

KIRKGUDBRIGHT GOLF CLUB

Newsletter

Winter 2023

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

I would like to thank the members for entrusting me with the honour of captaining the club into its 14th decade. I think it's only fair to introduce myself as I have only been a member for two of those 130yrs and haven't yet had a chance to meet or play with the majority of members. I've played the game for around 50 yrs, mostly in Milngavie and West Linton, having been a junior back in Wales, but have plateaued for the last 30 around 9 to 12 handicap. I will give freely of my time to try to maintain and improve both the condition of the course and it's surroundings and the finances of the club. Thanks to the many past Captains and Lady Captains who have already offered a listening ear: I am grateful for the offer of their counsel. Thanks are due to those departing the committee, Caroline Dodds, Rod McAllister and Stuart Maxwell, and to the huge number of members who undertake untitled roles every day. We wish Jamie Menzies the very best for his future, and gratitude for his unstinting efforts on the course. We look forward to making a new appointment for head greenkeeper in the spring. I must, of course, thank Bradley and Dylan for all their hard work throughout the year: we have a course to be proud of. Welcome to the committee to Neil Macintosh (House Convenor), Tim Jackson (Handicap Secretary) and Peter McMorran (Greens Convenor) and thanks to Dave Harris for taking on the Vice Captaincy.

Talking to many established members, I realise how the club has progressed over recent years, becoming financially stable in difficult circumstances and moving through to the recent completion of the clubhouse refit. As we know, golf faces challenges from so many other areas for peoples' time and hard-earned income, against a background of spiralling costs, especially to utilities, green keeping equipment and insurance. However, I feel the game still offers the benefits that made me fall for it as a young boy and confers these to the player for, hopefully, a long golfing life.

Camaraderie, competition and challenge are bestowed on the club golfer along with a sense of self improvement. We are fortunate to have such a great setting for our course and must cherish it and try to make it the best offering we can. We will try to encourage juniors to take their first golfing steps as well as prolonging the golfing lives of our more senior players by assisting with buggy provision. The Committee won't be able to control the weather, improve your scores or help you find your ball in the rough, but if we can get to the end of the season having more good golfing days than bad, that's not a bad result. If there's anything we can help with, please feel free to contact me in the usual ways, although not when I'm lining up a crucial putt please!! We are hopefully through the worst days of high inflationary costs and the need to raise subscriptions. The Committee will, with the members' backing, seek other ways to raise funds and reduce outgoings in order to achieve the best value to players of all categories.

Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy Golfing New Year!

Chris Jones
Club Captain.



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Volunteers, please

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help in the Office, particularly when 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 okay 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.

PLAYER PROFILE



Our new Captain for 2024 and 2025 will be Chris Jones so we "invited" Chris to complete our questionnaire so that we can all get to know him a little bit better. So, ~~Chris~~, Mr. Captain, over to you...

Player Profile

Chris Jones



What's your handicap right now? 10.2

And what's the lowest it has been? 9, about 25 years ago!

What's the best course you have played?
Lahinch in Co. Clare, Ireland, beautifully natural with its own herd of wild goats.

What course would you most like to play that you haven't?
Wentworth, West Course, the World Matchplay was a TV staple as a kid.

If you could only play links or parkland for the rest of your life what would you choose?
Parkland! I learnt to play on a links but now I find the approach shots too tricky.

Who would you pick to hole a 6-foot putt to win you £100?
Easy! Boss of the Moss, Paul Stirling. If Paul was unavailable, Justin Rose.

Best player you've played with or against?
Local legend John Thomson!

What has been your best moment in golf?
Playing the Belfry with Les Dennis (don't ask).

Who would be your dream 4-ball?
Lee Trevino, Seve and Ted Dagg, lots of laughs and some unusual shot making (from Ted).

What is your favourite club in the bag?
An old Taylormade R7 Quad 10.5, usually reliable if I swing it well.

If you could change one thing about golf what would it be?
Pace of play.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?
Don't dwell on the past too much.

What's your favourite hole at Kirkcudbright?
The 12th, it's a great looking hole with options for each shot.

What's your bogey hole at Kirkcudbright?
The 4th. Tricky visually with a perilous approach. A 4 is a good score there.

Do you have any golfing superstitions?
I don't add up my card if I'm going well, it would distract me.

Away from golf, what are your other interests?
Unsurprisingly rugby. Also walking the dog, reading and music (stuck in the 80's).

Santa Jokes #1

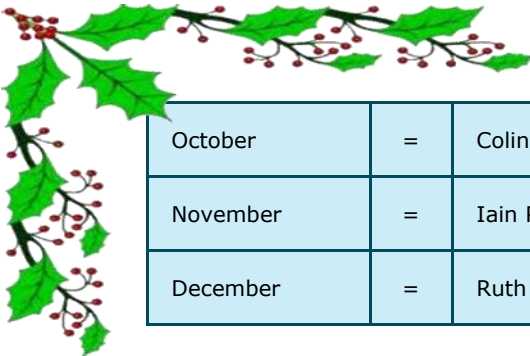
What do you call a disobedient child who doesn't believe in Santa?



A rebel without a Claus.

Golf-A-Lotto - Recent Draws

We've had 3 more draws since the last newsletter plus the end-of-scheme draw. Results and winners below:



October	=	Colin Baty
November	=	Iain Proudfoot
December	=	Ruth Hunt

All of the above winners will receive £60.

We also held the end-of-year draw at the AGM and the winner of the magnificent prize of £850 was (cue long, long drum roll.....) Frank Christie. Many congratulations, Frank!

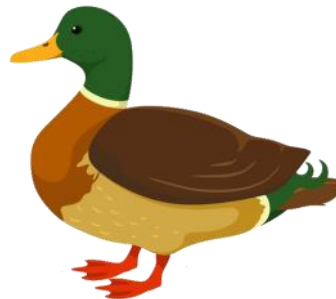
And remember, this could be you next time around, but you've got to be in it to win it.

See the next page for more details.

Santa Jokes #2

What you get when you cross a duck with Santa?

A Christmas quacker!



“

"The game lends itself to fantasies about our abilities."
Peter Alliss,
reflecting on the game of golf

”

You've got to be in it to win it

Join Golf-A-Lotto and help your golf club. Since Donald Shamash set up Golf-A-Lotto in 2012, more than £20,000 has been paid out in prize money and a similar amount has been raised for the club.

The third cycle of Golf-A-Lotto is under way and now's your chance to get into the money! - the big prize in 2022 was a whopping £3,744!

From as little as £3.00 a month you can be part of it. Monthly and annual draws with 'the big one' at the end of the 5-year period.

Just contact Colin Marriott on 01557 339 453 or 07912 351 850 or email office@KirkcudbrightGolf.co.uk to find out more.

If you haven't yet joined Golf-A-Lotto, please consider it now. We have 119 tickets in place at the moment, but really need that extra 1 to ensure we can still pay out £60 per month and the appropriate, full Annual and 5-Year prizes.

GOLF AND THE COMMUNITY



A cheque for £160, which was raised by the Kirkcudbright Ladies, was handed over by Amanda Houston to the staff at the Oncology ward earlier in December at Dumfries DGRI hospital.

Lesley Healey (right) and a colleague are seen receiving the cheque (Lesley's husband, Chris, used to play golf at Kirkcudbright). The unit was very grateful for the donation.



EX-CAPTAIN'S LOG



By the time you read this, I will be an ex-Captain and you will be in the safe hands of our new Captain, Chris Jones, and his 2024 Committee going forward.

This Golf club continues to thrive (despite strong headwinds on ever-rising costs) and, as I said in my final report, this is primarily due to the hard work put in by so many members giving of their time and services completely free of charge to ensure our club runs efficiently.

I have really enjoyed my time as Captain and hopefully members can appreciate the gradual but very steady improvements being made to both the clubhouse and the course each year.

I will continue on the committee for a further 2 years as Past Captain (hopefully not "Past-it" Captain!), and give my best advice (to be either heeded or ignored, as seen fit).

I expect my golf handicap to return to single figures very early in 2024, as all these "Captains' responsibilities" have been lifted off my shoulders—more likely it will go the other way and I will be up to 20 in no time, ha ha!

May I just wish ALL OUR MEMBERS a **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and A GOOD NEW YEAR**, and may your golf get better and better in 2024. (NB. It will only do this after you have paid your subscriptions.)

Over and out,

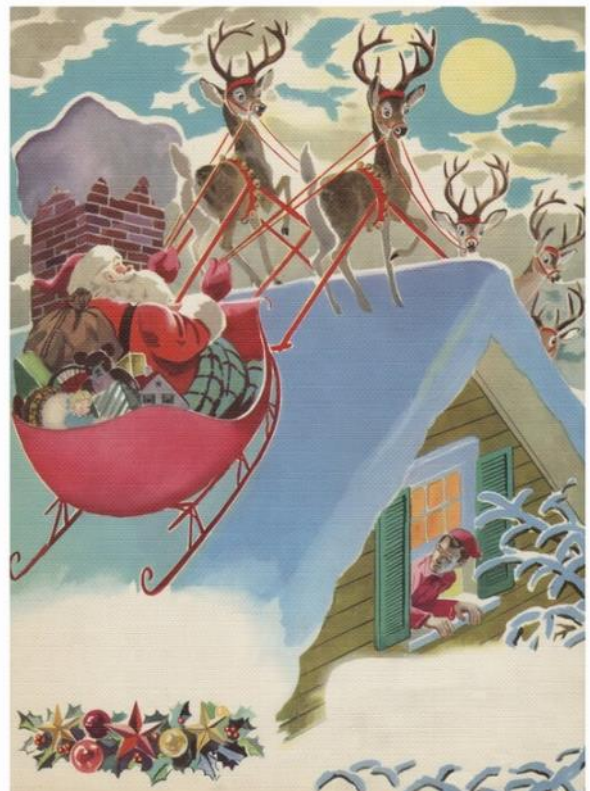
Ex-Captain CK ("Warp-factor 3, Mr. Sulu!")



Santa Jokes #3

How much did Santa's sleigh cost him?

Nothing! It was on the house.



Tired of damp or smelly shoes in our
winter weather?

Get a set of ActiSole shoe dryer/deoderisers!

Only £8 per set (sold for £20 online)
and, thanks to a generous donor,
ALL proceeds go to Club funds.



Available now, from the Club Office.

Limited supplies—buy now while stocks last!

The perfect Christmas present for your loved ones.

THE LAST WORD (FROM THE EDITOR)



"It's Christmaaaaaaaaaaaaaas..."

Thanks to our new Captain, Chris Jones, for his opening piece in this issue.

Other than the above and the Golf-A-Lotto details, we haven't much more to tell you about in this latest newsletter.

If you're playing over the winter, be careful when it's icy or snowy (or even when it's just wet). And get yourself warmed back up with a hot meal from the Thai Kitchen when you get back to clubhouse. They'll be open again in February.

And if you desperately need a last-minute gift for someone, what could be better than a pair or two of ActiSole shoe driers/de-oderisers? And at only £8, you can afford to appear generous while still being an old Scrooge!

As you may have noticed, it does get harder to keep coming up with **new** things to say here so perhaps in the New Year, I'll not bother with this section. We'll see how I feel at the time, eh?

So, if I don't see you in the clubhouse (unlikely) or on the course (even more unlikely) soon, let me take this opportunity to wish all our members and staff a very happy festive season (however you celebrate it) and a prosperous and improved golfing New Year.

Merry Christmas,

The Editor.

PS Please email all your favourite Christmas Cracker jokes to the office for next year's newsletter. No, honestly! Do.



KEEP IN TOUCH

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