

DUNBAR GOLF CLUB



NEWS LETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

DEER PARK

Now that the members and various local community groups have been informed of the Development Proposals, the Strategy Group has met to agree on what is still required to be completed to allow an Outline Planning Application to be made. Economic, Development, Financial, and Transportation Reports have yet to be completed prior to the Application being submitted in respect of a new Clubhouse, Golf Academy, Driving Range and Practice Areas, Nine Hole Short Course, and Housing as associated with an enabling development. It is anticipated that the Application will be made around the end of February or the beginning of March.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals have suffered as a result of the present global credit crunch and recession, together with the required increase in fees and levy. To date we have received about double the normal resignations. When queries were made of those resigning as to why, the results are as follows:

Reason for Resigning	% age
Not Playing enough	29
Financial	22
Transfer to Non playing	7
None	18
Moved away	5
Ill Health	4
No OAP concession	11
No response	4

Offers of membership have been made to applicants on the waiting lists to replace these resignations. This will reduce the waiting list considerably and members are encouraged to seek potential new members on the basis that entry to the Club will be much shorter than in recent years. Full details on payment methods are available from the office.

THE VAULTS

Many of you will have noticed the state of the north west facing roof at the vaults, this has now reached the stage where we have no alternative but to repair this roof and this work has now been commissioned.

COURSE

Members are reminded that currently we have five areas that have been marked as ground under repair on the course:

1. The first fairway (150yards short of the green)
2. The fourth fairway
3. The sixth fairway
4. The ninth fairway from the bottom of the hill
5. The seventeenth fairway

Players must take relief from these areas, even if they are using a mat, in the semi rough at the side nearest where the ball lay.

It is hoped that this action will allow these "hot spots" to recover before the start of next season and therefore there should be no requirement to make mats compulsory this winter.

The exception to this rule will be the January and February Medals and the three Winter League Matches due to be played during this period.

The course has now been re-rated as Standard Scratch 72 from the new tees (6597 yards). All Men's competitions will now be played off the new tees. Dispensation has been given by the SGU in relation to the location of the 17th tee, where this may be moved forward to the existing location in the event of winds in excess of 15 mph from a westerly direction being forecast. This is at the discretion of the Head Greenkeeper. In this case the Standard Scratch score will remain at 72.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Scott Knowles**, a member of Dunbar's successful Winter League Team, who has now been appointed Captain of the Scottish International Team. This is a major achievement for Scott and obviously as a member of the Club it also brings great credit to Dunbar Golf Club. In 2009 and 2010 Scott's responsibilities will include

The Home Internationals at Hillside, England 26-28th August 2009

The European Men's Amateur Championship, at Conwy, Wales 30th June-4th July 2009

The Home Internationals at Ashburnham, Wales 11th-13th August 2010

The European Men's Amateur Championship in Sweden 6th -10 July 2010 and

The defence of the Eisenhower Trophy in Buenos Aires, Argentina 28th-31st October 2010.

One interesting point is that the European Men's Amateur in Wales is being played on the course on which Scott got his first cap for Scotland in the Home Internationals in 1990.

The whole Club wishes Scott all the very best in his new role.

Congratulations are also due to **Jacky Montgomery** who will be taking over as the Captain of the Scottish Professional Golfers Association from the 10th March 2009 for a period of 2 years.

Jacky has been involved with the Scottish PGA Committee for several years now and his new role will see him as a figurehead for the PGA in Scotland. He will be a point of contact and representative for the 700 plus PGA Golf Professionals in Scotland. In his official capacity he will also attend the flagship events on the Scottish PGA Tartan Tour, these will include the SPGA Championship at Gleneagles, the Northern Open at Spey Valley and the Scottish Assistants Championship. Along with several of his fellow SPGA committee members Jacky will have responsibility for the continued development of sponsorship opportunities for events on the Tartan Tour and in the winter months for arranging new and innovative Continued Personal Development seminars for SPGA members in Scotland.

It is a great honour for Jacky to be elected Captain of the Scottish PGA and I am sure that he is looking forward to the role immensely, Jacky would also like to assure Dunbar members that whilst he may be away from the Club at times on Scottish PGA business the service that he and his staff provide for the members will in no way be effected.

LENGTHENING OF LADIES TEES

Representation to the Ladies Committee has been received regarding concerns on the lengthening of the course for lady members by extending the teeing grounds at certain holes. The Ladies Committee discussed this and, in agreement with Council, agreed that the proposed alterations to the ladies tees should not be implemented this coming season as originally intended thereby allowing the Ladies Committee time to reconsider these changes in light of the concerns that have been expressed.

During this season the marker posts will remain in place to give the ladies an opportunity to play from this point during 'bounce' games and comment accordingly. This will then allow the Ladies Committee to come to an informed decision regarding implementation of the changes for the following season.

EAST LoTHIAN LADIES COUNTY 5 A-SIDE COMPETITION A HISTORY AND PROGRESS SO FAR

Within East Lothian, there is already a Sime Salver Match Play competition which targets ladies with handicaps between 10 and 20, but nothing which was specific to the lower handicap players.

Therefore in 2007 a 5 a-side scratch Match Play competition, played between the East Lothian Clubs was set up and is now organised by the East Lothian Ladies County Golf Association. East Lothian has never before had this type of competition running within the County, although this type of competition has run successfully for a number of years within Midlothian and other counties. The idea of this tournament is to promote more match play in the County and hopefully give match play experience to up and coming players.

At this stage the 5 a-side competition within East Lothian is still evolving and a framework has been set up which will allow Dunbar Golf Club to progress and also accommodate any possible future variations within the East Lothian arrangements. The Dunbar Ladies Committee have therefore decided that a sub committee be set up to build and consolidate on our success in gaining promotion to Division 1 in 2008. This committee consists of:

- Convenor Viv Skinner
- Selector Alison Smith
- Lady Captain Janette Main
- Vice Captain Sue McKane

And has been given the following objectives:

- Support the East Lothian County remit of “Promoting more match play in the County and hopefully give match play experience to our up and coming players”
- Consolidate our position within Division 1 and
- Encourage progression to playing at County level

The sub committee will be reviewed every year by the Ladies Committee although the Lady Captain will change through the natural rotation of the position. The inclusion of the Vice Captain as an ad hoc member allows for a straightforward transition.

LADIES SOCIAL EVENING

A Ladies Social Evening has been arranged for Thursday, 26th March in the Clubhouse (7.00 pm for 7.30 pm) to which all ladies and friends are invited. The evening will consist of a presentation from Julia Ponsford from the House of Colour and there will also be an opportunity to purchase the new spring golfing fashions from Jacky. Tea, coffee sandwiches and cakes will also be available. There will be a poster, within the Ladies Lounge, which will allow Ladies to indicate their attendance on the night.

ENTRY FEES

Council have decided that to encourage more people to join the Club that new members will be allowed to pay the entry fee either in two annual instalments or through fairway credit in instalments. The two year scheme will not attract any interest but the fairway credit payments attract a 7% interest charge. Application forms are available from the bar or the office.

STAFF IN THE OFFICE

Many of you will be aware that Lorna Hann left us in October and Lorna has now been replaced by Nicola Edmonds. Nicola comes from Haddington Golf Club and has mountains of experience of golf club administration and systems similar to those used at Dunbar. Nicola is already proving to be a worthwhile addition to the club admin staff.

PRO AMS

Two Pro-Am’s are proposed to be held this year, the first being the TGI Pro Am in conjunction with the Tartan Tour professionals, to be held as a Shotgun event on the morning of Tuesday 21 April. The second is a Club Pro Am which is programmed for Friday 02 October. Members will be the first to be notified of applications to participate in this event.

TEAM

Having won the League for the last 4 years the team now finds itself dragged into the relegation zone and will have to pull out all the stops to ensure 1st Division status next year.

The current league table is as follows:

**EAST LOTHIAN WINTER LEAGUE
2008-2009
DIVISION 1
as at
02 February 2009**

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Craigielaw	9	8	0	1	31	14	17	16
Haddington	9	6	0	3	27	18	9	12
Tantallon	9	5	0	4	24	21	3	10
Royal Musselburgh	9	4	2	3	23.5	21.5	2	10
Gullane	9	5	0	4	23	22	1	10
Dunbar	9	3	1	5	22.5	22.5	0	7
Glen	9	3	1	5	20.5	24.5	-8	7
Gifford	9	0	0	9	8.5	36.5	-15	0

CLUB GOLF/JUNIOR GOLF

Club Golf and Junior Golf continue to grow, and additional volunteers from members are required to assist with coaching and teaching golf etiquette. Those participating will require to be cleared through Disclosure Scotland, specifically for the Club. Those willing to assist, please contact John Archibald, Club Manager. There was a recent situation where we had to turn down a number of youngster wishing to participate as there were insufficient coaches available and we would prefer if this did not happen again.

COUNCIL

Council have appointed Richard Dickinson as Greens Convenor for the remainder of the year to replace Rob McDonagh. Richard will continue in his role as Finance Convenor in the meantime. Douglas Denholm has been appointed as Junior Convenor. Other appointments are still under consideration.

BOB FERGUSON

Bob is currently on the sick list and may be for some time, we wish him a speedy recovery and in the meantime the bar will remain adequately staffed by Susan, Alison and Kirstin.

BURNS SUPPER

The Burns Supper has been cancelled this year due to lack of support and because of the difficulty in getting performers due to this being the 250th anniversary. The Club are however in the process of trying to book the renowned "*Herber Mooths*" for next years event.

PRESENTATION DINNER DANCE

There are still some places for the above event which takes place on 7 February. Tickets are available from the bar or the office.

BOOKING TIMES FOR TIES

Council have agreed to purchase new administrative software that will allow us to implement an on-line booking system and members will be kept up to date with progress on this issue. Members should note that current arrangements for booking times will remain in place in the meantime. It is hoped that this will be up and running before the start of the coming season.

In the meantime Council have decided to allow members who are trying to book any club ties to do so up to two weeks in advance rather than the current one week. This benefit is only available to members playing club ties.

KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Presentation of Prizes 07th February
- Axtell Medal & Clarkson Shield (Men's Foursomes) 14th March
- TGI Pro-Am 21st April

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Dunbar Golf Club
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