

KIRKCUDBRIGHT GOLF CLUB



www.kirkcudbrightgolf.co.uk

Follow us on *Twitter*: @kbtgolfclub

Instagram: kbt_golf

Facebook: Kirkcudbright Golf Club

Email: info@kirkcudbrightgolf.co.uk

Captain's Desk

With May comes the dry weather and east dry wind. Ah the joys of growing grass on golf courses. Never mind give it a week or so and we will have westerly winds and RAIN.

I may be biased, but the course to me is at its best, well done to John and his team. Things worth noting, the 17th green is now in play. Leather Jackets abound and are a real problem in all parts of the Golfing world. We have taken as much action as is allowed these days and fingers crossed not too much damage.

A few requests to help the club to run smoothly. Gents in particular, take care when entering competitions. Name on Sheet, pay before you play, signed and return your card, use the computer. Sadly, miss out a step and the only course for the match team is disqualification.

Use the club booking system for tee times and use the information on the club web site. Like us on Facebook. Competition winnings are now behind the bar for collection.

Enjoy your golf,

Maurice

Club Captain.

LADIES NEWS

This last month has seen a lot of our Lady Club members out on the course playing the weekly competitions. On a Tuesday, there is a nine-hole competition plus the usual eighteen-hole competition. On the last Tuesday of the month is the Medal day. On the 25th April, we made a special effort to support Stewart in the clubhouse by trying to get as many ladies as possible to come back at night and order a meal from the menu. That particular night we had about 14 ladies eating and enjoying the prize-giving. The club-house was certainly buzzing. We mean to have a "Medal Meal" each month, but also on the other Tuesdays there would be salads and filled rolls and home baking available. Hot meals and Salads and filled rolls to be ordered by 5pm. Next Medal Meal Tuesday 30th May.

Twenty-three ladies went to Belleisle Golf Course (near Ayr) for their outing on Monday 1st May. I think enjoyed by all. The overall winner was Liz Roberts. Belleisle looked after us very well with a Bacon roll and hot drink to start with, followed by a two-course meal after our eighteen holes of golf. This coming Tuesday, we have the McMyn Cup and then on Sunday 14th May we have our first open competition of the year - a Texas Scramble (The Cresset). At the moment, we have 22 teams entered, starting at 9.30am until 3pm.

On Saturday 27th May we have the Dumfries and Galloway Championship. This is an all-day competition. Anyone can enter, but the ones wanting to do the Championship would do 36 holes, leaving the rest of the competitors to do an 18-hole competition.

Hope you are getting out on the golf course and enjoying the competitions. I know it has been a bit cold, but it has been dry. The countryside is looking so lovely on these clear, clear days.

Mary Robertson

Ladies Captain

EGGS NEWS

April has seen a busy start to the EGGS fixture list helped with the welcome summer weather. We have even spotted Ivor Waddell in his shorts, for some a step too far!

Our April medal was won with 39pts by Alex Kinnell. 31 EGGS enjoyed an away day at the County in Dumfries. The Course was in good condition with plenty of run, the catering was excellent and a good day was had by all. The winner of the Coca-Cola Cup for this outing was Colin MacLaine with a creditable 40pts.

This week saw the visit of Moffat Baffies depleted in numbers unfortunately as age takes its toll on their members. The result was a 3 - 1 win to the home team. A strong wind made scoring difficult but the course was in otherwise good condition and the Steward excelled with an inviting meal. We look forward next week to joining the Ladies in the D C Dodds Trophy and next Friday to welcoming home players and visitors for the Sydney Pascoe Open.

Daily Mail Foursomes - After an impressive away victory at Newton Stewart Kirkcudbright's pairing of Jon Gibbs-Smith and Steve Richardson faced strong opposition from Southernness but this time they had home advantage. The Southernness pairing included a scratch golfer and his 6 handicap teammate and they started strongly building up a 2 hole advantage. However local knowledge and teamwork gradually brought the home team back into the match and Jon and Steve emerged victorious on the 19th green. Congratulations to them as they now enter the fourth round.

Thanks, Iain

GOLFALOTTO

The winner of Golfalotto this month was Roy Branson who received a cheque for £60. Well done Roy!

MATCH

There has been an excellent turnout from Kirkcudbright members at local competitions throughout the region as we try to encourage our membership to support local golf. We expect to be well represented at the Kirkcudbrightshire Championship on Sunday 7th May.

Robert Patterson (Junior) & Ian Menzies captured the Jubilee 2-Man Scramble over at Gatehouse of Fleet with a score of $65-3.5=61.5$. Well done lads!

The Selkirk Arms Opening Competition was won by Jamie McClymont of Newton Stewart with a score of $76-10=66$ (see photograph below)

Club Championship Qualifying started on Wednesday 3rd May in windy conditions and everything is still to play for!

Please support the Club Matchplay tournaments by adding your name to the sheets in the clubhouse and paying your entry fees. The sheets will come down at the end of May for the draws to take place.

Our Premier Singles tournament is not far away now with the Silver Tassie taking place on 3rd June.



Robert & Jamie with the Jubilee 2-Man Scramble Plate



Jamie McClymont receiving the Selkirk Arms Trophy from Bob Patterson

WILDLIFE

To the ornithologists. The electricity pole at the 10th tee has a nice hole probably made by a wood pecker. There is a small bird nesting in the hole. Identification?



RULES CORNER

The R&A have asked for ideas to improve the RULES. They came up with a selection see previous News Letters. BUT lets look at the reality of what happens to real golfer, you and me. Go on write to the R&A

Divots in the Fairway

You've just buttoned your drive plum down the middle of the fairway, just past the club champion, Nathan, and as you approach your ball thinking "damn...even Tiger would have been proud of that one", you realise it has come to rest in a divot roughly the size of Jon Gibbs-Smith's feet.

Well...congratulations...you've just been penalized for hitting a fairway.

Now...before we get into this one, I do appreciate that defining exactly what constitutes a divot throws up a few grey areas. Could it just be a patch of worn out fairway rather than a divot? Perhaps.

There is also a strong argument that a golfer should just roll with the punches because, while it is undoubtedly terribly unlucky to end up in a divot in the middle of the fairway, I have never seen a golfer throw their ball back into the trees when they have just received the good fortune of a "member's bounce" which has sent their ball caroming back out onto the fairway.

However, on the whole, divots are pretty easily identified and if you get free drops from ground under repair, why can't you get a free drop from something created by the guy in front of you who swings like David Picken? Divots are not natural to the course; they are a man-made change to the playing conditions.

Asking for Advice

When you're playing competitive golf, whether it be at the monthly medal at Kirkcudbright or an away open, you're not allowed to ask what club a fellow competitor has hit. Seems fair enough as golfers can surely gain some sort of advantage by having a slightly more educated guess as to what club to hit from a par 3 tee let's say.

However, this is where the rule gets a little silly. You can look in your playing partner's bag and find out for yourself and he is allowed to tell you without you asking. You just can't verbally ask.... otherwise a 2 shot penalty will be in the offing...why?

Out of Bounds

One thing I have never understood is why golfers who hit shots out of bounds are penalised a stroke AND distance? When you lose a ball in a water hazard you don't have to hit your next shot from the original spot so why not treat OB like a lateral water hazard. You'd still be penalised for hitting an errant shot...why such a harsh punishment?

And don't even get me started on internal out of bounds...

Damaged Clubs

You've just hit a miracle escape shot from behind a tree and your follow through has caused your club to smash into the trunk and bend. No worries...carry on using it if you feel confident enough to do so!

However, damage a club "outside of normal play", use it again and you'll be automatically disqualified for using "an altered club".

So, what happens if a slightly portly playing partner trips, falls on your bag and bends all 14 of your clubs? Is that considered outside of normal play?

If you're stupid enough to damage your own clubs through anger, playing the rest of the round and potentially having to use defective equipment, plus the cost of replacing the club, should be punishment enough! Bring back Jimmy Briggs!!

Bunker to Bunker

We all know you can't ground your club in a bunker. You could be being naughty and testing the surface, thus improving your chances of hitting a good shot. However, and I'm not sure many golfers would know enough about the rules to escape the punishment dished out to Stewart Cink at the 2008 Zurich Classic...

Cink ended up being disqualified from the tournament for signing an incorrect scorecard (more on that later) after not realising he had fallen afoul of one of golf's quirkiest rules.

With Cink's ball coming to rest just outside of a fairway bunker, he was forced to take his stance in the sand. His next shot flew into a greenside bunker which he played out of, going on to finish the hole and marking his score.

Cink's scorecard mishap occurred because he had failed to add on the two-shot penalty incurred because his caddy had raked the fairway bunker before he had played from the greenside one.

Rule 13-5 indicates (not sure if this is still the case?) that a player cannot test the condition of the hazard...or any similar hazard!

In essence golf's rule makers would have preferred Cink's caddy to carry on, leaving the bunker in a mess, ready to really punish the next golfer to enter it...come on guys...that's just not cricket.

Now that is not an excuse for not raking our bunkers at Kirkcudbright and I could go on and on about pitch marks. Ah the joys.

OBITUARY: ALAN HALL

Many of our older members will remember Alan Hall who has died within the last few days. His funeral was on Thursday 4th May.

A member of Kirkcudbright in his younger days, he moved to Prestwick where he worked as a Chartered Accountant. Latterly, he returned to the South, and he has been a member of Southernness for some time.

He was a wonderful golfer and represented Scotland as a full Amateur International, and was a finalist in the Scottish Amateur Championship in 1969.

When Ben Shamash got to the final in 2005, he was the first player from the South to achieve that since 1969, and Alan walked all 37 holes that day supporting Ben. Sadly, they both finished as losers.

He was a traditionalist when it came to golf. I met him a few years ago, and asked him how he was playing. 'Terrible he said, I can barely get my one iron into the air'. I suggested he might find it easier to use a rescue club. He shook his head, gave me a demeaning look, and said 'that would feel a bit like cheating'

Kirkcudbright Golf Club sends sympathy to his family.

Donald Shamash