



October 2015 Newsletter

As we near the end of the summer season it is a good opportunity to recap the last few months. Although the weather has not been great we have had a reasonable summer with very few days when conditions were such that play was not possible.

Best wishes to everyone.

John

Competitions and matches

During the winter months our winter league team had one of the most successful seasons for some time coming out undefeated at home throughout the year.

During the summer the Gents Open, Gents Senior Open, Ladies Open, Ladies Senior Open and Ladies Super Senior Open attracted a total of around 400 players which, in today's environment, is a great effort. At all of these events we received many positive comments about the course condition and what we have to offer here at Gifford.

With respect to our Club Championships again the weather was in our favour and congratulations go to all those who qualified for the final rounds as well as the eventual winners, namely the Gents Champion John Archibald, the B Champion Donald Macsween, the Ladies Champion Helen Richie and the Molly Glover Trophy won by June Forson.



The summer club matches have now all been completed and I am happy to report that we were successful in defending the Winterfield Trophy in our annual two legged match with Winterfield Golf Club while we managed to wrestle the John Gordon Niblic back from our friends at Dirleton Castle over the two matches.

The senior (EGGS) group continue to flourish with over 50 golfers participating in the various club competitions. Regular matches were played with Haddington, Lauder and St Boswells and the intention is to add two additional matches next year.

Junior Golf

The juniors started off the year with the lessons provided by Derek Small in April. They have now completed all of their competitions although the attendance has been less than hoped for.



Two other events worthy of note this year were the Junior Open which was classified as an Lothians Order of Merit competition this year with over 30 juniors participating. In September we hosted The Stephen Gallacher Foundation day with 56 juniors from the Lothians and beyond taking part.

The Clubhouse

The clubhouse has been busy throughout the year and regular golfers will have noticed the expanded range of food now available.

Like almost all clubs and hotels the change in drink driving law has had an effect on our alcohol sales however we have been able to recover most of the lost revenue with additional food sales which is a credit to the staff in the clubhouse.



The Course



As I mentioned earlier, the course condition this year has been much commented on by visitors and members alike and it really is nice for the green-keeping staff to receive these well-deserved accolades. A huge amount of work was completed during last year's winter programme with two new tee box expansions completed at the 3rd and 4th tees. In addition several bunkers were renovated on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th holes, as well as a number of unplanned activities.

Winter was not without its challenges when a combination of forestry work adjacent to the course meant a significant change in the landscape. In addition we lost a large number of our own trees on the 6th hole as a result of exposure to strong westerly winds, a direct result of the forestry work adjacent to the fairway. This was quickly dealt with and plans are in place to plant a boundary hedge and a number of trees to recreate the approach to the 6th green. The overall 2015/16 winter works programme is in draft form and this will be communicated to the membership shortly.

Visitors and membership

Visitor numbers have held reasonably firm this year and while individual numbers are down slightly from the last two years we have had a healthy number of groups visiting the club this year.

The overall membership is in line with last year with a healthy number of new members joining throughout the year more than compensating for those unable to renew their subscription.

Website and social media

For those regular users of the website you will have noticed a number of improvements in both format and content, this is as a result of considerable effort from Bill Dew who agreed to take on this role. In addition all new news items appear on twitter.

Bill is at pains to insist that the website is only as good as the information available and would like to encourage all members to forward any information including photos to him.

Key dates

The ladies AGM will be held in the clubhouse at 12.30pm on Sunday 1 November.



The annual prize giving is scheduled for 12.00noon on Saturday 28 November with, weather permitting, 9 holes of golf followed by the prize giving immediately afterward. It is hoped that as many members as possible along with all of the prize-winners will be able to come along.

Finally the AGM is scheduled for 19 January and will be held in the village hall, more details will be announced nearer the date.