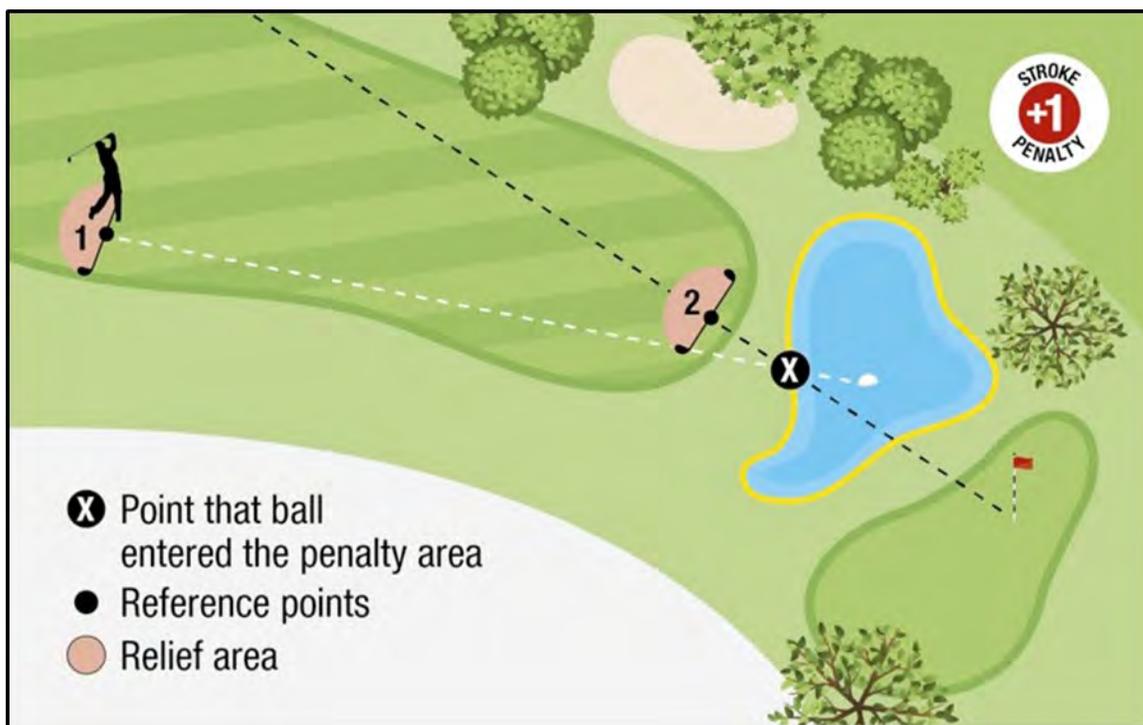


Diagram 1: Penalty Drop for Yellow Penalty Areas.

The main changes here are the relief area and the drop. When you have decided which to do, place a tee at the reference point i.e. where you played the first shot (1) or as far back on a line from entry to the Penalty Area as you wish (2). Then, measure 1 club length using your longest club (not a putter) in a semicircle no nearer the hole. This is your relief area. Next, drop your ball from knee height so that it lands in and stays in this relief area.

REMEMBER: knee height *not* shoulder height and the ball must drop in and stay in the relief area. If you don't do it this way you will end up incurring more penalties!

RULES CORNER (page 2)

Red Penalty Areas

Red Penalty Area rules have changed slightly more (see Diagram 2 below). Now there are 3 options.

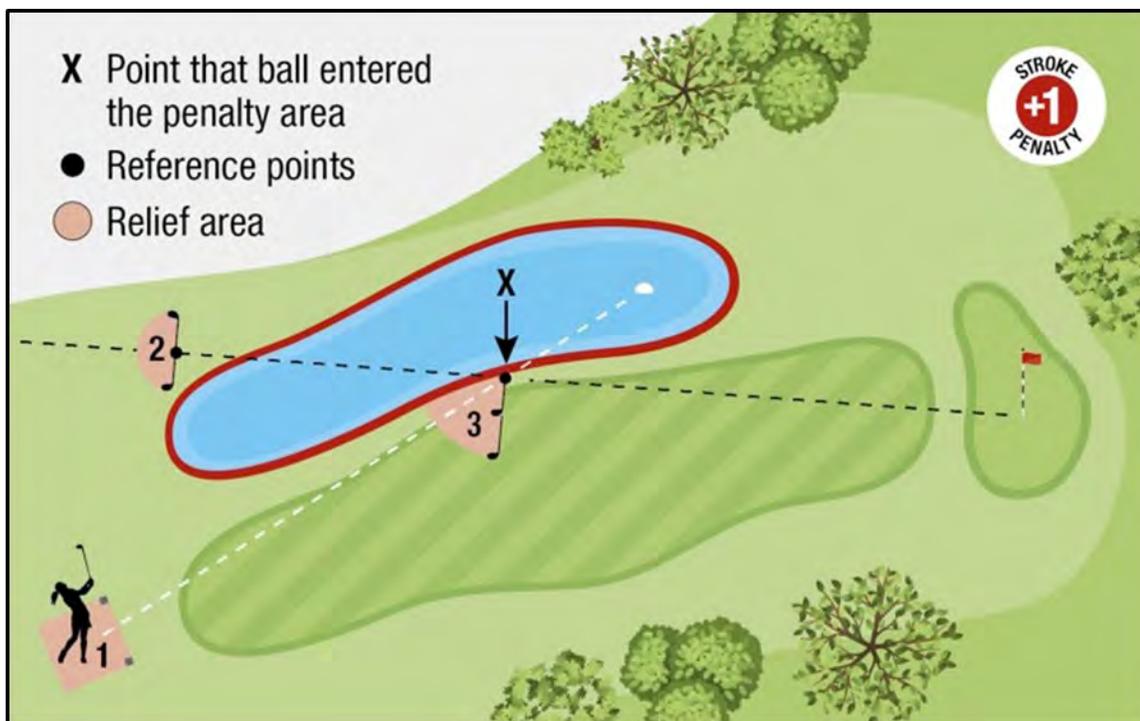


Diagram 2 - Red Penalty Areas.

Two of those are the same as the Yellow Penalty Area options: either stroke and distance relief (see option 1 above) or back on a line relief (see option 2 above). For Red Penalty Areas, option 2 has replaced what was called lateral relief on the directly opposite side from the point of entry, which you can no longer do. But really the easiest way to remember options 1 and 2 for Red Penalty Areas is that they are the same as the 2 options for Yellow Penalty Areas. So, for *all* Penalty Areas, you can take either "stroke and distance" or "back in a line" relief.

Option 3 is the extra option for Red Penalty Areas because you can still take lateral relief on the side the ball entered the Penalty Area (see option 3 above). The reference point is where the ball entered the Penalty Area and the relief area is 2 club lengths (not a putter) in an arc between the edge of the Penalty Area and a point no nearer the hole.

Again, for all these options dropping is from knee height and the ball must land in and stay in the relief area.

In summary: If your ball ends up in a Penalty Area you can either play it or take a one-shot penalty drop. If you choose to drop you can either play the shot again (stroke and distance relief), drop on a line back from the point of entry in line with the flag (back on a line relief) or, for Red Penalty Areas, drop laterally from the point the ball entered the Penalty Area (lateral relief). Mark your reference point, measure your relief area, drop from knee height so that the ball lands in and stays in the relief area.

Or, to keep things really simple, you can just stay out of Penalty Areas...

RULES CORNER (page 3)

Summary of other main rule changes...

- On the green: you can leave the flagstick in, hitting it when putting on the green is no longer a penalty. You can repair pretty much any damage on the green. If your ball moves for any reason on the green (including if you accidentally hit it) then replace it where it was.
- You have 3 minutes to search for a lost ball.
- You can always lift and drop an embedded ("plugged") ball anywhere on the course except in sand (e.g. in a bunker).
- Drop the ball from knee height. The ball must come to rest in the relief area. If it rolls out, then drop again. If it rolls out again, then place it where it touched the ground in the relief area.
- In a bunker, if you decide the ball is unplayable, as well as the penalty drop for one stroke in the bunker, you can drop behind the bunker for a 2-stroke penalty.
- A double hit and hitting yourself/your equipment/your partner with your ball is no longer a penalty.

More specific details of another rule change next month.



Treasurer's Report

When the budget was set for the year, it took into account that our income would increase in 2019. Although it is **early days, this increase hasn't yet shown signs of materialising.** Combining this with our head greenkeeper's report regarding parts, repairs and materials, it would not be prudent at this stage to take on any expenditure in addition to what has already been budgeted.

To date, we have lost approximately 13 members from last year and gained approximately 10.

Some subscriptions are still due, and all intending members are encouraged to pay as soon as possible.

M. McGarry won the March lotto draw of £60.

Donald Shamash,
Treasurer.

Bunkered Fantasy Golf league

Rod McAllister is trying to organise a club entry into the Bunkered Fantasy Golf league. Although we got half a dozen entries or so in previous years, we found it difficult collecting the club mini-league entry fees from members, but Rod thought he'd give it another shot.

It starts this year with the Masters, so folks have to register and pick their team for the first week by midnight on the Wednesday before the Masters. If they want to be in the KGC mini-league, they need to have paid him before he goes away (20th April).

By the way, entry into the online competition is free.

Anyone who has registered prior to the Masters will be eligible to join the Kirkcudbright GC mini-league. The top 4 scores count and there are some significant prizes run by the website, including weekly and sometimes monthly ones.

For the club, he proposes that the entry fee be £5, with the winner at the end of the season taking 75% of the purse and second getting 25%. There will need to be 10 entries to make it even marginally worthwhile, so that's the threshold.



If you are at all interested in taking part or just want more details, please contact Rod via email at rodathomeuk@yahoo.co.uk or go to <https://www.bunkered.co.uk/fantasy-golf>

The Last Word (from the Editor)

The new golf season already?

Well, 2018 certainly flew by. It was this time last year I was writing my first newsletter for the club and I can't believe it's that time of year again to dust down the bag, clubs, trolley, shoes et al and get my backside off the couch and down to the course. I did play one round this winter when we had that lovely warm weekend at the end of February but that was it. However, I'll be at the Opening Day and hope to get a few more rounds in before then.

We've covered the new rules before but we thought a gentle reminder of those that will affect most players wouldn't go amiss (we've ignored the one about your caddy lining up your putts). We'll have another rules feature next issue and maybe the one after that, too.

Next issue will also feature an article from one of our Committee regarding the links between Old Tom Morris (and several other great players and course designers) and Kirkcudbright Golf Club (and other courses in the area and much further afield). I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

As always, this is your newsletter so keep those interesting stories and photographs rolling in and we'll publish them if we have space.

See you on the course soon,

The Editor.



Keep In Touch

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