

GENTS NEWSLETTER (Captain's Blog) (September 2019)

On my last newsletter I mentioned that it had rained a lot this season, well no change there as we approach the end of the 2019 golf season. The course has improved over the summer but there is still a lot to do and Management Board are grateful for the help from a number of members. We are a small club and without this help we simply could not function. The Greens Committee have set out a programme of work for the winter and we hope this will ensure the course in in better order earlier next season although as you are aware the weather conditions play a huge part in this. As I write I have heard the exciting news that the long sought after leaf blower has now arrived. This should certainly make the autumn season a better experience for our members.

Your Secretary and I attended a Scottish Golf seminar at Torwoodlee on 5th August when we learned about the proposed new handicapping system which will be introduced in November 2020. There will be lots more information on this important change later but I understand some players are nervous about the change. The new system will be computer / internet driven and for the most part members will not have to tax themselves understanding the internal mechanics. It will be a bit like driving your car – you don't need to know how the engine works you only need to drive it! Essentially your new handicap will be based on the average of the best 8 of your last 20 scores and will take account of comparative course difficulty so your new handicap will be transferable across the globe. Now there's an excuse to travel with the clubs! As a result of this change, we are postponing the introduction of our new design scorecards.

The club played its only gents friendly match (excepting the seniors of course) against Selkirk on 8th August and a great time was had by all. I could not attend because of work commitments but it was played in wet conditions like so many of our games this year. The following week the 36-hole fixture with the first round at the Woll had to be cancelled.

Thanks are due once again this year to all our sponsors and I was delighted to see an excellent turn out to the SB & Co Gents Open on 17th August when 68 golfers played during the whole day. The scratch winner was Andy Lawrie of Torwoodlee with a 74 and the first handicap was our own Bryan Templeton with a fine 62. Nearest the pin at the 2nd was Brian Smith and at the 4th Les Bell.

The KOSB Mixed Foursomes was finally held (3rd time lucky) on 23 August and I am pleased to say that partnered with Margaret Allen we managed a narrow victory with a better inward half from Raymond Snow and Sammy Barrie. Thanks to all who took part and a special thanks to the ladies who laid on a fine spread for the hungry golfers.

The Dryburgh Cup final was held on 31 August and was won handsomely by Chris Bell - 2 shots clear with a 65 net and who in fine form turned out the very next day to card a 61 and take the WW Ballantyne Quaich. Well done Chris... you have certainly had a better year in 2019!

The last of the 9-hole Ladies and Gents evening stableford competitions was held on 28 August. This fixture has proved reasonably popular over the summer so I am sure we will run it again in 2020. If you are a new member, these more informal competitions, including the

forthcoming Winter and Easter Leagues, are a great way to meet new friends and get involved in the club. The 12-hole Winter League starts on Sunday 6th October. Tee off at 9:00 or 12:00. It is a great way to keep in shape in the off-season. The 12 holes only take about 2 hours to complete so don't mess up your whole day so give it a try.

The Senior section of the club is well catered for in the next week or two with the Barrie Trophy on Saturday 7th September for the over 50's and the seniors outing again to Liberton Golf Club on Wednesday 11th September. Details on the Notice Boards.

Finally, you can't have failed to hear about the My Name's Doddie Foundation charity. St Boswells member Gregor Townsend will be staging an epic 21 border golf courses in one day challenge. Gregor is playing one hole on each Border golf course to raise money for the MyName's Doddie Foundation. He will finish at St Boswells and is expected to arrive at approx. 8.10pm. Please come along to support and donate to this great cause. We are holding a silent auction for the 3 places to play with Gregor so if you would like to bid please email: secretary@stboswellsgolfclub.co.uk