

December
2022

The Slice!

Issue 2

Tasty portions of Innerleithen club news, served monthly!

Dear reader,

Happy New Year! Welcome to the December edition of our monthly newsletter. December has been a slightly quieter month for us all on the golfing front, due to the snow mid-month, followed by an extremely cold snap immediately thereafter. More favourable weather over the holiday period has allowed some competitive golf late in the month. Forecasters are predicting more of the same over the coming weeks. Let's hope they are wrong! I'm no Michael Fish, but the forecast for this Saturday's monthly medal looks "Ok". There are only a couple of spaces left in the morning so be quick if you intend playing.

Hopefully you all had a lovely time over Christmas and New Year and all the best for a happy, healthy and successful 2023.

Ed



Photograph courtesy of Roddy MacClean

Results – December

Winter Stableford Rd 4 – Sat 4 th Dec				
Pos		Points	H/cap	
1	Orry Jardine	42	13	
2	Craig Rendle	41	5	
3	Josh Landers	41	25	

Round 4 of the winter stableford series saw 22 members teeing off in what were reasonable conditions for early December. Once again, young Josh Landers was right in amongst things with an excellent 41 points. Josh was pipped for 2nd place by Craig Rendle, (BIH). Orry Jardine was one of the last to post his score and did so in some fashion. Orry made double bogey at the 1st but followed this with 8 straight pars to complete a very good front 9. A birdie on 10 may have been the catalyst for a couple of dropped shots over the next few holes, but a further birdie on 14 got Orry back on track and a steady finish to his round resulted in an excellent points total of 42, which was good enough to take round 4 of the series. Well done Orry.

December Medal – Sat 24 th Dec				
Pos		Gross	H/cap	Net
1	Grant White	79	16	63
2	Orry Jardine	76	12	64
3	Gregor Nicholson	74	8	66

Following a fortnight of snow and ice, the December Medal finally got underway on Christmas Eve. This medal being the last chance in 2022 for qualification to the super medal. Before getting to the important “match report”, special mention must be given to Craig (🐓) Phaup. An excellent tee shot at the first paved the way for an opening birdie “2”. Despite a further nine “2’s” on the day, Phaupy was the only player to birdie the 1st and scoop the prize money. Of note, a further 3 birdies on the front 9 saw Phaupy turn in 34, however the least said about the back 9 the better. At least the £51 prize pot will have put a smile on the big fellas face... maybe! 😊

Gregor Nicholson continued his solid form and followed a few early dropped shots with back to back birdies on 8 and 9. Gregor completed his round with 6 straight pars, which was good enough to post a credible 74 scratch.

“The Master of Plaster” Orry Jardine continued his current run of good form. “Ed” recently had the pleasure of playing a round of golf with Orry and his scoring game at this stage, is very much built around a solid “short game”. This was a drama free round of 38 front nine, 38 back nine and Orry must surely have thought this would be good enough to take victory.....

Grant (Whitey) White, was one of the later morning starters and there was nothing steady about his front 9. There was everything from birdies to quadruple bogeys, however the ball striking was mesmerising! Highlight of the front 9 was an approach shot of 105 yards on 6, to a front pin only 2 paces from the right. Whitey made perfect contact and landed the ball 106 yards, with one yard of backspin applied. The ball came to rest by the hole and the birdie was a formality. Whitey's best hole of the front 9 was followed by his worst!....

Stood on the 7th tee, Whitey pulled out some form of rescue wood, when his playing partners could clearly see that the 167 yard shot required a cozy 6 iron. Whitey announced his intention to “hit a wee half shot and fade it into the pin”. The announcement was met with silence. Clearly the adrenaline was still pumping through his veins after his birdie on 6. Whitey made a full swing, with his ball still rising as it cleared the trees to the left of Lee Pools. His playing partners politely questioned his club of choice as he pulled out the aforementioned 6 iron for his next shot. The back 9 could not have been more different, with 8 straight pars requiring one more on the last to complete what would have been Whitey's “first ever level par 9 holes”. The perfect tee shot left him 165 yards to a pin tucked behind the left bunker. Whitey pulled out his “hybrid iron”, (similar in appearance to a club foot), which he struck solidly landing it just off the fringe, left of the green. A poor chip (his only poor shot of the back 9) unfortunately led to a bogey 5. Nonetheless, this was an excellent round and Whitey was well deserving of victory. Well done to both Orry and Whitey on qualification. This podium provides an early indication that the A Class Championship draw could be a busy one in 2023!

Note: Whitey's tee shot at Lee Pools is believed to have come to rest just off the summit of Lee Pen!

Christmas Waltz			
Pos		Score	
1	Grant F, Dodd, Keith N & Peter	Nae idea!	

Always a fun competition at Christmas, this year's Christmas waltz was won by the above named. Thankfully this event is named as a consequence of the golfing format and not the actual dance..... any activity which requires any musical ability or involves moving rhythmically would definitely *not* have been won by any team which included Fraser, Smith or Norman! Well done boys 😊
(Thanks to Keith for organising)

Player of The Month

Player of the month for December was a very close call. The two players in contention were Grant White and Orry Jardine. Consideration was given to awarding this prestigious award to Whitey, by virtue of his win in the main monthly competition, however after much deliberation, Decembers player of the month award goes to The Master of Plaster – Orry Jardine. The title was awarded as a consequence of a solid display of golf in round 4 of the winter series, followed by an excellent net 64 in the December medal. Greens as smooth as his finishing coat of plaster, coupled with the aforementioned short game are clearly a match made in heaven for Orry. We look forward to seeing more good golf during the summer from the ever-improving youngster. Well done Orry!

(Hard luck Whitey, however there is little doubt that with your golfing ability and current handicap, you will win POTM for January, February, March..... unless Mr McGovern sharpens his pencil 😊)

Course Report

Firstly, if your ball comes to rest on a full green when winter greens are in operation, please do not play off the full green. This includes putting. The same applies in the reverse. Thank you.

There is little to report this month given the adverse weather conditions, however I'm sure you'll all agree, the course continues to be in excellent condition for this time of year. The benefit of hand cutting the greens is evident. Keep doing your bit to look after our course and we look forward to some fantastic course conditions come the spring/summer.

Ralf the "Rules Rat"



Ralf has been wondering what rule might be best,
when he received from a member, a special request.
Landing in tyre tracks, can be quite a pain,
But is relief given?... I'll try to explain.....



So your ball comes to rest in an indentation made by a tractor/mower etc (see image). Likely places this might occur on our course would be to the right of the 9th fairway, or to the left of the greenside bunker on 6, towards the access track to the greenkeepers shed. Do you get automatic relief without penalty. The answer is **NO**. Unless marked as "GUR", you do **not** get free relief from tyre marks. The committee of any golf club may declare such an area as GUR (local rule) and mark accordingly however **if not marked as GUR – no free relief**. You play the ball as it lies.

There are a number of key changes to rules which came into effect on 1st Jan. Ralf is not going to cover these but it's worth familiarising yourself with them. The only one Ralf will cover is that "You are not required to put your handicap on your scorecard (stroke play only) and there is no penalty if you return your scorecard in a competition with an incorrect handicap, as this is now the Committee's responsibility". (Makes sense with the current WHS!)

Interview with Captain Keith!



Ed planned to catch up with Keith during a round of golf about to reflect on his first year as club captain, however poor weather prevented this. Instead, Ed caught up with Keith within the warmth of his home just before Christmas:

Ed: Well captain, how has your year as captain been?

KG: Do you want the truth? (said with that grin). I honestly can't believe it's been almost a year. Has it been a year?

Ed: Aye almost. It'll be a year come the AGM.

KG: Aye, right enough. Time flies. It's been busy and obviously there's been some things I've had to deal with but that's part of being the captain and I knew that when I put myself forward. Most of it's been enjoyable and there's loads of really good folk in this club that are willing to help and they just want the best and that's really all a want. This club means a lot to plenty of our members, including me and my family.

Ed: Do you have a highlight? Or highlights?

KG: No really a highlight but it's just great to see lots of members supporting the club by coming up and playing golf and supporting the functions. The last couple of years have seen difficult but I'd

like to see folk continuing to support the club. There loads of folk willing to offer help that maybe diny want to join the committee and that's great. We've got the helpers group as well as other members who are always willing to offer help and a just want to thank them for that.

Ed: I know as captain you're ultimately responsible for the course. Have you made any changes during your first year and have you anything else planned?

KG: Well one of my main priorities was to replace the second tee and that was quite a big job. There was a lot of folk helped wi that and we couldn't have done that without them so a big thanks to all of them. A special mention must go to Craig Archibald, Malkie Ewart and Rab Glendinning. We've also had a lot of folk come forward to sponsor things and I want to thank them too as a wee club like this would never be able to do things like this without that help.

Ed: I know you arranged the installation of a water tank for the 6th green and have plans for more.

KG: Aye, we've already got other water butts to go elsewhere on the course before summer to help keep the course and greens playable, especially when we get weather like we did last summer. A think they helped a lot.

Ed: They certainly made a big difference throughout the summer there. Any other plans afoot?

KG: A few of us on the committee had a meeting at the club with an architect last month as we urgently need to replace the greenkeepers shed at the top of the course. I'm hoping to have a new large shed built next to the existing clubhouse, which will hold all the machinery and will be a good safe place for the green staff to work. To make good use of the space we have, I'd also like to use the roof space of this shed as a large covered seating area for use in the good weather. The views will be great and it would be lovely sitting up there in summer having some food and drink. As I say, this is in the very early stages so we'll see how it pans out in the new year.

Ed: I know you discussed your vision for this at a committee meeting and this sounds great. Who will be first to fall off the roof?

KG: De say that although yi ken some o the idiots at this club!

Ed: What's been your golfing highlight of the year?

KG: What, apart from makin the final group on the last day in Turkey?

Ed: Aye that doesnae count.

KG: A had a few decent results and some really crap, but the highlight was winning the Autumn Trophy with Scrog. A had tae carry him that day but diny include that coz it's a team game really.

Ed: Anything else you'd like to mention as the year draws to a close?

KG: Just to thank everyone really. I've had a lot of support from a lot of folk this year. The committee and helpers do a lot of work and it's just really appreciated. If anyone has suggestions for improvement or wants to help us in any way at all, that would be great. We have a brilliant wee golf club and I just want to keep trying to improve. That's it really.

Ed: Until I joined the committee, I didn't appreciate the volume of work done by so many at the club. All are volunteers and it's a thankless task at times as you'll never please everyone all of the time. You're doing a great job and as your first year as captain draws to a close, can I, on behalf of the committee and members, thank you for all you've done this year.

KG: That is very much appreciated thank you.

Ed: Aye.

KG: Can a just say a hope everyone has a great Christmas and new year when it comes.....

Ed: Cheers Keith. You too.



Captain checking progress



Getting there.....



Craig hitting the first tee shot!

Catering

We have been informed by Naomi that she will no longer be able to provide catering for us from the end of the month. We wish Naomi and her family all the best.

We need to begin the search to find new caterers. We have a busy season ahead of us and we must look to maximise the potential that catering brings to the club. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this opportunity, then please contact any member of the committee.

Future Competitions/Events

Saturday 7th January:

January medal. Morning tee times are filling up so get your name down on BRS. Remember, this is your monthly opportunity of qualification for the Super Medal.

Saturday 14th January:

Round 6 – Winter Stableford Series

Saturday 21st January:

3 Club Competition. (Bookies odds on favourite – Phaup)

Saturday 28th January:

Round 6 – Winter Stableford Series

Sunday 29th January:

AGM – 1500 hrs at Clubhouse

Saturday 25th February:

Presentation night. Tickets will be priced at £15 and includes, food and entertainment. Final details will be circulated soon. Please return all trophies no later than **Sunday 8th January** for engraving.