

April  
2023

# The Slice!

Issue 6

Tasty portions of Innerleithen club news, served monthly!

Dear reader,

We're more than a month into the new golfing season.... How time flies! We're two rounds into our Championship and Henry Ballantyne qualifying and the first silverware of the season has been played for and won. All draws for our pairs competition are now done and you can see these in the clubhouse or on the club website. Remember, these must be played on time.

Soft fairways and greens appear to be behind us for now, with a noticeable difference in playing conditions over the last few weeks. The committee are progressing with "initial phase" plans around the possibility of our new greenkeepers shed, with rooftop terrace – see below. We have home and away match fixtures against local rivals Peebles on 25<sup>th</sup> May (away) and 8<sup>th</sup> June (home). Get your name up if you wish to be considered. On the subject of competing against our local rivals, congratulations to Captain Keith and his apprentice Craig Archibald who duly dispatched of said rivals in round 2 of the Daily Mail Foursomes (first extra hole!). Well done boys and good luck against The Woll in the next round. Let's get to it.....

Ed



When you're having a bad day on course, take comfort from the fact you're pretty fortunate just to be out and about in such beautiful surroundings!

## Results – April

Henry Ballantyne Qual Rd 1 – Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> April				
Pos		Gross	H/cap	Net
1	Josh Landers	87	19	68
2	Colin McArthur	89	19	70
3	Craig Archibald	84	14	70

The "Henry Ballantyne" is one of the clubs most coveted titles. Qualification to the match play phase is obtained through your best 2 net scores from 3 qualifying rounds. Top 16 players qualify. The mindset generally, is to "get a guid yin in early" and whilst everybody tried, most failed! Scoring on the first day of the new season was fairly high with the days average from 38 golfers being net 78, not including the 5 NR's. The lowest scratch score of the day was posted by Lyle



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Caine, who did remarkably well to screw up an otherwise very tidy round of golf with a “bogey bogey bogey” finish.

Taking third place was newly in post handicap secretary, Craig (Scrog) Archibald. A solid net 70 was good enough to secure “a podium finish” (bih) from Caravan Kid Boak who lived to rue his double bogey 7 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Ed caught up with Craig recently and voiced his concern around the fact he appeared to have aged somewhat since taking on his new role. Scrog confirmed it was “a wee bit stressful” but commented that Gibby had put at least 3 years on him during the recent Daily Mail Foursome match v Peebles!

Taking second place was Ex-Captain Colin McArthur. Colin started his round very well..... Now, everybody has a “bogey hole” and Colin is no different! Unbelievably, Colin got a par 3 at “the hill” (Ed had to double check this 😊). Rumour has is he was so excited by this, that he played the hole twice second time around, which accounts for his treble bogey 6!!! Colin recovered well and finished strongly, thus taking second (bih).

Ed commented that we all look forward to more good golf from Josh come the new season and the young man didn’t put off time! Josh gave away several shots around the loop, but from the 4<sup>th</sup> onwards, played some impressive golf. A birdie at 10 was followed by several pars on the back 9, which resulted in Josh posting the best score of the day and an early lead in qualification for the knock out stage..... well done!

### **Texas Scramble - Open**

Our Texas Scramble – Open, was held on 8<sup>th</sup> April. With over 30 visitors to the course, this was a huge success for our club. We received excellent feedback (Eg. David Birtley emailed the club: *“Hi, can you please pass on my highest praise to all involved at your expertly run golf club. Very friendly and welcoming members and a wonderful course in brilliant condition. Me and my playing partners will definitely be back”* We pride ourselves being a friendly and welcoming club and this is down to you, our members – thank you.

Although we didn’t produce the wining team there were some notable performances from our members. Lowest scratch score of the day (62) came from MacFarlane, Caine (L) and Archibald. 6 birdies and one eagle gave them 3<sup>rd</sup> place. McArthur, Robertson (PP) and Foster who shot a scratch score “around about” their average age (68) 😊. Superb golf from our seniors, however it wasn’t quite enough for the win, which went to our visitors Codona, Docherty and Nailen from combined clubs in North Lanarkshire with an outstanding net 53!

April Medal – Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> April				
Pos		Gross	H/cap	Net
1	Bob Kennedy	85	19	66
2	Jack Philip	72	5	67
3	Scott MacFarlane	77	9	68

The April Medal was sponsored by Craig Archibald - thanks Craig! This medal was also the first round of Championship Qualifying. Early morning frost meant that all players tee’d off from the 6<sup>th</sup> hole. This seemed to put pressure on some with mutterings of “a diny like this as the 1st” and “al end up ower the road or up the hill” etc etc!!!....

Scottie MacFarlane has been playing some consistent golf of late and playing his last six holes in “one under” ensured he hit the crossbar for Super Medal qualification but took third on the day and a solid championship qualifying score.



Young Jacks round was pretty uneventful, but very good! A level par back nine for a scratch 72 securing second place, Super Medal Qualification and top of the standings in Championship Qualifying. Well done Jack.

Ed had the pleasure of playing with the days winner, Bob Kennedy who did a fantastic job of talking himself out of any respectable score on his first hole of the day (6<sup>th</sup>) before a blow was struck!! Bob holed a four footer to avoid double figures on his opening hole, however this proved to be no bad thing. Bob relaxed into his round and hit some superb golf shots. Distance is no issue for Big Bob and the eradication of the odd loose shot from the fairway will pay dividends in his tidy short game. There are undoubtedly several more good scores to come. Well done Bob.

Ford Trophy – Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> April				
Pos		Gross	H/cap	Net
1	Scott Boak	83	17	66
2	Colin McArthur	85	18	67
3	Alan Dick	94	25	69

The competition for our first silverware of the year was dominated by our seniors. Dickie took third from Rendle (4<sup>th</sup>) who once again made an arse of the back nine, thus ensuring he was out of contention for any bih.

With a superb net 67 was Colin McArthur and special mention must be made of his birdie 2 and par 3 at the “hill” ..... he’s cracked it 😊. Well done Colin.

The Caravan Kid, Scott, played solid from start to finish and posted round of the day to collect the Ford Trophy and a lovely trophy it is too! Well done Scott, indeed well done to the entire “Senior podium”. The boys agreed to head out for a few beers in celebration of their joint achievement. Rumour has it they ended up in a wee spot of bother later that day! Ed has managed to obtain photographic evidence of said bother.....



Henry Ballantyne Qual Rd 2 – Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> April				
Pos		Gross	H/cap	Net
1	David Philip	70	5	65
2	Richard Quinn	87	22	65
3	David Thom	76	9	67



A big field fought it out in round 2 of the Henry Ballantyne with some good golf on display with the top 10 all posting net sub 70 scores, indeed places 4 through 10 all scored excellent 69's. This left handicap secretary Archibald in a bit of a pickle, as he commented innocently that it's been years since he's seen that many 69's!

In third place was David Thom. It's good to see David amongst the prizes and with a very tidy and repeatable golf swing, we should be seeing more of this over the coming months. David's 67, coupled with his first round score, place him nicely in the qualifying position of 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

Teeing off in the afternoon alongside Phaupy and Notty, was Richard Quinn. Rumours were circulating on course about a front nine of 39 by Richard, followed by a solid loop to start the back nine! A few dropped shots over the last few holes did little to detract from an outstanding net 65. Brilliant golf Richard and keep it up! Meanwhile, going about his business quietly on course was.....

Davie Philip! 4 bogeys and 3 birdies on his front 9 had Davie out in 36. Two birdies on his back nine brought him back under par for a level par 70. The best scratch score of the season and deserving of first place. A relaxed approach to the game and arguably the "tidiest" swing on display at the club.... not a bad combo. Great golf Davie, well done!

## Greenkeepers Shed/Roof Terrace

As we all know, the current greenkeepers shed at the top of the course requires to be replaced. A straight replacement on it's existing site makes no financial sense, given we do not own this land. The opportunity to provide a substantial (and safe) structure for our green staff, with the advantage of a large outdoor terraced seating area for our members was very much the brainchild of our Captain Keith and one he is keen to see through.

A small sub-committee have been working behind the scenes, in liaison with an architect to discuss various options. Plans remain at an early stage, however we are now in a position where we have initial drawings we can share with you. It is important that you, the membership, are included in developments throughout and have the opportunity to see and hear what options there are. To that end, we intend having an open afternoon/evening in the near future. We will give a presentation and all members will have the opportunity to see/hear our plans and ask any questions. In the meantime, we are excited to share with you a few of the initial drawings to give you an early indication of what we think would be of benefit to, not only the green staff, but the members:



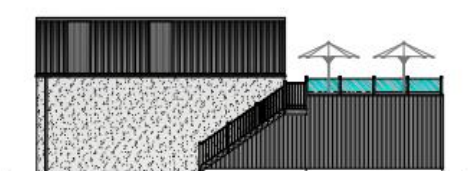
View from north approach



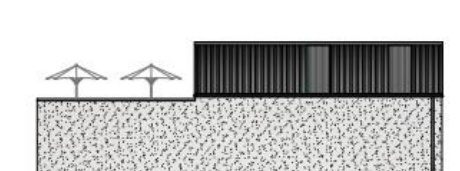
View from south approach



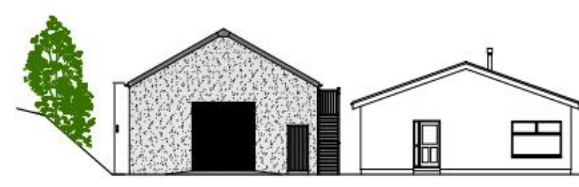
South Elevation as Proposed  
Scale 1:100



West Elevation as Proposed  
Scale 1:100



East Elevation as Proposed  
Scale 1:100



North Elevation as Proposed  
Scale 1:100



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## Ralf the "Rules Rat"



Not so much rules this month, but advice that is sound,  
A gentle reminder, to complete your round!

There has been a marked increase in the volume of NR's in recent weeks. As such, the handicap committee have asked Ralf to publish a brief reminder to all members that you require to complete your round, even if you're having a bad day on course, unless you have a **valid** reason. Valid reasons for an NR, may include things like injury, illness, fading light at dusk, or a home or work emergency, **not** for eg. "I'm having a howler so I'm off to catch the second half"! If you fail to complete one particular hole you should still complete the remainder of your round.

This issue is under discussion and further details will be published to all members in due course. In the meantime, please complete your round. Thank you.

## Player of The Month



Once again, this was the selection committees most difficult task of the month. After much deliberation, the committee were unable to split the two main contenders. Colin (bridesmaid) McArthur with his two second place finishes was looking like adding another to his record this month.... Until the committee dipped into the Senior April Medal results to see the bridesmaid sitting top of the tree with an excellent net 63.

Sarah Glendinning has been playing some excellent golf this month with wins in both the Ladies Stableford and 3 Club Challenge adding strength to the theory that less is often more.... and at a full 4 foot 10 inches in heels, the wee pocket rocket is indeed testament to that! 😊 (We will hopefully include a round up of the ladies section in the next edition).

So, for the first time, this prestigious award is split between Sarah and Colin. Well played guys.

## Seniors Section

The April Seniors Medal held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April saw a healthy entry of twenty three, six of whom returned net scores under par off the white tees. Mike Veitch was Mr Steady Eddie in carding a 76 (lowest gross score) for net 67 and 3rd place. Scott Boak was left to rue a sclaff into the Leithen on the 17th when going very well. His triple bogey 8 on that hole spoiled an otherwise excellent card of 82 net 64. But this fell one short of Ian Robertson who took the spoils with a tip-top round of 80, net 63. Well done "PP"!



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The Seniors played their annual match vs Peebles Seniors at Innerleithen on Wednesday 26th April with the match blessed by fine weather and finishing in a draw. Nicholson & Rorrison kicked things off by issuing a dog licence to their opponents. That's 7&6 for those unfamiliar with bingo calls (which is what a dog licence used to cost in old money). The two Jims, Callan & Nicol, lost 1 down on the 18th, then Waddell & Pendreigh unfortunately let slip a dormie 3 lead to finish all-square. Hadi & Roy also tied and with Boak & Kelly winning 4&2, it all came down to the final match where Sewell & Dick lost 1 down on the 18th. That left the match tied 3-3.

Thanks to Brenda at The 19th Hole for the provision of pre-match tea and coffee and to her, Gus and Danni for an excellent post-match lunch, sending all players home well sated.

### Course Report

During May the bunkers will be maintained. This will involve them being edged and topped up with sand. The trees on the course will be trimmed, especially on the 8th to improve visibility from the tee. The BT cable damage will be repaired, this will involve removing stones, lifting low areas and applying sand and seed. The fairways will continue to be patched and any protruding stones will be removed. Fairway distance markers will be tidied up. The fairways will be sprayed with a selective weedkiller to get rid of weeds, mainly daisies. Burns, paths and tree surrounds will also be sprayed. In June we will be into the full summertime maintenance program. Autumn 2023 – we hope to verti-drain and core all greens.

### In Other News

**Bonus Ball:** Still running and please continue to support. Brenda is all over it (Thanks Brenda 😊) however if Brenda is busy, as she often is, don't be shy in asking for "a shot".

#### **ANOTHER Hole in One:**

Phaupy holed out in 1 at the 5<sup>th</sup> during the April midweek medal. This was shaping up to be a fantastic round with the big fella "2 under" with 6 to play. Don't ask.....!

This is Phaupy's 10<sup>th</sup> career hole in 1! Three of these within the last 10 months (Championship Final, Turkey Tour and this one). A tremendous achievement. Ed had the privilege of witnessing the Turkey Tour hole in one. (See images below in chronological order):



"Yes, its mine"



Fair chuffed



Still semi-sensible



Oh dear!  
(Zoom in at your own risk)



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## Future Competitions/Events

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Medal – Championship Qualifier – 3<sup>rd</sup> and final round

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Jock Hailstones Scramble

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Senior Pairs Open

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May:

Henry Ballantyne Round 3

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May:

Ladies Championship Qualifier

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May:

Andrew Robertson Bogey

Reminder: Midweek medal/eclectic are now in full flow. We hope to see a good turnout in the weeks to come as the lighter nights make an appearance.