

# THE PITCH



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## Captain's Update

Welcome to the first edition of The Pitch – the monthly newsletter for Haddington GC members - that Neil Bain has kindly volunteered to publish.

If you would like to contribute in any way, please contact Neil at [neil@neilbain.co.uk](mailto:neil@neilbain.co.uk).

Just as a reminder, the 'member get a member' scheme is still running and if you introduce a new member then both you and they will receive 20% off your subscriptions for not just 1 but 2 years! Now would be a great time to persuade a friend to join before your new sub is due!

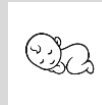
Finally, we had an American visitor who went into the pro-shop at the end of his round and was asked by Scott how he had enjoyed the course. He replied, "That was just great, thank you!". "You're welcome," says Scott "how did you find the greens?" The visitor replied "Easy. I just walked to the end of the fairways and there they were!"

Enjoy your golf over the winter and have a great Festive Season when it comes.

Drew Ramsay  
Captain

## Haddington membership expansion !

Congratulations to our club pro Scott Thomson and his wife on the arrival of their second daughter, Eloise.



## EAST LOTHIAN CLUBS WINTER LEAGUE

The men's Winter League team are showing fine form in Division 2. Only one lost match so far, at home against league leaders Longniddry 1.5 – 3.5.

#	Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts
1	Longniddry	6	6	0	0	12
2	Haddington	5	4	1	0	8
3	Musselburgh Old	6	2	3	1	5
4	Glen	5	2	3	0	4
5	Winterfield	3	1	2	0	2
6	Thorntree	5	1	4	0	2
7	Gifford	4	0	3	1	1

Captain Bruce Calder has had difficulty selecting a settled team, but the depth of squad has been invaluable, securing wins against Gifford (away) 2-3, The Glen (home) 3.5-1.5, Musselburgh Old (away) 2-3 and Thorntree (home) 4-1

## Club Professional News



Scott Thomson and Assistant Professional Ross White continue to provide a well-stocked pro shop as well as dispensing excellent advice on equipment and coaching.

Best wishes go out to Ross, who has now begun work on his PGA studies, which will take him down to the National PGA Training Academy at the Belfry where he will complete a week-long course contributing to his accreditation.

In addition to that, this month sees the beginning of our Black Friday/Christmas sales in the Pro Shop which includes some great deals on a wide range of products across the shop.

Furthermore, gift vouchers are available for the Christmas period which could serve as a great gift option for the time of year.

Scott and Ross would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Course News

Those of you who has been at the club over the past couple of weeks (despite the wet weather!!) will have seen that work has commenced on our new Driving Range. Head Greenkeeper, Sandy Young and his team, have initiated the first steps of the project by laying the foundations for the range and the new first tee. Despite the inclement weather our goal, having the driving range completed by 1st April 2020, remains achievable. The Driving Range will be at zero cost to the club. However, if the work is not completed, then the £6K grant would have to be returned – it cannot be used for anything else.

It is hoped that members and non-members alike will take full advantage of the excellent warm up, practice and coaching facilities that will be available. Initially baskets of balls will be available from the pro-shop before installation of an automatic dispenser later next year.

Volunteers are being sought to operate the buggy and ball-collecting machine, which should take no more than an hour or so at the end of each day. The more volunteers we have the less frequently they will be required to perform so please either e-mail our Club Captain at ramsaydrew@outlook.com or see Scott or Ross in the pro shop. Thanks in advance for your support with this!

## Junior Section

Veronica Nicholson is looking to host another fun competition for the juniors on Sunday 8th December at 2pm.

If you would like to play feel free to call Veronica on 01620 843486, or call the Pro Shop.

## Club Notices

### **Car Parking**

Members are reminded to please stop parking on the grass verges for the foreseeable future. Understandably, on busier days when the car parks are full, there is little option. However, at this time, when the golf course is wet and we are stopping buggies from being used, we cannot allow cars to drive upon the grass for the same reason. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

### **Dog Walkers**

Due to various complaints that we have received regarding dog walking on the golf course, we felt as though it was necessary to inform the members of the official standing of dog walkers on the golf course in conjunction with the golfers.

The 'Right to Rome Act' allows everyone to access most land and inland water in Scotland for recreational and other purposes. This includes dog-walkers, as long as the dog is on a lead and more importantly the dog-walker gives right of way to the golfer.

## Senior League Team

After 9 years of service, Jim Redmond has decided to stand down as Captain of our S.E.D. Senior Golf League Team. Members of the club would like to thank Jim for all of the work he has done.

A volunteer, any male Senior Golfer (55+), either semi or fully retired, is being sought. Scott and Ross will continue to assist with the administration and recruitment of players, but someone is required fill the role of Captain.

Many Senior golfers do enjoy participating in these fixtures and it would be a shame to see the club forced to withdraw next year should we fail to find a volunteer to Captain the side.

Anyone interested should contact Scott at the Pro Shop who will be happy to explain the role in more detail.

## Ladies Section

The Ladies section continue with a winter competition on the first Saturday of every month throughout the winter season. The next one is on Saturday 7th December – tee times booked from 12 noon.

There is also a Christmas fun competition coming up on Saturday 14th December. 9 holes and tee times from 10am. Soup and sandwiches afterwards. Ladies to wear Christmas jumpers if they have one.

The draw for the ladies Double Trouble match play competition has been drawn and emailed to all players. First round to be played by 5th Jan.

## Fixtures

### **December 2019 (all members)**

The Christmas Scramble event this year will be held on the 22nd December as a 9am shotgun. As usual, it will be an invitational event, so all guests are welcome. Included in your £10 entry is a cup of soup and a pie, along with prizes to play for! Call the Pro Shop to book your time (01620 822727).

### **2020 Match play competitions (Gents)**

Entry sheets will be posted on the board for the 2nd Jan 2020. The draw sheets to be distributed by email to all members and posted on the notice board along with Matchplay rules.

### **Medals 2020 season (Gents)**

Prior to the introduction of the new handicap and sloping rating being introduced in November 2020 where each set of tees will have a slope rating allowing scores from any set of tees to count for handicap purposes we are proposing to have 3 divisions in medals and stablefords for the month of April and May with a view to continue with this set up for the rest of the season. Each entrant will be able to choose the tees they wish to play from WHITE SSS 71, YELLOW SSS 69 or RED SSS 67 (SGU still to ratify) we hope this introduction of choice will help members to enjoy competitive golf and to maintain their handicap yearly.

### **2020 fixtures**

A full list of fixtures will be published in the next newsletter.

## Rules of Golf – Preferred Lies

- You are only entitled to Prefer Your Lie ONCE!
- Once you have 'Marked' (**yes, you have to do this**), 'Lifted', 'Cleaned' and 'Replaced' your ball, not nearer the hole, within 6 inches (about the width of a score card) the Ball is now IN PLAY
  - If you cause it to move or lift it again because you don't like that Lie, after all, you are in breach of the Rules and will incur a Penalty.
- Also, if you are required to take a Penalty Drop (from Knee Height) for whatever reason you cannot skip this part just because Preferred Lies are in operation and you will be able to place it eventually anyway.  
**You must make the drop first**, then follow the 'Preferred Lie' procedure second.
  - Preferred Lies for Haddington are allowed if a player's ball lies in a part of the *general area* (i) cut to fairway height or less or (ii) in the first cut of rough

### **General Area**

The area of the course that covers all of the course except for the other four defined areas: (1) the *teeing area* the player must play from in starting the hole he or she is playing, (2) all *penalty areas*, (3) all *bunkers*, and (4) the *putting green* of the hole the player is playing.

The general area includes:

- ❖ All teeing locations on the course other than the teeing area, and
- ❖ All wrong greens.

**Christmas Group Menu  
at The Fairways**

Available December 3rd - 13th & 15th - 19th

2 Courses **£15.00 Per Person**

3 Courses for **£18.00 Per Person**

**Starters**

Leek & Potato Soup

Classic Prawn Cocktail

Chicken Liver Pate, Toast & Onion Chutney

Stuffed Mushrooms with Cheese & BBQ Sauce

**Mains**

Traditional Christmas Dinner

Turkey, Roast Potatoes, Pigs in Blankets, Yorkshire Pudding,

Stuffing, Carrots, Leeks, Swede, New Potatoes, Brussels & Gravy

Roast Sirloin with Roast Potatoes, New Potatoes Yorkshire Pudding & Veg

Honey Roast Gammon, Roast Potatoes & Veg

Vegetable Moussaka

**Dessert**

Traditional Christmas Pudding

Served with Brandy Sauce/Cream or Ice Cream

Chocolate Yule Log, Cream/Vanilla Ice Cream

Lemon Cheesecake

Homemade Sherry Trifle

Coffee and Mince Pies

A Non-refundable deposit of £5.00 per person is required at Time of Bookings. Full payment is required by 25th November with a pre-order on food.

MUST HAVE  
menus



Catering News

Paula and Harry would like to pass on a huge thank you to all Haddington GC members for their support in the first few months since starting.

After the success of the Rod Stewart tribute night they we are planning to put on another show maybe 3rd week in January to start the new year of.

Members are encouraged to try out The Fairways Christmas menu (attached)

Paula and Harry would like to wish all members a Happy Christmas and a great New Year.