

A message from the Captain

Welcome to the April edition of the Loudoun Gowf Club newsletter. So far the response to our first issue has been incredibly positive. I hope this will continue.

We are now approaching the start of the golfing season. I would like to wish you all a very successful 2022 season. On Saturday we had the Captain versus Vice Captain competition. The weather and course were excellent and I am sure that everyone who took part enjoyed it. Fortunately for me the Captain's team managed to win. Well done team!

Whether it be through individual performances in club or open competitions, representing the club in Ayrshire team matches or in national competitions, I hope we can all help to raise the profile of Loudoun Gowf Club in 2022.

Away from the course we continue to experience challenges.

Staff recruitment and retention remains an issue. Hopefully we will be able to add to our existing excellent staff but at the moment this cannot be guaranteed. I would urge anyone who knows of someone keen to join our catering and bar staff to speak to Russell, Sally or myself.

The remedial works to the entrance road and electrical works within the clubhouse are ongoing. We hope to have this completed as soon as possible.

Lastly, I plan to carry out a membership survey and focus groups in April. This will hopefully allow members to give us their thoughts on how the club is running, future areas for development etc. If anyone is keen to participate please get in touch.

Gavin Scott

Ladies Match and Handicap – Sally Hamilton

The Loudoun Lassies Winter Foursomes concluded with a very exciting final on Sunday 27th Feb. Huge congratulations to our worthy winners May MacIntosh and Christine MacLeod.

The Ladies Season opens on Thu 7th April with the Opening Hi-Lo, from 4.45-6pm. This 12-hole foursomes competition is open to all lady members, with or without a handicap. Following the golf all ladies are encouraged to stay for the winter 12-hole stableford prize giving.

Our course has moved back to measured tees, allowing everyone to enter a 'General Play Round' using either Club V1, the Scottish Golf App or the psi terminal in the hallway.

Finally, a gentle reminder that all players must sign into a competition before play, using their Club V1 App or the psi terminal, failure to do so could result in a disqualification if the match secretary has not been notified of a problem.





The Greenkeepers Cuttings

Ronnie Montgomery - Head Greenkeeper

The winter projects are now drawing to a close, and the team are now preparing for the move into Spring. As such work is now well underway to prepare the course for the upcoming season.

As of Monday 21st March fairway mats were no longer required to be used and preferred lies remain in operation. All main tees are back in play. Medal tees will only be used for competition play/team events for the time being, as during April the soil temperatures are still low. These low temperatures mean a slow growth rate, and in turn a longer recovery time from any wear or damage. Patience now will pay longer term benefits in the quality of the tees throughout the summer. We are aiming for general play from the medal tees to resume once we see some significant growth, which will be wholly dependent on the weather. We will update via email, Club v1 and social media when this changes.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our members and visitors for using their mats on the fairways this winter, and for following the traffic management areas, as it plays a significant part in protecting our course throughout the winter months.

Aeration

During the month of March we have finished verti draining all of our fairways with 1" diameter tines to a depth of 13". This process helps remove surface water during heavy rainfall and improves turf health. This year we have also verti drained areas of our semi rough which were showing signs of heavy traffic. This will alleviate any compaction, and produce better grass growth, in these areas.



Aeration of greens and tees was also carried out through March, with the verti drain using 3/4" diameter tines to a depth of 10". This was followed by an application of top dressing sand and brushed in. Approximately 20 tons of sand was applied to all 18 greens, practice green and putting green. We are aiming to apply a further 10 tons of sand to the greens around mid April.

Course Maintenance

Throughout the last 2 weeks in March we have started cutting all greens, tees, fairways to start getting some shape to the course. We will be reshaping some fairways this year and the new area on the left hand side of the 11th fairway has been cut for the first time at an increased height of cut. The height of cut on all areas will gradually be lowered as the weather gets milder and the growth increases.



Height of cut to date:

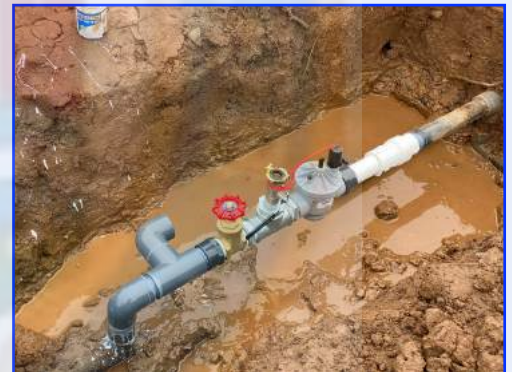
Greens – 6mm

Tees and Aprons – 15mm

Fairways – 15mm

Irrigation work

The irrigation system has been primed, tested and is now ready for the summer. Our irrigation system was installed back in 1991. Over the past 3 years we have been gradually replacing the old impact sprinklers with new gear driven Rainbird sprinklers. These modern sprinkler heads offer a multitude of advantages over impact rotors, such as low cost, quiet operation, and various spray



patterns. Gear driven rotors often require less maintenance because the enclosed body protects the drive mechanism from dirt and lawn debris.

The final 6 sprinkler heads will be replaced in the coming weeks which means our tees and greens have fully gear driven sprinkler heads. During this time we have also been securing all electrical wire connections into Silicone gel boxes protecting them from moisture which has made the system more resilient to the local weather conditions and thus more reliable.

Bunkers

Towards the end of March all the bunkers were edged and topped up with sand.



Shoe cleaner

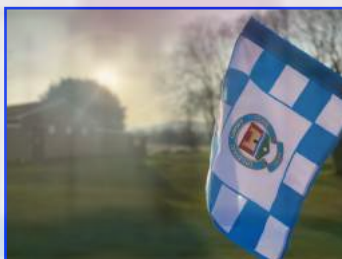
We have had various problems with the shoe cleaner lately. This has been mainly due to broken pipe work or faults with the compressor over running. The shoe cleaner has now been fully refurbished with new plastic pipework and all rubber hoses are now on a reel. The reels will house a 10m hose which will allow shoes and trolleys to be cleaned without the risk of stretching the hoses.



Course furniture



All summer tee markers and fairway distance markers have been put back on the course. All flags have been renewed with new club logo flags. The new ladies distance boards have been installed at the tees and the gents bins/distance boards will be placed on slabs and levelled off.



Club Buggies

The club buggies have been fitted with new seats as the old ones had tears on the vinyl. The club buggies are back in use and can be booked at the club.



170 CLUB

The March Draw was concluded on Wed 30th March, witnessed by President Gordon Clark and Vice Captain Scott Gilchrist.

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

The winners are as follows:

1st Prize £150, number 10, BRYCE MCCUTCHEON

2nd Prize £100, number 184, WILLIAM REID

3rd Prize £75, number 192, JOHN GALL

4th Prize £50, number 26, ROBERT RICHMOND

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

Entry is £5 a month with half of the takings paid as prizes and the other used to supplement Club funds.



Meet the Pro

Hello members of Loudoun Gowf Club, I am Ricky Nicol. I am a member of the World Golf Teachers Federation of GB and I and a certified level 3 golf coach. I turned Professional in 2020 having retired from Police Scotland.

I have learned my passion for the game over 40 years, having originally played at a high amateur level at Thornhill and throughout Dumfriesshire. I have always been fascinated by the 'golf swing' and the 'inner game', continually striving to improve myself, and now others, so players of all abilities can enjoy their game.

The coaching techniques are unique, both proven and innovative and although fundamentals are essential, no two golfers are the same in respect of their swing, swing thoughts, so all deserve to be treated as individuals. On this individual basis, coaching is tailored to the particular requirements and goals of the player.

A philosophy held is that people already possess the skills to achieve and succeed!



Through their own unique Player Analysis Record (PAR), created by myself, this allows the individual and coach to focus on the direction of coaching in order to maximise performance. A player's knowledge and understanding of the game can therefore develop through learning patterns.

Group coaching has started with Ladies sessions taking place on Mondays, Gents on Wednesdays. (Details on my Facebook page and the Club's page).

Simulator sessions also available - cost £35 per hour (member). £40 for Non member.

Further details to come regarding Seniors group coaching and hopefully junior coaching in future Newsletters and on my Social media posts.

I look forward to meeting you, and I can be contacted for coaching sessions on:

07540 613 300

Thank you and all the very best for the new season

Ricky

Captain v Vice Captain

The season opening competition was held in beautiful sunny weather on Sat 26 March.

Captain Gavin Scott was the victor over Vice Captain Scott Gilchrist by 23 points to 18



Food and Beverage - Russell McKee



The patio area has now re-opened for the summer season.

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.



Spotlight on our Sponsors

This month's focus is on local bar/restaurant 'The Wee Train'

The Wee Train is a long standing sponsor of the Gowf Club, and we are grateful for their continued support.

This family-owned establishment in Galston offers excellent meals in the recently refurbished restaurant along with a bar menu offering a vibrant atmosphere in a cozy bar with log fire.

Many of its regulars are members of the Gowf club and the owners sponsor the annual 'Wee Train Cup', which this year is scheduled for Friday the 8th of July.



If you haven't already visited, why not give it a try and support a local business who support the Gowf Club.

22 Wallace Street
Galston
KA4 8HP

01563 821123
<http://theweetrain.co.uk/>

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.

