

## GENTS NEWSLETTER (April 2019)

Our 2019 Season got off to an early start with the Traditional New Year's Day Competition. This was a turn up and play competition, open to all-comers over 12 holes and there were 19 players including two ladies. Clearly staying up late to see the New Year in works for some. The event was won by Neil MacVicar with a commendable 37 stableford points over just 12 holes!

Our next event marking the start of the 2019 Season was the Captain's versus Vice Captain's match. The result was a narrow victory for the Captain. Michael Ovens presented Jim with the trophy afterwards. Mention must be made of the generous donation of the 2's pot by the winners – especially George Hogg (who claims he was ambushed)! This helped swell our Captain and Ladies Captain Charity tin for Fresh Start Borders. As you may be aware if you land in the field at the first hole or the pond at the 7<sup>th</sup> hole you are asked to donate.

The early part of the year is mostly spent organising the new season and I must thank especially Gordon Melrose, Anne Forrest, Sue Brooks and Roy Barrie for marshalling the fixtures into our familiar Fixture Card.

Your Management Board, has been working hard behind the scenes and the monthly meetings have been well attended. The minutes of these meetings are always available for members to view and I would encourage you to read these. Following on from the member survey undertaken by Les Bell last year the Management Board will be working on the things that were highlighted – particularly the course. In addition, this year the Club is hoping to hold more social events. I was unable to attend the Beer and Burger night in early April as I was on holiday but I heard that it was rather poorly attended – perhaps it was a bit early in the season. Please support your Club both on and off the course.

Worthy of note was the Buccleuch Arms Rugby Day which raised £1500 for the club. Thanks to all those who supported the event and who donated raffle prizes. We hope to start work on the Greenkeeper Shed roof and a new practice net very soon. A big thanks to Anne for securing grant funding to contribute to the costs of this. The Board has also reviewed our Health and Safety Policy and you will have received an update from the Secretary about this. Please keep the Secretary informed if there are any items which cause concern. Nick Garbutt who joined the Management Board last year is our social media guru and he encourages members to like and share (if you are familiar with this media).

The Gents Outing this year is to Bellingham on Saturday 11 May so please put your name on the sheet in the Clubhouse if you want to go. The very next day is the Marjoribanks Mixed Open with a 1:00pm start. Even if you don't have a partner put your name down and we will find you one. Similarly, there is a match against Kelso on the evening of Thursday 16 May. Finally, don't forget to put your name down for the Knock Out (singles and pairs) and the National 9 hole Challenge – our qualifier is on 15 May.

Keep in touch by looking at the Notice Board. If you have any issues or you just want a chat, I can be reached on 07768013621. For any new members who would like a coffee (and maybe 9 holes) with the Captain, I shall be at the Clubhouse on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 10:00.

Jim Ross