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The Billow-News

October 2011

Captain's Report

In our first newsletter I stated that it was our intention to publish on a quarterly basis and whilst this is still the intention we have encountered some problems getting this one out. We will get better and I would like to thank Lynne Black for all her efforts in this regard.

Please remember to feed any suggestions re content etc into the club e-mail captain@anstruthergolf.co.uk and for anyone who has not yet provided their e-mail address to the club please also just forward this to the aforementioned e-mail address.

The season is fast coming to a close and I do hope that you all have enjoyed the summer despite the poor weather - in August we lost 6 days to flooding which is unheard of at Anstruther.

Congratulations to all the winners of the trophies but especially to Steven Gardner and Walker Murray who won the Gents stroke play and match play championships respectively. Congratulations also to Cheryl MacKenzie and Nicola Gemmel on winning the Ladies Bronze and Silver divisional championships.

Huge congratulations also to Kevin Roberston who set a new course record of 61 in one of the newly introduced 'walk on' midweek medals which were very well supported.

Anstruther played host to the Centenary Team Competition at the end of May which was a huge success when the course was probably in the best condition of the year.

In terms of inter-club matches we have had mixed success in that we lost 3.5 - 4.5 to Earlsferry at Home so it all to play for in the return leg in a few weeks time. Against the RAF we turned a 5 - 1 defeat at the Eden course at St Andrews into a 5.5 - 0.5 victory at Anstruther so well done to all who participated in both legs.

In the Ranken Todd Challenge Bowl played over Balcomie Links the Anstruther team came in 5th and only missed out on qualifying for the knockout stage by only 1 shot. Our team punched way above their weight - well done to S Gardner, S Wilson, A Syme and D Maiden.

Last but not least I am sure all members will be aware that George Murray secured 3rd place at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship which effectively guarantees George his full playing rights on the European Tour next year. I know the whole club will want to wish George every success in future tournaments. Congratulations George, you are now playing the way we all know you can!

Philip Anderson - Captain

Ladies Section

With the season almost gone and I am delighted to say that the entries for all competitions have been excellent and all club matches well supported.

Crail won the Phyllis Dyer Trophy, Lundin Ladies won the Amy Boal, Earlsferry beat us in the club match and we halved the match with Crail. Anstruther beat St Regulas.

Our A- Team for the National Nines reached the semi finals but lost on the last hole. A good effort by the ladies!

The club championship was an extremely close affair with most matches finishing on the last green. The bronze champion is Cheryl Mackenzie and runner up Janice Gay. The silver champion is Nicola Gemmel and runner up Sandra Murray.

The ladies outing to Dunning proved to be a huge success and was enjoyed by all.

The ladies locker room is almost finished and is looking so much brighter and has much more space. Toilet flooring and covering of all seating is all that remains to be done. Thanks to Ali Donaldson and his friends, we are just about there.

The Open mixed 4's was very successful with 31 couples entering this year. Unfortunately the weather deteriorated in the afternoon. The winners were Iain Raeper and Janice Gay. Well done to both of you.

Sylvia Guy - Lady Captain

Course Report

Since the Easter newsletter when we updated the members on the work that had taken place on the course over the winter months, the course has been in very good order over the Summer and feedback from members and visitors alike has been excellent.

After the dry spell in April we played on a summer like course for most of May, and indeed when we hosted the Centenary Challenge competition and Invitation Greensomes at the end of May, the greens at that time were in excellent condition, fast and smooth and the visiting teams were very complimentary with their praise. The weekend was just spoiled a little with the very strong winds, which certainly made the course very challenging, although one of our members Ian Gillon, with easily the top stableford points on the Saturday, might not have thought it was so challenging. Maybe the good greens inspired him. Scoring on the whole during the season has been very good, with a new course record set, so that obviously says something about the condition of the course.

It is fair to say the weather during June, July and August was very mixed, and on a number of occasions the course has been closed because of the heavy rain. On the first round of the Club championship it was touch and go for a while. Typical Scottish June weather. However, on the whole we have had very favourable comments from the golfers.

Fairways and the banks around holes 4, 5, 6 and 7 have been kept in good order. Bunkers regularly topped up with sand so all in all the course has been in very good order, in sometimes trying conditions with the weather as already touched on.

One ongoing problem we have is with the amount of bunnies on the course, digging up the fairways, in bunkers, and now nibbling on the greens, especially noticeable on the 6th. We have experimented with a couple of solutions round the edge to try and put them off crossing on to the green, but so far with limited success. This is an ongoing and time consuming problem for our greenkeeper, the constant repairs required behind them.

We now have our new practice net on the old putting green, originally put there for the juniors coaching sessions, but being well used by the adult golfers also.

Thanks go to our greenkeeper Kennedy Park and his assistant over the summer, Kelvin Budd for their efforts in producing the great condition of the course this year.

The greens were hollow cored at the beginning of September, which hopefully will allow better drainage when we do get these torrential downpours of rain. By doing this in September instead of waiting to the winter months, this has allowed a much faster recovery period as there has still been heat for growth, and the disturbance has only really been for a couple of weeks. Thanks go to the greenkeeping staff from Crail and the willing volunteers of our club for their assistance with the work.

The Greens Committee

COMPETITION RESULTS

Gents

Tom Reid Scramble

A Gardner, P Anderson
A Donaldson, J Tasker

Anstruther Open Sat.

J Stewart

Anstruther Open Sun.

Scratch - A Hodge
H/C A Gardner

Senior Trophy

J Marshall

May Medal

Scratch G Glen
H/C M Horsburgh

Veteran Trophy

J Marshall

June Medal

Scratch - G Glen
H/C D Sharp

Sandy Duncan Trophy

M Horsburgh, A Stewart

Club Championship

S Gardner

Craws Nest Trophy

J Anderson

July Medal

Scratch - G Glen
H/C J Ritchie

Tennant Cup

A Syme

Summer Meeting

Scratch - G Glen

Sinagoca Trophy

W Murray, J Anderson

Anstruther Grey

J Stewart

Club Matchplay

Scratch - W Murray

Club Matchplay

H/C - D Sharp

August Medal

Scratch - G Glen
H/C - D Robertson

Carstair's Shield

J Marshall

Wylie Cup

J Marshall

Watson Cup

D Galloway

Sept Medal

Scratch - K Robertson
H/C J Thomson

Ladies

Spring Meeting

Janice Gay

Coronation 4's

Sylvia Guy, Pat Dines

May Medal

Dafrosa Rawnsley

SIMF Brooch

Sandra Murray

Gilmour Plate

Sandra Murray

James Duncan

Lynne Black

SLGA Brooch

Dafrosa Rawnsley

John Anderson**June Medal**

Gill Fraser

Captains Prize

Susan McKay

VE Trophy

Cheryl Mackenzie

July Medal

Eleanor Blair

Summer Meeting

Janice Gay

Cancer Relief

Janice Gay

Club Championship

Nicola Gemmell

Bronze Championship

Cheryl Mackenzie

Guide Dog Assoc

Alison McKerracher

August Medal

Gill Fraser

Autumn Meeting

Nicola Gemmell

Daily Mail 4's

Janet Thomson
Nicola Gemmell

Bridge Club

The East Neuk Bridge Club used to be based in Pittenweem, but following a proposed increase in rent, we approached the golf club for a trial to see how we both got on with each other. The trial started in April last year and was an immediate success. Everyone from the bridge club is appreciative of the warm and friendly surroundings.

We now regularly have drinks from the machine and bar, and we hold about 4 meals each year. We have approaching 40 members, and so far, I believe that we have managed to work together well with the golf club and the Rockies. Everyone is so flexible that we can overcome any double-bookings or whatever.

If anyone is interested in joining our friendly group, come along on a Wednesday evening at 7pm. During the summer we meet fortnightly, but weekly from September until the end of March.

Biscuit Club

The Biscuit Club has been running for longer than anyone knows. The "old boys" (and not quite so old) meet about 8am in the summer and a bit later in the winter to play golf in convivial company and to round it off with hot coffee or tea, and a chocolate biscuit (if Mike Curphy hasn't got to them first). We have our own Biscuit Club handicaps, which allow anyone to win over time.

We also arrange several outings in the summer to other golf clubs starting with a bacon roll and coffee, 18 holes of golf, and then a meal afterwards. These are looked forward

to immensely, except by those in danger of winning the dreaded Monkey. Those with the lowest stableford score, played off (real) golf club handicaps, win the Monkey, a small sculpture of a monkey swinging a golf club. Anyone wishing to join the Biscuit Club should pay Gerald the usual bribe!

Juniors

The juniors have been more successful this year with now 14 coming along on a Monday at 5pm. With Ally Donaldson assisting Mike Cuprhey. The boys are making use of the new driving net, putting on the practice green and also playing round the course. The juniors should be encouraged as much as possible and it is hoped that more will join next year.

Rockies Restaurant

November opening hours:

Monday and Tuesday - closed

Wednesday and Thursday - lunch and high tea

Friday and Saturday - lunch, high tea and dinner

Sunday - lunch and high tea

Christmas prices from 2nd December to 24th December

Lunch

2 course - £11.95

3 course - £13.95

Dinner

2 course - £21.95

3 course - £23.95

Social events

The BBQ on 23rd July was a huge success despite the weather conditions of torrential rain.

Philip Anderson and friends cooking in those conditions, but everyone had a great time and it was good to see families as well as individuals.

Forthcoming events

The ladies prize giving will be held in the Rockies Restaurant on Friday 28th October, a notice will be put up in the ladies locker room beforehand for an indication of numbers.

The main prize giving for the men will be held in the clubhouse on Friday 4th November, and all are welcome to attend.

A beetle drive will be organized for the near future as will the usual winter quiz nights so look out for the notices!