

GENTS SECTION NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2018



Gents Section Committee Team



Tony Laing

Captain
& Secretary



**Colin
Leach**

Vice Captain
& Greens
Rep.



**Bill
Murphy**

Match &
Handicap



Dave Storm

Treasurer



Dave Gordon

Seniors Rep.



**Gordon
Spence**

Juniors Rep.

Gents Captains Message – Tony J.A. Laing

The Twilight of the 2018 golf season is upon us.

2018 has been a great season of golf with one of the best warm dry summers we have experienced for many a year. This has undoubtedly contributed to the increase in the number of players on the course which is good to see.

We have seen some excellent golf played with good turn out's for most of the regular competitions and great results from the club teams within the Gents and Junior sections. We also had the Gents course record being broken by Adam Fisher with a fantastic round of 62 during the Gents Open on a day where most found it very challenging to score at all. The various Opens held throughout the year saw entries full, with some players travelling from all over the country to compete. All of this has contributed to the club's success as a Deeside course that Golfers are prepared to travel to, gives us great exposure over a wide geographical area and contributes to positive revenue for the club.

This year we have seen a considerable number of new members and, we trust, you have all enjoyed the club and course. I have met and played with a number of you and it goes without saying it has been a pleasure, with some great feedback complementing the course, club and the friendly welcome from all. Your support is much appreciated and we would welcome for you to get further engaged in the club.

Gents Committee – needs your support.

I would like to give a special thanks to the volunteers supporting the Gents section throughout 2018 and next year we urgently need new committee members to assist and be part of running the Gents section.

The Committee meets once a month throughout the golf season (April to October) and ensures the Gents Section runs smoothly for all. Plus it contributes to the direction and future of the club by feeding back suggestions and information into the Club Management Team and Greens committee. If you would like to join the Gents Committee or discuss more details of the opportunity to help out, please do not hesitate to contacting me via info@petercultergolfclub.co.uk

Golf Rules 2019

In the revised rules of Golf for 2019 the R&A has given club committees the option of introducing a new local rule for lost balls, or balls out of bounds.

Peterculter Golf Club **will not** be introducing this option of a local rule.

The R&A intention for this new rule is to speed up play when a player is required to go back under stroke and distance.

We feel that this is not an issue at PGC as most players realise when they should play a provisional ball.

We also feel that deciding where the nearest point of relief under this rule could take longer than if a player played a provisional ball.

In some instances players could get relief of about 30 yards on our course and we are not in favour of that.

We can keep the new rule option under review and if need be re-visit it at some other time.

We shall see a number of ongoing communications from the Club on this subject before the start of the 2019 season to prepare all members for implementation of the new rules.

Some Rules the R&A did not pass:-

Rule 9.k.34(a): If a tree is between the ball and the hole, and the tree is deemed to be younger than the player, then the ball can be moved without penalty. This is so because this is simply a question of timing; when the player was younger, the tree was not there so the player is being penalized because of his age.

Rule 1.a.5 - A ball sliced or hooked into the rough shall be lifted and placed on the fairway at a point equal to the distance it carried or rolled into the rough with no penalty. The player should not be penalized for tall grass which green keepers failed to mow.

Rule 2.d.6 (B) - A ball hitting a tree shall be deemed NOT to have hit the tree. This is simply bad luck and luck has no place in a scientific game. The player must estimate the distance the ball would have traveled if it had not hit the tree and play the ball from there.

Rule 4.c.7(h) - If a putt passes over a hole without dropping, it is deemed to have dropped. The Law of Gravity supersedes the Rules of Golf.

Rule 5. - Putts that stop close enough to the cup that they could be blown in, may be blown in. This does not apply to balls more than three inches from the hole. No one wants to make a mockery of the game.

Now please do not accept the above as some of the new proposed rules (just keeping a light hearted side to a serious subject) ! But please do come along to the Gents AGM on the 2nd of December and find out more about the changes that are coming.

On Course Etiquette

This year we also introduced 'Ready Golf' on the course which has made an impact to the general speed of play by reducing the average round by 15+ mins or so. Although I am sure there are times where there are still opportunities for improvement; however, it is equally fair to say these appear to be applied by a majority of people during a round. Please continue to do your bit by applying the Ready Golf principles as this is seen as a great way to reduce slow play and increase the enjoyment for all.

One of the core aspects of our game is treating all those we meet on the Golf course with consideration and respect at all times.

Slow play is one of those things that we are all going to experience while out on the course at some stage or other, this can cause frustration. If you have a clear hole or more ahead of you then offer those faster players behind to play through.

If you are new to the game or just want a reminder of the main Essentials of Golf Etiquette then an excellent source of guidance is available from the R&A web site, You can link to this [Here](#)

Fair and reasonable etiquette, along with respect to and from fellow players will contribute to us all maintaining a friendly family club that can be enjoyed by us all.

Enjoy Winter Golf – (Keep swinging)

Although the 2018 golf season is now drawing to a close the Winter League will offer a challenge to keep our swings going and I hope the winter weather is not too extreme, giving our green keeping team a window of opportunity to address the winter program and preparing the course for the 2019 season.

Juniors – Gordon Spence

As the season closes for the junior golfers, there are a few items to bring up to date. Work is underway to support the transition of juniors from the Saturday coaching into the regular junior section. Trevor Grose and Gordon Spence attended a very useful workshop held by the SGU. The workshop included presentations, material and discussions on how to encourage and retain juniors within the club. The junior section remains a small group and will be impacted further with 6 juniors moving into the adult section so the workshop information has come at an appropriate time. Further work will be developed early in the new season to start the ball rolling on junior development.

The Junior section has seen some great representation at the Pennant League and the various Opens in the area this session, with club championships being highly competitive.

The junior Club Championship knockout rounds were completed. The results were:-

Junior Scratch Champion:- Cameron Fraser beat Charlie McDonald
Junior Handicap Champion:- Jeremy Graham beat Sam Allan
Most Improved Player:- Jeremy Graham

Peterculter has struggled to field junior Pennant teams over the last few years – 10 players required for each match. Other clubs are also experiencing similar difficulties. As a result, the format and timing of Pennant matches are to be discussed at the Aberdeen & District Pennant League AGM in November.

Gordon Spence has confirmed he is happy to stay involved with the junior section for another year but would appreciate some help especially in the early part of the season. If anyone is willing and available to help then please get in touch at gspence@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Junior Coaching – Trevor Grose

Another coaching season draws to a close and around 60 children have taken part in the 20 lesson block running on a Saturday afternoon. We introduced a number of new coaches again this season and they have all fitted in well, but we need at least 4-5 new coaches each season as coaches move on, usually as a result of their children completing the coaching programme or simply moving away from the area. You do NOT need to be a low handicap player, just have plenty of patience and enjoy working with kids; it is meant to be fun as well as delivering a real skill.

2018 has seen the introduction of family golf competitions, where parents and children are encouraged to play in fun competitions; these have been well received and we will be looking to offer more dates for these in 2019. This is part of our drive to bring young families to the club and grow that important area of demographics.

We do face a real challenge with children retaining an interest in golf as they progress into their teenage years and we are finding a decreasing number progressing towards junior golf. This is one of the reasons that we are trying to pull families into golf at the club, so that all can enjoy the game and hopefully we will start to see a gradual pick up in children retaining an interest in golf.

We run weekly 6/9 hole medals for the kids and flag competition to provide children with plenty of opportunities to put into practice the skills that they learn on the practice ground. Play can be slow and I would ask adults playing behind the kids to appreciate that the kids are developing on course skills and give them plenty of space; they and their parents can be future members of the club, so need plenty of encouragement.

This is a great thing to be involved with and we really would like more members to get engaged, so if you are interested please contact Linda in the club office and we will link you in with a training course; there is no cost to you.

Seniors – Dave Gordon

The PEGGS Senior Gents play Monday morning games throughout the Spring and Summer and this season has generally been played in good weather which has been welcomed by golfers throughout the country.

We are all, however, now preparing for the coming Autumn and Winter weather.

During the winter season we still meet on a Monday morning with the weekly draw for tee times allocating a number of games with an early start from the 7th Tee. The course in the winter is shorter and with our local handicap arrangements for the Monday games it makes it easier to reduce your handicap and adjustments are made to keep everyone in with a chance of winning!

The Senior Gents, not restricted to PEGGS Members, have also played the usual “Friendlies” home and away matches against 8 other local clubs - Aboyne, Banchory, Craibstone, Deeside, Kemnay, Portlethen, Stonehaven and Westhill. This year in the 16 matches Peterculter had 6 wins, 2 draws and lost in 8 but all enjoyed the bacon roll and tea/coffee before and a 2-course meal with tea/coffee after playing.

The Senior Friendlies were organised this year by Neil Craig, David Johnstone and Athol Garden.

In addition to the Monday matches Senior Gents have played in Central Aberdeenshire District Seniors (CADS) league open to all Senior Members involving 14 clubs with each club hosting one CADS event per season. This Season we finished a very credible second, with 116 points, and only 2 points behind the winners Alford. Congratulations are due to all those who have taken part!

The CADS Teams this year have been organised by Fred Talbot, Geoff McQuillan and Archie McCallum.

Greens – Colin Leach

You will see the course being prepared for winter golf and, as noted in Stan Reid’s recent update, the winter course layout has been tweaked a bit with some new green and tee positions and less Tee mats, so hopefully we will all enjoy the changes.

The Winter Maintenance and Improvement Programme is prepared and will also start shortly with the main items as follows:-

- Modify the front left quadrant of the 14th green to make it a bit more forgiving.
- Relay the Gents 14th Tee.
- Remove the wooden wall at the Gents 6th Tee.
- Tar several paths and their surrounds.
- Verti-drain all of fairways/approaches and some rough areas where we know free standing water occurs.
- Fill in and then turf the right hand bunker at the 17th green.

- Landscape the small areas above the dwarf wall at the 8th green so the stray balls are findable and playable.
- Lower the lip of the left hand bunker at the 1st green to make it easier to maintain and play from.
- Relay the back portion of the Gents 12th Medal Tee.
- Relay the exit pathway from the Gents 15th tee.

The above items are considered the main tasks along with other normal winter maintenance including cleaning out ditches, pruning trees, painting furniture etc.

We sincerely hope that the coming winter weather is a bit kinder to our Green Staff than last year and, just to highlight, if it is, then the work programme will be adjusted and reduced accordingly.

Match & Handicap – Bill Murphy

Club Championship

The Finals Day took place on the 8th September on a fine day and the results were:-

Scratch	Phil Robb beat Andrew Smith
Cat 1 H/C	Robert Wilson beat Tony Brown
Cat 2 H/C	John Andrew beat Andy Taylor
Senior Scratch	Pat Doherty beat Jim Hardie
Senior H/C	George Batchelor beat Rob Graham

Knock Out Competitions:-

Scratch	Tony Robertson beat Richie Anderson
Handicap	Lewis Joss beat David Walker
Four Ball	Arthur Nicoll and Arthur Flett beat Trevor Grose and Simon Merrett

Vice Captains Trophy David Laing beat Simon Hoy

Congratulations to the winners of these and all the other trophies awarded during the year. The Prizegiving Event will take place on the same day as the Gents AGM on the 2nd December.

Supplementary Scores

The end of the season is rapidly approaching so please check that you have played sufficient qualifying rounds to retain your handicap. It is not necessary to play in qualifying competitions to retain your handicap. A card can be submitted for handicap purposes provided the player notifies the starter i.e. the professional shop before the round starts. The round can be played from the White or Yellow tees and the card is signed by your playing partner. The scores will be entered into the computer and used to calculate a handicap adjustment in the normal way.

Winter League

The Winter League programme will run again this year on the same format – four ball better

ball league basis followed by a knock-out phase in February to determine the overall winner. The number of players has dropped over the years and last year around 20 pairs entered the leagues which run on Saturday and Sunday mornings from about 8.30 when daylight and weather permits. Please consider entering this year – it is a good opportunity to meet different members and is not taken too seriously (by most teams!). Our aim would be to return to the days of running two groups of 10 teams on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The entry sheets are available in the Gents Locker Room and the first matches will take place in the first week of November.

Finance – Dave Storm

The finances for this season, like previous years, shall leave us with a small surplus, as a result of many golfers have enjoyed the great weather experienced this year. We have experienced a great turn-out not only at the club level, but also the open competitions.

During the season the Gents Section has contributed towards the Tee Cups, which has contributed to keeping the course tidy as we break tees, hitting our great drives.

We shall discuss and give more information about the finances at the Gents AGM on the 2nd of December.