



Aboyne Golf Club
Formaston Park
Aboyne
Aberdeenshire
AB34 5HP

Press Release

28th October 2018

Aboyne Award Honorary Life Membership to Shannon McWilliam

At the season end prizegiving ceremony held at Aboyne Golf Club last night, the club bestowed on Shannon McWilliam the prestigious award of Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the Amateur Game.

Making the award, Club President Justin Grant said "It is over 20 years since Aboyne Golf Club was able to make such an award, but Shannon has had an outstanding few years culminating in being selected to play for GB&I in the Curtis Cup this season. Amongst some of her many highlights (although there are too many to list) include: -

2014

- Aged 14, youngest ever Aberdeenshire County Champion, also winning the Under 18 title later that year
- Represented European Girls team in Slovakia

2015

- 3rd in Helen Holm Scottish Open
- British Girls Team Trophy
- Nominated for the Scottish Golfer of the year

2016

- Scottish Ladies Order of Merit winner
- top 10 finish at the Alfred Dunhill Cup with Joakim Lagergren
- Broke the course record at Aboyne, 7 under par,

2017

- Runner up in the Helen Holm Scottish Open
- Won the Lady Heathcoat-Amory memorial medal for the lowest qualifying score for the British Girls Championships

2018

- Winner at Borders Ladies championship in South Africa
- 2nd in South African Woman's Masters – winning the Sally Little Trophy for leading Amateur
- 4th in Helen Holm Scottish Open
- Team County Champions with Aberdeenshire ladies

Shannon made her First full international cap in the Home Internationals in 2015 aged 16, taking 3 points from 5 matches. Further caps followed in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

She went on to represent GB&I as the only Scot selected at the Curtis Cup in Quaker Ridge, New York. Although the overall result was a disappointing one for GB&I, against a very strong US team, Shannon picked up a half point for the team, and following her narrow defeat in her singles match against the World No 6 Lauren Stephenson, I can safely say that she did not look out of place mixing it with the world's best.

For outstanding achievements in the Amateur Game, Aboyne Golf Club would like to present Shannon McWilliam with a lifetime Honorary Membership."

Shannon, aged 18, is a former pupil at Aboyne Academy who still lives in Torphins. In her acceptance speech Shannon said "A huge thank you to Aboyne Golf for presenting me with Honorary Membership. I can't thank the club and members enough for the support they gave me throughout the Curtis Cup and over the years. I am very proud to be an Honorary Member."

ENDS

Contact

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Picture

Shannon McWilliam receiving her framed photos of the Curtis Cup from Club President Justin Grant.



Notes to Editors

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 International.

Our welcoming, family friendly clubhouse allows you to soothe away your cares on our sunny balconies, where you may catch a glimpse of ospreys, otters or the swans on the Loch. Aboyne is the understated jewel in Aberdeenshire's golfing crown.

Our 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 have also been honoured to be chosen by The R&A to host the LGU Coronation Foursomes Regional Finals in 2018.



Come and play our unique topography and enjoy one of the most varied and respected courses in 'The Home of Golf'.

Visitors are delighted with the contrast found between the front and back nine. The course presents a rich variety of memorable holes making the most of the natural variations in the terrain, which is a mix of rolling parkland with inviting fairways and elevated links-like heathland with tighter targets. Mature trees and water also come in to play on many holes.

Aboyne Loch is a notable feature lending character and scenic beauty to the course, as well as providing a hazard to be avoided on the last hole of the relatively flat parkland front nine. Thereafter, the course changes character to rugged heathland and climbs gently, providing magnificent panoramic views over the Aberdeenshire countryside.

Golfers are tested by one of the course's distinctive feature, which sees a few holes with undulating fairways formed around the historic geography of medieval farming. This adds a unique terrain challenge requiring more brains than brawn to play. Lying on free-draining soil, the course enjoys a surprisingly dry micro-climate.

Visitors, society outings and new members are most welcome with favourable rates and tee times to meet all golfing budgets.

Men's White Tees: 6,003 yards. Par 68. SS 69

Ladies Red Tees: 5,362 yards. Par 72. SS 71