

DUNBAR GOLF CLUB



NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 2008

Graham Wood

Graham remains hospitalised following his stroke in February 2007. We continue to review the situation with Helen regularly. In recognition of his long service to the Club Council have agreed to host a Pro/celebrity Am to raise funds for Graham and his family on 19 September 2008. More details will follow in due course.

Caravan Park

With regard to the caravan site re-location from Barns Ness to Sloe-Bigging, work has commenced and the site is expected to be open around May 2008.

Deerpark

There has been an informal meeting with the Planning Department and Historic Scotland which had proved to be promising with the planner indicating possible areas for development. The Planning Department had now asked for more detailed plans and costings.

Without obligation on either party at this stage we have since met with an architect who has golf club development experience and we have advised them of the proposed position of a new clubhouse, golf academy, access, short course and potential areas for housing, and asked them to produce the required initial information that the Club could take to the Planning Department.

House

The Professionals shop will be painted as soon as the weather improves.

Council have agreed to reinstate the SKY TV package with immediate effect.

Greens

The bog area between the 18th tee and the 1st green requires immediate action and it has been agreed to clear this area and introduce drains around the 1st green to relieve the water level and kill all the bog material that was creeping ever closer to the green.

The Club will in July trial a pencil tining machine to avoid coring on October.

The levelling and reinstatement of the paths between the 6th and 16th greens has commenced.

Members will have noticed a significant amount of water gathering in the some bunkers, whilst a lot of this is due to some exceptional rainfall, there is a problem with the bunkers at the 14th hole. This has been identified as a drain from a burn that used to flow behind the wall at the 8th fairway and the drain (which should flow out to sea via the back of the 14th green) is now blocked. Once the water levels have subsided work will be instructed to find and repair all damage to ensure free flow.

It has been agreed that the new tee at the 6th will be adjusted to re-align the left side more with the left side of the 6th fairway.

All the fencing at the third hole will be removed and replaced with discrete white posts. Members are reminded that this does not open up a short cut to or from the first tee and the path around the third hole and past the first tee must be used at all times

The fencing at the first tee will also be removed once we have found a suitable replacement.

The main reasons for doing this are:

- The fence is unsightly and gives of a bad impression to the visitor on arrival.
- There is a maintenance cost (paint, labour & timber) that can be disposed of.
- This will make the walk to the 4th tee much more straight forward and less tedious.

There will now be no out of bounds behind the green, the out of bounds will now be only down the left hand side of the hole as it is already but it will stop at the wall. The score card will not need amended.

The use of mats will continue until 29 February 2008.

It is intended to do further work on the sea wall in March. Hopefully this will be kept to a minimum this year. We have also installed a trial sea defence in the form of a membrane for a 20 metre section of the 17th fairway.

REPAIRING PITCHMARKS ON THE GREEN

Many members and visitors do not repair pitchmarks on the greens **FACT**

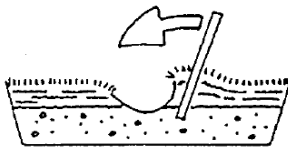
Many members and visitors do not repair pitchmarks properly **FACT**

Because of this the greens are not as smooth as they could be **FACT**

The worst "disease" affecting the greens at present is the high numbers of pitchmarks which are not repaired or are repaired incorrectly the latter being by far the biggest problem. This is very evident on many greens with some so bad that the damaged areas almost dominate the clean areas. The diagram below shows the correct and incorrect methods of repairing a pitch mark.

Please assist by repairing any pitchmark you happen to see on the green – it does not have to be one made by you – a pitchmark repaired takes a fraction of the time to recover than one that has not been repaired does.

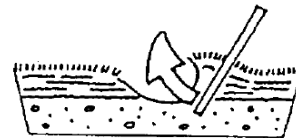
CORRECT METHOD



1. Insert repair tool just outside the back of the pitchmark
2. Pull the turf toward the centre of the mark
3. Repeat on remaining three sides
4. Gently tap required area with putter

This action replaces undamaged turf over the pitchmark providing immediate recovery

INCORRECT METHOD



1. Do NOT pry up the centre of the depression as it exposes the soil and delays recovery
2. Do NOT insert repair tool and twist it as this breaks more turf loose!

Correct repair takes only 15-30 seconds, whilst incorrect repair takes over three weeks to heal!

Winter League

Whilst the team dropped a point at Haddington they have since beaten their old rivals, Craighielaw on their own patch by 3 – 2 and Longniddry at home by 3½ - 1½ and were now 6 points clear at the top of the table.

**EAST LoTHIAN WINTER LEAGUE
2007 - 2008
DIVISION 1
as at
23 January 2008**

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Dunbar	8	7	1	0	27.5	12.5	15	15
Craigielaw	8	4	1	3	24	16	8	9
Tantallon	8	4	1	3	21	19	2	9
Haddington	8	3	1	4	19	21	-2	7
Royal Musselburgh	7	2	2	3	15.5	19.5	-4	6
Longniddry	8	2	2	4	15.5	24.5	-9	6
Kilspindie	7	1	0	6	12.5	22.5	-10	2

New Local Rule

Council has decided to introduce the following local rule:

For all play at Dunbar Golf Club a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, if, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule of Golf 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.

Pro Shop News

We will shortly be sending out an email newsletter with Club Results, Pro Shop News, Tips for better Golf, Equipment Updates and a What's New section. I very much look forward to your feedback on this.

After 4 ½ years at Dunbar **Philip Sadler** is easing back from shop duties as he pursues his teaching on a more full time basis. Philip has been teaching at Duns Driving Range for the last 2 years and he now feels he would like to concentrate on this and also his own playing with a view to playing more competitive golf. Philip will ease out of the Pro Shop picture from mid February but will be available approx 1 to 2 days per week until the end of April for lessons during a transitional phase. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Philip all the very best for the future.

Neil Fenwick has just joined the Pro Shop Team from Kings Acre. Neil is in his first year as a PGA Trainee Assistant. Before turning Professional, Neil played his amateur golf at Baberton Golf Club where he won the Youth Championship twice and the Junior Championship. He also represented the Lothians at under 18 level. This is not Neil's first venture into Professional Sport, he played professional football for Dunfermline Athletic from 2005-07. He captained the Youth Team and the reserves but after Dunfermline were relegated from the Premier League many of their younger players were released. Neil has now

committed himself fully to a career in golf and is looking forward to being part of the Pro Shop Team.

We will have another new face joining us in early Feb, his name is **Richard Cartwright**, a Fully Qualified Assistant Professional, and we will update you with news on Richard once he has started.

2008 Events

We have been contacted by the PGA to host a new assistant's tournament in conjunction with Prestwick St Nicholas, Kings Barns and The Renaissance. The tournament final will be shown on Setanta TV. The Club has already featured in a half page article in the Scotsman newspaper. This tournament will take place on 22 April 2008

Dress Code

Council wish to remind members that they must adhere to the dress code of the Club and must ensure that any guests that are brought to the Club are informed of these before arriving to avoid any possible embarrassment on the course or in the clubhouse. The code is:

Ladies and gentleman using the facilities of the Mixed Lounge and Dining Room are required to be neatly and presentably dressed even though their attire may be casual.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING ARE UNACCEPTABLE ON THE GOLF COURSE OR IN THE MIXED LOUNGE AND DINING ROOM.

**BLUE DENIM JEANS
COLLARLESS & SLEEVELESS SHIRTS
(Other than those designed for golf)
TRACK/SHELL SUITS
UNTAILORED SHORTS/BEACH SHORTS**

Hats should be removed on entering the Clubhouse

Suitable golf footwear must be worn on the golf course, but shoes worn on the course MAY NOT be worn in the Mixed Lounge and Dining Room. This includes Soft Spike golf shoes.

Council reserves the right to decide what constitutes casual dress and the Professional and his staff and members of staff of Dunbar Golf Club have the full support of the Council in enforcing these decisions.

CONGU changes

Nine-hole Qualifying Competitions

These have been introduced by CONGU but at the discretion of the Club. At present Council feel that these are not appropriate to Dunbar Golf Club but perhaps we could develop a nine hole course big enough on the Deer Park to satisfy the requirements in years to come.

Increases and Decreases

It is no longer possible to make the handicap adjustments at the end of a month – we do them immediately anyway.

Open competitions

The Club will have to calculate different CSS scores for every open competition for both "Home" and "Away" players.

Handicap allowances

CONGU have directed handicap differences for competitions – Dunbar apply these anyway.

Checklist for compliance

CONGU have introduced a 21 point checklist which we now comply with. This effectively allows us to run competitions under the auspices of CONGU.

Compressor

Council are investigating the possibility of purchasing a compressor in order that a shoe cleaning facility can be implemented.

Over 30's v Under 30's match

Council are considering holding a match of this sort on 2 January every year.

Administration

Kirsten Thomson is leaving the office to fulfil her dream of travelling the world. A full-time replacement is sought for this position of an Administration Assistant.

Key dates for your diary

- Winter League Match v Royal Musselburgh (A) 27 January 2008
- Presentation Night 02 February 2008
- Winter League Match v Tantallon (H) 17 February 2008

John I Archibald
Club Manager

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

<http://www.dunbargolfclub.co.uk>