



Aboyne Golf Club  
Formaston Park  
Aboyne  
Aberdeenshire  
AB34 5HP

## Press Release

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### **ABOYNE RE-ESTABLISHES “GRANT’S LOCHIE”**

Aboyne, the oldest golf club on Royal Deeside, is delighted to announce the completion and re-opening of our 6<sup>th</sup> hole featuring the re-establishment of the historic ‘Grants Lochie’.

Club President Nigel Bradburn said, “Aboyne Golf Club re-opened on 28<sup>th</sup> May as part of the relaxation of the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Scottish Government as we fight this dreadful pandemic. The re-start of play has allowed our members to view and be challenged by the re-shaping of this hole and we are receiving very favourable feedback. We have now allowed members to bring guests and in the coming days will re-open the course to visitors so they too can see the improvements we have made on this hole and the course in general.”

Greens Convenor David Munro said “This has been a planned major project as part of our ongoing tree management programme. We have wanted to do this for a few years as we continue to enhance the course. We started over the winter months but the onset of the Coronavirus outbreak meant we went in to lockdown and had to furlough some of our greens staff part way through the project. It is down to the exceptional hard work and dedication of our head greenkeeper Colin Forbes that we have been able to complete this project in time for our re-opening.”

Colin said “We were certainly challenged to get this project completed. A lockdown of key equipment and supplies meant we had to constantly adjust our planning and timeline, but I am delighted with the outcome.”

Colin explained “Previously players from the tee box who sliced their shot to the right were not really penalised. Their ball usually landed at the base of the trees and was playable. However, some of these roots were exposed and we considered this dangerous to players, so we decided to re-shape the hole. Having gained a license from the forestry commission, we set about the work and felled 23 trees comprising spruce and other hardwood. Removing the trees has altered the 6<sup>th</sup> hole and now offers little protection for a player wayward off the tee. We slightly adjusted the contour of the surrounding ground so that the land falls away to the loch. After tidying up the bankside and raising the canopy of the remaining trees it now offers a real challenge to players to avoid the water.”

Nigel said “Aboyne is a course of two halves and our back nine-holes are renowned for the heathland challenge they present. We wanted to strengthen the parkland front nine holes and the re-establishment of ‘Grants Lochie’ has allowed us to do that. As part of the felling license agreement an added benefit is that we have been able to plant replacement trees elsewhere to further define the course.”

Nigel added “We feel we have created a real ‘risk and reward’ hole at the 6<sup>th</sup> requiring players to think carefully about their club selection off the tee and their course management. It will be interesting to see the scores on this hole this season and how many balls end up in the water!”

**ENDS**

## Contact

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## Notes to Editors

Photographs: –

### 1. Opening Day



### 2. Reseeding





### 3. Rotavating and Levelling the bankside



### 4. View towards green





## 5. View back to tee box



### **Aboyne Golf Club**

Aboyne is the understated jewel in Aberdeenshire's golfing crown.

The oldest club on Royal Deeside, Aboyne is an immaculately maintained, challenging golf course with spectacular views of the surrounding hills & countryside. 6000 yards of impeccable fairways and faultless greens - a golfer's haven. Aboyne embraces every golfer, from beginner to Scottish Internationalist.

The long-established course has won many plaudits as one of the most memorable tests of inland golf in Scotland.

Designed by Archie Simpson and updated by renowned architect Martin Hawtree, such is Aboyne's unique terrain and growing reputation it has been selected in recent years by our governing body to host the Scottish Golf Women's County Finals and the Men's NE Open – the flagship event in the North East District calendar and a world amateur ranking event. We were also honoured to be chosen by The R&A to host the LGU Coronation Foursomes Regional Finals in 2018.