



GLASGOW GOLF UNION SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

Welcome to the first edition of the GGU Newsletter for 2019.

To all GGU Club Members from Sandy Anderson – President 2019

As we move into 2019, please accept my best wishes for a successful year both on and off the Golf Course. The Winter Period, to date, has been relatively kind to Golfers so let's hope this continues through to a mild Spring.

Early indications are that Membership numbers overall within Glasgow Clubs remain stable however I appreciate that many of our Club's are operating below full membership numbers and recognize the detrimental impact this has on Club finances.

I hope many of you have already experienced playing under the new amended Rules introduced from 1st January 2019. It will be very interesting to see how quickly they become embedded into our normal play and whether they help to speed up the game as envisaged by R&A.

Scottish Golf recently conducted a number of seminars on the new Rules and I have provided a link below to their website where any interested parties can access some additional information and attempt the rules quiz to test your knowledge.
<<https://www.scottishgolf.org/players/club-members/new-2019-rules-of-golf-resources/>>

GGU have completed our fixture list for 2019 and we look forward to another successful year of competitions for the benefit of all our Club Members. Many thanks to all our host Club's for granting us the use of their excellent facilities. We start our 2019 season with our Annual Dinner at Ralston Golf Club on Friday 1st March where I can guarantee a first class evening's entertainment for all who attend. Can I also particularly refer to our Annual Glasgow Seniors Competition which is being held at the wonderful Gailes Links on Wednesday 1st May. I look forward to seeing many "well-kent faces" again this year in what I'm sure be a full field of 120+ competitors. Please get your entries in early to secure your place in the Competition.

In closing, a big thank you to all my GGU Executive for giving up of their time to benefit Golf in Glasgow and to all Club volunteers for the many hours you give back to our great game.

Finally our thoughts are with all the Glasgow Golf Club Members as they seek to recover from the horrible fire that caused so much damage to their historic Killermont Clubhouse. I am confident that the strong will and fortitude of the Members and professionalism of the staff will see the 9th Oldest Golf Club in the world restore the building to previous glories.

A Team

As part of their team and morale building approach to the forthcoming season the A Team are planning a day out at Archerfield in February for 16 players.

The Gents area team championship will be played at Leven GC and Scoonie GC in September; concurrently the boys area team championship will take place on the same courses, this will be a great event for both the Men and Boys teams from Glasgow. Six players will be chosen to represent the A Team for Glasgow. A small change to the selection process will take place this year, full details of the changes being implemented to ensure that we select a strong team will be posted on the GGU web-site at the end of February.

The new approach will encourage as many players as possible to take part in GGU events with the results in these events impacting on team selection. The Area team will be selected after the Glasgow Amateur at Pollok GC.

Course Rating

The Course Rating team are delighted to welcome two new members to their group, namely Glenn Laurie of Pollok Golf Club and Ken Perston, Haggs Castle's new member to the executive .

We would also welcome anyone else from our members clubs to a briefing exercise to be held in the Spring. Anyone interested should forward their details to the G.G.U Honorary Secretary, via the [contact form](#) on our website.

The clubs scheduled to be re-rated this year are both the courses of Glasgow Golf Club, Gailes Links and Killermont, also Cathkin Braes.

Championship update



Our 2019 season kicks off with the Seniors Championship at Glasgow Gailes Links 1st May
Click the link below to enter (if eligible)

https://www.brsgolf.com/glasgowgolfunion/opens_home.php

All other competitions will be posted to this link shortly.

Member Clubs Open Events

To help you plan your summer golfing diary we also now have available on our website details of Members Clubs 2019 Open Competitions Click on the link below to have a look -

MEMBER CLUBS
OPEN EVENTS

Find out what's on here

<https://www.glasgowgolfunion.com/clubs/member-open-events.html>

A few clubs have still to update their 2019 Opens and these will be posted when available.

New for 2019 - "The Wee Boundary Bell"

GGU have agreed to sponsor a Trophy to be played annually between the winners of the Fleming Watson and J J McCarry Leagues along the lines of the North v South Boundary Bell.

Rules of Golf – Twenty must know rules changes for 2019

1. Drop from knee height
2. Measure the area to drop in with the longest club in your bag (except a putter)
3. Drop in and play from the relief area
4. When dropping-back-on-the-line, your ball cannot be played from nearer the hole than your chosen reference point
5. Time to search - 3 minutes (Not 5 minutes)
6. If you accidentally move your ball when searching for it , replace it without penalty
7. No penalty for a double hit - it only counts as one stroke
8. No penalty if your ball hits you or your equipment accidentally after a stroke
9. No penalty if ball your strikes the flagstick when you have chosen to leave it in the hole
10. Spike mark and the other shoe damage on the putting green can be repaired
11. Ball accidentally moved on putting green - no penalty and replace
12. Ball marked, lifted and replaced on putting green is moved by wind to another position - replace ball on the original spot



13. Penalty areas replace water hazards, and you can remove loose implements, ground your club and take practice swings in the penalty areas without penalty, just as you can on the fairway or in the rough
14. You can't take relief from a penalty area unless you at least 95% certain your balls in the penalty area
15. In bunkers you can remove loose impediments
16. In bunkers you cannot touch the sand with your club in the area right in front of or right behind your ball, during your backswing or in taking practice swings
17. Free relief is allowed if your ball is embedded on the fairway or in the rough (but "embedded" means that part of your ball is below the level of the ground)
18. Unplayable ball in bunker - extra option to drop outside the bunker for two penalty strokes

19. You cannot have your caddy or your partner standing behind you once you begin taking your stance

20. Pace of play - it is recommended that you take no longer than 40 seconds to make a stroke (and usually you should be able to play more quickly than that) and Ready Golf in strokeplay is encouraged

These changes are explained in more detail in the Rules Essentials videos which are available on www.randa.org. Alternatively read the PLAYERS EDITION of the Rules of Golf or visit www.randa.org to learn more.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for future newsletters, we would be pleased to hear from you. Members may contact the GGU with their comments via the [contact form](#) on our website.