

# Dalmally Golf Club

Newsletter

Spring 2018



## *A word from the Captain*

As your new Captain, I would like to welcome you to the first Newsletter of the year.

After the many challenges of last year, not least of which was the weather, I am quietly confident that we are now in good shape for a successful and enjoyable season. I hope you will find our Spring Newsletter interesting and informative. If you have any news or comments, please let us know.

Best wishes for a great golfing season

Maud Marshall

## **New Committee and Potholders**

Your Committee this year is made up as follows:

Captain	Maud Marshall
Vice-Captain	Lily Mckay
Secretary	Sheila Tollan
Treasurer	Ann McLaren
Gents Captain	Billy Mckay
Ladies Captain	Ann Colthart
Greens Convenor	Jim Livingstone
Member	Isobel Sutherland
Member	Angus MacGillivray

Other postholders are:

Membership Secretary Ann Hay

Gents Match Secretary Tony Graham

Ladies Match Secretary Etive Brown

Gents Handicap Secretary Don McAllister

Ladies Handicap Secretary Alison Livingstone

Coaching Janet Buchanan  
Coaching Colleen Brown

Their contact details are in your Fixtures Booklet. We have no Junior Convenor at the moment. If you are interested, please contact Sheila Tollan, Secretary, [dalmallygolfclub@outlook.com](mailto:dalmallygolfclub@outlook.com)

## **New Greenkeeper**

We are delighted to let you know we now have a Greenkeeper. David Graham started work with us this month, bringing with him sound credentials; golf course and turf management qualifications from Elmwood College and, since leaving school, work experience at Machrihanish Dunes, The Dukes at St Andrews, Avondale in Sydney, Isle of Ersika and Glencruitten.

David hails from Machrihanish, the youngest of four in a family with shinty in the blood

and the Machrihanish Course on the doorstep. He had a golf club in his hands at the age of two and can speak of many successes through the various competitive levels in the Argyll & Bute Men's Golf Union. He now plays off one but is aiming to get back to scratch.

David, with his keen interest in the game and his experience of a variety of courses, said 'I really like the course. It's got a great layout and every hole is different. I am relishing the challenge and the chance to get it to its full potential and to help Dalmally flourish as an excellent and enjoyable course'.

And if the picture below of one of the bunkers at the 9<sup>th</sup> is anything to go by, David is already putting his 'signature' on the course. As one lady golfer remarked 'I'll not be disturbing any of these wonderful bunkers in a hurry'. Well, we shall see.





## **DGC Quiz Night on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

The Annual Spring Quiz Night was yet another success with 11 teams of four battling it out under the steely eye of quiz-mistress, Sheila Tollan. Winners Alison Dawson, Gwyn Jones, Jean Twort and Geri Inglis (pictured below) fought off some stiff competition. It was a very enjoyable evening and raised over £300 for the Club.



## **Upcoming Fixtures and Events**

### **The John MacKechnie Memorial Quaich on**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Mixed Pairs Stableford, 10.30 for 11.00 with refreshments afterwards. All members welcome to our start-of-season event! Sign up at the Club or e mail Tony Graham [dalmallygentsgolf@gmail.com](mailto:dalmallygentsgolf@gmail.com) or Eive Brown [etive@baressan.l.plus.com](mailto:etive@baressan.l.plus.com)

**Dalmally Golf Club Open Day** on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April –

an invitation to the community to join us and find out about playing golf at Dalmally. With coaching and fun games and a chance to meet the Committee and members of the Club, we hope as many of you will be there too. Watch out for more details.

**Argyll & Bute Golf Union** Spring Meeting on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Dunaverty Gents 18-hole Strokeplay, £12. Contact Tony Graham [dalmallygentsgolf@gmail.com](mailto:dalmallygentsgolf@gmail.com)

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May is the **Keyline Shield Dalmally Gents -v- Taynuilt Gents** at Dalmally. Contact Tony.

**Ladies and Gents Dalmally Seniors Open** on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Individual Stableford: Entry-£15 including refreshments. Enter via the website or at the Clubhouse.

Thursday Afternoon **Bridge Sessions** re-start on 12<sup>th</sup> April in the Clubhouse from 2 to 5pm. Beginners and former players welcome. Table money £2 including light refreshments. Contact Tony Graham, [tony.graham@orange.fr](mailto:tony.graham@orange.fr)

## **Report and follow-up from the AGM 2018**

Changes were made to our **constitution**, including: making the Club more open and inclusive; reducing the size, and changing the make-up, of the Committee to make it more effective; and allowing notification of the AGM by e mail as well as snail mail. Interested in more details? Then e mail Sheila for a copy [dalmallygolfclub@outlook.com](mailto:dalmallygolfclub@outlook.com) or phone her 01631 710401.

Ronnie Finlay, custodian of the '100 Club' announced his intention to wind up the club. He donated £1735 to Dalmally Golf Club, retaining the remaining £300 to complete the draws for the current year which ends in July. Ronnie was warmly thanked for his work over the past ten years and the AGM asked the Committee to consider future options for a 'new' '100 Club'. This will be considered at Committee's May meeting, taking into account suggestions made by members, that we should keep the club going and send out information at the same time as the call for annual subscriptions and that we ensure that non-golfers who wish to join the '100 Club' are



able to do so. If you have any further suggestions, please let Sheila Tollan, Secretary know before the end of April.

Clarification was sought on the handling of, and charging of fees from, **visiting groups**, particularly when decisions have to be made 'on the spot' in the event of bad weather, when a balance has to be weighed up between securing income and retaining goodwill. It was felt above all that there had to be consistency and transparency across the board and so the Committee was charged with setting out fair and basic ground-rules. Here's what the Committee agreed.

***Dalmally Golf Club encourages and welcomes visitor events. Whether these involve visitors from the Gents' Argyll & Bute Golf Union, the Dumbarton & Argyll County Ladies' Association, our neighbouring clubs or other local societies, we are looking to achieve a One-Club approach.***

***With the Union and the County, we will adopt their respective practices. With other clubs and societies, in friendly matches, we will offer courtesy of the course,***

***hospitality and welcome an unsolicited donation.***

***As with Opens, if there are adverse conditions on the day, the Committee delegates authority to the event/Open organiser, normally the Match Secretary, or his or her appointed substitute, to make a decision on the day to ensure a balance between income to the Club and safeguarding the goodwill of our guests (always with regard to the R&A Rules of Golf in relation to the cancellation of competitions).***

#### **Plans for 2018**

##### ***Priority No 1: Course and Grounds***

With the appointment of David Graham as Greenkeeper we are on track to delivering the course to a high standard. We will complete and open the putting green and improve access and carparking. We will also introduce reviewed Health & Safety working practices.

##### ***Priority No 2: Finance and Funding***

As well as seeking to increase our income from subscriptions and green fees,

we are pursuing grants and launching a new sponsorship scheme.

##### ***Priority No 3: One Club***

A thriving Gents' Section is a key priority with an overhaul of the fixtures and an increase in attendance at Opens. Along with this, we are reviewing the arrangements for the Ladies' game including targeting the over 40's. A renewed Coaching Programme is being put together and catering for all Opens and Events will be offered on a consistent basis by the Ladies Section.

##### ***Priority No 4: PR and Promotion***

We see a strengthened position in and contribution to the community as essential with activities such as an Open Day at the start of the season and a presence at the Dalmally Show. We will continue to stay in close touch with members through newsletters and a new-look website. We will improve our signage to attract more visitors.

##### ***Priority No 5: The Clubhouse***

We would like to give the Clubhouse a fresh feel and



make it more welcoming through new furnishings and decoration using new sources of funds. We are also going to introduce a catering service in May and June on a trial basis for members, visitors and the community.

This is a quick snapshot of our priorities and actions for the season ahead. A One-Page Plan and Targets will be posted in the Clubhouse, but if you would like more information, please contact Maud Marshall [maudmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:maudmarshall@gmail.com) or 0771 715 0691.

### **Ladies' Competitions – Alternative Days**

Questions have been asked about how these work. They are designed for those unable to play in the regular Monday morning fixtures due to work or other commitments. To maintain the spirit of the CONGU rules and be fair to all, here is what happens. If you cannot play on Monday morning, you can play at any other time, dawn to dusk on the Monday. Alternatively, you can play on the previous Saturday, dawn to dusk.

### **New Road**

In January, the Club submitted an application to the Steering

Group of the Carraig Gheal Community Benefit Fund for a grant towards the renewal of the road into the Club. We are delighted to announce that this week the Steering Group approved the application.

The work, which will be carried out by Oban-based D&K Lafferty & Co Ltd, will go ahead shortly – probably end April/beginning of May. As it will mean lack of access to the Club for up to two days, we will keep members posted.

The grant from Carraig Gheal and their funders, Greenpower will make a major contribution to the development of the Club and assist us in our efforts to make it more attractive to members and visitors alike. Warm thanks have been passed to them for their continued support.



*(Current road into the club)*

### **News from Scottish Golf Ltd**

The recent AGM of SGL earlier resulted in a surprising vote against raising Club affiliation fees to £15. So, they will remain at £11.25 per member. The original, controversial proposal to lift them to £24 was resoundingly criticised and withdrawn. While the AGM outcome may be good for us financially, there is concern over the future viability of our governing body. A number of important voices are already calling for a re-consideration of the AGM vote. And on 6<sup>th</sup> May, all the Ladies' County Associations are meeting Eleanor Cannon, Chairperson of SGL to discuss the way forward. Ann Colthart, Ladies Captain will be attending this meeting in her role as Captain of Dumbarton and Argyll County Association.

We will keep you up to date on this. The debate is sure to rumble on.

**Items for next newsletter which will come out at the end of May:**  
[maudmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:maudmarshall@gmail.com)  
or leave at club marked for Maud