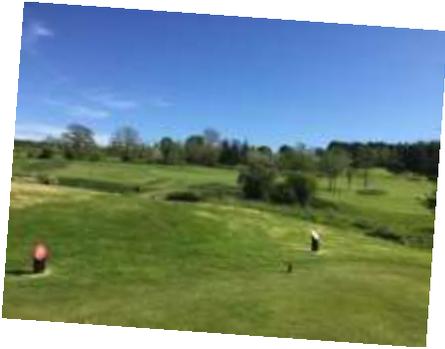

KIRKCUDBRIGHT GOLF CLUB

Newsletter - March 2017 (Issue 03)



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Captain's Desk

I picked up on Malcolm Kirkwood's "tweet" great to get playing golf after work. Ah! the joy of retirement when the day's light is controlled by the pensioner. With wood-peckers drilling, the sound of growing grass and cherry tree blossom brightening up the day; yes, the golfing gods, we hope, are on our side.

So, what of the season ahead?

With a bit of luck, you will have paid your annual fees, bought the newest golfing gadget and are now ready to admire the wonders of Kirkcudbright Golf Course. Yes, a challenging test, but what a wonderful golfing experience. Each year the course receives yet more plaudits and the winters work will again bear fruit. The green staff have worked well over a wet winter and the new seasonal worker is about to start, but also the volunteers who turn out with enthusiasm add to the ultimate condition of our course. (Gardeners, Brusher-uppers, Conveners, Hedgers, Cementers, Office staff, Competition organisers, Coffee drinkers (important), Turfers, Drainers, Post Movers, Painters, Cleaners, Buggy maintenance, Screws & bolters, divot replacers and pitch mark repairers, bean counters, those who attend meetings on your behalf and even the constructive moaners have a place, those who lend skills and contacts. Yes, all these people make the club tick and many more. To you all, thank you.

I have added a piece each month about our flora and fauna as I believe we have a greater responsibility to our countryside. The days of "sterile" park land golf courses have gone and the surrounding environment is there for all to enjoy.

The 17th green is coming along nicely and I am hoping that by the being of May the full green will be in play. As time allows drainage will be improved in front of the 2nd green.

Our new club steward, Stewart, is settling in well. Please make the effort to use the clubhouse facilities and Stewart is open to your ideas. Can I ask you to "like" our Facebook pages to spread the word and use the club website. All the information you need can be found in a very comprehensive and easy to use format.

I have added a short article on proposed rule changes, if you have comment please inform me in writing to allow me to feed upwards to our golfing masters.

Things to do>> Diary Date, opening day **Sunday 2nd** April 9.30am. >> Vote for "**Girls into Golf**" at Tesco.

Best Wishes,

Maurice

Club Captain.

LADIES NEWS

Committee meeting held at Meiklewood on Monday night. Discussions about forthcoming Past Captains 9 holes and lunch on Saturday 18th March. Stewart the new Steward will be catering for the ladies on that day with a buffet lunch. Golf starts at 10am followed by lunch around 12.30pm. The following day, 19th March is the Welcome Back day. 9 holes of golf at 12.30pm followed by afternoon tea in the clubhouse, supplied by Stewart the Steward.

Flora McGown is having her Annual Charity Lunch at Arden House on 14th March. She has around £400 plus to give away to be divided between two local charities. Her money has been collected from the ladies playing on a Tuesday throughout the winter months.

Mary Robertson

Ladies Captain

EGGS NEWS

The EGGS completed their Winter League competition for the Wimbush Trophy on Friday 3rd March with 4 out of the possible 6 rounds counting. The new format produced a close finish with no fewer than 10 players in the running at the start of the last round. The final result was equally close with Steve Richardson in third a point behind Jack McCreadie in second who in turn was a point behind the winner Jon Gibbs-Smith. The EGGS would like to welcome our new Steward, Stewart McGuinn and look forward to working with him as the season commences.

Stewart has appreciated the support and welcome from our club members to date and would be happy to take on board any suggestions.

WILDLIFE

As the season change so does the fauna and flora of our golf course. Leslie and Margaret Fortune take a keen interest and have reported 54 different sightings of Birds and 87 different species of wild flowers, over a season. I have put this list on the main notice board and would challenge you to put a tick against the appropriate species when sighted, or add and new finds. On Wednesday three Roe Deer were spotted crossing the 10th and 11th fairway. What have you spotted?



GOLFALOTTO

Golfalotto winners so far this year, receiving **£60** each:
January: Gladys Kelly, February: Joel Shamash, March: Penny Bryson

Anyone interested in getting involved please speak to Donald Shamash.

NOSTALGIA CORNER ...

Our club features regularly on the back pages in the local press and on occasion, even more widely. Look at some snippets from days gone by and see who you recognize from some well kent faces! These pictures are doing the rounds on social media currently thanks to Sam Kelly.



Dalziel Cup winners

Big smiles from Morris McKenna (left) and John Somerville after their win in the Dalziel Trophy competition at Kirkcubright on Saturday. They ended the day with a 63 plus 1. Scratch winners were John Thomson and Stewart Martin with a 64, while A. L. Ross and J. B. Cochran from Southness took the first class honours on 83 plus 1, and Peter Richard and Jim Whyte the second class on 72-8. A sponsored hole in one competition was also held, but nobody managed it from the 74 pairings taking part. The prize was therefore awarded for nearest the hole at the sixth and this went to Bill Murray.



They headed trophy contenders

Kirkcubright golfers Stephen Eccles and Jim Dewar (left and right) won the Burton Home trophy at Southness with a 73(2).

Ladies'



They were best on the course

Best golfers over the Kirkcubright course in the past season received their rewards at the club's annual buffet - presentation - dinner in the Arden House Hotel on Friday night. Club captain John Thomson officiated at the function and awards were presented by Mrs. L. Gordon, ladies captain.



Trophy treble

Kirkcubright couple John and Margaret Thomson made it a hat-trick of trophy wins in a month at the weekend. The couple who have partnered each other for five years without winning anything took the Homestead Eggs trophy over Southness on Saturday to add to the Bower, 2000 and Brothers trophies which they had gained on their home course. Picture (right) shows Mrs Donald Shumash (centre) presenting the trophy to the Thomsons.



Members of Kirkcubright Golf Club held their annual meeting and presentation of trophies last Thursday night in the clubhouse. Seated captain for the year was John Somerville, seated centre.



Below - Kirkcubright Golf Club handed over the season's awards at their annual general meeting in the clubhouse last Thursday night. Seated centre is club captain John Somerville who was re-elected.

Harper v L. Moffat, 8. Gilman v Derry No. 1. Goo v Symington No. 1. Struan 2 v Parkburn C. Malt No. 1 v Dunes Valley No. 1. Gilmour v L. Moffat, 8. Gilman v Derry No. 1. Goo v Symington No. 1. Struan 2 v Parkburn C. Malt No. 1 v Dunes Valley No. 1. Gilmour v L. Moffat, 8. Gilman v Derry No. 1. Goo v Symington No. 1. Struan 2 v Parkburn C. Malt No. 1 v Dunes Valley No. 1.

1988 Club - Ladies' Kirk. V. Dunbar v Jona. Briggs 2. Thursday, 7.11 p.m. Berger 2 v Phauler 2 and Jack v Threlkeld 2

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES FOR 2019

The R&A's and USGA's Rules modernisation initiative has been rumbling away in the background for many years, and today both organisations have announced many significant proposed changes to the Rules of Golf from **January 1, 2019**.

There are too many proposed changes to cover here, so I have picked out the ten that most caught my eye. If you have concerns regarding the proposed changes please write to Maurice the Club Captain detailing your thoughts. This will then be passed upward.

(1) **Ball in Motion Accidentally Deflected**

Your ball in motion accidentally hits you, your equipment, your caddie, someone attending the flagstick for you or a removed or attended flagstick: There is no longer a penalty (such as when your ball bounces off a bunker face and hits you).

Expert View: "It's been one that we've looked at a few times over the years. We used to have loss of hole or a two-stroke penalty, and that was moderated some years ago to one stroke in both forms. This felt like the right time to go to the final stage of saying, okay, there's no penalty. Our thinking is that it's an accident, the outcome of which is entirely random – whether it ends up being a good or a bad break. And we felt that in those circumstances, no penalty is appropriate."

(2) **Ball at Rest Accidentally Moves**

Accidentally moving your ball while searching for it: There is no longer a penalty.

Expert View: "We were troubled by the current position whereby players themselves are almost discouraged from actively looking for their golf ball. If you then marry this with the idea that we wanted to reduce the amount of time available for a search, the two concepts, when you put them together as a package of changes, appeared to be fair, intuitive and appropriate: 'Okay, let's get everybody involved in this process and if the ball is moved, let's just put it back and there doesn't need to be a penalty'."

(3) **Taking Relief**

Dropping a Ball in a Defined Relief Area: Relaxed dropping procedure – the only requirement is that you hold the ball above the ground without it touching any growing thing or other natural or artificial object, and let it go so that it falls through the air before coming to rest; to avoid any doubt, it is recommended that the ball be dropped from at least one inch above the ground or any growing thing or object.

Expert View: "As part of this shift we've talked about placing even greater emphasis on player honest and integrity. We like the idea of making the dropping process quick and simple. We're not setting out a detailed process here. We're just saying, you need to drop the ball and it needs to stay in this relief area. And it's really as simple as that. So just drop it – that's all you need to do. Don't worry about precisely what height; just drop it. That has many attractions for us, particularly as in the current Rules you get into this whole process of redropping, which has nine elements to it."

(4) **Lost Ball**

Reduced time for ball search: A ball is lost if not found in three minutes (rather than the current five minutes) after you begin searching for it.

Expert View: "We're conscious that it's quite a reduction in time and maybe one of our concerns is that if golfers know any Rule, they know that you've got five minutes to search for a golf ball! But despite that, we think that three minutes is enough, and that the vast majority of balls, if they're going to be found, are going to be found within that time."

(5) **Embedded Ball**

Relief for embedded ball in the general area: You may take relief if your ball is embedded anywhere (except in sand) in the general area (which is the new term for "through the green"), except where a Local Rule restricts relief to the fairway or similar areas (this reverses the default position in the current Rules).

Expert View: "The Rules are now being written with an increasing focus on the game as a whole, and it's clear on talking to our international constituents that, while embedded balls may be rare on links courses in the British Isles, they're a common occurrence inland and elsewhere in the world. So we feel now that the Rules should give relief, while still giving the local committee an opportunity to limit the application in future if that is considered appropriate."

(6) Putting Green

Putting with flagstick left in the hole: There is no longer a penalty if you play a ball from the putting green and it hits the unattended flagstick in the hole.

Expert View: “The ability to leave the flagstick in, particularly for regular play, could have a positive impact on pace of play. Players could be getting ready themselves without having to attend the flag for somebody. From distance, I think most amateur golfers would happily putt with the flag in, so we feel that’s a good change.”

(7) Putting Green

Repairing damage on the putting green: You may repair almost all damage (including spike marks and animal damage) on the putting green (rather than being limited to repairing only ball-marks or old hole plugs).

Expert View: “If there is a concern here it would be over a potentially negative effect on pace if play. But overall we think that if everybody is able to repair damage as we go along, the overall condition of the putting green as the day goes on is going to be higher, so there will be less damage of this kind to repair. We think that it’s a positive change. We expect the ball to be played along the ground on the putting green, so it feels intuitively right, and we think that any pace of play issues are containable. But it’s perhaps a proposal where we will be very interested to hear what the golfer reaction is.”

(8) Bunkers

Removal of special restrictions on moving loose impediments: There is no longer a penalty if you touch or move loose impediments in a bunker.

Expert View: “In simple terms, looking forward we’ve separated our current water hazards – which will become ‘penalty areas’ – from bunkers. Bunkers will have their own identity and their own Rule. In terms of loose impediments we feel that the challenge presented by a bunker is about playing from sand, and dealing with that. It’s not so much about then having to deal with the vagaries of perhaps having a pine cone right next to your golf ball, or a twig. On balance, we felt that for most golfers, bunkers are a pretty difficult challenge anyway, so let’s allow the removal of loose impediments.”

(9) Distance-Measuring Devices

DMDs allowed: You may use DMDs to measure distance, except when prohibited by Local Rule (this reverses the default position in the current Rules).

Expert View : “It’s a shift in emphasis and recognition that for golf as a whole, DMDs have come into the game and been good for the game. Golfers like them and use them, and the Rules can easily accommodate that. Therefore it seemed appropriate to shift the emphasis and have the minority position – if I can put it that way – that committees are fully entitled to opt out, so there is still an element of choice preserved.”

(10) How You Prepare for and Make a Stroke

Expanded restriction on caddie help with alignment: Your caddie is not allowed to stand on a line behind you from the time you begin taking your stance until you have made your stroke.

Expert View: “As we looked through all of this, a recurring theme was to promote player skill and judgement, and that’s particularly relevant here. We felt that alignment should be a player skill, therefore we are proposing this particular prohibition.”

Details of all the proposed changes for January 1, 2019 can be found on The R&A’s website.

Finally, don’t forget this is your newsletter. If there’s anything you’d like to see included let us know. You might have a story or even photos from days gone by we could include. Feel free to pass them on, either to the clubhouse or contact me at malcolmk04@yahoo.co.uk.