

# Kirkcudbright Golf Club Newsletter

Spring 2023



## Captain's Corner

Well here we are folks - another busy golf season underway !!

### Opening Days and initial competitions

It was great to see 34 players (Gents, Ladies and Juniors) turn out on March 26th for our Opening Day "Mixed Texas scramble". There was some ridiculously good scoring and the winners on the day were the team of Trevor Fenton, Michael Kirkham, Mary Robertson and Wilson Lochhead with a ridiculous gross score of 64 (5 under par).

The Eggs also kicked off with their opening Day (two days earlier on March 24th) with the Opening Day/Captains Prize-which was won by Rod McAllister with an excellent 41 points.



The Ladies have started to play and had a "Past Captains" dinner, which had a big turnout. Apparently there are 30 "current/past Captains" to invite, so clearly if you want a long life, volunteer to be Ladies Captain! (There are still a few past Gents Captains kicking about but a lot less than 30, oh dear.)

### On the course

On the course front, you will see new artificial grass matting on path down to the 4th tee, and also on the tricky, wee slope off 17th green (as well as up onto 5th fairway and down off 12th green). Your Committee hope this will make for safer play for all (the 16th fairway matting is next on the agenda - down the rough near the Glebe dyke).

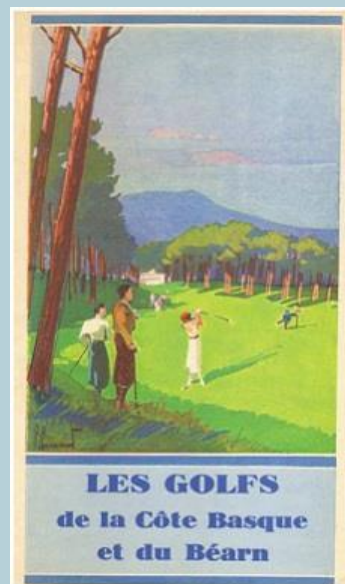
New netting was purchased for the practice nets area so these are good to go for the 2023 season and beyond.

The greenkeepers have done a great job getting the course ready, despite some horribly wet March weather. Greens look good and once cutting gets into full swing, the fairways and green aprons will get into shape (please replace all divots and repair all pitch marks to ensure YOUR course stays in top order).

Our only other news is that we have submitted an application for a grant to install an "on-course" toilet, to be sited near the 9th tee. We have absolutely no guarantee our grant application will be successful, but if it is, we will hopefully get a toilet built in 2023. If not, this component of our long, long list of "potential improvement projects" will be on the back burner with other "less costly" projects high on the priority list in the next year or two (such as extending the buggy shed, purchasing new buggies, course drainage improvements needed at 1st, 8th and 14th holes, etc, etc).

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## Captain's Corner (cont...)

### Committee news

Your Committee met in March and will now meet monthly over the main playing season. I hope you all know who we are, basically we haven't changed much since last year BUT I am delighted to announce that Chris Jones has stepped forward to be your new Vice Captain. He enjoyed meeting all the Committee at his first meeting in March (or at least he put on a good show, ha ha!). I believe Chris will make an excellent Captain and wish him every success when he takes up his Captain's post in 2024 and 2025.

Your Committee also voted unanimously to stay with the HandicapMaster software for 2023. The new SGU system called "dot golf" is not yet functional but will be considered for potential use next year.

### And finally, Cyril...

Finally, to wrap up, I hope this newsletter finds you all fit and well and raring to go in the 2023 season. Enjoy your golf and all the social life at the club. I look forward to meeting you all during the season ahead, whether on the course, at the bar or at the coffee machine in the lounge.



Please support Thai Kitchen as much as you can and please buy your Golf-A-Lotto ticket for the next 5 years, if you haven't already done so.

Over and out.

Colin Kennedy,  
**Club Captain.**

### World Ice Golf Championships, Greenland

In golf, when is a green not a green? When it's white.

The sport of ice golf is thought to have been played for hundreds of years, with some evidence in paintings of a snowy round dating back to the 17th Century.

The sport even has its own world championship, which takes place every year in Uummannaq in Greenland. Naturally, typical white golf balls are substituted for a brighter orange version and players will often take to the course with crampons on their shoes for better grip.

The rulebook even has potential eventualities for if a polar bear interferes with a player's shot, which is not something that usually crops up at The Open.



Roger Beames of Scotland in action at the 2002 World Ice Golf Championships in Greenland.

## Ladies' News

### Rules Reminders

I've been asked by a couple of the Lady members to highlight a couple of rules that some of our Ladies weren't completely au fait with. I suspect some members from other sections may not have known these either. So here they are...



#### Winter rules of golf: Wrong green

When temporary greens are in play, the main green is classed as a wrong green. This means if you overshoot the mark and end up on the main putting surface you are unable to play the ball as it lies.

This comes under Rule 13.1f, and it is important to note this is not a choice. The rule states you have to take relief from the wrong green, even if you think you can just simply putt the ball off the surface back towards your intended target, you are not allowed to do this.

So how do you take relief? You get one-club length from the nearest point of relief. But you have to take complete relief meaning your ball, stance, and intended swing path must be off the putting surface.

“

“The right way to play golf is to go up and hit the bloody thing.”

[GEORGE DUNCAN](#)

Scottish Professional Golfer

”



### Practicing during round (MP & SP)

While playing a hole and after completing play of a hole, but before making a stroke to begin another hole, you must not make a practice stroke. **Exception** – Between holes you may practise putting or chipping on or near the putting green of the hole you just completed and any practice green, and the teeing area of your next hole. But such practice strokes must not be made from a bunker and must not unreasonably delay play.

Penalty for Breach of Rule 5.5: General Penalty, i.e. Loss of hole in **match play** or two penalty strokes in **stroke play**.

If the breach happens between two holes, the penalty applies to your next hole.

For full details of the related rule (5.5), see [https://www.randa.org/en/rog/the-rules-of-golf/rule-5#5\\_5](https://www.randa.org/en/rog/the-rules-of-golf/rule-5#5_5) .

**NB This does NOT including chipping/pitching onto our greens - we have enough issues with pitchmarks as it is.**

“

Golf : “A game in which you claim the privileges of age and retain the playthings of childhood.”

[SAMUEL JOHNSON](#)

Writer, poet, playwright

”



### Ladies' Charity Lunch

On Tuesday 7th March, twenty of our ladies played in our Annual Charity Lunch competition. All enjoyed a light lunch of soup and sandwiches and Carol McQuistan received a cheque for the Kirkcudbright Swimming Pool for a total of £393.00. Well done, ladies!





### Past Captains' Day

Past captains day started off with 10 ladies playing the inner 9 and 21 ladies lunching. There is a possible 30 past captains so 21 was a good turn out. Thai kitchen provided a 2 course buffet meal which was enjoyed by all. Winner of the 9 holes was Liz Davidson with an impressive 20 points.

#### Winter League

The winner was myself with Liz Roberts the Runner up. We didn't get to play as many rounds as usual due to the amount of bad weather. We did however play 14 rounds with half of them counting towards the final score.

Ladies who didn't take part in the winter league played 9 holes of fun golf, kindly organised by Margaret Locke or Jane Richardson. A healthy rivalry was enjoyed by all.

Margaret Stryjewski.





### EGGS Winter League 2022/2023

The winner of the EGGS Winter League this year was Paul Stirling.

Paul is pictured above proudly displaying his well-earned trophy.

Well done, Paul. Many congratulations!

“

“My handicap?  
Woods and irons!”

[CHRIS CODIROLI](#)  
Baseball Player

”



### 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.



### Fees

Don't forget to top up your playing fees by dropping off some money in an envelope to the office. Please mark the envelope with "EGGS Purse" for the attention of Ted Dagg and remember to add your name.

You can get your balance by asking Ted on a Friday morning (before the draw) or email him and he'll get back to you as soon as possible.



### EGGS Captain's Prize 2023

The winner of the first EGGS Competition (the Captain's Prize) this year was Rod McAllister. Rod is pictured above (left) receiving his trophy from our EGGS Captain, Stewart McKean. Well done, Rod. Many congratulations!



## The root of the problem...

One of our members spotted these two golf balls when playing a few weeks ago (and they told me that they never miss a fairway!). They look as though they had been lost several years ago and the tree has grown over them. But for two balls to be “lost” so close together seems strange, doesn’t it? How do you think they got there? Answers on a postcard to the usual address, please.

PS For the benefit of our younger readers, a postcard is an ancient method of communication used by early human beings long before the invention of computers, the internet and smart phones. It involved the exchange a small amount of local currency in the form of small pieces of metal called “coins” (you can still see some of these used today!) for a form of stiff papyrus, upon one side of which was often a photograph of a landmark from the area in which you were on holiday (often abroad), and on the other side, blank areas for you to write something and for the address of the person to whom you would physically “post” this “card” (hence the word “postcard”). The sender would then use a “writing” implement (often a “pen”) to write something pithy in the blank space and to write the address of somebody they knew well in the “address” area. The sender would also have to had bought a “postage stamp” which they would have to lick the back of, in order for it to stick to the “postcard”, and place it carefully (and quickly) in the designated area for the postage stamp. The sender would then have to find a “postbox” (or “pillar box”) which could have different names, be different sizes, different colours and located in different places, depending on the country from which you were sending your “postcard”. The “postcard” would then be collected by a person from the designated “mail delivery” service of that country and taken to a sorting office where it would be physically handled by other staff and placed in a designated sack, box or other container so that it would be taken (eventually) to the country of the addressee (the UK, in this example). For unknown reasons, the “postcard” would then sit in the container for several days (sometimes more than a week) before being shipped or flown to the UK for delivery to the addressee. Staff of the UK’s mail delivery service (known as the “Post Office” until, as part of the Postal Services Act 2000, the businesses of the Post Office were transferred [in 2001] to a public limited company, Consignia plc, which was quickly renamed Royal Mail Holdings plc [“the Royal Mail”]. The government became the sole shareholder in Royal Mail Holdings plc and its subsidiary, Post Office Ltd) would then receive it and for the same unknown reasons, leave it lying somewhere for several days (sometimes more than a week). Eventually, the “postcard” would be physically picked up by a member of staff of the “Royal Mail” and delivered to the addressee via a network of rail and road (and sometimes bicycle) transport systems three weeks after the sender had already returned from their holiday. At this point, the addressee would announce to other family members that the “postcard” had arrived from so-and-so, read out the pithy writings of the sender and then throw it straight in the wastepaper basket or onto the fire (a similarly detailed description of “home house fires” will be provided for our younger readers in a future next issue).



## RULES CORNER (page 1)

As the new season starts and particularly as some of us haven't played so much over the winter, we're re-re-printing a few reminders about the new rules. In this edition, we will take another 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).

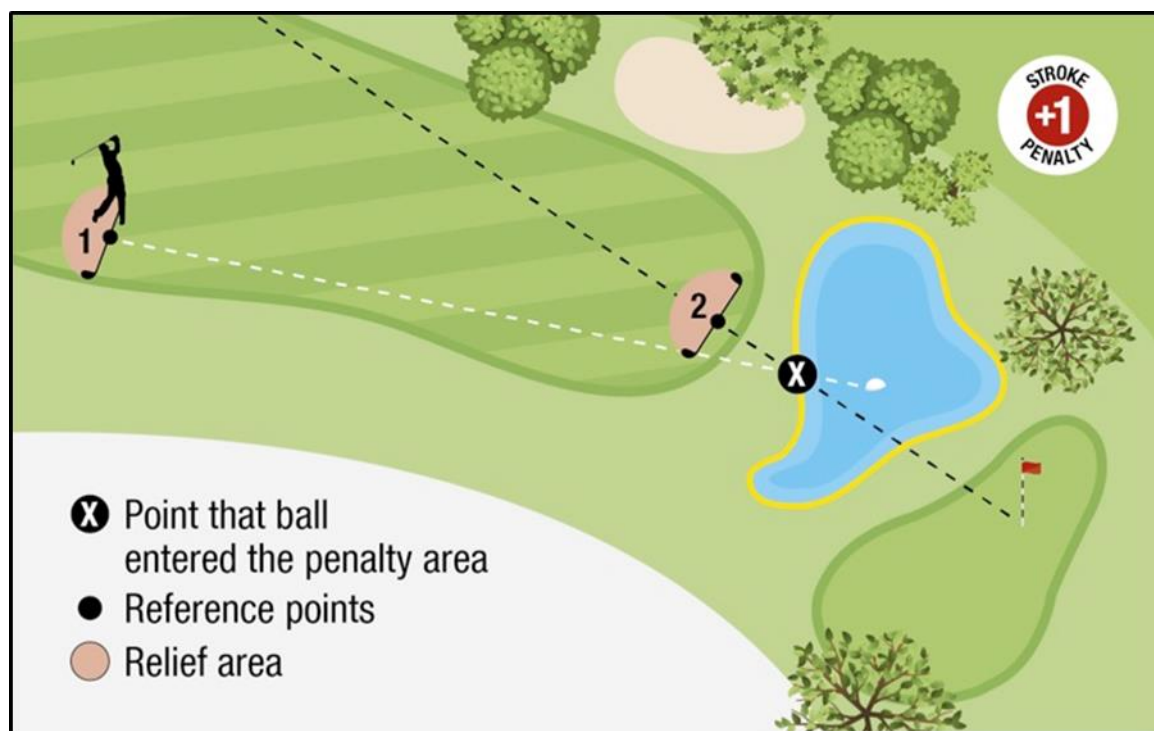


Diagram 1: Penalty Drop for Yellow Penalty Areas.

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.

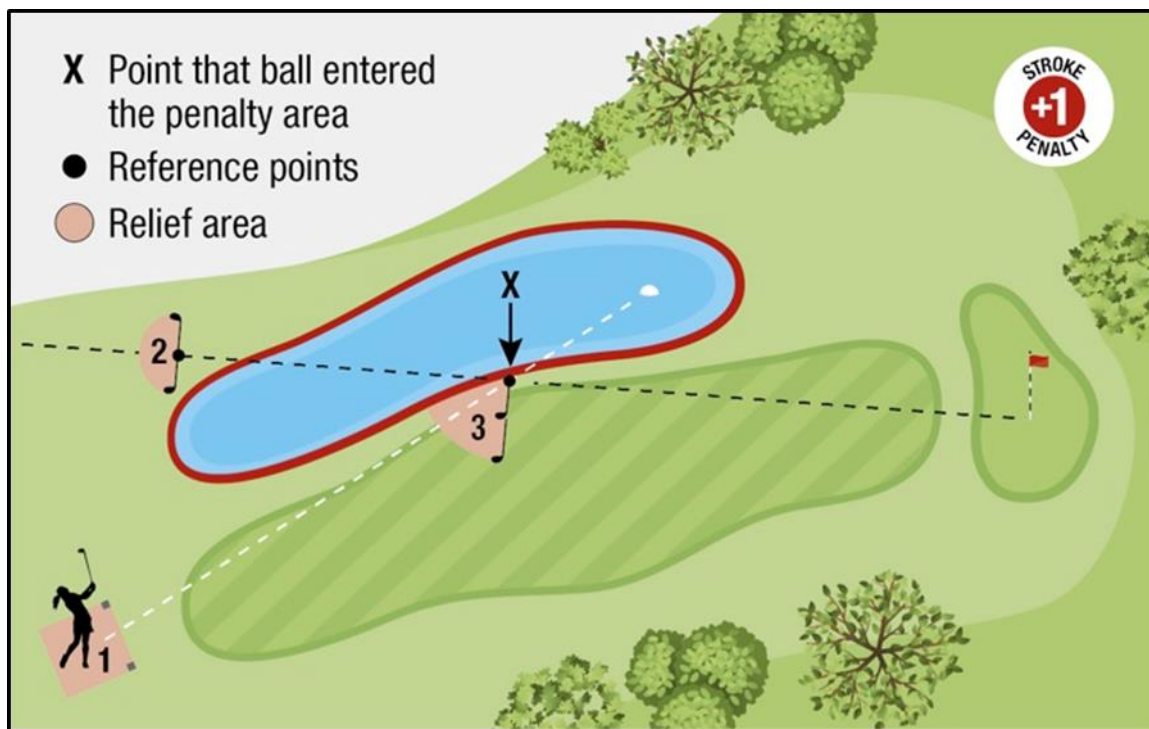


Diagram 2 - Red Penalty Areas.

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...

Full details at <https://www.randa.org/en/rog/2019/rules/players-edition/rule-17#17-1c>

## Gents' Winter League 2022-2023



The Gents' Winter League Champion for 2022-2023 is Michael Kirkham. Michael scored a total of 422 points from his best 10 rounds while runner-up, Willie Davidson, scored 387 points from *his* best 10 rounds.

The Eclectic was won jointly by Michael Kirkham & David Davidson (net 51) while David Davidson scored the most 2s, achieving 8 of them.

Well done, Michael, Willie and David.



## A lesson in Etymology...

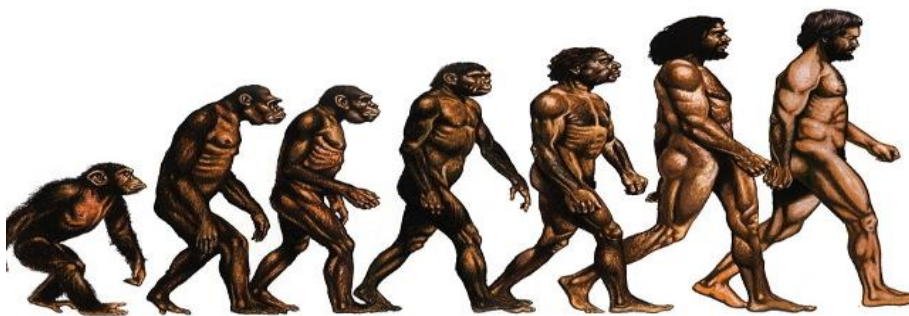
With the new season fast approaching, some members will have been honing their games so that they can "Bring Home The Bacon" in the opening competitions, but why do we use that phrase? It is from the old practice popular at country fairs across the land. Men would chase a heavily greased pig around a ring and whoever caught and held on to the pig would get to take it home! Do you think we should rope off part of the eighteenth fairway and give it a go? Does anyone have a spare sow? No wisecracks!



Too many irons in the fire

Winter golf is a time when many of us experiment with new clubs or putters, trying to make that "Great Leap Forward". Beware you don't have too many clubs in your bag on your first competitive outing, i.e. "too many irons in the fire". This saying comes from the practice of a busy blacksmith having too much work on at the same time and being tempted to speed things up by putting more items in his forge than he would have time to work on. They would either become too hot or would cool down again before he had time to shape them. I hope your irons are "hot" and that you shape your shots perfectly.

### The other Great Leap Forward



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Behavioral\\_modernity#Great\\_leap\\_forward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Behavioral_modernity#Great_leap_forward)



The Great Leap Forward

[Read more...](#)

## Golf-A-Lotto

GOLFALOTTO  
YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

Help your club and give yourself a chance  
to win big prizes.

The more people who join,  
the bigger the prizes will be.

Sign up TODAY and encourage your friends and relations to join too.

Contact the office at [office@kirkcudbrightgolf.co.uk](mailto:office@kirkcudbrightgolf.co.uk)  
or ring us on 01557 330 314

## Golf-A-Lotto Results



We've had 3 more draws since the last newsletter and the lucky winners (who each won in the region of £50) are as follows:

January	-	Alan Burns
February	-	Margaret Stryjewski
March	-	Tamara Shamash

Congratulations to you all.

And remember, you can still join Golf-A-Lotto at any point in time and the earlier you do so, the more chances you will have of winning a prize. For more details, please contact the office.



## The Last Word (from the Editor)

### Spring...

Yes, I know we've printed those rules reminders several times now but I think a lot of members (including me) do need that reminder from time to time. It's the ones we don't come across very often that will catch us out.

The Ladies' section seems to be doing very well again this year and their numbers are increasing all the time. That can only be good news for everyone.

The subject of Pitch marks have cropped up a few times recently and there really isn't an excuse for it. If your playing partner leaves a pitch mark and doesn't repair it, please call them out on it. Maybe some of you don't realise how damaging it is to the greens or perhaps you're just forgetful. Golf is a game all about etiquette and repairing your pitch marks (and those of others) is a responsibility as well as a courtesy to your fellow players AND to the greenkeepers. Let's try to improve this, eh?

Enjoy your golf,

**The Editor.**



### Keep In Touch

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