

# DUNBAR GOLF CLUB



## NEWS LETTER

### SEPTEMBER 2008

#### DEERPARK

Progress with the Deer Park enabling project is continuing at pace. Block Plans showing the indicative outline of the different uses in the various areas have been attached to this Newsletter and are on display in the Club House. The Club has engaged Susan Stephen Architects to prepare the outline planning application along with taking planning advice from Iain Gotts Associates. The further outline plans when prepared will then be the subject of in-house road shows at the Club where questions can be asked of the Development Team within the Golf Club and full briefings given. These will be held in October/November prior to presentations to the local community groups and councillors followed by the submission of the planning application.

#### FINANCE

Management reports to the end of July 2008 are broadly satisfactory and in line with budget. There are however some significant variances within the overall figures.

The main variances are as follows:

- Income is down by 4.5%. This is mainly due to a reduction in Green Fee income and bar sales. We are aware many golf clubs have experienced a fall in visiting golfers due to the current economic climate and the exceptionally wet July. Green fee income is normally strong in August and September but we anticipate a further fall during the course of the financial year.
- Whilst bar sales are down for similar reasons, this is offset by a corresponding drop in bar purchases.
- Expenditure is currently running below budget and shows little increase on the previous year despite bank interest charges on the loan for the Deer Park. Last year the Club only incurred 9 months interest charges whereas this year there will be a full 12 month charge.

Looking toward the future, there are two factors which will influence the finances of the Club:

- The current economic climate is having an adverse effect on visitor income. Visitor income represents approximately 25% of the Club's total income.
- Dunbar golf Club purchased the Deer Park on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2006 by way of a bank loan of £1.25m. The term of the loan is 20 years with the first two years being interest only. This means that as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009, the Club is required to commence capital repayments as well as interest. This will add approximately £25k to the Club's costs next year, rising to approximately £33k the following year.

At the time of writing this report, Dunbar Golf Club is on course to report satisfactory results for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

### **WEB SITE**

The Club's new web site is now fully operational and you can view the Gent's results for the year to date on the member's page (Ladies & Junior Results will follow soon). To obtain the Username and Password please contact the office on 01368 862317 or email to [secretary@dunbargolfclub.com](mailto:secretary@dunbargolfclub.com). Please feel free to comment on anything in the web site or if you feel that there is something that can be added to it. We are in the process of trying to develop a page where members will be able to book times and enter competitions "on-line" but this will take a while.

### **THE COURSE**

The course has now been rated for the Ladies Tee and there is no change from the current SSS of 73. The yardage has increased to 5783.

News is still awaited for the men's SSS from the new tees although the current SSS from these tees of 72 will stand until the end of this year.

Council intend to use the new tees for all competitions from next year with the exception of the seventeenth when the wind is forecast to be from a westerly direction and of greater than 15 miles per hour.

The fence surrounding the first tee has now been removed giving a much better view of the course from the clubhouse and the car park. There is no intention to replace this fence.

The micro coring that was carried out in July appears to have been very successful and therefore as expected we will not be hollow coring the greens, as has been done in previous years, this Autumn or indeed in the Spring.

The Greens Staff have been one man down now for several weeks and have been helped by a school leaver, Calum Richardson, during the summer months. A full-time replacement has been appointed and he will start with the Club on 29 September. The name is being withheld at this time to allow him to give notice to his current club.

### **PRACTICE FACILITIES**

Some of you keen ones will have noticed that the practice net only has one side netted; this is due to vandals cutting and removing the nets on several occasions. Council do not at this time intend replacing the nets as these are extremely expensive. As an alternative there is now an indoor facility available behind the new greenkeepers shed and this should be open from first thing in the morning until early evening. Any member finding the door locked should contact the Professional's Shop.

### **THE GRAHAM WOOD TESTIMONIAL**

Members are reminded that this event (A Pro/Celebrity Am) will be taking place on 19 September and that the course will be closed all day on the 19<sup>th</sup> and from 2.30pm on the Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. A silent auction will be held all day and "The Big Auction" will commence around 8.00pm. A list of all auction items and the raffle prizes is attached for your information. Remember you do not have to be playing in the competition to attend the auctions.

The Quiz Night was a fun filled evening with Milne (Magnus) Roberts testing everyone's wits with lots of questions and Bryan Thom and his team providing lots of wonderful food. The evening raised over £800 for the testimonial fund.

The Race Night was also a huge, and exceptionally noisy, event with Alasdair Thornton keeping everyone on their toes with eight races and a backwards bingo session. The Race Night raised over £1500 for the testimonial fund.

### TEAM

The Winter League will defend its title for the fourth consecutive year starting next month and it looks like the first game will be at home to Royal Musselburgh on 5 October.

### KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Finals day 06<sup>th</sup> September
- Open Mixed Foursomes 07<sup>th</sup> September
- Graham Wood Pro/Celeb/Am Testimonial golf event 19<sup>th</sup> September
- Ladies AGM 25<sup>th</sup> September
- Ladies Dinner and Prize Giving 14<sup>th</sup> November
- Gent's Dinner 21<sup>st</sup> November
- Annual General Meeting 06<sup>th</sup> December

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UPDATES WILL BE ISSUED ON A REGULAR BASIS AND CAN BE FOUND ON THE CLUB WEBSITE MEMBERS PAGE.

Web Site: <http://www.dunbargolfclub.com>

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**5 September 2008**