



## GLASGOW GOLF UNION - END OF SEASON NEWSLETTER 2018

Welcome !

### A Message from Sandy Anderson, the new President of the GGU

Members of Glasgow Golf Union, as the new President and on behalf of the Executive please see enclosed our Winter newsletter which aims to keep to you informed on many of the issues affecting our Game in Glasgow and some of the work we are carrying out on your behalf.

We find ourselves in the juxtaposition of a healthy and thriving Glasgow Golf Union promoting Amateur Golf in Glasgow faced with a declining membership across the game. It is good to hear however many of our 11 course owning Clubs are going against the trend and stabilizing or growing membership with some great initiatives being used to attract many of the nomadic golfers out there who clearly enjoy the game but for some reason have not seen the benefit of Golf Club Membership. Best practice sharing and working together to make our Clubs as good as they can, be will be a key driver for GGU during my period in office.

With the average Club member aged 57 we all need to maximize our efforts to encourage Juniors and Youths not only to take up Golf but to remain playing through their early years and to become our Club members of tomorrow.

We are currently in discussions with Glasgow Life around the declining use of the Municipal Courses within Glasgow and the fall off in Membership at our Non Course Owning Affiliate Clubs. To safeguard these valuable assets we need to encourage more play on the 3, 18 holes and 3, 9 holes Courses within the Glasgow Life portfolio.

We have some exiting times coming up within Golf in the next few years and we need to lead from the front as the new Rules and introduction of a worldwide handicap system are embedded into our game. If any of our Clubs believe they need any assistance with formatting local rules in relation to the changes, we are happy to assist. Please speak to your GGU Executive member.

With the recent appointment of Andrew McKinlay as CEO and the Scottish Golf SGM providing membership acceptance of the increased affiliation fee and therefore secured

funding for the next 3 years, we look forward to working with them for the benefit of all our members and Clubs.

In relation to our competitions we now have in place a 3 year plan and it is our intention to communicate this out to all the Clubs in the near future to allow forward planning of your busy fixture diaries. We are trying to be fair across all our Clubs and it is likely that each Club will be asked for no more than one courtesy per year as we spread our events and matches around our 11 courses. We have struggled in recent years to obtain courtesies from the other Clubs to support members of the club holding a GGU competition by offering 2 tee times where possible. We will endeavor to gain support from all our Clubs for these courtesies to allow members who have given up their course an opportunity to play on one of our other excellent GGU courses.

With young golfers the future lifeblood of our game we have recently agreed a new strategy for coaching and want to work with all our Clubs to reach out to youngsters who show a willingness to learn.

I will be calling a meeting of Junior Conveners over the next few weeks as we seek to agree the best way forward in Coaching and Development. GGU are fortunate that we have funds available to spend on targeted coaching deliveries however it needs to be produce desired outcomes for the boys and girls within our member Clubs.

I look forward to the next 2 years in Office and working with our dedicated Executive members to deliver excellence in Coaching, quality Competitions relevant to all our members and if possible producing a winning team from our Boys, Youths or Men's squads.

To all our stakeholders, have an enjoyable Winter Season and let's hope the weather remains favorable to allow us all to enjoy some friendly golf before the competition season starts again next Spring.

Thanks you for your continued support of The Glasgow Golf Union.

### **The detail and rationale for the increased affiliation fee**

Scottish Golf's membership voted in favour of a resolution to increase the per capita fee at a General Meeting held at the Stirling Court Hotel on 4<sup>th</sup> October. The resolution was passed with a majority vote of 60.2%. The increase from £11.25 to £14.50 will take effect from January 2019 and will be frozen until the collection of subscriptions in January 2022.

The increased revenue of circa £500,000 has been ring-fenced to support the development of key strategic priorities and also to offset proposed cuts announced in light of decreased funding from sportscotland that is available to Scottish Golf.

Specifically, it will also enable Scottish Golf to create a fit-for-purpose national junior programme, explore income generation from non-membership golfers – known as nomadic golfers – and offer a free-of-charge digital service for clubs to support and improve

membership services at all levels, including tee-booking, competition management, and handicapping.

## Changes to the Rules of Golf – Sanctioned by the R&A

From January 2019 changes have been made to the rules with the intention to make a clearer understanding of the rules and to aid the speed of play.

Dropping Procedure. The dropping of the ball will be at knee height and within the required drop area.

Putting Green. A ball accidentally moved is replaced without penalty. Any damage to putting surface made by persons or animals can be repaired without penalty.

Penalty Areas. These are areas such as bunkers and water hazards and yellow and red lined areas.

Loose Impediments. Loose impediments in penalty areas may be removed without penalty. Touching the ground or sand in a penalty area incurs no penalty, the exception being in a bunker before or after where the ball lies, during the takeaway of club when making a stroke or when making a practice stroke in a bunker.

Local Rule Alternative to Stroke and Distance. A club may introduce penalty areas, defined by red lines, and a local rule where a player may take relief when a ball is lost in such an area at the nearest point on the fairway within the correct drop area.

Ball moved during search for ball. The ball should be replaced as near as possible to the original spot without penalty.

Caddies and Partners standing behind player. No longer permitted.

Relief from an unplayable condition in a bunker. Relief may be taken and the ball dropped in line with the original spot and the pin under penalty.

Ball striking the Pin. When a stroke played on the putting green strikes the pin there is no penalty and the ball is played as it lies.

Prompt Pace of Play “Ready Golf”. Players may play out of turn with their fellow players agreement without penalty.

Further information can be found on R&A.org website.

Please do not hesitate to seek guidance on the make-up of local rules from the GGU, this service for the GGU Member Clubs and their individual members.

## Course ratings update

Please find the report as promised at Monday's meeting for inclusion in our next PRO communication. Please feel free to amend/add to the report any information that you think would encourage volunteers to join the Course Rating team.

Course ratings are conducted under the USGA course rating system. All courses within the G.G.U are rated in order to provide a S.S.S and Slope rating and they are required to be re-assessed every ten years.

In order to establish a Standard Scratch, each hole of a course has to be measured for length, width of fairway, height of rough, size of green surface and impact of hazards. The data obtained is recorded and the results are forwarded to Scottish Golf, who set the Standard Scratch.

*The Glasgow Golf Union is actively seeking volunteers from its affiliated clubs to join its Course Rating Team.*

By committing to join the Rating team, volunteers would be asked to assess 2-3 golf course per year from May to September . A rating normally takes 4 hours to complete. Volunteers of any golf handicap are eligible, and often as not raters have indicated that the experience gained subsequently assists them in their own course management ability with a positive impact on their own game

Anyone interested should contact their club representative of the Glasgow Golf Union, induction starts in the Spring of 2019.

## Scottish Golf Regional Forums

These are now set up and being run to a good standard, the GGU has a representative on the Forum and he makes sure that the GGU 'voice' is heard loud and clear. Scottish Golf are directing as much member traffic to their website which is an easy to use facility which the GGU uses regularly to get updates on golf in Scotland. This website will include a short topic that updates clubs on the Forums being up and running, directs them to the webpage for the detailed output and encourages any club with feedback or interest to contact a local representative to ensure any relevant feedback can be given.

## Senior Team Performance

The Gents area team championship was played at Cawder Golf Club from the 7th- 9th of September. Those representing the GGU were Gordon Miller, Andy Fairbairn, Graeme

Cross, Craig Chalmers and Calum Fyfe all off Cawder G.C., the sixth player was Scott Wearing of Bishopbriggs G.C. The event was played over the two courses at Cawder where Glasgow finished second in the Stroke play, a great achievement for a region having only 11 course owning clubs which obviously gives us a shallower talent pool.

In the match-play leg of the Competition lost narrowly, beaten 3-2 by the North, this was a very hard fought encounter, two of the games went to the 19th and 20th holes respectively, only for Glasgow to lose both games, hard to take but a great effort by all the players representing the GGU.

## **Junior Golf**

It has been a poor season for our junior golf teams. Both Boys and Youth Teams failed to win any matches this year. It has been a struggle to get players for the teams and this has resulted in youngsters getting a game earlier than envisaged. This should result in a better Boys team next year as some will have gained valuable experience this year.

### **Boys Results**

This season only 4 of a potential 5 matches were played. The matches against Dumbartonshire, Stirlingshire and Renfrewshire were all lost by convincing margins but the match versus Ayrshire was much closer. Over the season 14 boys from 6 different clubs represented the GGU

### **Youths Results**

All 5 matches were played with close games against Lanarkshire & Dumbartonshire but less good results were achieved versus Ayrshire, Stirlingshire and Renfrewshire.

The Area Team event was played at Eastwood Golf Club.

The team of 4 boys playing two foursomes played were not at their best, however in the individual singles all the boys played much better with Alan Murphy of Ralston coming second with a 68 and losing out on better back nine holes. Louis Fleming of Haggs Castle had a 70 for top 5 finish.

## **The Role of the GGU website and Social Media**

The GGU is trying hard to ensure that our member clubs have as much visibility as possible of our activities and who to contact for information on our full range of services. Our Website and Social Media sites are easy to use and informative. The Competition Online

Information and Entry portal with its Competition Results Page has been a big success in 2018 and very well used as has our Facebook and Twitter links.

We have also used our sites to promote our member club's Open Competitions and that initiative has been welcomed by all the clubs who run these important events.

In addition to the publication of regular news items the GGU also give its members regular updates on pertinent news items and communications from Scottish Golf and the Regional Forums. We also include links to our Member Clubs and Sponsors websites.

That said, there is no monopoly on good ideas so if there is any ideas you want considered by the GGU on any relevant matter please use the contact details on this site to get in touch.

## Competition Results for 2018

### 2018 Competition Calendar

#### MAY

Seniors – Gailies Links

Scratch Champion – John McDonald ( Cowglen )

Handicap Champion – Jim Lauder ( Cowglen )

West of Scotland -Strokeplay Cowglen Golf Club

Champion – Calum Fyfe ( Cawder )

#### JULY

Summer Meeting - Cathcart Castle Golf Club

Champion – Robert Muir ( Griers Golf Club )

Glasgow Strokeplay – Killermont (Glasgow Golf Club)

Champion – Calum Fyfe (Cawder )

Glasgow Matchplay – Haggs Castle Golf Club

Champion – Gordon Miller ( Cawder )

Junior Strokeplay – The Bishopbriggs Golf Club

Champion - Lachlan Reynolds ( Glasgow Golf Club )

Junior Matchplay- The Bishopbriggs Golf Club

Champion - Josh White ( Bishopbriggs )



Gordon Miller of Cawder Golf Club  
Winner of the Glasgow Matchplay  
Championship held at Hags Castle in July

## AUGUST

Glasgow Open Amateur Championship – Pollok Golf Club  
Champion - George Duncan (Windyhill Golf Club )  
Junior Champion of Champions – Pollok Golf Club  
Champion - Mark Donaldson ( Sandyhills )  
Order of Merit Winner - Stephen Manning ( Pollok )



George Duncan of Windyhill Golf Club  
Winner of the Glasgow Open Amateur  
Championship held at Pollok in August

**SEPTEMBER**

Glasgow Youths Open and Team Championship Ralston Golf Club

Champion - Callum Connacher (Wishaw Golf Club)

Area Team - Stirlingshire

Gents Champion of Champions– Gailes Links ( Glasgow Golf Club )

Champion – Fraser Grant ( Ralston )

**OCTOBER**

Club Handicap Trophy – Sandyhills Golf Club

Champion Club — Cathkin Braes Golf Club

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