



A message from the Captain



Welcome to the July edition of the Loudoun Times.

It is with great sadness that I have to pay tribute to two Gowf Club members who have unexpectedly passed away this month.

Graham Sloan passed away on 3rd of June. Graham joined the golf club in 2018. Since then he has been an extremely enthusiastic golfer. He gave his time to a number of projects around the club. Whether it be power washing the roof, assisting with clubhouse renovations, such as the lounge refurbishment, fixing the windows or the construction of the patio area, Graham has been a tremendous asset to the club. At the last AGM, Graham unsuccessfully stood for the management committee. Despite this disappointment, he continued to assist in any way he could right up to the day before his death. This was testament to his character, dedication and love of Loudoun Gowf Club. Our thoughts go out to Lorraine and his family.

Last week we heard the sad news that our lady vice-captain, Lesley Kamara had also passed away. Lesley was a very popular member of the Gowf Club. As lady vice-captain, Lesley worked hard on the ladies committee organising events such as the mixed knockout and ladies open competitions. Away from committee, Lesley was a fantastic character with boundless enthusiasm and a radiant smile. She loved to socialise. This was no more evident than during a recent trip to Craighielaw to celebrate several landmark birthdays within the ladies section. She was well liked by all who knew her and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go to Greg and her family.

Despite this sad news I hope you are all enjoying the golfing season. If anyone has any comments or feedback please get in touch.

Gavin Scott

Club Opening Hours

Bar

Monday - Thursday	11 am - 7 pm
Friday	11 am - 9 pm
Saturday	10.30 am - 9 pm
Sunday	11 am - 8 pm

Catering

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

(Last food orders 15 minutes before closing).

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

Ladies Match and Handicap – Sally Hamilton

Latest results:

	Div 1	Div 2
June Stableford	Shelia Kennedy (35)	Margaret Merrick (39)
Summer Meeting	Shelia Kennedy (72 bih)	Margaret Templeton (71)
Captain's Prize	Christine Milroy (65)	Susan Smith (68)
June Medal	Audrey Thompson (65)	Liz Paterson (67)

Children 1st Tri-am Final 2022

Three of our Loudoun Ladies qualified for the Children's 1st Tri-am at Bothwell Castle on the 5th May, winning the overall competition with a nett 61. This is a qualifying event we enter every year, raising much needed funds for the charity, but rarely make the finals, never mind winning. Huge congratulations to the team of (l-r) Anne Burns, Eileen Munro and Christine Findlay from all at Loudoun Gowf.



Senior Ladies Tri-am 21st June 2022

36 teams competed for the Senior Open Salver and the McClelland Cup on a beautifully sunny day. Thanks to Ronnie and his team for presenting the course to its usual high standards and to Russell and his team for keeping all the ladies fed and watered throughout the day. The Open Salver was won by the team of Kim Murdoch, Irina Bauba and Alison Jarvie from Prestwick St Nicholas with a nett 59 and the McClelland Cup presented to the best team (including a Loudoun Lady) to (l-r) Christine Milroy, Dot MacKinnon and Anne Bowman with a nett 64 (bih).

Summer Eclectic

To date 34 ladies have signed up for the Summer Eclectic and it's all to play for. Leading Division One is Sheila Kennedy with a nett 53. Division 2 is led by Eileen Munro on a nett 51. This competition will run throughout the summer months and is open to all ladies, raising much needed funds for our Ladies Section.

Gents Match and Handicap - David Johnstone

Competitions

July and August are very busy months for competitions.

On Saturday, 9 July, we have the July Medal coupled with the Neil Cochrane Memorial Trophy. Neil was the son of a now deceased member and was one of the greenkeeping staff but tragically died when quite young. We will also be moving some fixtures around due to circumstances beyond our control.

Paul McIvor and Michael McGeoch, trading as McGhee Décor, have kindly offered to sponsor a Texas Scramble which will be held on Saturday, 16 July. We may even manage to have some nearest the pins.

The Summer Meeting will now be held on Saturday, 23 July. The following day will see the highly rated Gowf Cup being staged. This is a 2 round scratch event attracting entries from across Ayrshire and beyond.

Saturday, 30 July sees the return of The Quaich, a 3 member team event with the best ball counting. This has always been a great day for golfers, with team membership being drawn from across the 3 classes. At time of writing, 108 members had entered The Quaich – the more that enter, the better.



Just moving slightly ahead, into August, the Gents Senior Open takes place on Tuesday, 2 August. There are a few tee times left, some just before midday, and a number between 1 pm and 2.30 pm.

This leads nicely on to Saturday, 6 August when Tommy McNally will seek to defend his Club Championship which will be played over 2 rounds. The Handicap Salver will be played on the same day, working around the Championship rounds.

General play rounds

Occasionally score cards come into the office for a General Play Round or a 'casual round'. There is no difficulty in dealing with these but it is essential that the date of the round and which tees were used is clearly indicated.

Lost ball

Lost ball? Stroke and distance applies at Loudoun. Play a provisional if you think there may be difficulty in finding your ball in play.

170 CLUB

Results for the 170 Club Super Draw for June are:-

Pat McKinnon - £300

Al Smith - £200

Jordan Keohone - £150

Craig Stewart - £100



The draw was conducted on 30th June by Sally Hamilton and Captain, Gavin Scott and witnessed by Secretary, Jim Davidson and Match Secretary, David Johnstone.

Anyone wishing to participate in the 170 Club, which raises additional funds for the Club, please contact Sally Hamilton at salhm@aol.com. The cost is £5 per month and debited from your card, next draw at the end of July



The Greenkeepers Cuttings

Ronnie Montgomery - Head Greenkeeper

Welcome to the July edition of the club newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our members and visitors for taking the time to pass on any feedback in person, and on our social media channels, regarding the course during the season so far - it really is appreciated by the greenkeeping team.



Volunteers 'divoting' ahead of the Loudoun Open

Over the past few years, the Friday afternoon and evening before our Open has become quite popular with members taking the time to help prepare the course by filling in divots on the fairways and on the Par 3 tees. The team worked until sunset on the course on Friday, which allowed a dry cut on all areas and which ensured that the course was set up in its best condition for the Saturday morning. A huge thanks to everyone for their hard work, dedication and for helping this year's Open to once again be a great success.



Preparations for the Open this year also marked a huge milestone for myself as it marked 30 years for me working at Loudoun Golf Club. I started as an apprentice on the week of the Open back in 1992 working under the guidance of the Head Greenkeeper at the time, David Armstrong. In greenkeeping it can be challenging at times, but also hugely educational. It has been a very enjoyable experience over the past 30 years, and here's to many more years to come. Here is a picture of myself and Head Greenkeeper David back in 1992 when the Kilmarnock Standard paid a visit to the club to write an article on the recent appointment.

Finally, an update on the wait for our new machinery which is still to be delivered. The machinery is now part assembled, but the manufacturer is still awaiting delivery of electrical components from China to enable them to be completed and dispatched to us.

Course maintenance

General course maintenance has been ongoing on the course. We will be carrying out regular verti cutting and rolling of the greens throughout the remainder of the season to maintain true surfaces. This season we have also been using a growth regulator on the greens which has delivered great results. Using this product will create a dense surface and also a reduction of Annual Meadow Grass (Poa Annua) seed heads on the greens which can greatly affect the speed and trueness of a green. This product also reduces the amount of clippings being removed as it slows the growth rate which can create similar putting surfaces in the afternoon compared with first thing in the morning. Ideal for 36 hole competitions where we would like to maintain a good pace throughout the day.



Before application of Growth Regulator - seed heads are visible

4 days after application of Growth regulator - a noticeable reduction in seed heads



Height of cut to date:

- Greens 3 mm
- Fairways 11 mm
- Tees and Aprons 12 mm
- Semi rough 40 mm



Morning of the Loudoun Open 2022

Big Birthday Bash - Mhairi Macnamee

The 40 mph winds buffeting the 25 Loudoun ladies who braved Craigiellaw on the 12th of June made some scores interesting and some hairdos ridiculous but a couple of glasses of something sparkling and a huge slice of birthday cake restored any flagging spirits.

Kilspindie had the pleasure of our company the following day when both the weather and course were more benign.

One or two of us made use of the handy wee dykes to bounce our shots into the middle of the fairway but one of our number needed no such assistance when driving the 18th green and sinking her putt, a story we enjoyed hearing - often - for the rest of the trip. A few of our party left following the prize-giving, leaving 12 of us to enjoy a few swift ones in the party room, prior to a few slow ones in the members' lounge whilst watching the sun set over the Firth of Forth. Wonderful.



We returned to a gentler Craigiellaw on Tuesday morning when some remarkable scores were posted. Demands for a drug test refused, the final prize-giving went ahead after careful scrutiny of the cards. It had been an excellent three days. A very big thank you to all the ladies who came along to help celebrate milestone birthdays for (l-r) Sheila, Betty, Pat, Mhairi, Christine and Barbara. Now, who has a significant birthday next year...?

Since preparing the above, we have been devastated by the sudden death of our much-loved Vice Captain, Lesley Kamara (on the right of the picture). Lesley contributed greatly to the enjoyment of our trip with her ready smile and great sense of humour. Her loss to the Club is tremendous but her presence will always be felt by those of us who had grown to love her.

God speed, Lesley.



Meet The Team! Step forward.....Mitchell 'Mitch' Green



This month a new feature - Meet the Team, a quick chat with those working hard behind the scenes to make the Club as successful as it is. First up, Mitch Green.

Q. What is your role here at the club?

A. I am Deputy Head Greenkeeper here at Loudoun Gowf Club

Q. How long have you worked here?

A. I have been working at Loudoun now for 19 months

Q. So how did you end up working here?

A. I noticed the Deputy Head Greenkeeper job advertised on the Scottish Golf website and decided to apply for the role. Having worked at Ballochmyle Golf Club for 15 years I decided that it was the right time for a new challenge

Q. What drew you to greenkeeping?

A. I have always had an interest in golf and having played when I was younger at Ballochmyle I volunteered to fill divots on the course anytime we were asked. This led me to have an interest in greenkeeping

Q. What was your first job?

A. My first job after leaving school was a Trainee Planner at East Ayrshire council which I worked at for 1 year. After the year I realised that working indoors wasn't for me and I started to pursue my greenkeeping career

Q. What is your favourite part of your job?

A. My favourite part is leaving on a Friday afternoon knowing the course is in good shape for the weekends play ahead. It is very satisfying knowing that everything has been completed on time and you can stand back and see the end result

Q. What is the worst part of your job?

A. The worst part of the job can be when bad weather conditions, for example rain, prevent you from presenting the course to its highest standards. Cutting in the rain can have the tendency to leave grass

clippings and there can be plenty of growth at Loudoun to allow that to happen. Machinery breakdowns is another part of the job I dislike, as it can lead to some downtime which can affect course preparations but I know that breakdowns are part of the job

Q. Do you play golf, and if so are you any good and what is the best course you have played at?

A. Yes, I have played golf since I was 10 years old. My handicap has currently lapsed but before that I had a handicap of 11. The best course I have played is Western Gailes

Q. Tell us a little bit about yourself outside of work?

A. I have been married to my wife Allison for 11 years and have 3 sons. Ryan who is 11, Harry who is 9 and Jack who is 5. My hobbies are playing over 35's football. I also coach my oldest son Ryan's football team. I like to play a bit of golf and I'm hoping to have my handicap again very soon



Q. Tell us something about you that would surprise people?

A. This answer is a little bit from the past but I won all my races on school sports day. I was very quick at running when I was younger and nowadays just before the parents race on sports day I have a quick look around and think.. "I might not have this one in the bag"but somehow I make sure I come in at 1st place 😊

Q. You can have 3 people round for a curry and a few drinks. Who would it be and why?

A. the 3 people I would have is Muhammad Ali as he is a boxing legend and for his sharp tongue. Ally McCoist, as he is my football hero and I think it would be fun to be in his company and finally Tiger Woods as he is the best player that has ever lived and I would like to pick his brains on golf knowledge.



Oh, and please feel free to stop and say hello when you see me out and about on the course!

Equipment - Stewart Steel

Hello I'm Stewart Steel, a member at Loudoun for 5 years, and on a regular basis I plan to write an article on golf equipment.

My equipment obsession began because of a significant deterioration in my health. I wanted to keep playing, so changing to the right equipment for my particular circumstances was essential to allow me to optimise my physical attributes and allow me to play at my best. By changing equipment, it improved my mobility out on the course and did not compound my health issues. At that time good advice was hard to come by. Sales people in golf shops either had little to no knowledge, or advice, on how to make equipment adjustments, but they all seemed particularly good at talking people into buying things they didn't actually need! I wasted a lot of time and money over the years due to this lack of technical knowledge.



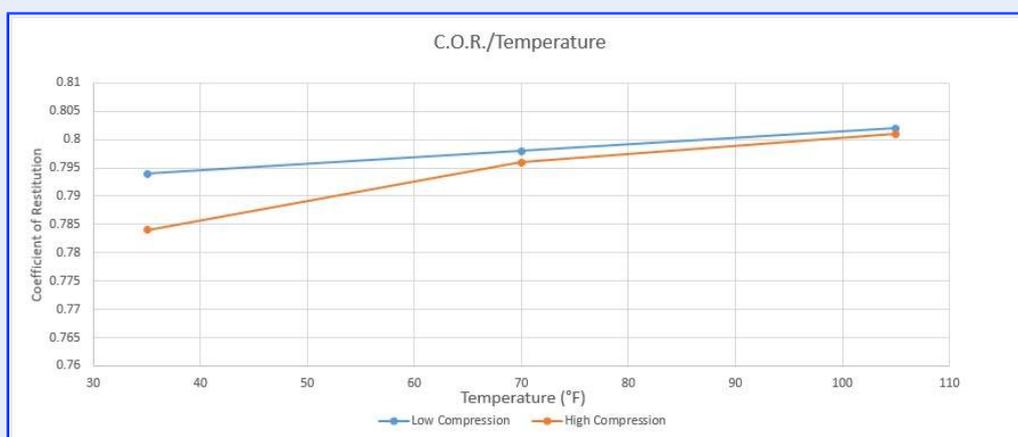
I therefore want to share with you unbiased information to help you make more informed decisions when choosing what equipment will help you play your best golf. As well as carrying out constant research, I am also foresight sports certified in advanced club and ball data analysis and I've successfully completed various shaft companies fitting courses.

Ever thought the ball goes further in the summer? Yes, it does but not by as much as you'd think, the difference between 10c in winter and 21c in summer is only 4 yards extra due to the change in air density. During cold weather, testing shows moving to a low compression ball will get you more distance vs a high compression ball - but there is no material difference during hot weather. The chart produced by Wilson Golf and Mygolfspsy show the C.O.R (energy transfer) decreases with high compression balls as the temperature also decreases.

Regardless of what it says on the back of the box there is no 'unicorn' golf ball - a high spin ball is high spin off all clubs, which is ideal for stopping the ball on the quicker summer greens. Depending on your swing they'll hurt your accuracy off the longer clubs, and be shorter in distance. Low spin balls are ideal if you're a bump and run type player in the short game and will also be longer and more accurate off the other clubs.

In a later edition I'll do a more detailed write up on golf balls to dispel many of the myths you hear - swing speed determines ball compression choice, all balls go the same distance, Titleist Pro V1 is the no1 ball for everyone, a more expensive ball is always better and so on. All credible information is based on robot testing which is the only way to accurately test golf balls fairly against one another.

If you have any topics you'd like me to specifically cover, or you would like to ask me any equipment related questions please contact me at stewartsteelgolf@gmail.com



Coach's Corner ...Ricky Nicol

I have not issued further coaching dates as we are now in holiday season. However if members have already formed a group that wish to be coached on a group basis, then please contact me in order to arrange suitable dates / times. I will endeavour to accommodate all those who are interested. Group coaching will only run with a minimum of 2 persons. Cost is £15 p.p. Individual sessions are also available within the Simulator room (£35 p.p. for members, £40 for non-members).



Coach's Question:

What are the 7 Impact Laws of Golf? - (Answer in next issue)

Something for discussion:

What is / can be the difference between "swing path" and "swing direction"?

Swing path is the direction the clubhead is moving as it is in CONTACT with the ball at impact.
Swing direction is the direction the clubhead is moving at the LOWEST point of the swing. (They can be the same).

Contact me on 07540 613 300 or check out my FaceBook page

2022 Charity Day Update

We are happy to report that the final total raised this year at the Charity Day is £15,200 for Ayrshire Cancer Support, hopefully match funded by Diageo to £30,400.

We had reported a total of £14,000 however we received a late donation from our Vice Captain, Scott Gilchrist who ran the Edinburgh Marathon on the same day. His employers APS Safety Systems (Kee Safety Group) agreed to donate £1000 to a charity of his choosing, and he very kindly chose ACS.

A gentle reminder that there are still some auction and raffle prizes to be collected and once again, thank you to all at Loudoun Gowf for your continued support. 🙏

Sal and Liz xx

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.

