

January
2023

The Slice!

Issue 3

Tasty portions of Innerleithen club news, served monthly!

Dear reader,

I can't believe we're at the end of January already! For a month that usually drags on a bit, it seems to have flown in. Thankfully we've had reasonable weather with only round 6 of the winter stableford series being put back one week due to snow and ice. The temperature is set to remain mild over the next fortnight so this weekend's medal and round 7 of the winter series look set to go ahead! We have a new feature this month in the form of a wee "rhyming composition", which is set to feature for several months. The results roundup thus far has focused on Saturday Competitions, however this month's edition includes a roundup of the first phase of the ladies winter league. The results section will hopefully develop as we head into summer golf. If anyone has any suggestions for things they'd like included, or if there are any funny stories (please don't let the truth get in the way of a good story 😊), then please get in touch. Hope you enjoy the January edition of "The Slice"

Ed



Results – January

(New Year Greensome missed the cut for the December edition)

New Year Greensome 31 st Dec				
Pos		Gross	H/cap	Net
1	C Phaup & C Archibald	74	8	66
2	G Nicholson & M Veitch	76	9	67
3	I Stewart & S Boak	83	14	69

Five pairs fought it out for glory in the last competitive golf of 2022. In third place (bih) were Ian Stewart and Scott Boak. A bad run of bogeys from the 12th onwards put paid to their chances of victory, however a solid net 69 was good enough for 3rd.

The combination of Nicholson and Veitch, two of the clubs most consistent players, must surely have felt confident as they tee'd it up. The pair lived up their pre-tournament favourite status, going through the first 7 holes, 2 under par. Into a "stiff" breeze, they dropped shots on 8 and 9 to turn in level par. A steady run of pars to the 15th saw them odds on "in play", however a trio of bogeys to finish took the shine off what was a more than decent 67 in tricky conditions.

The door was left open for the dynamic duo of Phaup and Archibald. The pair turned in 36 and started the back 9 with 5 straight pars. They broke the trend in some fashion with a birdie on 15. A further par at Lee Pools was followed by a brace of bogeys to finish, confirming the strength of the wind on the way in. Despite this, an excellent net 66 was good enough for a victorious ending to 2022. Well done lads.

January Medal – Sat 7 th Jan				
Pos		Gross	H/cap	Net
1	Brian Slow	77	13	64
2	Alan Dick	88	22	66
3	Michael Veitch	76	9	67

The January medal saw a bigger turnout of members than several of the summer medals last year. This is great to see and is testament to the current condition of the course, as well as presumably, a desire to secure early qualification to the super medal. Securing 3rd place just ahead of Grant (Whitey) White, was Mike Veitch. Veitchy secured 3rd by virtue of a better inward half and a very tidy inward half it was, with 2 bogeys and 2 birdies for a level par back nine of 35. Mike was interviewed after his round and he described how he'd been relaxing over the festive period, whilst watching the World Darts Championship on the TV and was reminiscing about the time he was winning darts matches on the world stage. He explained that this reinstalled in him the will to win again and his golf throughout January proves he's back on form.....

It's great to see Alan Dick (Dickie) back in the prize list. Dickie has won his fair share of silverware over the years and a return to form is welcomed. Gone are the days where Dickie could hit it 200 yards plus with ease, however his accuracy and short game have diminished little. Those who know Dickie will be aware that he has this amazing foresight of being able to know he's going to hit a particular shot, before he does so.... Usually a crap one! But during this round there was very little in terms of crap shots, indeed some excellent golf saw Dickie post a net 66. Well done Dickie and we look forward to more good golf during the summer.

Score of the day was posted early doors. Brian Slow was in fine form and a solid par at the 1st set the tone of his round. A further par 4 on the long 3rd hole finished a good "loop". The few holes that followed saw Brian drop a few shots but this didn't detract from a solid front nine. Brian started the back 9 with birdies on the 10th and 11th and held this form for the remainder of his round. His only other blemish came at the last when, presumably his snack of choice at the turn was starting to wear off!! An excellent back nine of 36 gave Brian a fantastic score of net 64. Great golf Brian and feel free to contact "Ed" (privately) to share what snack you enjoyed at the turn 😊.

Winter Stableford Rd 5 – Sat 14 th Jan				
Pos		Pts	H/cap	
1	C Phaup	44	5	
2	J Landers	42	24	
3	S Boak	41	18	

In third place was the “Caravan Kid”, Scott Boak. There was nothing too eventful during Scott’s round. Just solid golf from start to finish. When in the zone, Scott’s long game is something to behold and he hits the ball with some style. The only thing letting down said “style” is the manky towel always hanging from his waist belt, but who cares about that when you can score 41 points.

It wouldn’t be an edition of the slice without young Josh featuring in the prize list. A birdie at “the hill” was the highlight of his front nine, however the back nine is a more accurate reflection of what is to come from Josh. A bogey, birdie, bogey start to the back nine was followed by straight pars through to 17. Josh would rue dropped shots over the last two holes, however another grand total of 42 points would be good enough for 2nd.

In need of a good series score was Craig Phaup and boy, did he post in style. A shot by shot account of the round was conveyed to “Ed” personally and will not be required here, however specific mention must be made of the front 9. Phaupy started with a tap in par at the 1st. Driver was the club of choice on the 2nd tee and it was “flushed” to the centre of the green. The putt for eagle was duly holed. His only blemish of the front nine came at the third as a consequence of a 3 putt. Birdies followed at the 4th and 5th and a missed birdie putt on 6 seen him remain at -3. After a par on 7, Phaupy stood on the 8th (downwind) in the knowledge it was another solid birdie chance. A good drive left him 245 yards to the middle. A preferred lie secured a nice spot from which to flush his driver for a second time and the remaining 12 foot eagle putt was holed with confidence. Standing on the 9th tee -5, another good drive was hit, leaving a wedge from 125 yards. Not his best wedge shot, but it left a 15 foot putt for a front nine of 29. The putt shaved the edge and the tap in par was good enough to turn in 30. Good golf by anyone’s standards. A birdie at 10 sent him -6 and thoughts of breaking his own course record of 64 must have been in his mind. A couple of dropped shots on 12 and 15 into the wind are forgivable and so, the course record of 64 remains! Well played Phaupy and more importantly, it’s a decent score for the series 😊

Winter Stableford Rd 6 – Sat 28 th Jan				
Pos		Pts	H/cap	
1	G White	45	13	
2	C Rendle	41	5	
3	K Dunn	39	10	

Taking 3rd place in round 6 of the series was a player who seldom does anything wrong. The ball doesn’t go far in the air, but it goes long enough... and straight! A plethora of pars, spoiled only by a smattering of bogeys was good enough for Keith Dunn to secure a very good 39 points.

The same could be said about the scoring of the days second placed golfer with his fair share of pars. Two holed birdie putts of similar length on 17 and 18 put the finishing touches on a solid round but his total of 41 was nowhere near good enough to challenge the ever-improving Whitey.....

A double bogey 5 at the 7th (Lee Pools) tarnished an otherwise faultless front nine. Lee Pools seems to be Whiteys “bogey hole” (or double/triple bogey hole if you remember reading the December edition!!). His only dropped shots on the back nine came around the loop and straight pars from 13 through 18 saw his back nine of 37 match his front nine. Scratch 74 and good enough for 45 points (again). In all seriousness, it’s great to see Whitey playing such consistently good golf on a well presented course, on which he’s had influence. Whitey makes no secret of his desire to reduce his handicap to single figures and that’s great to see. It can be said with a degree of certainty that it’s only a matter of time. Well done!

Ladies Section – Winter League

The ladies section at the club is thriving with currently, 18 ladies competing in the winter league, with the first phase running from October to December. The ladies compete in small teams of mixed abilities and were beaten by the weather on only one occasion!

Coming out on top with an accumulative score of 325 and proving that a combination of youth and “experience” works best, were the team of Grace Turnbull, Sarah Glendinning, Mary Brannan and Kim Robertson. The youngest player on this winning team is the ever improving 15 year old, Grace. I won’t mention the oldest player out of respect..... (but Kim at 84 years young is an inspiration and what a season she’s had – as will be demonstrated at presentation night).

There were individual prizes over the series and sharing the honours, *both* with excellent totals of 162, were Sarah Glendinning and Linda Peebles. Well done ladies!

As we head towards spring, the ladies will continue with the second phase of their weekly eclectic, which incorporates their “single putt competition” keeping them focused for season the ahead.

Player of The Month



This months selection has been the toughest so far. A strong case could be made for Brian Slow with his excellent net 64 in the monthly medal. A weaker case, but a case nonetheless could be made for Mike Veitch for consistently good golf throughout the month, however Veitchy himself would be unlikely to accept this prestigious honour in the absence of an actual victory.

Once the above named had been removed from the melting pot, it left two. Whitey and Phaupy. The former would have been deserving of the title and as stated by Ed last month, he will undoubtedly receive this award in the months to come. However, due his fine score in round 5 of the winter series, as well as his victory in the New Year Greensome, which made this month’s edition of The Slice, POTM for January is Phaupy. Well done big fella.

A Round at "The Golfie"

At our gorgeous wee gem, golf is not always pretty,
I'm sure you'll relate, to our new monthly "ditty"



Up Leithen Road and ower the bridge, a glance down at the 1st flag,
Intae the car park and find a space, time tae unload the bag.

A wander across, hit a few in the net, a practice putt or two,
A quick bit banter, grab a card, as next on the tee is you!

A 7 or 8, a 9 or a wedge? For some, it's even a "wid",
The club of choice matters not, as long as you hit it "guid".

Up the new path, and onto the tee, whae is it tae go?
Crack on if yer ready comes the reply, you can hit the first blow!

A check up an doon, the road is clear, you're ready now tae strike.
"Haud on the now" is what you're told, there's an arsehole on a bike!

Now it's clear, you're at address, in full competition mode,
You slice the thing with all your might.... It's heading for the road!

"Hit the verge" or "get right ower" in hope more than expectation.
The 65 you had in mind, is now met with deflation.

The others play, there's one on the green, the other's in the burn.
Time to reload, now just ca' canny, you've got another turn!

It's short and left, it's not your best, but certainly not your worst,
You can tell the grandkids someday, how you laid up at the first!

You chip it on, get the putter going, the long game you can sort,
But no.... you hit a wee "John Adams" Only twae rolls short!

A six it is, don't lose the heid, your partner gets a three,
Park yer clubs and up the stairs, onto the second tee. TBC.....

Course Report

Ed has managed to get a copy of the Greenkeepers monthly report so can pass on the following relevant information to members:

The area disrupted by the BT cable remains GUR. In the absence of anything meaningful coming from the contractors who caused this damage the length of the 4th & 8th fairways, a contingency plan is in place to repair this ourselves.

The area immediately to the right of the 4th green will be hollow tined, overseeded and top-dressed.

Winter program – 9th area. The bare areas will be filled with cores in the spring.

Ralf the “Rules Rat”



Whilst ratting around on the 9th, I was asked...

My opinion on, a worm-cast.

I told this member, my research would commence,

And was of the belief, I'd may be stuck on the fence!

So, I believe there has been some discussion on the rule around wormcasts and whether or not these can be removed under certain circumstances. To be clear, wormcasts are “loose impediments”.

*By definition, “Loose impediments are unattached natural objects like stones, loose grass, leaves, branches, pine needles, clumps of compacted soil (including aeration plugs), etc. Dead animals, worms, insects and other similar animals that can be removed easily, and the mounds or webs they build (such as **worm casts** and ant hills), are also loose impediments.”*

The rules of golf state “you can move loose impediments out of your way without penalty”

More specifically, lets take a look at the following scenario at Innerleithen: You come up 12 feet short of the green at 9 with your second shot, but decide you're going to putt as opposed to chip onto the green. You require to putt over the fairway/fringe and there is a worm cast on the fairway, directly on your intended putting line. CAN YOU REMOVE THE WORMCAST?

Answer: YES

Furthermore, “you can remove loose impediments by any means”. Use your putter, hand, feet etc as you please.

I'm aware this has been subject of some discussion amongst members who are pretty diligent when it comes to the rules of golf and look forward to some discussion on this! Ralf's rationale is that a wormcast is a loose impediment. You can move any loose impediment “out of your way” and as such, the removal of the wormcast in these circumstances can be done without penalty. This of course, is different from patting down areas of longer grass or removing some nice growing daisies, which might prevent you holing out from off the green 😊

The “19th Hole”

Is now open! Everyone at the club would like to welcome Brenda and her team. Brenda was persuaded by Captain Keith to open slightly earlier than she had planned and such, was serving our members throughout the day on Saturday. Brenda is excited about her new venture and I guarantee a warm welcome awaits not only our members, but also townsfolk and visitors to the area. Further details will be published in next months edition, once Brenda and her team find their feet but for now, welcome! We wish you the very best.

Future Competitions/Events

Saturday 4th February:

February medal. There are no times available in the morning and the afternoon is filling up. It's great to see BRS full like this. If you're looking for a time, please check BRS in the hope that someone withdraws!

Also, Saturday 4th February:

We will be showing Scotlands opening 6 Nations Fixture “Live” in the clubhouse. BARC Travel are running a taxi so no worries about driving. Stovies will be served and as an extra treat, we'll have live commentary throughout from ex-Scotland Internationalist “Buttons” Lunn 😊

Saturday 11th February:

Round 8 – Winter Stableford Series

Sunday 12th February

AGM – 1500 hrs at Clubhouse

Saturday 18th February:

Round 9 – Winter Stableford Series

Saturday 25th February:

Texas Scramble – 3 person team

Also on Saturday 25th February:

Presentation night. Tickets priced at £15 (including food and entertainment) are **available NOW** from the clubhouse. All trophies are now engraved and ready!