
February
2023

The Slice!

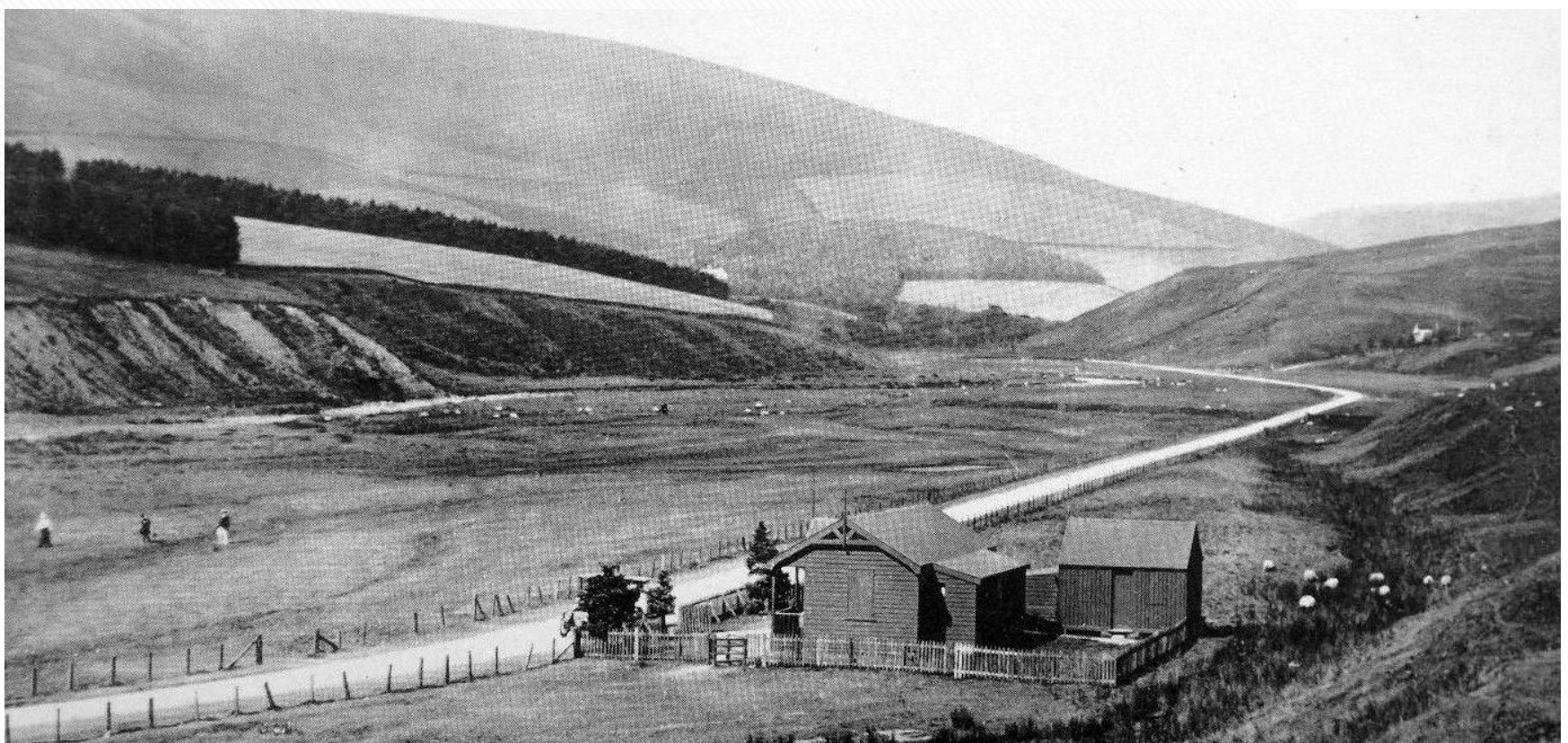
Issue 4

Tasty portions of Innerleithen club news, served monthly!

Dear reader,

Well, it's been a busy February! There has been lots going on at the club: The clubhouse has been freshly decorated and is looking great. Brenda and her team have settled into the clubhouse and "The 19th Hole" is thriving. Our medals and winter series competitions continued and were very well supported. Our rescheduled AGM took place, which involved some lively discussions and that's no bad thing. No golf club is without differences of opinion on what might be best and it's good that we all feel passionate about this club and simply want to make it the best it can be for all. There were issues, which required discussion and debate and it's only right that members have this opportunity. There were some good ideas brought forward and these will be given due consideration going forward. It must be acknowledged that there has been a great atmosphere within the clubhouse in recent weeks with some healthy discussion continuing, but all in good humour. This is a big part of what makes Innerleithen Golf Club special so we must keep this going. Well done everyone and let's all do our best going forward and continue to make Innerleithen Golf Club the great wee club it is!

Ed



Golf Course and Leithen Valley, Innerleithen

The above image was "registered" in August 1913 and was presumably taken around this time. It appears to have been taken from the area of the current 1st tee looking over the original clubhouse and up the 4th fairway (Possibly the 1st fairway at this time?) up the valley. Note: the sheep within the area, which is now our car park and on the course (Pre-cattlegrid of course). If you look closely, you can see Dod coming doon the 9th!

Presentation Night – Saturday 25th March



Tickets are **available now** from the clubhouse. This function requires preparation and planning. Please do not wait until the last minute to buy tickets if you intend coming. If you can't attend to buy in person, then call the clubhouse (01896 830951) and Brenda will put them aside for you. Or contact any committee member. Tickets are only £5 and includes food, entertainment and transport courtesy of BARC Travel. BARC will pick up from outside The Memorial Hall from 7pm and provide transport back at the end of the evening. A big thanks to them! This will be a great night so please give it your support. Thanks.

Medal Sponsors

We are looking for sponsors for our monthly medals. Medal sponsorship is £70.00. Each sponsor, whether individual or business, will be recognised over the clubs social media platform (and within The Slice 😊). A number of sponsors have come forward already and the club would like me to pass on their sincere thanks. There is a sheet within the clubhouse or alternatively, contact any committee member if you feel this is something you would like to do. Many thanks.

March: Roddy McClean
April: Craig Archibald
May: BARC Travel
June: Smith & McMath
July: Clelland Roofing Solutions Ltd
August: Alan & Debbie Strain
September: Dod Smith (President)
October: Port Brae Wealth Management
November: -
December: -
January: -
February: -
March: -

Results – February

February Medal				
Pos		Gross	H/cap	Net
1	Alan Dick	87	23	64
2	Josh Landers	87	21	66 bih
3	Mike Veitch	75	9	66

The monthly medal kicked off February's competitive golf with no less than 39 members returning cards. It was great to see a good representation from our ladies section with Grace, Debbie, Linda and Sarah all returning creditable scores. It was good to see "Toddy" making a comeback, having not played the course competitively since the Gents open at the start of September last year. Heading to the 1st tee Mike commented that he wasn't expecting much and that approach worked well until the 17th. Mike played some good golf and a 5 – 4 finish would have given him a back nine

of 36 and put him in the mix. Instead, a 6 – 7 finish put paid to any chance of silverware on his return. Thankfully Mike is a bit more composed around the poker table than he is when he has a score on his hands!

The names on this scoreboard are becoming familiar. The ever-present Veitchy was his consistent self after what would have been a disappointing loop of 3 – 6 – 5. A run of pars from the 4th onwards, followed by a back nine of 36 was good enough to give Mike the same finishing position as in the January Medal.... 3rd! Last years Super Medal winner will be looking to secure qualification this weekend.

Looking to bounce back from his 22 points total the previous Saturday in Round 6 of the winter series, was young Josh Landers. With a back nine several shots less than his front nine, Josh pipped Mike on the bih. An excellent net 66 saw Josh secure qualification for the Super Medal. Josh has been in Cyprus over the last week playing football for Scotland U16's in an International Development Tournament, however this will serve only as a distraction to Josh who has bigger things on which to focus at present, namely the Winter Stableford Series. Josh currently sits in 5th place with only two rounds remaining. Josh will be glad to get this weekends medal out of the way so that he can focus fully on improving on his worst score of 31 points to challenge for the series. Well done on both your qualification to the super medal and international selection.

There was no doubt about the winner of the February Medal. Improving on his 2nd place (net 66) in the January Medal was Alan Dick. Quite simply, Dickie is hitting solid form just now. Ed commented in last month's edition of The Slice that Dickie had the ability to know he was going to do something before he actually did..... surely not even Dickie could have foreseen this superb net 66 coming?! Well done on another cracking round.

Winter Stableford Rd 7 – Sat 11 th Feb				
Pos		Pts	H/cap	
1	Keith Hay	42	13	
2	Scott Boak	40	17	
3	Gregor Nicholson	39	9	

27 members tee'd it up in Round 7 of the winter series. Currently sitting in a series position of 8th, but only a few shots off the lead, is Gregor Nicholson. The ability to hold a good round together is key in golf and once again, Gregor was able to do this. Another solid back nine of 37 was good enough to take 3rd place (bih) from Grant White. Gregor is another who will be looking for a strong finish to the winter series!

Scott Boak (AKA The Caravan Kid) is another in good form just now. Scott shot a steady front nine with the highlight of his round being birdies at 13 and 15. Scott commented after his round that at present, he felt just as comfortable with a wedge in his hand as he does a mandolin and if you've heard Scott on the mandolin that would explain his current scoring. Another good score Scott – well done.

Score of the day was posted early doors by Keith Hay. You would never know whether Keith is going for a score or not and he's always involved in some sort of banter across the fairway during his round! He was in the zone from the 1st during this round and was level par through 6. A couple of drops shots did not spoil a very good front nine. Pars from 10 through 14 were followed by a birdie at 15, which saw Keith in superb shape. A couple of dropped shots towards the end of his round did little to take the shine off a fantastic 45 stableford points. Well done Keith.

Winter Stableford Rd 8 – Sat 18 th Feb				
Pos		Pts	H/cap	
1	Orry Jardine	37	11	bih
2	Scott Boak	37	17	
3	Scott McFarlane	36	8	

Round 8 saw yet again, another superb turnout of members. Four players (Dick, Veitch, Phaup & McFarlane) were all tied on 36 points on what was a lower scoring average than previous rounds due to the persistent rain and high winds. Scott “Scottie” MacFarlane started with a solid par at the 1st then followed this with 5 straight bogeys. The low point of Scottie’s round came early doors off the 4th tee. Those who know him will be aware that his average tee shot with driver is around 260 yards into a slight breeze. Clearly annoyed at his brace of bogeys at the 2nd and 3rd, Scottie made an “aggressive” swing with driver on 4 with the club making little contact with the ball as he followed through. The ball popped over the burn directly in front of the tee and came to rest a full 12 paces in front of him, adjacent to the 1st winter green. Playing partner Caine held in his laughter and little was said before Scottie made what seemed like a sensible suggestion at the time about heading straight to “The 19 Hole” for an early lunch! However, the ship was steadied somewhat and some good golf was played for the remainder of his round. It is good to see Scottie in the mix and with a good score given the conditions.

In the prizes, once again, was Scott Boak. Now, Ed has the ability, just like Scott, to blether and haver on somewhat, however even Ed is running out of superlatives for Scott’s golf just now! Scott is currently leading the winter series by 2 points but with a host of others lining up behind him, Scott just might have to improve on his lowest score of 37 to remain ahead of the pack. Well done again Scott and good luck for the remainder of the series.

Following a recent dip in form, it’s good to see the “Master of Plaster” back in the prizes. Orry admitted recently that following the award of December Player of the Month, he struggled to cope with the associated pressure that comes with receiving such an accolade. (Similar to what we often see on the PGA Tour when players win a major). Orry will have been disappointed to have “bookended” his round with 6’s, however he played solid golf in between this, the highlight being 3 birdies on the back nine. This was good enough to take round 8 of the series (bih).

Texas Scramble - Sat 25 th February				
Pos		Score	H/cap	Net
1	Dick, Boak & White	66	9	57
2	McGovern, Lean & Lean	63	5	58
3	Rendle, Lunn & Fraser	64	5	59

A Texas Scramble (so called, due to it’s popularity in Texas during the 1950’s) is always a fun format. You can relax without much pressure (unless you have 2 drives still to take standing on the 17th!!) and enjoy the round. We don’t often get to play golf as part of a team, hence this format is popular and very enjoyable. Until recently, the handicap format for “a scramble” was to add all handicaps and divide by 10... Simple!

Now, with the introduction of WHS, you get 30% of the lowest, 20% the next, 10 % of the highest, divide by 2, multiply by your dogs age and take 90% of that figure! (I'm joking of course, suffice to say like most things "WHS" it's confusing. Anyway.....

Again, it was good to see a few of our ladies competing. Debbie, who was ~~hampered~~ accompanied by husband Alan and Hadi shot a very respectable 68. Sarah, Gloria and Linda went a couple better returning an excellent 66. Conditions were tough to say the least with wind getting up throughout the day and the temperature, due to windchill, sitting around -3.

Rendle, Fraser and Lunn (late replacement for Landers but played considerably better) shot a 64, which was always going to be a few too many. It was great to see Buttons return after a shoulder injury, however there was little evidence of that as he struck the ball superbly from the off and had his "drives away" early doors. Fraser did not. But thankfully his putter was on fire as he bailed the team out on numerous occasions. A meeting is scheduled to discuss the merits of allowing Landers back into the newly established team.

In second place and never going to be far away was the team of McGovern, Lean and Lean. A good combination of long and short game within this team and to say they got off to a flyer would be an understatement. Birdies at 4 of their opening 6 holes put them in a strong position. The cheer as they holed out for birdie at the 4th was heard in the car park. A birdie at 9 to finish a fantastic front nine was followed by a further 4 birdies on the back nine with no dropped shots. An excellent 63 scratch but only good enough for second on the day.....

Three familiar names (Dick, Boak and White) took victory in the "Scramble". A team currently in tremendous form with all facets covered between them. This was a match made in heaven. Their round comprised of 4 birdies and no dropped shots and saw them take victory with a fantastic net 57. Well done!

Clubhouse – Unashamed Plea

I'm sure everyone who has been within the clubhouse will agree, it's looking great having just been decorated (Good job Phaupy). Our light grey walls with black wooden trim look very swish..... Slightly less "swish" are the "yellow" vertical blinds still in situ! Replacing these is not on the clubs list of priorities but nice new grey blinds would finish the clubhouse off nicely ready for the start of the new season.

In recent weeks I've been running a sweepstake for Scotland's 6 Nations matches with the profit going towards new blinds. This has been well supported and thanks to all who have generously supported. Winners thus far are Dod and Craig Archibald. I've not quite reached my target and am aware there may be members who might wish to be involved, but are not around when I am on a Saturday. As such, this sweepstake will be replaced with a "bonus ball" draw and this will allow everyone the opportunity to contribute.

Otherwise, if you'd like to make a small contribution to this cause and are in a position to do so, then please drop me a message – 07720890889 or mention to any committee member. No contribution is too small and with the cost of "a slat" being around £1, wouldn't it be nice to sit having your coffee and bacon roll in the knowledge you own a slat or two 😊.

Player of The Month



This month's selection has been another tough one. There were two in contention, namely Scott Boak and Alan Dick. Runner up in rounds 7 and 8 of the winter series, Scott finally got a win, which came in the recent Texas Scramble. That might just have been enough to secure POTM for Scott had he not had Alan Dick in his team!.....

Dickie won the February Medal with a magnificent 64. Precedence is always given to medal golf over stableford and his good golf in recent weeks, coupled with his recent Texas Scramble victory means that Dickie is Player of the Month for February. Well done Alan!

A Round at "The Golfie"

....Continued:

***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.....***



Jot down your 6, It's not your honour, your last to play of 3.
Stand beside young Malkys sign and admire the nice new tee!

A few deep breaths, forget the "treble", it's time to steady the ship.
Make a solid swing with no heroics, avoid another blip.

Is it driver? or 3 wood?.... you really need to think.
Do you take an iron for "safety"?.... then shank it in the "drink"!

Driver it is, you tee it up, are you aiming down the right?
Your risk would be rewarded, but you know it's fairly tight.

You're not that brave, take aim at the tree, so what will be your fate,
It's guaranteed, for your entire round, to be the only drive hit straight!!

You hit it sweet, towards the bunker, kick left an' you might make 3.
But a wee stot right ensures, you're now plumb behind the tree!

You saunter down, whilst muttering, “it’s in a hellish spot”
You approach your ball, and then announce, “at least I’ve got a shot”.

Weigh up your options, over or under? You give it a long hard stare.
Are you willing to test the theory, trees are 90 percent air!

It’s 1 - 3 - 5 to reach the green, you decide to punch a five.
Anywhere around the green, just keep this round alive!

You catch it thin, the heid was up, you’re playing like a clown,
But focus on the positive, chance of an “up & down “!

It’s over the hump, you consider putting, but decide to chip instead.
Close your stance and use your arms, you’re trying to get it “dead”

Connection is good, it checks third bounce, it’s starting now to roll.
Relief is what you’re feeling now, as it stops beside the hole.

A tap in par, you’re on the way, some deep breaths now and chill.
A short walk back to return your clubs, before a wee walk up the hill. *TBC.....*

Course Report

Below are relevant excerpts from this months Greenkeepers monthly report FAO members:

Winter program – 9th area. The bare areas will be filled with cores in March. In February we will continue to monitor and protect the greens. At the end of the month, we will apply an early spring fertiliser on the greens. In March we will aerate the greens (2nd & 5th will get a double pass), overseed and apply fertiliser and top dressing. This will commence the week beginning 6th March, weather permitting.

We will also start the spring maintenance – bunkers, burns, tees preparation.

Planned Projects for 2023: The planned repair of the front bunker on 7th is under reivew. Details of planned projects will be published in due course.

6th burn: Remove high area just below the bridge to improve water flow. This will prevent the build-up of silt and reduce the number of weeds.

9th area: Remove all surface stones and replace with turf, cores or topsoil. The area will then be overseeded in the spring. This will be an ongoing project.

IBC irrigation tanks – 2nd, 3rd and 5th greens. Winter tee boxes on 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 8th.

Ralf the “Rules Rat”



Ralf was asked just recently, about a rule which seems quite hard, Do I get disqualified, if I fail to sign my card?

For many years the rule has been: A player *must* sign their scorecard to verify their scores for each hole. **Failure to do so resulted in disqualification. This rule was straightforward.** Indeed, professional golfers have been disqualified for failing to sign their card. Does the penalty fit the crime? Probably not.

The 2023 rules of golf (Specifically Local Rule L-1) states that: In situations where they (competition committee) feel it to be “more appropriate”, competition committees will be able to modify the cost of missing player or marker certification **from disqualification to two shots.**

That penalty would apply to the last hole of a players round. So while signing a card would remain an important responsibility on both player and marker, failing to do so may no longer be the round wrecking punishment that is currently in place.

Having clarified this for himself, Ralf will take this to the “competition committee” and provide further clarification on our position here at Innerleithen. In the meantime, just sign yer card!!

On a separate note, it has become apparent that some members were not aware of the requirement to hand in your scorecard after your round. This must be done, irrespective of whether you complete your round, as it can impact the overall competition scoring and handicap adjustments, as well as your individual handicap.

Finally, the handicap committee have asked Ralf to point out that the initial teething issues with the WHS and the new Scottish Golf App still exist. There are still some glitches with individual handicaps. Rest assured the team are working hard to rectify this and they hope to have these issues sorted before the start of the season.

The “19th Hole”

The 19th Hole is now fully open and serving a selection of hot food as well as home baking. Those of you who know Brenda will know that a warm welcome awaits at the golf club. The 19th Hole is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesday at present. Open all others days. Please check The 19th Hole on Facebook for updates.

Brenda has asked that I pass on her sincere thanks to all customers (both members and visitors) for their welcome and support thus far. It is really appreciated.

Future Competitions/Events

NOTE: Entry sheets for this years Championships and pairs competitions will be posted within the clubhouse this Saturday (4th March). Email to follow with further details.

Saturday 4th March:

March Medal. Again, BRS is full in the morning with only afternoon spaces available.

Saturday 11th March:

Round 10 – Winter Stableford Series

Saturday 18th February:

Round 11 – Winter Stableford Series. (Final round of the series)

Saturday 25th March:

Captain v Vice Captain – Shotgun start at 0900 hrs. 4BBB format. Meal afterwards at “The 19th Hole” Food order to be placed before you head out.

Also on Saturday 25th March:

Presentation night: Full details above.