

GGC NEWS

Welcome to 2010

Welcome to our first Newsletter in 2010. We would like to wish all our members and their families **Many Best Wishes** for 2010 as we all look forward to the approaching new golf season.

The committee wanted to take advantage of the 2010 Fee Notices being mailed out to update you on some matters of interest at the club.

Thank You !

It is appropriate at the start of the new year to say a hearty 'Thank You' to both our staff across all areas of our club and our ever growing band of volunteers who either operate in our sub committees or in some other way help the running of our club across its many facets. Your work and voluntary support is much appreciated and hopefully as we look forward into 2010 and 2011 will allow us to successfully implement many of the plans we have. If you feel you might want to assist then please speak to any committee member.

Joining Offer

As in previous years the club will operate a new member referral scheme from 1st January 2010 to 30th June 2010 whereby if an existing adult lady or gents playing member refers a new full playing member then both the existing member and the new member will get £50 credit each to spend either at the bar or the professional shop. Please contact any member of the committee or Maggie Paterson – secretary@gourockgolfclub.com or phone 01475 631001 if you require more details.

Greens Update

The number one priority for our club is the course. In the Autumn a capital investment plan was published on the entrance hall noticeboard outlining a number of projects that would be undertaken during the 09/10 winter - totalling £15400. These are being worked through with the 5th and 6th Gents' tees nearing completion. Upgrade work has also been carried out on the 18th tees. The need for work on tees has been a recurring theme in recent members' surveys.

Drainage upgrades are also a very high priority and specific upgrade work was done at the front of both 5th and 8th greens prior to the Christmas / New Year period freeze. As we plan towards the start of the season further capital work will be done to complete the new drainage on the 6th fairway as well as 'sand banding' the already improved drainage on both the 6th and 8th fairways. In addition the ladies 6th tee will be upgraded and burst and problematic drains will be fixed.

In parallel with this capital work, the greens staff will continue their winter maintenance programme and begin to prepare the course for the forthcoming season

Your Head Greenkeeper and new committee are also in the process of revisiting our course capital / maintenance / cosmetic plans for the forthcoming 2 years - a plan that must remain flexible as we react to new issues that will undoubtedly arise. This is an important piece of work and needs to include how we plan, financially budget, issue measurable progress reports and report back to the members on the work that that will be agreed to be done. The Greens sub committee have already kicked off this review and we will update the membership once we have fully formulated our plans.

We repeat again - there is a lot to be done around our club and with our membership - but by definition the course is NUMBER ONE

Professional Shop Update

Following the fire in early August both Derek and the club have been working with our respective insurance Companies and the appointed contractor to progress this work. Whilst progress has not been as quick as we would have liked it was important that the insurance implications were worked through with

necessary tenders being sought. Work is now progressing and the club has taken the opportunity to upgrade the balcony at the same time - we are hoping that Derek will be fully up and running by the end of this month.

2010 Committee

The 2010 Committee and sub-committee convenor structure is as follows :

Captain	Allan Warwick
Vice Captain	Roddy Boyle
Hon. Treasurer	Rodger Manson
Hon. Secretary	Bill Dempster
Secretary	Maggie Paterson
Greens	Willie Paterson
House – Staff/Services	Roddy Boyle
House - Fabric/Maintenance	Gary McMaster
Juniors (not on committee)	Derek Watters
Social (not on committee)	Kenny McKie
Match and Handicap	Des Miller
Development +Locker Room	Alan Knox
Business Operations	Alan Knox
- Finance	Alan Knox
- Membership	Bill Dempster
- Communications	John Young
- Sponsorship/Branding	Euan Harvey
Ladies Captain	Jane Cowan
Ladies Vice Captain	Carolyn Craig
Junior Captain	Blair Harvey
Junior Vice Captain	Gavin McDougall

Communications to Members by E-Mail

Our website continues to be an excellent means of communication to members and visitors with recent/planned upgrades including a Juniors page, a Catering section and a Social Diary of Events section.

At the same time the club want to move towards communicating with a wider cross-section of our membership by e-mail. At the end of 2009 we invested in both software and hardware upgrades for the club which will make this easier to be achieved.

Watch out for some very informative and helpful e-mails in the near future.

Top Floor Decoration and Furniture Upgrade

The committee have approved and budgeted for plans to upgrade both the décor and the furniture and fittings in the top floor main lounge, including the restaurant area. The work is underway and will be completed ahead of the start of the new season. The backroom upgrade will be tackled as a separate phase.

The exterior of the clubhouse will also be painted in the early Spring.

Club Priorities

Your new committee have spent some time working on a Strategy/Business Plan for our club part of which outlines our top 10 priorities. These are listed below (in no order) - you will hear a lot more on this GGC Strategy through time including the detailed steps, timeline and progress measurements we will be putting in pace to ensure these priorities are achieved.

- 1. Grow membership across all categories – Gents, Ladies, Juniors, Social**
- 2. Increase variety and number of social events – increased use by members reflected in restaurant and bar activity**
- 3. Revitalise whole area of Juniors – increased membership and increased activity level**
- 4. Develop and implement a cohesive club business plan - 5 year plan – course, clubhouse, cheese wedge, practice facilities, 14th, locker room, grant funding, CASC**
- 5. Improve condition of course – capital works and cosmetics – through a more thorough approach to capital and maintenance project planning, budgeting and measurement of on time and on budget project completion. Major focus on course drainage**
- 6. Improve communication to all members with a particular focus on GGC website and e-mail communication**
- 7. Ensure financial stability of club continues**
- 8. Improve internal and exterior décor of clubhouse by a phased approach to repairs and capital investment**
- 9. Ensure improved performance and teaming of all staff in all departments and more effective two way communication between staff and committee**
- 10. Improve overall operation of committee – faster speed of action, more effective sub-committees, clarity on ownership, more effective execution of agreed actions**

Your Club !

On a more general point it is important that all 850 members of our club try to make full use of the facilities we have on offer – course, professional shop, bar, caterer. There is no doubt these continue to be challenging financial times for everybody and this clearly impacts sports and social clubs as well. It is therefore even more important during times like these that we look to support our own club.

The committee are well aware that the use will also be impacted by the condition and standard of the service and facility on offer – hence the the importance of implementing on a step by step basis the 10 priorities outlined above.

Juniors

The Junior Sub Committee 2010 have formed under Derek Watters and an ambitious Junior Development Plan has already been agreed with the Full Committee. (The full plan can be viewed on www.gourockgolfclub.com or in the Junior Locker room).

A Junior Committee has been selected with Blair Harvey as Junior Captain and Gavin McDougall as Vice Captain.

An aggressive Recruitment and Selection effort is already underway as we are looking to increase membership by 50% by the end of season 2011. If any member can think of any boy or girl between the ages of 10 and 18, who would like to become a member of our club then please contact Maggie Patterson for a Membership Application Form or contact any member of the Junior sub Committee.

The Junior Locker Room has been completely refurbished by Junior Sponsor Mr Paul Galbraith (PGL) and Mr Euan Harvey (Verve) has once again pledged to provide transport to and from Junior Team Matches. 'Riverside Inverclyde' have provided polo shirts and sleeveless tops for the Junior Team and an anonymous member has donated £100.

We are always looking for Sponsors to support our efforts – even an 'unusual' raffle prize will help. Please contact Ged Turley on waver1980@hotmail.com or speak to any Junior sub Committee member :- Dugald Carmichael, Gordon Crae, Alan McBride, Ian Minton, Ged Turley.

Club Mistress Role

Members may be aware that our Club Mistress, Maria Cassidy, tendered her resignation during December – her last day being 13th January. Maria has been a point of continuity in our club over the last ever changing 20 years and we would like to thank Maria for her service over that considerable period of time and wish her 'all the best' as she moves on to her new job.

The committee recognise the importance of this role within our staff and are working to fill this gap as quickly as we can. In the meantime Sandra Ferguson will lead Jenna, Colette, Yvonne and Chris in providing our bar service and we thank Sandra for this.

Match and Handicap

Our M+H sub committee are ahead of schedule to be ready for the new season and the draft 2010 fixtures are already on the website - www.gourockgolfclub.com Fixture books will be made available in due course.

Here are some useful contact for members :-
FOC League – Chris Mooney Muirshiel – Steven Higgin
Renfrewshire County Cup – Jim Wall
Mail on Sunday Classic – Jim Wall
CC Seniors League – Brian Arbuthnot & Alasdair Mackay

We need your.....

.....**details!!!** Gourock Golf Club will soon be issuing emails updating our membership on the latest news and articles. To maximise this step forward we need to make sure that all our information is up-to-date. If you have not recently supplied your up to date details (including an e-mail address) can you please put in an envelope a note with your name, membership category, address, telephone number and email address so that we can ensure our records are fully up to date. Please address the envelope to John Young and put in the Gents scorecard box in the back lounge. We are aware that many members have already supplied these details through the on-line Membership Survey processes. **Many thanks.**

Catering

Many thanks to everybody who used the restaurant facility during the festive period and indeed the whole month of December. We were very busy and Mark, Graeme and the team were delighted with the many positive comments they received. Given the success of the Festive Menu we will look to continue this style, with amended content, as we go forward in time.

In addition, the A La Carte menu is currently being revised and will be available at the weekends from the beginning of February. We will also be freshening up the Lounge snack menu ahead of the new golfing season.

Watch out also for more Gourmet evenings following the success of the event held in the middle of December - we are thinking of, for example, a wine evening, a themed evening eg. an Italian Night etc etc. Keep your eye on the noticeboard and the Social section of the Website - www.gourockgolfclub.com - for more details.

If you have not tried our new catering facility then we would encourage all members to do so - we are sure you will enjoy the experience.

Gents Locker Room Update

The committee continue to work to bring this project to fruition. There is no doubt as a club that this is a project that needs to be undertaken and during 2009 we appointed a professional Architect to lead this work for us which culminated in competitive tenders being received in December. These are currently being reviewed with both the architect and the most competitive contractor with a view to further reducing the total cost without compromising the specification and quality of the work needing to be undertaken. In parallel the committee are pursuing funding options including talking to our bankers. Part of these funding considerations is the potential granting of Planning Application authority for the piece of land adjacent to the Gents 10th tee (the so called 'Cheese wedge' site). On the planning application the committee continue to progress this and we hope to have some update to report by the middle of 2010.

In light of the investigation work still being ongoing the Gents Locker Room project will not now be carried out during the month of February 2010 as was hoped but your committee will continue to progress this important project including carefully taking account of the current financial climate so that we perform this work at the optimum time for our club. **We will keep you updated.**

Social

A new social subcommittee has been formed and has met 3 times in the last 10 weeks. Kenny McKie continues to do a great job in planning and running our monthly Cabaret Nights, but we also want to compliment these important and well attended occasions with a variety of other events – linking as we do with our new catering service. For example, we are looking at Theme/ Gourmet nights, Games afternoon/nights, Discos, Quizzes, Family events. Please watch the noticeboard and website for details of future events but in the meantime here is the planned calendar of events as it stands for 2010 :-

Social Events in 2010

Mon 11th Jan – Start of Ladies Yoga to end of March
 Sun 17th Jan – Games Afternoon – All Members
 Sat 23rd Jan – Burns Supper at 7pm

Sat 13th Feb – Valentine's Quiz/Disco
 Sat 13th March – Dance – Band Eclipse
 Fri 19th March – Ladies Dinner
 Sat 17th April – Motown Magic
 Sat 15th May – Dance
 Sun 30th May – Mixed Scramble & Meal
 Sat 19th June – Neil Diamond Tribute
 Sun 27th June – Mixed Scramble & Meal
 Sat 17th July – Heather Anne Cabaret/Disco
 Sat 18th Sept – Take That Tribute
 Sat 9th Oct – Race Night/Disco
 Fri 10th Dec – Party Night
 Sat 11th Dec – Party Night
 Fri 17th Dec – Party Night
 Sat 18th Dec – Carnival Dance

2008/2009 Season Prizewinners

As an error was made in the AGM notice intimating our prize winners, we have re-published it below

	GENTLEMEN	2009 Prize winners		LADIES	2009 Prize winners
Club Championship	Darroch Medal	John Jack	Club Championship	Turner Trophy	Mrs M Woodhead
CC Runner-up	Melrose Cup	Chris Mooney	Runner-up:		Mrs M Docherty
Seniors	McNaughton Quaich	Willie Patersin	Bronze Bell	Mrs J Attwool	Runner up: Mrs J Rees
Baird Trophy	Senior H'cap Champion	Alan Minton	Medals Finals		
George L Higgins Trophy		B Hayes & R Scarfile	Coronation Cup: Silver:		Mrs E Hanlon
George L Higgins Cup Sect 1		Steven Higgins	Bennett Cup: Bronze:		Miss L Nelson
George L Higgins Cup Sect 2		Des Miller	Muir Trophy:	Mrs M Cowe	Miss A Stephenson
George L Higgins Cup Sect 3		Euan Harvey	Johnson Trophy:		Mrs M Cowe & Miss A I Mackay
Tipping Trophy		Kevin Eardley	Milne Medals		
Turner Trophy		Dean Abercrombie	Spring		Mrs M Cowe
Telfer Trophy		Steven Higgins	Autumn		Mrs M Cowe
Belhaven Qual:		J Phillips	Marjorie Wilson Trophy:		Mrs M Cowe
Hall of Fame Qual		Scratched	Pro's Cup		Miss L Nelson
McPherson Trophy		Martin Turner	Crawford Cup		Mrs M Mills
Shotgun		No trophy	Helen Rose Trophy		Miss L Nelson
RNLI		Scratched	Mrs. May Baxter Trophy		Mrs M Mills
Reid Trophy		Archie Livingstone	A.P. Jess Trophy		Mrs R Slack & Mrs M Docherty
Pro's Cup		Craig Hotchkiss	Burgh Trophy Open		Mrs S Mooney
Venturi Cup		Tommy Donald	Captain's Prizes (Silver)		Miss L Nelson
McGlashan Medal		Gordon Baynes	Captain's Prizes (Bronze)		Mrs J Rees
McGlashan Cup		D McAuslan & Fraser Leith	Vice-Captain's Prizes (Silver)		Mrs E Hanlon
Hathaway Trophy		Fraser Leith	Vice-Captain's Prizes (Bronze)		Mrs M Cowe
Cameron Cup 1		Steven Higgins	Cancer Relief	Spoon	Miss L Nelson
2nd Section		Gordon Boswell	Golf Foundation Brooch		Mrs M Kemp
3rd Section		Paul Nichol	Vet's Salver		Mrs M Rice
Currie Cup		K Baldwin & Allan Warwick	Gleneagles Medal		Miss L Nelson
Muir Salver		Heleen Gunn & Alan Cameron	LGU Medal & Peggy Paterson Quaichs:		
Roxburgh Trophy	W Wilkin, K Ross, J McWade & G Alexander		Silver:		Mrs M Rice
Green keepers H/C	(H'cap) Eddie Isaac	(Scr) Ross Campbell	Bronze		Miss L Nelson
W E Turner	(H'cap) David Gallacher	(Scr) Ross Campbell	Edda Fisher Memorial Trophy		Mrs A Marshall
A P Jess		B & P Nichol	Isabella Reid Trophy		Miss A Stephenson
S Esler Trophy		R T Rice & Billy Gourley	SLGA Brooch		Mrs L McLaughlin
Winter League Stableford		Jake MacPherson	RNLI Spoon		Miss A Stephenson
Captains Prizes 1		Robert McGregor	Winter Foursomes:		Mrs E Hanlon & Mrs M Rice
2nd Section		Stephen MacDonald	Mattie Baird Greensome		Mrs M Cowe & Miss N Ramsay
3rd Section		John McCall	Daily Mail Foursomes		Mrs M Kemp & Miss H Kemp
Vice Capt Prizes 1		Andrew MacPherson	Red Cross Spoon (Eclectic)		Mrs M Cowe
2nd Section		Gordon Crae	Wooden Spoon		Captain's Team: Mrs J Cowan
3rd Section		D Bruce			Mrs J Gourley, Mrs M Cowe and
Pro's Day	A K Murray, H Haig, D Aitken & J Cairns				Mrs K Church
WS Hawthorne 60+		C McKay			Mrs M Rice, Miss AI Mackay
WS Hawthorne 70+		W O'Hagen			Mrs J Rees
PGA Qualifier		David Burnie			
Open Competitions			Juniors		
Gillen Trophy H/C		E Williamson (C/Bank)	Championship (Montgomery Trophy)		Murray Gillen
Gillen Quaich SC		John Greer	Singles (Bob Winning Trophy)		Tom Kemp
Burgh Trophy	(H'cap) Frank Hansen	(Scr) Steven Higgins	J S Thomson Shield		G McGougall & M Gillen
Gourock Cup Mixed Open		M Mills & I Liddell	Medal Final (Lobito Cup)		J Broadley
Seniors Open SC	C D McCrae Trophy	Alasdair Mackay	Tipping Medal		T Kemp
Seniors Open HC	W J Munro Trophy	R T Rice	Hamish McNab Trophy		M Cussons
T O'Neill Trophy		R McGregor & D McNeill	Hamish McNab Memorial Trophy		Ross McIlravey
Members & Guests		W Caldwell & G Leith	AP Jess Centenary Trophy		M Cussons & G Chamberlain
			Weetabix Qualifier		D Slack
			Bob Murray Memorial Trophy		M Cussons
			Kevin Thomson Trophy		No Competition
			Junior Open: Giuntoli (Scr) Trophy		A McDonald - Whinhill
			Helen Aitken (Handicap) Trophy		R Richmond - Cowal
			Most improved Golfer		Hannah Kemp
			Greenock & District Boys Championship		Blair Harvey