



A message from the Captain

Welcome to the May edition of the Loudoun Gowf Club monthly newsletter.

Congratulations to all the winners of the team competitions in March & April. Tommy McNally has won his first round tie in the Ayrshire Golf Association Champion of Champions and Robert Clark and Scott Anderson were victorious in the first round of the Ayrshire Fourball competition.

Congratulations also to Ryan Kennedy and Louise Milligan who won the delayed 2021 junior boys and girls club championships. Adam Cowan has taken on the role of Junior Captain for 2022. Adam has been a stalwart of the junior section for many years and fully deserves this honour. Together with our new junior convenor, Graham Paterson, I hope we will see a resurgent junior section at Loudoun Gowf Club in 2022.

The inclement weather conditions since the start of 2022 have unfortunately taken its toll on the course. Ronnie and his team continue to work incredibly hard to ensure that we have a fantastic course this season. In the meantime we have successfully applied to the Ayrshire Golf Association for an extension to preferred lies, these will now continue until Sunday 15 May.

We have at last secured a contractor to repair the road. John Murdoch will start works on Wednesday 11 May.

In the clubhouse the majority of the essential electrical work has been completed by Aird Walker and Ralston. We still have some remedial work to do but this should not impact on the day to day running of the club. Behind the bar we welcome a new member of staff. I'm sure Cerys will be a great addition to the team.

As mentioned previously we have applied for a public license for the clubhouse. Unfortunately we are still awaiting a decision from the local licensing board regarding our application. This has been delayed mainly due to the impending local council elections. Once we have secured this I will arrange a meeting when members can give their views on how we implement the license.

Lastly I would like to pass on my condolences to the family of Sandy Gray who sadly passed away this month.

Gavin Scott

Ladies Match and Handicap – Sally Hamilton

Opening Hi-Lo

The season opened on the 7th April with 27 ladies playing an 8 holes foursomes followed by a delicious meal after the golf. During the meal all the winter 12 hole stableford prize winners were presented with their prizes. Thank you to Lady Vice Captain Lesley for presenting the prizes on the evening and Lady Captain Elaine for organising the prizes.



Knock-Out Draws

The draws for the Blane Cup (singles), Bette Brown Trophy (doubles) and the Mixed Doubles have been completed and published via Club V1, thank you to David Johnstone for helping with the mixed draw.

Summer Eclectic

To date we have 27 ladies entered for the eclectic, there is still time to enter at a cost of £5, with all funds raised going to support our ladies' section.

Mixed Stableford Competitions

Please note that 3 out of 4 Wednesdays, during the summer season, there are Mixed Stableford competitions open to both ladies and gents.



The Greenkeepers Cuttings

Ronnie Montgomery - Head Greenkeeper

The 2022 golf season is now well under way and the Greenkeeping team hopes everyone is enjoying the course so far.

Now that Spring has finally arrived, we have started to put some definition back on the course as we have commenced regular cutting of greens, tees, aprons, fairways and the semi rough. April has been a slightly slow start for growth due to cold mornings. Some of our earlier competitions saw some frost early in the day, resulting in temporary greens occasionally being in play. We are hoping that the frosty mornings are now behind us.



I have been made aware that a few members have been asking why we have no growth at the moment and why the greens are still a little bumpy. I thought this month's edition would be a great way to explain about some of the problems we face in Spring, and why we can have a slow start to the season from time to time.

Preferred lies will *no longer be in play in the bunkers*. We would like to ask all members and visitors to please rake their footprints after playing their shot from the bunker.

We have asked for an extension for Preferred Lies on the course due to recent conditions. As such, preferred lies have been approved *until Sunday 15th May*.

Temperature inhibits growth

It has been an eventful start to the season from the greens side. The cold start to the season along with the east winds which cause wind burn to the tips of the grass leaf. This has meant our course has struggled with growth lately. This has had a



big impact on all of the bare areas on the course which have been seeded and we need milder weather along with moisture to start the seed germinating. We are hoping as we head into May to see a significant change in the weather with temperatures rising, which will help repair the bare areas and encourage growth throughout the rest of the course.



Leatherjackets

Leatherjackets have also been an issue this year on our greens and various aprons. As the leatherjacket grubs get larger through the winter, they start to eat on the root system. This can cause the leaf to die back slightly and greens surfaces then become bumpy. All preventive chemicals have been banned in recent times, so over the past few years we have been looking at alternatives to minimise this damage. We have therefore been sheeting the worst greens which have delivered great results in driving the larvae to the surface. The sheets are left on

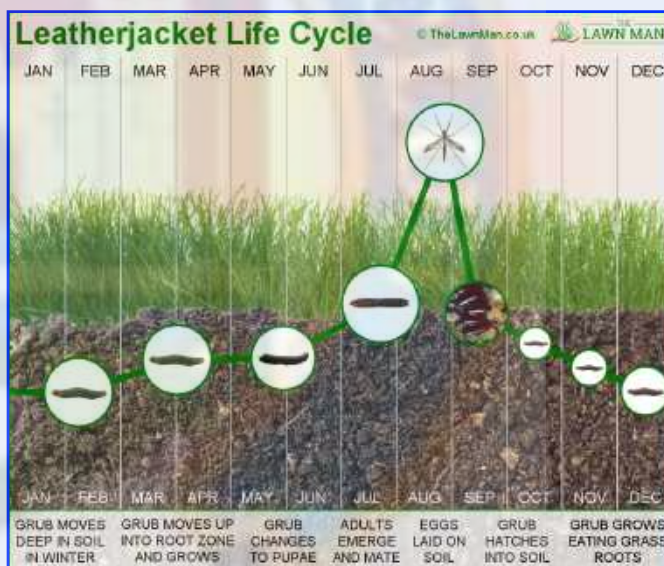


the green overnight and removed in the morning. We have also been improving the root system on the greens which keeps the greens healthy and helps with a quicker recovery.

All four infected greens have been overseeded and will be top dressed, but with the recent weather conditions mentioned above, this has delayed the recovery as we need the right conditions for the seed to subsequently germinate and grow.



NB Leatherjackets are the larvae of flies known as crane flies or daddy-longlegs.



Irrigation work



This month we also had a leak on our irrigation system. Over the past couple of years, we have seen some of our many isolation valves corroding and splitting and the main 2" pipework bursts in these areas. This year has been no different, and with the irrigation system coming up on 30 years old it is no surprise that the metal fittings are starting to deteriorate. These are being replaced with plastic valves and various sections of pipework are being replaced with P.E pipe rather than the PVC.



Course maintenance

Mowing of all areas on the course will be ongoing throughout the summer months. Greens will be cut 7 days a week although we have been giving our greens a rest during the recent dry spell and whilst our irrigation system was being repaired to avoid further stress.

Fairways and semi rough will be cut once a week for the time being until the growth rate increases. Tees are cut 2 times a week and aprons 3 times a week until growth increases. Bunker maintenance will be ongoing.

Greens and fairways were scarified during April to remove dead moss and thatch. This will also improve airflow, encourage new growth and allow the grass to thrive.

Height of cut to date:

- Greens 4.8mm
- Tees and Aprons 13mm
- Fairways 13mm
- Semi rough 40mm

Scarifying the fairways



Practice Net

The practice net has had a new frame net fitted. The old one had deteriorated with the weather and some holes were appearing which allowed golf balls to pass through it. We have also installed some new foam covering on the metal framework to prevent balls from bouncing back on anyone using the net.



170 CLUB

The April Draw was concluded on Fri 29 April, witnessed by Match Secretary David Johnstone and Lorraine Ramsay, Office.

All winners will be contacted by Club Secretary Jim Davidson with regards to their winnings.

The winners are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| • 1st Prize £150, number 120 | GAVIN SCOTT |
| • 2nd Prize £100, number 102 | ALISTAIR GRAHAM |
| • 3rd Prize £75, number 126 | KEVIN HANDLING |
| • 4th Prize £50, number 154 | LIZ PATERSON |

Anyone wishing to participate in the 170 Club which raises additional funds for the Club, please contact Sally Hamilton at salhm@aol.com.

Coach's Corner ...Ricky Nicol



Group coaching dates for May are now finalised:

Cost for one session is £15 p.p.

Book a block of all 4 sessions at once for £50

There are 8 spaces available per session and to reserve your place please contact Ricky on 07540 613 300

If you have a 'ready made' group of players and wish to be coached together, or if evening coaching is more convenient please contact me to discuss.

Seniors : Mondays (1330 – 1430)

9 May - Putting
16 May - Sand shots
23 May - Chipping / Pitching
30 May - Iron play



Gents: Wednesdays (1100 – 1200)

4 May - Putting
11 May - Sand shots
18 May - Chipping / Pitching
25 May - Iron play



Ladies : Mondays (1100 – 1200)

9 May - Iron play
16 May - Putting
23 May - Sand shots
30 May - Chipping / Pitching

*Please Note : Sessions now
1100hrs - 1200hrs*



I now have vouchers available to purchase for coaching - be that a session in the simulator or on the practice ground.

An ideal gift for a family member, friend or yourself

Contact me to discuss/ purchase on 07540 613 300 or check out my FaceBook page



Gents Match and Handicap - David Johnstone

Forthcoming competitions:

The May Saturday and Wednesday Medals will also incorporate the 2021 monthly Medal Winners. Those competing by handicap class:

Saturday Medal winners:

Class 1 Ian Robertson; Graeme Muir; Craig Young; Tom Webster

Class 2 Craig Jamieson; Gordon Dykes

Class 3 Mike Highley; Andrew Waller; Gerry McAvoy; Billy Fraser

Wednesday Medal winners

Class 1 Ian Morton; Calum Bulloch; Colin Winning; Iain Smith; Gavin Brown

Class 2 Lee Stocks; Craig Jamieson; Kenny Mann; Kevin Quinn; Pat McKenna; Sean Scott

Class 3 Kris Young; John Toal; Jim McCluskey; Munro Barrie; James Paton; Stuart Gray

Best of luck to you all ...

Knockouts

I've been asked a couple of times for a reminder on the handicap 'calculations' to be applied for knockouts

Match play handicaps are based on a player's 'Playing handicap', thus:

- In Singles, it is 100% of the difference between the two competitors.
- In Four Ball, it is 90% of the difference.
- In Greensomes, a team handicap is calculated by adding together 60% of the lower handicap plus 40% of the higher handicap.

9 Hole Summer Series:

The first round of the series will take place on Friday, 19 May. Please arrange your own games.

Gents Loudoun Open:

Scheduled for Saturday, 1 June. Competition will open for booking by Loudoun Members at 1800 on Saturday, 18 May.



Non appearances for competitions

Regrettably, there has been an unacceptable number of non appearances for competition tee times over the first few weeks of the new season. As a result, and on at least two occasions, other members have not been able to participate in the scheduled competition as a direct consequence of others not showing for their tee times.

This will be now monitored. Any member not appearing for their tee time, will receive a 'yellow card' *unless good cause can be demonstrated.* A subsequent non appearance will result in a one competition suspension.

Food and Beverage - Russell McKee

Summer hours are now in operation. However, due to the continued staff shortages this is likely to change at short notice. I am still actively looking to recruit suitable staff which will allow for a more predictable level of service.

Visiting parties are now starting to return to the Club, with 3 booked in for the first week of May, bringing in additional revenue. We also host some private functions for members. A reminder that the Club can host parties / celebrations so please contact me to discuss.

The slabbing on the patio will be finished by mid-May and a coat of paint applied in various places to have the patio area fully ready for the summer.

We currently stock a good range of polo shirts and skip hats and a reminder that prize vouchers can be used to purchase them.

A new menu for summer 2022 will be in place from 1st May

The Howf is now accessible 7 days a week. Access code is C5670Y. Tea, coffee, hot chocolate, Bovril, soft drinks, cup a soups and snacks will be available to purchase. Please ensure you write your name and card number against all purchases.



Junior Golf

Ryan Kennedy won the rearranged 2021 junior club championship, played on April 10th

Louise Milligan won the girls club championship played on the same day

Captain Gavin Scott was delighted to present both of them with their respective trophies. Well done to both Louise and Ryan.



Congratulations also to Adam Cowan who is this years Junior Captain

Charity Day 29th May 2022

The last Sunday in May has a tradition at Loudoun Gowf- our annual Charity Day in aid of an amazing local charity, Ayrshire Cancer Support (ACS).



ACS is Ayrshire's leading cancer charity that provides practical help and emotional support to people in Ayrshire affected by cancer. Whether you've just been diagnosed with cancer, having treatment or caring for someone with cancer, they can help.

This year is our 16th full charity day and to date Loudoun Gowf have raised over £290,000 with the help of match funding from our friends at Diageo. With the continued support of our amazing members, who donate the majority of the prizes and buy or sell most of the raffle tickets we hope to break £300,000 this year.

There are still a few spaces for teams and we are actively asking members for donations of prizes. If this is something you can help with please contact Liz Keohone or Sally Hamilton.

The last charity Day in 2020 raised over £13,000



(l-r) Liz and Sal (charity committee), Rab (Diageo match funding contact), Sandra McCall (Ayrshire Cancer Support CEO)

Resurfacing work

The work to repair the potholes and resurface the driveway from the main road to the car park will commence on Wednesday 11th May and scheduled to be completed by Wednesday 18th May.

There will be access to the club car park during the preparation work on the road. However, on the final day when the tar is being laid the road will be closed. The contractors have said they will have traffic management in place, and cars will be directed onto the course from the entrance gate to drive behind the 14th green and enter the car park from just behind the 13th tee.

If there are any changes to this plan of works then we will update via club email, v1 and other social media platforms.



New Summer Hours are:

Bar

Monday - Thursday	11am - 6pm
Friday	11am - 9pm
Saturday	10.30am - 9pm
Sunday	11am - 8pm

Catering

Monday - Thursday	10am - 5pm
Friday	10am - 7pm
Saturday	10am - 7pm
Sunday	10am - 6pm

(Last food orders 15 minutes before closing).

If there are no members present in the clubhouse or on the course, we will close early.

Spotlight on our Sponsors

This months focus is on local business, Brownings the Bakers.

The Managing Director, John Gall, is one of our members and has been since he was a boy. His grandparents established Brownings with a single shop in Kilmarnock in 1945. John joined the company in 1980, rising through the ranks, and becoming the only Scottish winner of 'British baker of the year' in nearly 30 years.



Brownings is a major employer in the local community with 8 shops and approximately 200 staff supplying over 100 local and national retailers including Asda, Sainsbury's, M&S and the Gowf Club!

Brownings gives back to the local community; John is Chairman of Darvel FC and his company sponsors Kilmarnock FC. As well as sponsoring a hole at the Club, they continue to support one of our competitions. This years winners of the 'Darvel FC Texas Scramble', previously the 'Brownings Texas Scramble' played on the 1st May were S. Wardrop / C. Bell / J. Kerr / S. McSkimming scoring 50.0.

The committee would like to thank John, and Brownings the Bakers, for their long and continued support.

For those that haven't already, check out their on-line shop here:

<https://www.browningsbakers.com/shop>

The final word

As always any comments, feedback, questions or suggestions for future content or articles please email me at rob.brown@sky.com or The Captain at gavscott@doctors.net.

The newsletter will be distributed through Club V1. To ensure as wider distribution as possible, please could you ensure that the office has your most up to date email address. If you hear of others who haven't received this newsletter, please point them towards the office to have their email updated.

