



Aboyne Golf Club
Formaston Park
Aboyne
Aberdeenshire
AB34 5HP

Press Release

6th November 2017

Aboyne appoints Director of Golf

Aboyne Golf Club is delighted to announce the appointment of Fraser Dunlop to the newly created post of Director of Golf.

Fraser joins Aboyne from The Gleneagles Hotel where, for the past nine years, his career has progressed through various key appointments across the resort's golfing operations. His formative year was spent overseas in the USA at 'The Breakers' golfing resort in Palm Beach, Florida before returning to the UK to join Gleneagles and complete his PGA degree studies at the University of Birmingham.

Promoted two years ago, Fraser is currently the PGA National Golf Academy Manager overseeing a team which has delivered tremendous commercial growth across Gleneagles's retail operations and golf coaching and tuition.

Amongst his many noteworthy credentials, Fraser played a key role in the organisation and hosting of the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles in 2014 as well as co-ordinating an array of major golfing tournaments at the resort including the Johnnie Walker Championship for the European Tour. He is no stranger to the Aberdeen golfing community being heavily involved in the running of the prestigious Aberdeen Oilman's Golfing Association annual weekend visit to the resort.

Head of the Selection Panel Nigel Bradburn said "Such is Aboyne's growing standing in the golfing community we were fortunate to have candidates spread across the UK, Europe and as far away as Australia applying for the role. Through an exceptionally thorough and diligent process we pre-screened candidates in various locations including Bulgaria, Canada and Ireland before settling on our interview shortlist. Thereafter, we met candidates from various parts of Scotland as well as Germany. Fraser was the stand out candidate amongst this high-quality pool of applicants and we are delighted to have secured his services."

Commenting on his appointment Fraser said, "I am privileged to have trained within two of the world's leading golf resorts. A cornerstone has been the emphasis on delivering fantastic customer service and the drive to surpass guest expectations at every opportunity. I will be bringing these skills to Aboyne as we continue to build on the club's growing reputation."

Fraser went on "I have been impressed with the vision and strategic intent of the Council at Aboyne and the exceptionally professional way they have conducted this recruitment campaign. It is great to see such a forward-thinking and progressive club in these testing times for the sport. Aboyne has a first rate, varied and challenging golf course maintained in pristine condition. It is a club with a substantial track record of success growing the game at both junior and novice level and I look forward to playing my part in increasing the club's presence on the national stage. I am enormously proud to have been selected as the first Director of Golf at Aboyne and look forward to this exciting opportunity. "

President of Aboyne Golf Club Scott Mackie said “Fraser is a very experienced and talented individual who brings many first-rate qualities to the role as was so readily apparent at interview and has been endorsed by his referees in the industry. We are confident that Fraser is the person to lead the club in to a new and exciting era as we project golf as a modern, inclusive sport with a positive image to attract more players. We are absolutely thrilled he has chosen to join us and will add substantial value to our service offering to members and guests.”

Fraser Dunlop takes up his appointment on 1st December 2017. Fraser is married to Laura who also works at Gleneagles in the resort’s sales department. They have a young baby and will be relocating from their home in Dunfermline to Royal Deeside in early 2018.

Contact

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Notes to Editors

Photograph - Aboyne Golf Club Director of Golf Fraser Dunlop



Aboyne Golf Club

Established in 1883 and the oldest course on Royal Deeside, Aboyne has won many plaudits as one of the best maintained, varied and challenging inland courses in Scotland. Initially conceived by renowned architect Archie Simpson and laterally extended by celebrated designer Martin Hawtree, such is Aboyne's growing reputation that the long-established course has been selected by governing body 'Scottish Golf' to host a variety of national competitions.

The course provides a fine test for golfers of all abilities presenting a rich variety of memorable holes making the most of the natural variations in the terrain which is a mix of rolling parkland with inviting fairways and elevated links-like heathland with tighter targets.

Visitors are delighted with the contrast found between the front and back nine. Mature trees and water are in play on many holes. Aboyne Loch is a notable feature lending character and scenic beauty to the course as well as providing a hazard to be avoided on the last hole of the relatively flat parkland outward nine. Thereafter, the course changes character to rugged heathland and climbs gently providing magnificent views of some lovely Aberdeenshire countryside.

Here golfers are tested by the course's distinctive topography which see several holes with undulating fairways formed around the historic 'rigg and furrows' of medieval farming which add a unique terrain challenge requiring more brains than brawn to play.

Another small loch lurks at the 15th and the closing holes deigned by Martin Hawtree test the skill of the most seasoned campaigner. The home hole is a long par 3 and provides a worthy finish to a challenging round of golf.

This immaculately maintained course presents one of the most memorable tests of golf in Aberdeenshire and North-East Scotland. Lying on free-draining soil, the course stretches 6,033 yards.

