



NEWSLETTER – First Quarter 2015

Alan Swan – Captain

Not too many missed days with 'Course Closed' as we move into Spring with the course beginning to take on a different appearance. Lots of discussion around the new drink driving limits and as one might expect our bar takings are down. The lack of take up on catering at the club has also contributed to lower bar takings and the House Committee are working to see how we might remedy this situation. Our Social Calendar is filling up for the year and we are aiming for maximum occupancy at these events now that our Social Convener, Dougie Collin, has got into the swing of things (sorry)! Inputs from other Council members follows so I will finish by wishing us all an enjoyable and successful golfing season.



Kevin McCluskey - Vice Cap'n

At long last after what seems a very long, wet, cold and windy winter the 2015 golf season is nearly upon us, I am very much looking forward to it and I'm sure you all are too. We have the opening match on Sunday 29th March and are straight into competition play with first events for Gents, Ladies and Juniors all taking place in the first week so be sure to check your fixture cards. We have 43 new members this year and I'm sure that everyone will give them a warm and hearty welcome to Dunfermline Golf Club. Good luck to all for the season.



Graham Yeoman - Website

It is over a year since we launched the new DGC Web Site, so a few statistics might be of interest. The site has had around 121,000 hits to date with 456 registered Members. The most visited page is the Members Tee Booking tab. The Green-keepers weekly updates and plans are proving popular with 2000 hits. We have added three new pages: The updated copy of the Club Rules, The Club Fixture list and an R&A Rules Academy which provides a link to an interactive Rules Quiz (give it a try you might be surprised at how much/little you know about the rules we all play under). At the very least you should then be able to hold Donnie Deveney to account and argue your corner on the finer points! Smart Phone users who were experiencing problems when navigating the site will now find that you get directed to a Mobile friendly site. This will be useful to those playing on Tuesday evenings who wish to book Saturday Medal times! I would welcome suggestions for improvements that you may have. My contact email is on the website under the Club Officers tab.



Sam Burton - Ladies Captain

The Ladies have enjoyed a good Winter with both the Monday and Saturday eclectics being well supported. The Winter Prize Giving is on Monday 23rd March at 7pm and this will be followed by the normal Glenmuir fashion show. In the Fife County Ladies inter-club winter foursomes (Silver Division) Joan Peden & Vicky

MacCallum lost in the 2nd round match away to Scotsraig, but only after a good fight loosing on the 20th hole. Best wishes for a great 2015 golf season.



Dougie Collin – Social Convener

The Race Night (Sat 7th March) went well with all the horses being sold. Numbers were low on the night but we did make a small profit. On Sat 4th of April we are hosting another Quiz Night. We aim to make this event another success so please add your name to the Quiz Night List at the bar. The cost stays the same at £2 per person, so rally round, build your team, bring friends and neighbours, and 'come on down'. Next on the agenda is a different sort of music night with a new solo act. David Mutch is a Fife based musician with theatre music and easy listening being served up for us on the 25th of April. Ticket prices will be reasonable and will be advised soon as the details are finalised for this evening of easy listening from a very professional show. During May we are planning a Casino evening. This will be our most adventurous social extravaganza to date with a tentative date of May 23rd. There will be blackjack and roulette tables etc. with croupiers and a floor manager to assist us all in the rules and give advice on playing. In addition, there will be an illusionist mingling among us astounding us at our tables with his magic and no doubt help us to break 'The Bank'.



Rab Fotheringham – Match Sec'y

Knock-out competition sheets are



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in place with closing date 5th April and the draws for competitions taking place on 6th April. After handicap reviews for last season an updated handicap list has now been posted on result board. My deputy Ross Muir has settled in well assisting me on the last two medals. Draw for opening match will be carried out on 23rd March with the Lady Captain.



Joan Peden - Greens Convener

I had originally considered a further greens open meeting in advance of the start of the season but hopefully the regular course updates have helped to keep all members aware of the work being done on the course this winter and why! The **Winter Programme** has progressed well with the following areas completed:

- Dogwood clearance – this will be ongoing for future years – areas will be in play.
- Drainage at 11th fairway – completed and GUR to allow turf to settle.
- Bunkers reshaped and returned at 10th and 18th – remain GUR to allow turf to settle.
- 16th tee lifted levelled and returned – GUR to allow turf to settle and knit together.
- Paths lifted and re-laid at 12th and 13th.
- Worn areas returned – again this work will be ongoing for future years.

We have been fortunate with no extended periods of bad weather this winter and course closures have been kept to a minimum. However decisions on both course closure and the use of winter greens are not taken lightly and are taken to protect both the course and the main greens to ensure reasonable conditions all year round. As a result of the level of play during the winter we do have

areas that have experienced heavy traffic but hopefully once the growth starts they will soon recover.

Preparation for the start of the season. Greens will be verti drained and will be top dressed on an ongoing basis for the following reasons:

- To achieve smooth surfaces
- Control organic matter (thatch) as part of a long term programme
- Soil exchange to allow better percolation of water through the greens
- To achieve drier greens which have less turf diseases and healthier plants.

All bunkers will be tidied up and edged and trimmed. They will then be topped up with new sand – we have sourced a new supplier this year who can provide a sand suitable for both bunker use and top dressing.

Cutting will soon start in earnest – already fairways and greens are getting cut more regularly!

To complement the work being done with top dressing and grooming the greens a **Sweep and Fill attachment** has been purchased which will ensure more effective top dressing activity – it fills aeration holes in less passes and promotes healthier turf and will also work well with the planned Graden work. As mentioned at the greens open evening last year and on the recommendation of STRI we intend to undertake **Graden Work** on the greens this year to tackle the problem with organic matter.

Plans are to test an area on the putting green at the end of May / early June. Members can then see the operation and the benefits in advance of the work on the main greens planned for the autumn. **Finally.....**How can you help the green staff present the course in the best condition – there are small but important areas where you the members can all help:

- Never take caddie cars / buggies between greenside bunkers and the green itself –

please take the long way round!!

- Always replace divots
- Always repair your pitch marks on the greens – and any others in the vicinity.
- Always rake the bunkers in a manner you would expect to find them in.



Willie Tanner – House Convener

Chris Sunderland and Elaine Collin are reviewing how we work with the Catering services and whether we can bring back the 'Bar Snack' services that meets members' needs at times when the kitchen is closed. They are also reviewing the bar hours for early Spring and late Autumn when the clubhouse and course are quiet, but the clocks have changed. (Any changes here will be minimal.) Ideas for utilising the accommodation areas in the clubhouse are at an early stage of evaluation by the House Committee.



George Primrose – Finance

Work is almost completed in producing Quarterly Accounts for the Club. This will help Council with financial planning throughout the Club's financial year.

Ken Forbes – ClubGolf

As in previous years DGC in partnership with ClubGolf will be offering a program of coaching for youngsters interested in taking up golf. Both Crossford and Cairneyhill Schools will be visited by a member of the coaching team and Chris Nugent to explain the benefits of taking up the sport.



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These Tuesday evening sessions (8 weeks starting 12th May) will target both beginners and those returning for a further year. On Sunday the 5th of July a competition for all participants will take place on the 9 hole course.

In addition to the above Chris Nugent will again offer youngsters the opportunity to attend his 'Golf Camp' to be held on the practice ground during the first week of the school summer holidays.

