

# The McDivot

## Innerleithen Golf Club Newsletter

June 2016



### Upcoming Events

18 <sup>th</sup> June	Bellhaven Best Qualifier
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Championships Finals Day
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Senior Gents Open
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	July Medal
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Games Stableford
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Games Scramble
6 <sup>th</sup> August	August Medal
20 <sup>th</sup> August	Captains Trophy

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

## Welcome

Welcome to the June 2016 (Quarter 2) edition of our club newsletter.

By popular demand (read: one, ex-captain Bob Bullivant) we have renamed it back to "The McDivot", the original moniker carried by the last set of newsletters Bob produced.

## Join us at Castle Park

This year our away social trip is to Castle Park, nr Gifford on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016. It is not too late to sign up (sheet on noticeboard). The price is just £30 (plus bus hire), which includes bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes, and finishing off with a two course meal.

Castle Park is an 18-hole naturally undulating parkland course nestled amongst the mature woodlands of the Yester Estate with the Lammermuir Hills providing the backdrop to the South.

The course had to shut its doors in January, and was expected to be turned over for agricultural use. However, members stepped in to buy the club and keep it as a going concern.

As a small club ourselves, we are delighted at the choice of venue this year, not just because of the excellent golf it provides, but to help sustain and support them as they try to grow the club.



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

## Greens

We have been extremely unfortunate with the spring weather this year - the cold spells significantly inhibited the required initial growth on the greens. The warm dry weather over the last few weeks has continued to make the situation worse by damaging what had managed to establish. Hopefully things will improve, and David and Callum are trying their utmost to get the greens up to the standards we have been accustomed to.

We have not been able to progress the work on the 9<sup>th</sup> Tee and surrounding area to the timescales we had hoped, but it is still our intention to do so.

We have utilized the old tee on the Common for the ladies as a 15<sup>th</sup> Tee in general play, to leave the upper one as a 6<sup>th</sup> Tee only. This current tee up on the hill will continue to be used as both the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> for Open Competitions and hosted matches.

Drainage work has nearly been completed beside the 6<sup>th</sup> Green, which should reduce water coming off the hillside. The only thing that remains is to infill with stones, similar to the drain on the 3<sup>rd</sup> hillside. The new drains are to be treated as those on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, an immovable object. Red staked lateral water hazards nearby remain as such.

Due to weather damage over the winter/early spring we had to close the Gents 12<sup>th</sup> far tee, but it is now ready for use

## 'Innerleithen Old Codgers Majorca 2016 Tour'

Messrs Irvine, Mason, Smith, McConnell and Bullivant battled over 4 rounds, playing San Quint, Sun Mutaneer and Son Vida at the Arabella golf complex and finally Bendinat whilst staying at Camp de Mar. Dot won the overall league contest by 1 point from Bob, who had the most stableford points. Hunter returned with the best putting stats. Refreshments were taken occasionally during the tour although some memories could not be recalled by some.



We are also reliably informed there was great interest and anticipation from the locals in our Captains pink driver, who were left disappointed to learn it had not made it across in the bag this time.

## House

Many of you have fallen foul of the vending machine, which takes your money but gives you nothing back! Our vending machine is 20 years old now, spare parts are not available, and is in dire need of replacement. This should be installed by the end of the month. The new machine will allow us to expand our range of products to offer, not just in terms of confectionary and drinks, but also souvenir accessories such as golf balls, tees, ball markers etc. Please get in touch with your ideas for this. We apologise for any inconvenience during the transition.

New external signage has been purchased (tariff board and large car park sign), as part of our plan to improve and expand the car parking area to include the land beyond the Forestry slip road (which the club own).

Many thanks to those that have helped with the gardening and a plea for others to volunteer their services to help us improve the external appearance of the club.

House Convener, Noel Dashwood-Brady

## Breaking Down Gender Barriers

For those that missed it, it was excellent to see the following article as the main cover sports story in the Peeblesshire News recently:



*It was all smiles at the weekend as members of Innerleithen Golf Club aimed to consign gender inequality to a thing of the past. Whilst many clubs, including Innerleithen, have welcomed Ladies members and held 'mixed team' competitions for a number of years, the club went one step further in last weekend's Castle Warehouse Medal.*

*For the first time, in what is hoped to be a blueprint for the future, the monthly Medal Competitions are being held as completely open to all, irrespective of gender. Club Captain, Peter Irvine, said "The great thing about golf is its handicap system, which levels the playing field for people of all ages and abilities. However, segregation is unfortunately still a common sight across clubs up and down the country, and very few have attempted to use handicaps to address gender bias. We are excited to be utilising this handicap system and the course Standard Scratch Scores to open up competitions to all participants".*

*Ladies Captain, Gloria Smith, adds "We are a local, friendly club and are delighted to be joining the gents section in medal competitions on an equal footing, and have been really impressed at the positive reception to the change from members. Although this is just a small step in the right direction, we look forward to growing and fostering a modern, inclusive club to be proud of."*

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## Help meet our membership target

A reminder that we have a trial rewards program for members. We are a few short of our membership target for the year, and in order to help meet this, current members can earn £50 off their annual membership for every new member they recruit.

Full details are available from Keith Dunn (Club Treasurer).

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## Competition Results

A full set of Individual competition results are available on the club website. Could we please remind members in knockout draws to update the electronic system with results, not just the noticeboard, so that they can be viewed online.

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Well done (and/or hard lines!) to everyone who has represented the club so far this year in Innerleithen versus matches:

### - vs Peebles Derby Match

- Won 4 ½ to 2 ½

### - Daily Mail 5 Team

- Lost 5 to 3 (Peebles)

### - Daily Mail Foursomes

(Ladies: Gloria Smith and Kim Jackson)

- Round 2 Won vs Peebles 6 & 4
- Round 3 Won vs Torwoodlee 10 & 8
- Round 4 Lost vs Ratho Park 2 & 1

### - Daily Mail Foursomes

(Gents: Callum Stewart and Stefon Thomas)

- Round 2 Won vs Torwoodlee 1up
- Round 3 Won vs Kelso 4 & 2
- Round 4 Lost vs Galashiels 2 & 1

## 2016 Committee

President – Mackie Fraser

President – Norman Smith

Captain – Peter Irvine

Vice Captain – Raymond Caine

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer – Keith Dunn

Greens – Keith Norman

Competitions – Vacant

House – Noel Dashwood-Brady

Mins Secretary – Kim Jackson

Committee – Tony Farndon

Committee – Arthur Neil

Committee – Craig Phaup

Committee – Ian Robertson

Committee – Gloria Smith

Committee – Andy Wodehouse

Volunteer – Bob Bullivant

Volunteer – Allan Dick

Volunteer – Colin McArthur

Volunteer – Ian Stewart

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## 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.

## Treasurer

The summer golf season is upon us with all the major club competitions underway. Competitive golfers, both ladies and gents, are playing most Wednesday's and Saturday's, however, this represents only about a quarter of the total membership of the club I would encourage all members to engage in the club competitions as this is the best way to improve your golf and meet other members.

This is also busiest time of the season for visitors to the club, green fees from visitors are an important revenue stream for the club. We have increased our rates for visitors to £12 for 9-holes after a survey of the other 9-hole courses in the borders suggested we were under charging for what I believe is the best and most challenging 9-hole course in the borders. We do, however, need to ensure that visitors are offered a golf course in good condition and that they receive a welcoming and friendly greeting from our members and staff. I would ask all members and staff to assist visitors, if necessary to ensure their day out at our club is memorable, and ensure that they will be encouraged to return to play at Innerleithen.

I wish all members good luck and every success in their summer competitions.

Keith Dunn, Treasurer.

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## Miscellaneous

- So you have been out, scraped a 67 with a few lucky bounces and a fluke 30 foot putt from off the green, and you are currently sitting on top of the competition standings, wondering how others will do.....We have now added a 'live leaderboard' to the website so you can see all scores as they come in, no need to wait for the competition results to be published (although of course full results do not become official until published). Go to Members > Scoreboard Menu > Live Leaderboard dropdown menu item.
- A reminder to members that the stone dykes on the 8th, although technically man made (i.e. immovable objects/free relief) there is a longstanding unofficial rule that they are part of the course (i.e. no relief). We will update the local rules to reflect this so that it is clearer for visitors and members alike.

