

Areas & Counties Newsletter



Dear Secretary or Committee member

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly newsletter, keeping you and others fully up-to-date with our latest activities here at Scottish Golf.

As we seek to strengthen our communications and take on board the feedback we receive, we continue to add more Area & County representatives to this newsletter e-mail list. Please let us know if you would like other individuals added by emailing Ed Hodge, Head of Communications, at e.hodge@scottishgolf.org

CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STRATEGY & SGM DATE SET FOR 2 DECEMBER IN STIRLING

Thank you to the many Area & County representatives who took the time to attend our recent meeting in Stirling, where we further outlined the plans and benefits behind Scottish Golf's Draft Strategy.

Via our work, we have reached out to as many golf clubs, stakeholders and partners as possible to gain overall views and hear of local issues aired as part of the formulation of our strategic plans for the future of Scottish Golf.

As we communicated at Stirling and since on our website, Scottish Golf's new strategy will deliver a number of key benefits across our stakeholders, all designed to grow the game, support clubs and add value to your golfing experience. These benefits will include:



- Marketing and communication support for Areas & Counties to improve their engagement between clubs and members
- Increased coaching grants to support the development of talented golfers in each Area & County and grow the pool of talent available at national level
- Access to a Development Fund to improve coaching and practice facilities in partnership with clubs
- Greater administration support through Development Officers & Business Planning
- Increase the stature of the Scottish Area Team Championships to become a 'must play' event for men, women, boys and girls in each Area and County

More information will follow as discussed in due course, including a Briefing pack, that will help you communicate the key themes, benefits and timelines to your fellow representatives, clubs and club members.

In the meantime, I would like to inform you that we have now confirmed that Scottish Golf's **Special General Meeting (SGM)** will be held on **Saturday 2 December 2017 at the Stirling Court Hotel**. Further details and a formal invitation to attend will be sent out with all relevant papers ahead of the event, but in the meantime this is simply a save the date notification.

I would like to thank you all for your thoughts and feedback regarding our plans. This, in the main, has been very positive and encouraging. I can see that the majority of our golfing community see the need to invest more in our Areas & Counties, clubs and club members for us all to benefit from as we move ahead over the years to come.

You can view the Benefits document for the Draft Strategy via the link below.

[> View Scottish Golf's Draft Strategy](#)

GOLFKINGS MEN'S AREA TEAM & WOMEN'S COUNTY FINALS

While an email to all Area Secretaries has already been sent, I would like to remind you that you can meet members of the Scottish Golf senior management team at this week's GolfKings Scottish Men's Area Team Championship (7 – 10 September).



At Newmachar Golf Club, myself and senior management will be on site at the event and will be available to discuss Scottish Golf's new strategy and address any questions you have on both Thursday afternoon & evening (7 September) and Friday morning (8 September) at the venue. Team photos are also being taken for all competing line-ups from 7.30am approx and onwards on the Friday morning, so we look forward to seeing many of you at Newmachar.

Members of the Senior team will also attend and assist at the Scottish Women's County Finals from 15 – 17 September at Glenbervie Golf Club.

Indeed, as per our recent communication, Scottish Golf is committed to running both Men's & Boys' Area Team Championships and Women's County Finals in their current format in 2018, but require to start considering other options in partnership with Areas and Counties now for 2019 in line with the resources available. Clearly this will be determined following the SGM in December.

With this in mind, we look forward to discussing options and taking in feedback at both Newmachar and Glenbervie, while there will also be other opportunities for discussion and feedback on the Championship formats.

BARRIE DOUGLAS FUNERAL

The funeral of Barrie Douglas, one of the most popular figures within Scottish golf and beyond, took place in Perth on Monday earlier this week. St Matthew's Church was overflowing with Barrie's family, friends and colleagues from across the game during a wonderful celebration of his life, before Craigie Hill Golf Club hosted a gathering thereafter.

Scottish Golf was also saddened to learn of the recent death of Peter Lloyd, the former PGA in Scotland secretary, and another superb servant to the game in this country. Our best wishes go to the families of Barrie and Peter.

COACHING PROGRAMME MEETINGS

Our Acting Head of Performance, Stuart Clayton, and Coaching Manager, Colin Bell, would be delighted to meet with those Areas & Counties that have not already had the chance to do so. The aim is to discuss your current coaching programme in more detail and find out if there are any further ways in which Scottish Golf could support this. We would like to ensure we strengthen our communication and working relationship with you in regards to coaching – both your own programme and the coaching opportunities available through Scottish Golf.

If your organisation would like to meet, please contact Gillian Paton at g.paton@scottishgolf.org and we can arrange a date and venue.

Staying with Performance, we were all delighted to see Connor Syme (Drumoig) and Robert MacIntyre (Glencruitten) selected by GB&I for the forthcoming Walker Cup at Los Angeles Country Club, with Peebles' Darren Howie also picked for the Jacques Leglise Trophy match at Ballybunion in Ireland last week.

TICKETS LAUNCHED FOR 2019 SOLHEIM CUP IN SCOTLAND

We are all looking forward to Scotland hosting the 2019 Solheim Cup at Gleneagles, with the biggest team event in female golf offering a great opportunity to encourage more girls and women into golf.

The official handover was recognised at the closing ceremony of last month's fantastic event at Des Moines during which Scottish Golf Academy players Anna Mackay (Crail GS) and Eilidh Henderson (Kirkcaldy) accepted the honour of hosting the 2019 event on behalf of Scotland.

Anna and Eilidh were chosen to represent Scotland as part of the #Project19 initiative which saw six junior girls attend the 2017 Solheim Cup as part of Scotland's delegation to experience a major event and inspire them looking ahead to 2019.

Ticket sales have now been officially launched for the event, with a variety of packages and tickets, starting from £10, now available. Children go free! Please spread the word and help ensure the next staging of the Solheim Cup in Scotland proves one of the best.

[> View more information](#)



COWGLEN ENJOYS MEMBERSHIP BOOM

It was heartening to hear of a fantastic story from a club in recent days, with Cowglen GC in Glasgow adding over 150 new members since last October, aided by support from a Scottish Golf Regional Club Development Officer.

This illustrates great work by the club across a number of levels and the story has been picked up by a number of media outlets.

[> View more information](#)

I look forward to seeing many of you at Newmachar in the north east later this week.

Best wishes,

Blane Dodds, Chief Executive