

The McDivot

Innerleithen Golf Club Newsletter

2017



Upcoming Events

25 th March	Captain vs Vice Captain (9.00am) followed by Presentation Day (2.00pm)
1 st April	Ford Trophy
8 th April	April Medal
15 th April	Henry Ballantyne Qualifier Round 1
21 th April	Rosie Bowl
22 th April	Henry Ballantyne Qualifier Round 2
30 th April	ABC and Pairs entry closing date (see noticeboard)

The above is a small selection of available Gents, Ladies and Senior competitions. All upcoming competitions available via BRS.

Welcome

Welcome to the 2017 edition of our annual club newsletter.

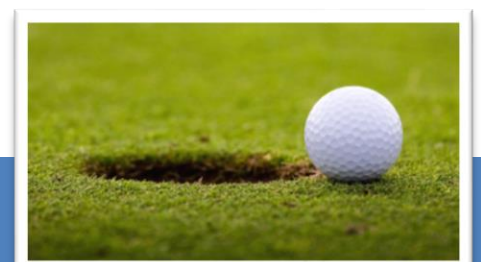
When we first (re)introduced the McDivot newsletter we had hoped to make this a quarterly publication. However, following feedback and review, we have decided to move to an annual newsletter summarizing the year past and looking forward to the year ahead.

In this edition we are pleased to bring you:

- Captain's message
- House Report
- Catering
- Greens Report
- Treasurers Report
- Social trip
- Competition results for season
- Change of Rules Consultation

Hopefully everyone has received the membership pack, which includes 2 vouchers for a four ball at Innerleithen to use as you wish.

Please get in touch if you have not received this yet.



Don't forget to keep an eye out on our website for full and up-to-date information on the club and course.

Captain's Message

Dear Member

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome old and new members to my first year as Captain of Innerleithen Golf Club.

We are facing some challenging times with our membership dropping on average 15% over the last few years.

To try and help combat this we are hoping to improve the golfing experience for members and visitors alike. We have Dawn and Linda in place to take on the catering franchise and I would encourage all members to take advantage of this facility as it will need to be financially viable to continue.

I also acknowledge that the course struggled early in the season last year and we hopefully have things in place to avoid any such problems this year. I would however encourage everyone to repair tees, divots and pitch marks and this in turn let's our Greens staff concentrate on more important jobs.



We are also hoping to organize some social events this year so once again any support would be appreciated.

I would also like to be able to regularly email the membership with news of events and would therefore ask you to make sure you have registered on the club's BRS Members booking form at

https://www.brsgolf.com/innerleithen/user_admin.php?stage=Register

If you have any ideas which may improve our club please do get in touch with myself or any other committee member.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and successful 2017 season.

Raymond Caine

Captain.

House

The past year has seen several new innovations including a new and more extensive vending machine, improved club house lighting, a defibrillator and a plinth/stroke honesty box housing the computer and completed competition cards.

The direct access to the computer allows members to record their scores electronically on the Handicap-master system and view up to date results. It also cuts down the administration of competitions.

The BRS booking system goes from strength to strength and has allowed us to extend online forward tee time reservations. Tee off times for Open events are now available from the start of the season. We would like to encourage members to book "bounce games" on line as this very much helps us monitor the usage of the course.

The web cam facility has been welcomed by both members and visitors and allows five different views of the course. It can be found via the club website under the heading club and course. We have plans to extend this facility.

A very successful mountain bike event took place in July and we are exploring closer links with the biking community for usage of the club and parking areas.

Other developments for this year include a "Fly Over" video of the course which will be available via the web site and a new club brochure to be placed in tourist offices, hotels and local business'.

The biggest improvement comes with the re-introduction of a catering service for members and visiting parties. This will commence as of the 4th March and will focus on Saturdays and larger events. See sample menu on this page.

Several functions are planned including annual presentation and Captain v Vice Captain match, (25th March), open to all members and the Monday Morning Group AGM (27th March). All members who have reached the 65+ years are welcome to join this vibrant social group who play on Monday mornings.

We are investigating new funding opportunities and closer links with other clubs and would welcome any suggestions.

Noel Dashwood-Brady

House Convenor

Catering

We are delighted to welcome Dawn and Linda, who will be providing catering for the new season on a trial basis.

A sample menu available to members (a more comprehensive menu is available for visiting parties and events):

- Soup and roll or crusty bread £2.00
- Cheeseburger £2.00
- Hot filled rolls £1.70 (one filling) £2.00 (two fillings). *Sausage, Bacon, Black pudding, Haggis, Egg.*
- Cold filled rolls from £1.50 (one filling) £1.80 (two fillings). *Cheese, tuna, ham, onion, tomato, pickle.*
- Sandwiches or toasted sandwiches £2.00
- Paninis and crisps £2.30



Greens Report

After a challenging period last year, our main priorities for 2017 are the putting greens.

As well as seeking to maintain and improve their quality, we are looking to enlarge some of them.

Drainage work on and around the 6th green continues, where we will shortly be burying pipes deeper and laying gravel.

Areas of tiger rough have been returned to rough in areas around the course, particularly on the 3rd and 6th.

We are looking to improve and enhance paths for buggy access, and this work has begun.

Finally, we will be looking to address the much promised work on the 9th Tee, with budget made available for this.

Treasurer

Unfortunately we have seen a reduction in members again this past year, (we have just 146 members in all categories) which led to a loss of approx £5000 of income. However, a combination of the £1000 sink fund, £1460 of donations from members, and an increase in green fees has meant the cost of running the club was covered.

Despite a bad start, the improved condition of the course in July onwards lead to an increase in visitors and thus income.

Expenditure was kept under good control- the vending machine had to be replaced, a new plinth for the club computer and sand boxes were purchased . The course upkeep was £3681 & the fairway cutter repair cost £1500 . The spending on the course was on budget, but the fairway cutter machine repair was more than budgeted for.

Club costs are expected to be around £60,0000 for the coming year - members fees will need to be increased to run the club , any donations are a bonus. A planned budget at the same level as last year, with no cuts to the spend on the course, is the aim .

I wish all members good luck and every success in the new season

Keith Dunn, Treasurer

Getting Social at Castle Park

Members enjoyed their annual social outing as Castle Park, near Gifford, welcomed us this year past.

The course offered some challenging golf, particularly on the more established back 9 – the par three 12th quite possibly the steepest hole in Scotland, making our walk up to the Innerleithen 12th tee seem like a mere flat stroll!

As some will be aware, the course closed last year, and has now been purchased by an ex member. They do not currently have greenkeepers, solely reliant on volunteers, and unfortunately this did show on some of the slow greens. However, it did not distract from a thoroughly enjoyable day both on the course and in the clubhouse.



Winner for the day was Tony Farndon, managing an impressive 41pts, **Longest drive** went to Stefan Thomas, and **Nearest the pin** to Mike McGovern. We are reliably informed **Drive of the day** went to previous club captain Peter Irvine, who deciding to play safe on the 15th, took his trusted 3 Wood out of the bag. Peter managed to hit his 3 Wood a full 310 yards!!, although unfortunately for him this was the vertical distance achieved, the ball finally coming to rest 25 yards from the tee.

We are heading to The Glen in East Lothian this year, so get Saturday 26th August 2017 in your diaries!

Competition Results for 2015-16

Congratulations to our winners for the season past.

Event	Winner
Club Champion	Colin Fraser
Ladies Champion	Karen Simpson
B Champion	Jack Phillip
C Champion	Ryan Simpson
Andrew Robertson	Tony Farndon
Carders Cup	Tony Farndon
Ford Trophy	Lyle Caine
Henry Ballantyne	Alan Melrose
Inkwell Trophy	Jack Phillip
J&B Championship	Tony Farndon
Order of Merit	Ian Stewart
Presidents Prize	Alan Dick
Ronnie Eckford	Neil Ballantyne
Summer Eclectic	Ronnie Innes
Winter Stableford	Noel Dashwood-Brady
Vets Trophy	David Todd
Games Trophy	Gloria Smith
Leithen Plate	Kaye Sutherland
SLGA Brooch	Gloria Smith
Trades Trophy	Catherine Sutherland
Vietch Trophy	Gloria Smith
Games Trophy	Gloria Smith
Bill Forsyths	Keith Hay & Arthur Neil
Cardrona Bowl	Owen and Stefan Thomas
Glendinging	Owen and Stefan Thomas
Colonel Rough	Neil Ballantyne and Keith Dunn
Jock Hailstone	A Stavert, M Craigmile & B Cormack
Autumn Trophy	N Dashwood-Brady, K Dunn & N Smith
April Medal	Rory Murray
May Medal	Jack Philip
June Medal	Alan Dick
July Medal	Alex Stavert
August Medal	Alan Thomson
September Medal	David Todd
October Medal	Ronald Innes
November Medal	Stefan Thomas
December Medal	Callum Stewart
January Medal - 2017	Tony Farndon
February Medal	Craig Rendle
March Medal	Alan Melrose
Super Medal	Mike McGovern
Seniors Super Medal	Alisdair Wood

Other Results

A full set of Individual competition winners for the year are listed on this page, as well as the full results being available on the club website.

Tweeddale Cup

Unfortunately we were soundly beaten this year, eventually finishing in 4th place (sounds better than last.....!).

Belhaven Pairs

Congratulations to Peter Irvine and Keith Dunn in qualifying for the final, where they finished in third place overall.

Gents Open

Another successful Gents Open in 2016 with near full bookings. We would like to thank everyone involved in setting up and running the event.

In particular we would like to thank our sponsors:

- BARC Travel
- Walkerburn Rugby Club
- Traquair Garage
- Johnson Oils
- Bob Bullivant
- Norman Smith
- Neil Ballantyne

2017 Committee

President – Mackie Fraser

President – Norman Smith

Captain – Raymond Caine

Vice Captain – Michael Veitch

Secretary – Neil Ballantyne

Treasurer – Keith Dunn

Greens – Andrew Wodehouse

Competitions – Keith Norman

House – Noel D-Brady

Mins Secretary – Kim Jackson

Committee – Tony Farndon

Committee – Arthur Neil

Committee – Craig Phaup

Committee – Ian Robertson

Committee – Gloria Smith

Volunteer – Bob Bullivant

Volunteer – Allan Dick

Volunteer – Colin McArthur

Volunteer – Ian Stewart

Junior Helpers

Donnie Campbell is looking for volunteers to help him out with juniors on Sunday afternoons – can you give up just an hour of your time?

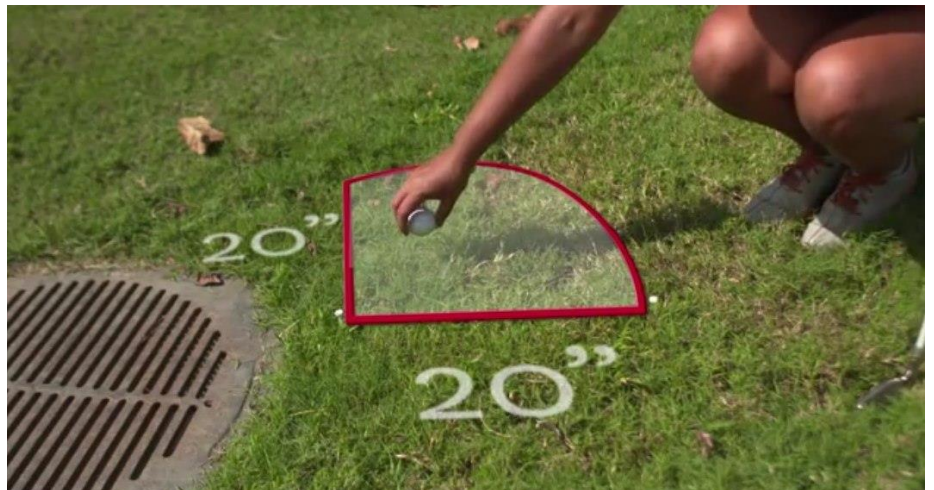
You do not have to be members, or even play golf, extra eyes and assistance all required, so please speak to friends and family as well.

Change of Golf Rules - Consultation

As some of you will be aware, the R&A and USPGA are currently consulting on significant changes to the rules of golf.

Some of the changes being considered are:

- Remove any penalty for accidentally moving your ball.
- Relax the protocols for taking free or penalty drops, with the ball dropped from only an inch above the ground, rather than shoulder height.
- Use fixed distances (20 or 80 inches) rather than club lengths to measure areas where a ball should be dropped.
- Reduce the time allowed to search for a lost ball from five to three minutes (*we understand Craig Phaup is particularly upset on this one*).
- Allow putting on the green with the flagstick left in the hole.
- Allow players to repair spike marks and animal damage on greens.
- Automatically allow the use of distance measuring devices.
- Recommend no player takes more than 40 seconds to hit a shot.
- Encourage players in strokeplay to implement "ready golf" rather than waiting until it is their turn to hit.
- Empower committees to set a maximum score for a hole (such as double par or triple bogey) to allow a player to pick up and move to the next hole.



We would encourage everyone to feedback on this consultation via the R&A website at www.randa.org/RulesModernisation



@inner_gc



Innerleithen Golf Club



www.innerleithengolf.co.uk