



GLASGOW GOLF UNION END OF SEASON NEWSLETTER 2019

Welcome

A message from Sandy Anderson – President GGU

Members of Glasgow Golf Union, as the 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.

I would like to start with our very successful 55th annual dinner held at Ralston Golf club on 1st March 2019 where 127 members and guests enjoyed our prize giving and were thoroughly entertained by our 2 main speakers John Gilligan and Mark Loftus. Thanks to all who attended and special thanks to Andy Quinn for his key role in making the dinner such big success. Next year our dinner is at Cathkin Braes on Friday 6th March and I would encourage as many members and friends to attend as possible. We have a great Guest Speaker booked who I know will be very entertaining.

Our Dinner helps by raising funds for our coaching delivery and this year I have to apologize that we had little success in providing much needed coaching for our junior members. Whilst Alastair Forsyth conducted some sessions over the winter and with a few of our team players during the summer our overall coaching this year has been disappointing. A number of circumstances prevented this from happening however you have my assurance that our coaching strategy is currently being revamped and our convener, Willie Duncan of Pollok, is developing a practical and pragmatic strategy for the future. When complete our approach will be promoted to the clubs, please assist by making your Juniors aware of our sessions and encouraging as many as possible to attend.

Our competitions started off in May as usual with our very successful Seniors Strokeplay at Gailes Links. 125 competitors enjoyed fine weather with congratulations to Scratch Champion – Kenny Fraser (Pollok G.C.) and handicap winner Allan Stewart (Cowglen G.C.). A key element in the success is due to the generosity of Glasgow Golf Club for the courtesy of their Course and Clubhouse. Having the courtesy of Gailes ensures a full field every year.

We moved on to our Summer meeting at Cawder Golf Club held in June this year on the Cawder Course. Whilst many competitors found the course very challenging, congratulations are due to the Winner – David Lindsay (Cowglen G.C.) and thanks to Cawder for hosting.

Next we had our Junior Championships at Sandyhills and whilst the numbers were low the quality of golf was excellent with Louis Fleming of Haggs Castle winning the strokeplay and Andrew Forbes of Haggs Castle winning the matchplay. Special mention to Leah Bryce of Sandyhills our first girl competitor in the strokeplay event. Thanks to Sandyhills and Captain Carole Mason for presenting the trophy

The GGU Strokeplay competition was held at Bishopbriggs in July with Stephen Rogerson of the home club defeating Andy Fairbairn of Cawder in a sudden death play-off after both scoring 136 for 2 rounds. Thanks to Bishopbriggs for hosting. The best 16 available players qualified for our Matchplay event held at Pollok Golf Club in late July. After many close matches, Craig Harper of Cowglen defeated Clark Nelson of Glasgow 2/1 in the final. Thanks to Pollok for hosting this event plus our annual Glasgow Open Championship which unfortunately suffered from very inclement weather and was reduced to 1 round. A home winner Brendan McKenna defeated Willie McMillan of Bonnyton with a birdie at the 1st sudden death hole after both scored excellent 66's.

We were unable to hold our Youths Open and Team Championship this year due to difficulties in finding a suitable date. We fully expect to have this back on the calendar next year.

The season finished with our handicap club team championship held at Cathcart Castle. 7 of our course owning clubs competed, which left 4 who failed to enter a team. Congratulations to Bishopbriggs who won the event. This competition allows us to give something back to the ordinary member by qualifying for this event through a club medal. It is free and we would encourage all clubs to enter a team next year.

Our Champion of Champions final was played on Sunday 13th October over Gales Links where I witnessed some quality golf with Andy Fairbairn of Cawder defeating Gordon Sangster of Cathkin Braes 2/1.

The order of merit title for our most consistent player over the year goes to Paul Gault of Haggs Castle. Congratulations are due to Paul for being our most consistent player of the year.

On to our teams this year and as usual a special thanks to our 2 team managers Stephen Machin and Gordon Jamieson who work tirelessly in getting our matches played despite call offs late on Saturday nights being commonplace. Our performances were better than last year with some notable results. The standout result being our Seniors 6 Man Team, who finished a highly creditable 2nd at Stirling in the Scottish Area Team championships. Well done to Stephen, John Laurie, John MacDonald, Graham Belch, Drew Waddell and Tommy Thomson. We're looking for the trophy next year.

The Boys Area team Championship suffered a late date and venue change and unfortunately due to heavy rain the competition had to be cancelled on Sunday 6th October. After a good practice round on the Saturday Jim Wilson and Gordon were looking for a good result however sadly the weather intervened.

This brings me on to Scottish Golf our National Governing Body.

We have an excellent relationship and with them and welcomed Andrew McKinlay the CEO to our August meeting where he shared their strategy with us and discussed some of the challenges facing the organisation at this time.

The 2 major items on the horizon are the World Handicapping System coming into play in November 2020 and the Scottish Golf venue management system app which is currently being trailed by a number of Clubs. We recently witnessed a demonstration of this app and it look forward to using it to manage our competitions in the near future.

Scottish Golf see this as a potential game changer as they hope to encourage the nomadic golfer to purchase this app whilst being free for all Club Members. Thanks to Vic Skelton for attending Scottish golf Forums on our behalf and ensuring that your voice through GGU is well represented. Whilst the WHS is still in my too difficult tray I know Willie Abernethy our SSS and Handicap convener is studying all aspects of this and will be ready to offer advice next year if required.

It is good to know that the majority of our member clubs are going against trend and seeing an increase in membership numbers this year. Well done to you all for making your courses and facilities friendly and welcoming to all with excellent standards across the board. I was encouraged to hear of the many initiatives in place at our clubs to attract and retain Junior members who are of the course the future of our game.

In closing I would like to thank each member of the Executive for their time given in volunteering on the GU Executive on behalf of your Clubs

Honorary President Gordon Cosh, Honorary Secretary Mark Jamieson, Immediate Past President Andrew Smith, Vice President Jim Wilson, Gordon, Stephen, Mark, Willie, John, Stephen, Andy, Vic, Ken thank you it has been a pleasure working with you this year for the good of amateur golf in Glasgow.

Finally to our Sponsors, Julia Fields Interiors, R Jamieson & Co, Wood Consultancy, Machin Landscapes, D McGhee and sons, Finco Contracts and The sports Council of Glasgow thank you for your valuable contributions which help us to make our competitions as good as they can be.

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

The Affiliation Fee

There is no change to that voted for by Scottish Golf's membership last year.

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 Glasgow Golf Union Affiliation Fee has once again been set at £3 per playing member and has remained fixed at this level for over 5 years.

Standard Scratch Handicap Rules

The GGU can assist affiliated clubs on standard scratch handicap and rules queries.

The biggest area facing clubs and players in the year ahead is the introduction of the World Handicapping System, (WHS) . Scottish Golf will introduce WHS in November 2020 and seminars have been carried out in 2019 to introduce clubs and club officials to some of the detail surrounding WHS. Scottish Golf will be running further seminars

in 2020. Information on The WHS can be viewed on the Scottish Golf website www.scottishgolf.org

Golf clubs are asked to run the WHS in parallel with the current system through the playing season 2020 in preparation for the introduction. WHS will record up to twenty most recent scores returned and a players handicap will be the average of the best eight scores from those recorded. All courses will be allocated a Slope Rating, this will be used to calculate a players playing handicap when playing any course other than their home course. The slope rating will be based on the Standard Scratch of a course.

The most notable changes that players will see is the calculated standard for competitions will disappear as will the buffer zones.

Scottish Golf will directly oversee club players handicaps.

Course Ratings Update

GGU Course Rating team completed their schedule of re-rating the courses within their area. Gailes Links was done in the Spring, Cathkin Braes in the summer, and Glasgow Killermont in the autumn .

Scottish Golf Ltd require area unions to review the re-rating of all affiliated golf course's every ten years. With regards to the GGU we are up to date with our program and as a result all of our courses will have the required "Slope Ratings" when the new World Handicapping System is implemented in November 2020.

Scottish Golf Regional Forums

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 team championship was played at Leven and Scoonie golf clubs, with five scores out of six counting on each course it is a challenging format, unfortunately only 4 out of our 6 players played near to their potential with the other two having an off day giving us a disappointing early exit as Glasgow had qualified for the previous 6 match play stages.

The West League started middle of September which is played over 5 weekends. Glasgow started slowly losing their first 2 matches, but they then proceeded to win the next 2 games at home and away. The last match was closely contested but lost to the eventual overall winner Renfrewshire's by one point .

The Senior Area team championship was played at Stirling GC the six players finished second with their five out of six scores resulting in a total of only 9 over par, a fantastic effort by the six players involved.

Boys and Youths Team Performances – West of Scotland Leagues

Boys – under 18 on 1st January

GGU Boys had a splendid season, their 4th place finish in the league barely reflecting the number of tight matches contested using 16 different boys from 6 GGU Clubs.

The Boys season commenced with the first Match v Stirlingshire at Douglaston Golf Club on Sunday 19 May. It was a close match ending 4-4. The second match v Renfrewshire was played at Hags Castle. GGU lost 5 – 3 on the last green in a very tight match. Another tight match was against Ayrshire, the eventual league champions, at Ballochmyle. We inflicted on them their only defeat of the season 4 ½ to 3 ½ won on the last green. Another nail biting match was played, late August versus Lanarkshire at Kirkhill, a 4-4 tie was achieved.

Our last match was against Dunbartonshire at Balmore GC. The result was a disappointing 6 – 2 to Dunbartonshire. After such a positive season there was some confidence amongst the 4 man team selected to play in the season ending Scottish

Boys Area Team Championship at Murrayshall GC in early October. Unfortunately the weather intervened.

Youths - under 25 on 1st January

The Youths team had a less positive season. Nevertheless 18 players from 6 GGU Clubs gained valuable experience with the highlight being a narrow defeat against Ayrshire at Western Gailes. Despite being a man down the team lost on the last green so went down to 4 ½ to 3 ½. The season ended with a matches v Stirlingshire at Sandyhills G.C. and Dunbartonshire at Dullatur GC. We were at full strength against Stirlingshire but not good enough losing 5 – 3. In the last match of the season GGU lost to a very good Dunbartonshire, unbeaten during the season and deserved Champions.

Junior Development

We are currently reviewing our Coaching and Junior Development provision to our Member Clubs and expect to be in a position to communicate our new vision and strategy in this area by February 2020. Many thanks for your patience whilst we consider how best to invest in supporting our Clubs and enhancing our Coaching Offer in this very important area, which is vital to the future of the Game of Golf within Glasgow.

Competition results for 2019

Achievements in Glasgow Golf Union Competitions in 2019

May

Glasgow Seniors held at Gailes Links

Scratch Champion – Kenny Fraser (Pollok G C)

Handicap Champion – Allan Stewart (Cowglen G C)

June

Summer Meeting held at Cawder Golf Club

Winner – David Lindsay (Cowglen G C)

July

Junior Strokeplay Championship held at Sandyhills Golf Club

Winner – Louis Fleming (Haggs Castle G C)

Junior Matchplay Championship at Sandyhills Golf Club

Winner – Andrew Forbes (Haggs Castle G C)

Strokeplay Championship held at The Bishopbriggs Golf Club

Winner – Stephen Rogerson (The Bishopbriggs G C)

Matchplay Championship held at Pollok Golf Club

Winner – Craig Harper (Cowglen G C)

August

Glasgow Open Amateur Championship held at Pollok Golf Club

Winner – Brendan McKenna (Pollok G C)

October

Glasgow Club Champion of Champions Final held at Gailes Links

Winner – Andy Fairbairn (Cawder G C)

Club Handicap Trophy held at Cathcart Castle Golf Club

Winning Team – The Bishopbriggs G C

2019 Order of Merit for the most consistent player :

Paul Gault (Haggs Castle G C)

Team Events in 2019

September

Scottish Area Team Championship held at Leven & Scoonie Golf Clubs

The Glasgow six man team this year was again made up from the following :-

Callum McAulay (Ralston G C), Brendan McKenna (Pollok G C),
Greg Brown, (Cathkin Braes G C), Craig Harper (Cowglen G C),
Graeme Cross (Cawder G C) Scott Wearing (Bishopbriggs G C)

The Seniors Area Team Championship – Stirling Golf Club

The Glasgow six man team this year was made up from the following :-

Stephen Machin (Cowglen G C), Drew Waddell (Glasgow G C),
John McDonald (Cowglen G C), John Laurie (Glasgow G C),
Graham Belch (Haggs Castle G C) Tommy Thomson (Haggs Castle G C)

October

Boys Area Team Championship – Murrayshall Golf Course

The team consisted of the following :

Louis Fleming (Haggs Castle G C), Andrew Forbes (Haggs Castle G C),
Chris McMillan (The Bishopbriggs G C), Josh White (The Bishopbriggs G C)

Well worth a special mention in 2019

3 Glasgow club's members win their respective WoS Strokeplay competitions -

Greg Brown Cathkin Braes GC Gents - WoS 2019 Champion

To underline GGU dominance of this year's WoS Strokeplay Greg won his trophy by winning a playoff with Brendan McKenna Pollok GC and Paul Gault Haggs Castle GC with Matthew Clifford Sandyhills GC narrowly missing out in making a 4 way play off for the title.

Chris McMillan Bishopbriggs GC - Junior Boys WoS 2019 Champion

Megan Docherty Bishopbriggs GC - Junior Girls WoS 2019 Champion
Hearty congratulations to 16 year old Megan who has had a great year -
Captain of Scottish Schoolgirls in the Annual Match v England
Member of a Scottish Golf team that played the Italian Open in Venice
Appointed as Captain of West of Scotland Girls for 2020

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 2019 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. If you need further information on our services or like to become involved contact us

Tel : 01505 503000

Email : info@glasgowgolfunion.com Website : www.glasgowgolfunion.com

Facebook : facebook.com/glasgowgolfunion Twitter : [@glasgolfunion](https://twitter.com/@glasgolfunion)