

GGC - May Newsletter

The course is looking great

What a start to the season, the weather has been reasonable and our green keeping staff and greens convenor Dave Terrey have worked hard to have the course in excellent condition for the start of the season. Well done to Jim and the team.

Tree removal during the winter programme is complete and is designed to allow sun and wind to dry out the wettest areas and to reinstate views in areas such as that behind the first green.

Dave has been working on formal guidelines on course closure to cater for weather conditions such as frost in winter or rain during competitions and these will be posted on the notice board when completed. Holes will be painted white for a trial period to help improve the appearance of the greens which are already outstanding for the time of year.

Members are reminded that from 1 May 2010, if your ball lies on a seeded divot, you must play it as it lies. The R&A have confirmed that clubs are not permitted to put in place a local rule to allow free relief from seeded divots.

Match & Handicap

The Winter League Masters Trophy was very popular with 8 teams of 12 golfers competing in a shotgun team match. 96 players competed over both 9 & 18 hole courses and Billy Dixon's team, "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen and Eejits" won comfortably and Billy accepted the new trophy, sponsored by Surridge Sports via Alec Cloudsley, with humility and respect for his fellow competitors. We hope to run this again next year and maybe convince a ninth team to enter. Photos of the day and a full write up on the competition are on the club website, www.greenockgolfclub.co.uk

Weekly competition results are now published on the club website. You can also see your eclectic totals and exact handicap reports. In response to a website forum suggestion, competition results will now be sent to the Herald and the Telegraph.

One member proposed that members be permitted to phone in at a specific period on Saturday mornings to secure their tee off time for the following Saturday. This was considered by committee but will not be implemented meantime.

House

Whilst finances are very tight the committee agreed that the clubhouse had to be painted. We are currently getting quotes for the clubhouse and the flagpole and work should start early summer.

Another decision not taken lightly was the purchase of a much needed glass washer and dish washer, which are now in place. The new winners board in the hallway looks excellent and we will now replicate that on the champions board during the year.

Our new chef team of Raymond and Scott assisted by Andy have proved to be very popular with members and they have received masses of positive feedback. Bar staff and catering staff are aware of their shared responsibility in clearing plates and glasses and we hope that this will address the only minor complaint received from members.

AGM Points

1. Opening Hours are now published on the notice board

Summer

Weekdays 8am, Sat & Sun - Half hour before first tee off

Winter

Weekdays & sat — 8am, Sun — 9am

2. Locker deposits

The secretary will shortly write to all locker holders to invite them to relinquish the deposit of £130 in return for free usage of the locker whilst they remain a member. New members taking up a locker will pay £25 per annum rental.

Games Room

Now that the summer is here, it has been noted that seating capacity in the games room has been reduced significantly due to the position of the pool table. This is a particular problem when there is a function on in the main Lounge. It is therefore now permissible for members to move the pool table away from the centre of the games room to the wall below the Plasma TV as and when necessary.

TV Schedule

Peter Gallagher has very kindly agreed to implement the TV schedule which he had run successfully in recent years. This will ensure that the TV in the main lounge is used appropriately. There will be no restrictions on the usage of the TV in the

Social

Gala Day—31 July 2010

We will host a gala day on Saturday 31 July 2010 and Stuart Barr has very kindly agreed to be our event planner along with our new social convenor Billy Dixon. Stuart is keen for members ideas and also for volunteers to help out for parts of the day. So if you have any ideas please contact Stuart at email stuartbarr@acbel.com Tele..... 0774 058 4034

Ideas so far include treasure hunt, zorb ball, bowling, long putting, bouncy castle, bottle stall, chip balls in buckets, challenge the pro, penalty shoot-out, sticky darts, target pitching/putting, longest frisby throw, longest tennis ball throw.

Billy has arranged to round off the night with a disco / barbeque / karaoke.

Lady Alice Bowling Club Challenge

We hope to host an inter club games night against Lady Alice Bowling Club during the summer. More on this later. Anyone interested please contact Billy Dixon.

Fine Dining Night

Our chef Scott is keen to show off his skills and has arranged a fine dining night on 8 May 2010. He has prepared an A La Carte menu which can be seen on the website.

Cruise Ship Marketing

Our marketing convenor Stewart Reid has written to all known cruise ship companies to publicise the course and invite them to encourage passengers to visit.

Professional Shop

Kevin Campbell our new professional has settled in very well and has the shop looking good. He prides himself on his competitive prices and asks that members give him the opportunity to source any golf equipment required.

He is already busy with lessons and has a varied stock of quality clubs and clothing.

He will soon start his prize monthly draw where, for a £30 payment, members are included in a monthly draw for prizes. He tells me that with current numbers the draw will start at the start of May and members will have a 4 to 1 chance of winning through the course of the year. So get in quick if you'd like to take part.

Website

Our website is developing well and, thanks to Archie Wohglemuth for scanning old pictures, we now have a very interesting historical picture gallery dating back to 1965. This is work in progress and, if any member has interesting pictures to add, please get in touch with Captain Charlie Paul.

Johnny Caldwell has now arrived in Georgia, USA and he is going to keep us up to date with his trip via the golf club forum.

Our forum now has 140 forum members and is the ideal opportunity to have your say on any issues relative to the club. You can also sell your old clubs on the classifieds section. If you'd like to join its very simple just log into the website and follow the instructions, it only takes a few minutes.

Craigs Farm

As you know we are tentatively exploring our options for development of the land at Craigs Farm adjacent to the 5th green. The building is in a poor state of repair and is effectively beyond economic repair.

At the AGM we sought permission from the members to take steps towards the acquisition of planning permission for the site and subsequent marketing of the plot.

Before such an application can be lodged we must obtain a bird and bat survey to identify whether any demolition would affect them. This survey can only be done at the start of the season in May and the survey will be undertaken soon.

The site has also been assessed by Sport Scotland who will submit a report to Inverclyde Council. We understand that this report is favourable with no particular issue being raised which would preclude us moving forward to an application for planning permission.

Any sale of the plot would be a decision for all members and as such a Special General Meeting would be called so that the issue could be fully discussed and debated before any decisions are taken by the members

Charlie Paul

Captain.