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| GENTS SECTION NEWSLETTER - Spring 2018 | | | |  | | |
| **Gents Section Committee Team** | | | | | | |
| **Tony Laing**  Gents Captain  & Secretary | **Colin Leach**  Gents Vice Captain & Greens Rep. | **Bill Murphy**  Match &  Handicap | **Dave Storm**  Gents Treasurer | | **Dave Gordon**  Gents Senior Representative | |
| **Gents Captains Message – Tony J.A. Laing**  A new golfing season is almost upon us, so for those who have not been playing over the winter **“dust down those clubs”**.    This winter has seen a variety of weather which has, unfortunately, offered challenges to the winter programme so we will welcome a rise in temperature bringing on some early growth. It goes without saying that this will assist with the overall condition of the course, which we know is well respected in the area, and thanks goes to the continued hard work of the Green Staff. As you may be aware, Paul Sharp has moved on and our thanks was noted at the AGM for all his support to the Club. The respective condition of the course did not only benefit the members, but actually assisted greatly in encouraging a number of new members. We respectfully ask that you continually encourage new members and we offer a range of memberships, including family membership.  Over the last few months, there has been a considerable focus on the short, medium and long-term strategy of the club. This is the focus of the Growth Strategy Team, led by Stan Reid, where we have set distinctive goals; club service, encouraging new and corporate members and increasing the number of visitors. This is under-pinned by an increased focus on marketing and, in this connection, we are delighted to welcome Kirsty to our team who brings a wealth of marketing experience to support these efforts. Developing relationships with hotels and holiday accommodation in the immediate Deeside and offering competitive packages will form part of the marketing effort.  You may be well asking “what about our existing members?”.  Peterculter Golf Club members, thanks to negotiations by Ross, now have participating members’ arrangements with all Deeside League courses where our members can play 18 holes for £20 and pro-rata for 9 holes courses. **What a great opportunity!**    The Golf Leisure market is a changing market and, regardless of the North East’s local economy, golf is having to embrace change throughout the country. With the current age demographics of the Club there is a need to focus the attraction of a wider age demographic; hence promoting family membership. In addition, with the continued demands on individuals’ time, Peterculter Golf Club is supporting ‘Ready Golf’ before it is mandatory in 2019. The ‘Ready Golf’ model is understood to save up 15 mins per round.  I trust you find this Newsletter informative and encourage you to keep a watchful eye on the notice boards and website. We welcome your feedback, support and note the Gents Committee has vacancies and opportunities for you to support your club.  **The Gents Committee, would just like to wish you all the best for the 2018 season; may your drives be long and straight, and 3 putts are few.**  Note; the season starts on the 24th of March with the Captain’s versus Vice Captains event.  **The Gents Section, is interested in hearing from those members that would like to support the Gents Committee; supporting and shaping the club**. | | | | | |
| **Children’s Coaching Programme – Trevor Grose**  The children’s coaching programme grew significantly in numbers last year, thanks to the efforts of Ross visiting local schools at Culter and Milltimber; he has done so again this winter and added Cults Primary.  The coaching programme develops children from the age of 8 through to 14 and takes them from complete beginners through to handicap and play within the junior ranks. The coaching programme consists of a 20 Week block of group lessons (3-6 in a group) at the practice ground and on the course, backed up by a range of 5, 6 and 9 hole medal competitions and flag competition/family BBQ in September.  We split the coaching into two groups, Development and Advanced and the coaching takes place on Saturdays between 3.15-5.30 p.m., between mid-April to end June and mid-August to early October. The programme has been running in its current form for over 10 years and in that time we have had more than 500 children participate; a huge thing for golf at the club.  This year we have added 4off family fun golf events where entire families can take part in our competitions, so look out for the kids on the course; it is the future of golf. | | | | | |
| **Juniors – Gordon Spence**  The season kicks off with the first junior medal scheduled for Sun 1st April and thereafter on the usual Monday and Sunday slots. The Monday medals are still in the after school slot of 4.30pm but the Sunday medal slot has generally been moved forward earlier in the afternoon to a more favourable time of 2.00pm. Still worth checking the diary each week because the Sunday tee times can be affected by other competitions on the day. I strongly encourage juniors to book a junior tee time via the booking system so other juniors know you are attending. Ross or Jamie will then put you out in different pairings prior to the medal.  The “ready golf” guidance in Bill Murphy’s section equally applies to juniors so I encourage you to read the above section and adopt the guidance during medals.  Finally, Peterculter has entered a team in the Junior Pennant League. Each pennant match is made up of 10 players playing match play in pairs. The pool matches in 2018 are as follows:  22/04/18 – Home match against Kemnay – tee off 3.00pm  29/04/18 – Away match against Royal Aberdeen – tee time to be confirmed  27/05/18 – Away match against Kemnay – tee time to be confirmed  03/06/18 – Home match against Royal Aberdeen – tee off 2.00pm  The above are dates for your diary and I will be in touch nearer the time to firm up the teams. It is hugely appreciated if you can respond to any emails, texts or Whatsapp messages quickly so team confirmations can be established. My contact details are Tel: 07919 691734 or [gspence@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:gspence@aberdeencity.gov.uk) | | | | | |
| **Seniors – Dave Gordon**  The PEGGS Senior Gents play each Monday morning throughout the year with a number  of different types of golf game although in the winter it is generally stableford. Each game  is competitive and £20 is the charge per annum. This is paid when your Golf fees become  payable and covers the prizes each week. The winter this year has meant a number of  days lost due to water logged and then frozen ground so we are all looking forward to the  sunny days of springtime on the summer course with the reconstructed 9th tee and the  changed stroke index.  Please come along and join us on Mondays - it is great to play with different people each  week due to the weekly draw for tee times and with our local handicap arrangements for  the Monday games it makes adjustments to keep everyone in with a chance of winning!  The Senior Gents, not restricted to PEGGS Members, also play “Friendlies” home and away  matches against 8 other local clubs - Aboyne, Banchory, Craibstone, Deeside, Kemnay,  Portlethen, Stonehaven and Westhill.  There is no official league, it is just competitive but  friendly golf. Most matches involve teams of 16 and are decided on match play with the  lowest player off scratch and the others receiving 0.9 of the difference in handicap.  These are open to all Senior Members not just PEGGS members.  We try to involve all who  express an interest in playing regardless of handicap!  Home ties are played on Thursday afternoons.  We charge £15 for bacon roll and  tea/coffee before and a 2-course meal with tea/coffee after playing.  In addition to the Monday matches Senior Gents play in Central Aberdeenshire District  Seniors (CADS) league. The CADS is an inter-club competition open to all Senior Members  involving 14 clubs with each club hosting one CADS event per season. Each Club sends 10  players to represent their club at each venue. Any Senior Member interested can add their  name to the sign-up sheet on the Senior’s notice board if they wish to be considered for  selection to play at the various venues. The format is stableford over 3 handicap divisions. Team players earn points in each division from 6 for 1st to 1 for 6th. Points are totaled from each venue for the year and year end placings determined. | | | | | |
| **Greens Report – Colin Leach**  This winter has been a very trying time for our Green Staff who have wanted to crack on with the extensive work programme but for significant periods have been thwarted by the cold and often icy weather. The snow from the ‘Beast from the East’ and the resultant thawing with rain has not helped them to get a good start in preparing for the summer season or the first competition on the 24th of March. However, our Greens staff are out there working hard to get the course in the best condition they can despite these weather set-backs.  During the first cold spell in December the decision was taken to limit course improvements to only the 9th tee reshaping, which is now complete and this should certainly help in keeping an eye on your ball when driving off. The other two major improvement jobs, extending the rear of the 5th Green and leveling the 14th Tee, have been postponed to a, yet to be determined, later date. All the other proposed work in the winter programme has been completed to their best endeavors, albeit in fits and starts with some jobs still to be started or completed. The level of completion of these remaining jobs will continue to be weather dependent.  By the time you read this update all of the verti-drain tineing on the Greens should be successfully completed and to give you an idea of how the work programme has been delayed, this was scheduled to be completed in November! The tineing on all the other areas of fairways etc. has not been started.  Some additional areas of rough grass have also been cut back at the 2nd tee, between the 4th green and 5th tee, down the right of the 5th fairway and the left hand side of the 8th tee. In addition repair progress has been made to pathways, walk on/off areas at tees and damaged turf areas at various holes, such as the 2nd tee and bridge, right hand side of the 3rd green, 6th bridge, 13th tee, 15th tee walk off and 16th tee walk off area.  The right hand bunker at the 17th green was scheduled to be filled in, this has not been started and will be completed at a later date in addition the reshaping of the steep areas around the 18th green has also been delayed.  All in all the Greens staff have had a very tough time of it over the winter and with the best will in the world it is going to take some time, and better weather, to get the course into a full state of play and looking as good as it usually does for the start of the summer season. If you do see our Greens staff out on the course please continue to give them a wave and a quick thank you to show that what they have been able to achieve over this winter is appreciated.  Looking forward into 2018 there is an intention to do a hole by hole bunker review of the whole course and recommend any changes that maybe forthcoming. We will provide more details of this under separate cover once the overall strategy for this is completed.  On a final note we can all see that we now have new neighbours on the left of the 18th fairway. This will significantly increase the risk of hitting, not only animals, but people who are working in that area if you choose to try and cut the corner with a big drive or any other shot over that area for that matter. Please do not do so, there is a new sign at the 18th tee advising against this so be mindful of his new hazard and play the hole as designed, up the fairway. | | | | | |
| **Matches and Handicaps – Bill Murphy**  **STROKE INDEX**  After an analysis of the scoring over the past three years the Stroke Index has been changed and will apply form the start of this season. We feel it now gives a better reflection of the relative difficulty of each hole but is well balanced and in general compliance with the CONGU guidance on setting a course Stroke Index. The new card is as follows:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Hole** | **SI** | **Hole** | **SI** | | 1 | 9 | 10 | 8 | | 2 | 13 | 11 | 18 | | 3 | 15 | 12 | 12 | | 4 | 1 | 13 | 4 | | 5 | 5 | 14 | 2 | | 6 | 11 | 15 | 14 | | 7 | 3 | 16 | 16 | | 8 | 17 | 17 | 6 | | 9 | 7 | 18 | 10 |   New scorecards have been printed and the ClubV1 system will reflect the new scorecard.  **HANDICAP RULE CHANGES 2018**  The CONGU handicap limit of 28 has been removed and replaced with a limit of 54 to align with other systems used around the world. Handicaps above 28 will be adjusted into two new categories 5 and 6 from 2018 onwards. A Players Guide to the Handicapping System and a sheet of Questions and Answers on the changes are posted in the Locker Room. The new rules can also be reviewed at [www.congu.co.uk](http://www.congu.co.uk).  **ANNUAL REVIEW**  The annual handicap review has taken place and members have been notified of any changes which have been established according to the CONGU rules and agreed between 4 members of the Gents Committee. At present we have not reviewed all players who have a current handicap of 28 but if any player feels their handicap should be adjusted in accordance with the new higher limits then please contact the club for an individual review.  **HANDICAP STATUS/SUPPLEMENTARY CARDS**  A number of players failed to submit three qualifying scores again last year and will lose their handicap until they submit three cards this year. This really should not happen as it is now permissible to use SUPPLEMENTARY CARDS that can be submitted on any round provided that the Professional has been advised before the start of the round. There is no need to play three medal competitions nowadays and we would encourage members to take advantage of the more relaxed rules on retention of handicap.  CONGU Handicap Process (Worldwide Handicap System up to 54 for Gents). The Gents Section Management Team is not in favour of having 54 handicaps for competitions as it was considered inappropriate. Plus it may enhance slow play with a negative impact to the goal of speeding up play. It is recognised that having a formal handicap certificate is required to enable playing access in certain countries. It was agreed that the Gents Section will continue to operate with all medal and competition rules as is with a maximum handicap of 28 and ‘c’ status for Opens and club Knock out competitions. In addition the club medal and Stableford competitions will also remain as is with a maximum handicap of 28 and ‘c’ status, players with higher handicaps can play in these competitions to record qualifying scores for handicap purposes but will not be eligible to win a prize. Players above 28 can play in club medals and stableford competitions to record qualifying scores for handicap purposes but will be not be eligible for winning prizes.  **READY GOLF**  You have probably seen the proposed rule changes to be introduced in 2019 which are mainly aimed at speeding up the game to arrest the declining number of players in the developed countries. The club have decided to take up the proposal of early introduction of READY GOLF which should reduce playing time if everyone joins in.  The basic idea is that the concept of honour on the tee and furthest from the hole plays first only applies in matchplay where strategy can be important. In all other forms of play in both bounce games and competitions the general idea is that you use common sense and if you are ready to play and it is safe to do so then you don’t wait. I think many people already apply these rules at times but this makes it official policy. So examples are first on the tee plays; shortest hitter can play if he will not reach group in front and others would; putts can be taken if someone is in trouble although respect for other players still applies; mark scores at next tee box and vacate green as soon as possible; and importantly encourage each other to keep the play moving and be ready to play as soon as the team in front have moved on to a safe distance. Just to repeat the existing rules on order of play still apply in matchplay situations although that is no excuse for slow play.  **COMPETITIONS**  The online diary is now available on the Club App and includes all competitions and club events.  The entry forms for the Knockout trophies are posted in the locker room and the closing dates are as follows:  Handicap 2nd April  Scratch and Fours 9th April  Mixed Greensomes 16th April.  **UPCOMING COMPETITIONS:**  Sat 24th March - Club Capt vs Vice Captain Sign Up in Pairs Online – open to all members. Four ball better ball format. Shotgun start.  Sun 22nd April - Mixed Texas Scramble Open – gents only teams can enter  29th April – Anniversary Competition for the Hall Morrice Trophy – sign up in pairs please. Stableford format. Shotgun start.  19th & 27th May – Club Championship Qualifying Rounds.  As always VOLUNTEERS are needed to help on the registration desk or act as starters for the various opens – these competitions provide a significant income and your help for just a couple of hours in providing a welcoming face to visitors and promoting the club would be appreciated. Please contact Ross or Jaime or send an email to the club office if you are willing to help.  **WINTER LEAGUE**  Winter League finalist are Brian Ewing and Barry Reid against Kenny Mair and Graeme Meade – the Final will be played this weekend and all players are welcome to play on Finals Day. Tee times from 9am. | | | | | |