



Brief history of the Seniors' Section

Senior members of the Aboyne Golf Club gathered informally for competition from the mid to late 1980s during which time odd friendly matches were arranged against other golf clubs in the area on an ad hoc basis. In 1989 the Seniors' Section was established as a more formal entity and in that year matches against other clubs came to be played on a regular schedule starting with 2 clubs as opposition and increasing in number in subsequent years to the 12 clubs that we play against today on a home and away basis.

In 1997 the Seniors' Section had reached a size that merited the appointment of a Captain, Vice Captain, Secretary and Treasurer and the Club Constitution was amended to include the Seniors' Captain as an ex officio member of the Club Council.

In addition to the inter-club matches the Seniors' Section compete on Tuesdays throughout the summer season in monthly medal and stableford competitions, single and pairs knockout matchplay competitions and more informal team events. During the winter months the Swannies, as the players are popularly known, meet on Wednesdays for team competitions and for the playing of a winter long Stableford Cup competition.

The Seniors' Section competitions are open to all Gentlemen Members aged 55 years and over and all are given a warm welcome. Qualifying members who wish to participate should in the first instance contact any member of the Seniors' committee, a list of which is posted on the notice board and also shown below, or by adding your name to the Club website booking system where Seniors' Section competitions are reserved and then just turning up to play. Playing in the Seniors' Section does not disqualify members from playing in the Gents' competitions, in fact Seniors are actively encouraged to continue to play in all Club competitions.

The Seniors' Committee is comprised of the following members;

Keith Gardiner	Captain
John Clement	Secretary
Stewart Keir	Treasurer

Bob Milligan
Bill Mitchell
Paul Panchaud
Dave Simpson
Peter Ogden

Seniors' Competitions 2017

The winners of the Seniors' competitions for the 2017 season were as follows;

Trophy winners

Seniors' Scratch Champion Runner-up	Jimmy Forbes Syd Freeman
Seniors' Handicap Champion Runner-up	Paul Clare Iain Mackenzie
Summer Medal Cup Winner Runner-up	Robin Smith Iain Mackenzie
Summer Stableford Cup Winner Runner-up	Jim Douglas Peter Ogden
Summer Eclectic Cup (scratch)	Rob Trahan
Summer Eclectic Cup (handicap)	Bob Milligan
Veterans' Cup Winner	Jim Douglas
Walker Cup Winner	Stewart Keir
Innes Wright Trophy Winner Runner-up	Dave Simpson Jim Douglas
Jim Brechin Quaich - Winners Runners-up	Dave Simpson/Bill Keen Gordon McLaren/Graham White
Winter Stableford Cup (2017/18) Runner-up	Ron Tomal John Clement

Congratulations to all those winners.

Snowbird Trophy

During the winter season the Swannies play 3 friendly away matches against Royal Montrose. 6 games are played in each of the matches and the team winning the most games over the series wins the trophy. Aboyne were the holders from the 2016/17 winter but in the 2017/18 winter the trophy was won by Royal Montrose by 12 games to 6.

Interclub Matches

After having difficulties over recent years fielding teams to play in the matches 2014 saw an increase in the numbers volunteering to play which continued into the 2015 and the 2016 seasons which presented a welcome headache in selecting teams with handicaps appropriate to the opposition while seeking fairness of representation for all. However, the numbers signing up to play for the 2017 season have been disappointing and in most matches teams have barely been assembled. Therefore, the programme has been reduced for the 2018 season from 24 to 22 matches. It is hoped that this reduction and with more members having recently joined the Seniors' section it will be easier to field teams in future.

Historically, Aboyne Seniors start the season slowly due to a number of the early matches being played away from home and this has been the case for the 2018 season; Aboyne suffered a heavy loss away to Royal Aberdeen, after achieving 2 wins and a halved match over the past 3 years, but bounced back with a win away to Peterculter.

Royal Aberdeen Team Stableford Cup

On 4th August 2017 a team, comprising Syd Freeman, Rob Trahan, Ian Andersdon and Dave Simpson, was entered for this competition and finished runners up to the team from Deeside. A very creditable result.

Seniors' Summer outing

Each year the Seniors select a golf club to visit and play a stableford competition for the Walker Cup which is awarded to the highest overall point scorer. In previous years the event has been held at Kemnay (twice), Kintore, Inverurie (twice), Inch, Craibstone (twice), Kirriemuir (twice), Brechin (twice), Huntly, Glenisla, Forfar, Grantown on Spey and Alyth. On Thursday 22nd June the 2017 the Seniors broke with the tradition of visiting parkland courses and took on the the links course at Spey Bay Golf Club. The conditions were dry but overcast and there was very little wind. All those who played enjoyed the experience and were given an hospitable welcome by the club. The photograph below shows all those Swannies who attended.

Stewart Keir was the overall winner with 42 points and was presented with the **Walker Cup**.

The other results for day were;

Division 1

Winner	-	Jim Cowper	40 points
Runner-up	-	Bill Liversidge	37 points

Division 2

Winner	-	Terry Atkinson	36 points
Runner-up	-	Keith Gardiner	33 points

The nearest the pin prizes at hole 4 and 15 were both won by Jim Cowper.

There was also a putting competition which was won by Gordon Hossack.



Left to right; Charles Scott, Ian Anderson, Peter Ogden, Gordon Hossack, Colin Sinclair, Paul Gilfillan, Paul Panchaud, Bert Bruce, Ron Scott, Bill Mitchell, Hakan Bergfeldt, Roddy McLean, Stewart Keir, Terry Atkinson, Bill Liversidge, Doug Middleton, Dennis Elrick, Jimmy Forbes, Bob Milligan, Jim Douglas, Syd Freeman, Brian Anderson, Gordon McLaren, John Clement, Jim Cowper, Keith Gardiner and Ron Tomal

The 2018 outing will be held at Inch Golf Club on Thursday 21st June.