

GENTS SECTION NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2018



Gents Section Committee



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

Golf season is well upon us!

What a great start to the golf season, with weather that has encouraged all golfers out, hopefully, shooting those birdies and already a number of holes in one this year! The club has seen a very encouraging new wave of members this year, and I thank everyone for supporting them with a warm welcome and supporting the ethos of our family friendly club.

YOUR CLUB



GENTs OPEN SATURDAY 30th JUNE – CAN YOU SPARE TWO HOURS TO SUPPORT THE CLUB?

The ladies have an army of volunteers for the competitions they organise but in the Gents Section we always seem to struggle. We appreciate those that do currently volunteer but we urgently need helpers for the registration/score entry desk and starters to take the pressure off the pro's shop on the day. These are not difficult tasks and there will always be an experienced person in attendance to keep you straight. It is important that we show a friendly vibrant atmosphere to our visitors, guests and members, all help will be appreciated. The Opens are important events in many aspects, including show casing the Club and earning revenue. We look forward to a good response.

Ready Golf

The introduction of Ready Golf has been well received with many players reporting savings of about 15+ minutes per round when things go well. We realise that Ready Golf requires some players to change habits developed over many years but please continue to encourage all playing partners to adopt the new thinking which should, over time, become the new norm. The reduction of playing time and the relaxation of traditional etiquette is key to attracting new and, hopefully, younger players into the game so your acceptance of the changes is essential.

There are a number of rule changes that come into effect in 2019 all aimed at modernising the game – more news on this will follow as some will require a Local club rule change. In the meantime members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new requirements and more information can be found here - <https://www.randa.org/News/2018/03/New-Rules-of-Golf-unveiled-by-The-RA-and-USGA>.

Juniors – ‘ The Clubs Future’

The club has developed a great coaching program for our early developers (8 to 13 year old's) and their transition into the Junior Section is a key point for the growth and development of the club. As you can see from the Junior section up date below, we have some great rising stars and speaking to them they also enjoy being ambassadors for the club during matches. There is no doubt this is something that requires to be developed further as we have a number of juniors moving onto the next phase of their life and heading off to University. This is something the Club is putting a focus on and looks forward to support from all members.

Handicap Adjustment.

There have been a number of recent questions and discussion, from both adults and juniors, around exactly how the adjustment to handicap occurs once your card is submitted. Recognising the importance of this, Bill Murphy offers clarity in the Handicap and Matches section below. If you have any questions on this, we welcome your feedback.

Etiquette and Conduct (of some) on the course

It, regrettably, requires me to highlight that there has been, what appears to be, an increase in Male players displaying poor etiquette and conduct to others on the course. The Gents committee have a number of written and verbal complaints that we are currently investigating where players have not given due respect to others with cases of inappropriate shouting and foul language reported including at Matches in front being played with visiting clubs. We are all sometimes frustrated by slower play but this does not mean we are allowed to abuse those in front. This type of behavior will not be tolerated and where necessary we will review such incidents in accordance with the Clubs disciplinary procedure.

Peterculter Golf Club, rightly, prides itself in being a family friendly club and call upon everyone to support that ethos.

Juniors – Gordon Spence

It is great to see junior Sunday and Monday medal participation picking up since the end of exams. Keep checking the diary for the correct tee off times because they do sometimes vary depending on other competitions. Please use the on-line booking system so other juniors know you are attending.

The Junior Pennant team have had mixed results so far this year:-

22/04/18 – Home match against Kemnay – loss 3½ to 1½
29/04/18 – Away match against Royal Aberdeen - forfeited
27/05/18 – Away match against Kemnay - forfeited
03/06/18 – Home match against Royal Aberdeen – win 4½ to ½

Unfortunately, we were only able to field 4 pairs in our first match which proved to be tight with 2 of the games being decided on the 18th green. The away matches proved too difficult to field a team probably due to exam timetables so were forfeited. In the final match, we managed to field a full team and came away with a resounding win, so well done for that result. It is also encouraging and great to see some new faces joining the team this year.

Arrangements are under way to start the Junior Club Championship knock out stages for both scratch and handicap competitions. There are a few other junior competitions over the summer months which require Peterculter to be represented and I will contact juniors directly for these.

If anyone has any questions about junior golf then please contact me at Tel: 07919 691734 or gspence@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Seniors – Dave Gordon

The Summer golf has got well underway with the weekly PEGGS Senior Gents weekly competitions each Monday from 8.00am. Order of play is determined by a draw the Monday before for tee times so put your name on the list marking as well the dates on which you can play and arrangements will follow to get the fees that go towards prizes.

The Senior Gents “Friendlies” matches, CADS matches and the annual PEGGS Golf Knock Out Competition are all in progress benefitting from the good weather from mid-May and early June.

Monday 23 July 2018 is the Senior Gents Open and, as with other open competitions, we need helpers for the registration/score entry desk and for starters. Please therefore put your name on the notice requesting volunteers for this and give some time to assist. Help is greatly appreciated and very rewarding welcoming all who are playing in the event. Even if you can only do an hour it spreads the load!

Another date to note from the Club Diary is Monday 3 September 2018 which is the Gents Senior Open Stableford.

Greens Report – Colin Leach

The start of the Summer season certainly felt like winter was never ending with continued rain, saturated ground and hard frosts in April which then turned into a virtual drought with warmer weather and no significant rain for the last 3 months!

This has meant that the Greens Staff have had a very difficult time to kick start growth and settle the greens and other areas down into smooth and as true as we would like and expect. Having only played the course myself every couple of weeks I can certainly see a steady improvement in the greens over the last month.

A point worthy of note is that the irrigation system has been in constant use over the last 6-8 weeks to try and keep the Greens improving and, while this does help, it is not a total substitute for a regular spot of rain. Actually as I write this on the 16th June we are getting the first decent rain fall this summer which the baked fairways will certainly appreciate.

The warmer temperatures through the night has also meant that the Poa grass started to flower and seed which has had to be managed by additional brushing and cutting. The Greens are now cut down to 4mm and regularly rolled to maintain firmness. Verti Draining of the Greens with 13mm solid tines has been done to a depth of 6-8 inches and will continue to be carried out every 5/6 weeks throughout the season. Please note that hollow coring of the Greens is not scheduled to be done until later on in the year in September. The Greens have also been sprayed with both nutrient feed and fungicide with additional granular feed put on the 1st, 5th, 6th and 7th as they were not improving as expected. The Greens have also been top dressed twice to date with 9 Tonnes being applied each time. The club has invested in a new Verti drain machine, which is due for delivery in July, and this will make the timing of these jobs, including tineing and hollow coring totally in our control as before we shared a machine with other clubs and had to use it or lose it on set booked dates.

The Greens committee is now looking ahead at the end of Summer into winter maintenance work that can be carried out with an intention to start some projects a bit earlier in October to help limit any backlog that may occur if we get another cold winter preventing progress.

Matches and Handicaps – Bill Murphy

Weekly Gents Competitions

The season got off to a slow start with two medals having to be cancelled following heavy rain. Player numbers for the medals are now increasing and we are seeing 135-150 entrants on Wednesdays and the weekend although the 9 hole medals are not proving popular with only 3 players usually entered. There were some issues with score entries early in the season as a result of a ClubV1 update and the introduction of the new stroke index but all issues are now resolved. Members are encouraged to download the ClubV1 mobile phone app which gives access to the club diary and shows the live leader board for competitions in progress – it is an excellent tool and thoroughly recommended. Simply search for ClubV1 in your phone's app store.

The Label Printer in the Pro Shop has been causing problems this season but has now been replaced. Over recent weeks the submission of cards has been an issue with many cards missing or scores not entered into the system or unsigned which leads to frustrations when closing out the competitions. I would remind all members to submit a card even if it is an NR card and to double check that score has been accepted by the system. The mobile app should show your score once it is in the system.

Mixed Texas Scramble Open Competition

The Mixed Texas Scramble Open was held in May with 41 teams taking part with some 100 visiting players from 28 clubs. The competition was successful in raising over £600 for club funds and about £130 for the CIFIC.

Club Competition News

The designated Lombard Trophy Stableford qualifying competition was unfortunately abandoned due to the poor weather but the club championship 1st round was used to identify the qualifier. Steve McHattie won the competition with a stunning score of 63 to partner Ross at Blairgowrie on 20th June, both did very well with a 4th place overall, so a well done for a great result.

The Hall Morrice Anniversary Trophy competition and the R&A 9 hole Qualification event were both poorly supported and the Committee would welcome feedback on why these struggle to attract players. Please contact the club with comments and suggestions

Club Championship

The club championship and senior's club qualification rounds have now been completed and the draws posted in the locker room and on the club website. I must apologise for the confusion with the Club Championship draw particularly of the Low Handicap section which had to be re-issued to correct errors - apologies to all concerned and for any inconvenience. Please contact your opponent in good time to arrange all matches and reminder that Finals Day will be on September 8th.

Medal Competitions

A large number of players submit a No Return when playing Medal competitions. I would remind everyone that for handicap calculation purposes the maximum score on any hole is a NETT DOUBLE BOGEY so effectively any competition becomes a Stableford event. So in the extreme a no score at a hole is assigned a score of a double bogey and the total adjusted. Obviously the player will not be able to win the competition based on total score but the adjusted score could still result in a player making the buffer zone or even getting a cut if the rest of the round was good. There is no limit on the number of holes that are adjusted to nett double bogey. So please do not give up after one or two bad holes – please enter all scores into the system and sign your card in the normal way.

Handicap Adjustments

Here is the latest version of the handicap adjustment allowances for the various handicap categories for your information taken from the CONGU Handbook.

20.6 *Exact Handicaps must be adjusted as follows:*

| Handicap Category | Exact Handicap | If Nett Differential is:- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Within Buffer Zone | Above Buffer Zone | Below Buffer Zone |
| | | No Change | Add | Subtract for each stroke below |
| 1 | Plus to 5.4 | 0 to +1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 2 | 5.5 to 12.4 | 0 to +2 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| 3 | 12.5 to 20.4 | 0 to +3 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| 4 | 20.5 to 28.4 | 0 to +4 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| 5 | 28.5 to 36.4 | 0 to +5 | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| 6 | 36.5 to 54 | 0 to +6 | 0.1 | 0.6 |

Children's Coaching - Trevor Grose

The first half of the children's coaching season is drawing to a close and this year we have over 60 budding stars taking part in the programme, split over Advanced and Development groups. This year we have introduced family fun day golf events to encourage parents and children to participate in golf on the course. These events take the form of alternate shot play with match play scoring. This is part of our wider drive to encourage family golf at our club; a key piece in re-building membership. The play in these competitions and the children's medals on Sunday afternoons can be a bit slow, so I would ask for your patience if you are playing behind them; on course play is very important in cementing the skills which they pick up during our coaching sessions. Feedback from parents and children has been very encouraging. The coaches take a break for 6 weeks over the school holidays, re-commencing in mid-August and continuing with the programme through until the school break in October.