

Kirkcudbright Golf Club

Newsletter – September 2015 (Issue 9)



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Captains Desk



Wham, and now we are in the twilight of the golfing season. Lots of things going on. We had a golf journalist and his photographer, giving a course review.

You can see this at:

<http://www.top100golfcourses.co.uk/htmlsite/productdetails.asp?id=2616> - I have also asked our club editor Malcolm to publish the extract in this newsletter.

Congratulations to all our winners. The Finals day on Sunday the 30th brought rewards for some and disappointment for others, but as they say it's the taking part that counts. For me I exited in the first round of all competition and now have admiration for all finalists. See the result report. Talking of results. I hope you use our website and the handicap master element. This gives you not only all competitions results, but you can look at your own profile. That way you can analyse what went wrong over the year.

The other highlight was undoubtedly the Summer Festivity Competitions and my thanks go to all who helped make the three competitions run smoothly.

You will have had my email asking for your thoughts regarding the future of the catering franchise and thank you to those who have responded. As each year comes to an end we have personnel changes and more details will emerge come our AGM (17th December).

When I say personnel I of course talk of volunteers. We are a progressive club, but we can only survive if you help, I look forward to your call.

We have a new team looking after Saturday Juniors. A new Team for the Office and a new Match Team organising Competitions. You note I use the word Team. I am a great believer in shared workloads and making volunteering a happy pastime. So every Team has space for you. It's your club. Are you involved? If not why not?

Maurice

(Club Captain)

Office Matters

The obvious topic this month is the clubhouse. The Star has given notice to terminate their catering franchise. The search for a successor is underway; an advertisement was placed in the August 28th edition of the Galloway News.

You will be kept abreast of proceedings, but in the meantime it is an opportunity to have your say, what do you expect in the catering line? A full service clubhouse with food and bar, maybe just beverages, or something in between, do we need a caterer at all? Please don't ignore this opportunity to have your say. Email, write or just call in the office.

I have written before about differentiating between what we need and what we want. Our choice must be realistic, affordable and attractive to a prospective franchisee. The clubhouse takes a significant percentage of income so it is imperative to ensure we get full value for the outlay. There is no point subsidising a white elephant. We should all commit to the use it or lose it philosophy.

Finally, with the catering and office team changing in the near future there is the possibility of changing the way the whole club is run, a new broom and all that. Any thoughts?

Tony Reason

A Little Bit of History

The year was 1900 and our clubs initial euphoria had dimmed with membership down to 25 members, the course was reduced to 6 holes by way of economy. The greenkeeper David Thomson was put on reduced hours and his weekly wage was now 3/6p. By 1903 there was some improvement and the course moved back to 9 holes, fees were increased by 50% to 15 shillings (the equivalent of adding about £180 to today's fees!).

In 1904 the ladies section held a fundraising Bazaar raising £293. If you compare this to a teachers annual salary, of £147 or a police constable, at £68. It must have been some fundraiser. The next year saw the appointment of Dan Kenny as Greenkeeper/Professional on the recommendation of Ben Sayers. Dan went on the great golfing accomplishments, one of which was winning the Canadian Open. More of Dan, some other time.

The years through to 1908 went well as the club established it's self in the community. The first horse reaper being bought for £5 a donation from the Drama club who used the new clubhouse for rehearsals. BUT the suffragette movement was refused use of the clubhouse in 1909. By 1915 probably due to the call up for young men as part of the war effort, membership was in decline, but the greenkeepers wages had now risen to 23 shillings per week.

In the same year a sign warning of errant golf balls was erected on the Poor House Bridge. This was the rail bridge (now demolished) at the foot of Burnside Loaning, near to the original clubhouse. The club to help the war effort ran a "Programme of Entertainment" raising £26.5s donated to relief of Belgians in Belgium. By 1916 the Greenkeeper was also looking after the Bowling Club to spread the cost of maintenance and in 1917 donations from members were requested to keep the club afloat. In 1918 there were only 29 male members and apprentice rates were introduced to help club funds. With the war now at an end membership steadily improved.

Next month, our part in forming Scottish Golf Union.

Plagiarised by Maurice Halliday.

Ladies Section

The weather, on the whole, was kind to us for the weekend of the Summer Festivities. Nineteen ladies took part in the Veterans Stableford on Friday 21st. Thanks to the EGGs for organising it and congratulations to Hilary Austin for winning the Ladies Section for the second year running.

The Silver Divot was played on Sunday 23rd and was won by Isabel and Robert Watson... well done to them both.

The Dee Salver will be played on Sept. 13th so put your names down if you haven't already done so. The season is drawing to a close with Finals day on Sunday so make the most of our lovely summer weather!

Enjoy your golf

Helen

Junior News



Pictured above are our 18 hole Juniors after playing for the captains prize.

Nat's Quaich is the prize which was donated by Nat Little during his Captaincy.

Winner Nathan Watson, 2nd John Rodger, 3rd Cameron Gray.

Junior Tassie Results

Wee Wee Tassie winner Max Hannay, 2nd Joe Hall, 3rd Fraser Young.
Girls Wee Wee Tassie winner Isla Dodds, 2nd Beth Hutchison

Wee Tassie Winner Euan Young, 2nd Frank Porteous, 3rd Archie McFadyen

9 hole Tassie winner Oscar McLellan, 2nd Scott Curtis, 3rd Lewis Pickthall
Hannah Trophy winner Molly Graham, 2nd Tessa Hall

14 hole Tassie Winner Nathan Curtis, 2nd Ryan Davis, 3rd Christopher Wilson
Sigma Brooch Winner Caitlin Innes.

Tassie winner Tom Pearsall (kbt) 2nd Glen Irvine (D&G) 3rd Iain Rae (Dbt)
Scratch Winner Nathan Watson (Kbt)

Junior Tassie Photo Gallery



More Junior Tassie Photos



A Golfing Journalists view of Kirkcudbright Golf Club 20th August 2015

How good is it after fronting up at a second (or even third) tier course with zero expectation of what you're going to find, to then walk off the 18th green three and a half hours later in raptures, having just played an unheralded, totally unpretentious golfing gem? Well that's what I experienced the other day at Kirkcudbright, a wonderful wee track that really deserves wider recognition, starting with a position in the regional rankings – and I write that having now played all ten of the courses that currently occupy places in the Dumfries & Galloway chart. I was astonished to discover Kirkcudbright had been expanded to an 18-hole layout in-house by the members and not by a professional architect, such was the quality of the build and the way the new holes seamlessly linked in with the old ones. And, as my playing partner remarked during our round, it was hard to remember when we last played a course which had used the natural features of the land so well when routing holes across very undulating terrain.



The only dysfunctional hole was the very bland par three 6th (which is sandwiched between two wonderful, demanding par fours) but I'm more than prepared to see the odd weak hole on a card if all the others are above average. There's so much to enjoy here: the original opening three holes rising up the side of the hill away from the clubhouse, the new roller coaster fairways from the 4th to the 9th, the raised two-tiered green on the 10th, the split fairway and crescent-shaped bunker in front of the green on the par five 12th and the completely wacky old-fashioned putting surface on the downhill 16th.

It's evident that a lot of loving care and attention has gone into constructing this layout and it was a real privilege to see that for myself. Down to earth, indeed back to basics golf in a scenic setting is really as good as it gets and I recommend a round here for anybody who'd like have their faith in the game renewed.

Jim McCann

Finals Day

A great Finals Day took place on Sunday 30th August & is always a highlight on our calendar! The roll of honour was ...

Gents Club Champion - Stuart Gourlay
Ladies Club Champion - Pamela Watson
Junior Club Champion - William Squires

B Champion - Stuart Brown
C Champion - Andy McElroy
Springbank - Kevin Morrison
AC Brown - Ian Menzies & Jamie Menzies

Robb Quaich - Amanda Houston & Michael Houston

McDonald Cup - Margaret Locke
Campbell Cup - Gladys Kelly & Janet Roff

Clingan Trophy - Tom Pearsall
Evelyn Thomson Junior Pairs - TBC

Congratulations to all the winners & commiserations to the runners-up. Everyone has done themselves & the club proud



Gents Champion –
Stuart Gourlay



Ladies Champion –
Pamela Watson



Junior Champion – William Squires (centre)
with Tom Pearsall & Calum McMillan



Gents Prize Winners



Ladies Prize Winners



All Prize Winners

September Lesson Offer - Throughout September, get 3 x 45 minute lessons for only £50! That's a massive saving of £25! This is a great offer, don't miss it!

Golf Classes Starting Soon!

- PGA Professional Golf Coaching
- Separate classes for juniors, ladies, beginners, intermediates & advanced players
- Very cost effective way to learn and improve
- Great way to meet people at a similar level
- Helps to stop your game getting rusty throughout the winter with regular classes
 - Friendly & relaxed atmosphere
 - Open to everyone

For more info and to sign up, please get in touch.

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Player Profile

This month's star interview is with newly crowned Club Champion Stuart Gourlay. Stuart has lived in Glasgow for more than 20 years now but still travels 'home' a lot to play his golf here. As a junior member Stuart represented the club at the Scottish Boys Championship and was Junior Captain in in 1992.

We caught up with Stuart in the Butler Cabin shortly after his Championship win on Sunday evening.

What's your handicap right now Stuart? 5

& what's the lowest it has been? 3

What's the best course you have played? Victoria Golf Club (Vilamoura)

**What course would you most like to play that you haven't?
Trump International (Aberdeen)**

If you could only play links or parkland for the rest of your life what would you choose? Parkland

Who would you pick to hole a 6 foot putt to win you £100? Davie Stitt

**Best player you've played with or against?
Euan Little (Former Tour Player from Portpatrick)**

**What has been your best moment in golf?
Winning the Club Championship today**

**Who would be your dream 4-ball?
Rory McIlroy, Jose Maria Olazabal & Natalie Gulbis**

What is your favourite club in the bag? Driver

If you could change one thing about golf what would it be? Slow play

**What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?
Really simple, just keep your head down and your eye on the ball.**

**What's your bogey hole at Kirkcudbright?
It can vary from season to season but most recently it's been the 4th!**

**Do you have any golfing superstitions?
Always play with white wooden tees and in competition play, I always mark my ball with a blue dot beside the number.**

**And finally, away from golf, what are your other interests?
Following Rangers & Crystal Palace, playing snooker, listening to music and eating out!**

Thanks Stuart! Congratulations on your first Championship win and for showing us that life really does begin at 40!! Good luck for what's left of the 2015 season & beyond ...