

DUNFERMLINE GOLF CLUB LADIES SECTION

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 2020

Held by Zoom (due to Covid19 restrictions) on Monday 16th November, at 7pm

1.OPENING REMARKS

Ladies Captain, Val Burns welcomed 4 Committee members and 32 members who had logged in to the zoom call and thanked them for their attendance. She also remembered June Spence and Joan Lawrence MBE who had sadly passed away during the year.

Val thanked Spreng Thomson for hosting.

2.APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Sam Burton, Elaine Scott, Agnes Munro, Jane MacDonald, Hilary Patrick and Maureen Glennie

3.MINUTES OF 2019 BUSINESS MEETING / MATTERS ARISING

There were no issues raised from the 2019 minutes

Questions were invited by email

4.CAPTAIN'S REPORT

We began the year 2020 so hopefully – it had seemed like a good omen - 20 / 20 vision and all that!

And all did go well until March, planning our much-anticipated 'Swing into Spring', with a summer's worth of golf to follow!

However that Monday - 23rd March - was the day they decided to 'lock us down' at home. And all the year's planned events were suddenly up in the air.

While the Clubhouse had to be shut down, the Golf Course had to be kept going.

With only 2 staff not on furlough, the volunteer green-keeping work done by members, in particular – Joan Peden, was particularly valuable - Joan doing a great job there as well as on Council.

A special mention is due to all the Club Staff members – both House and Greens – for all the work they have had to put in on our behalf. And to House Convenor Craig Miller for keeping on top of all the Covid-19 requirements.

Also special thanks go to Bob De Rose for his excellent work as Secretary over many years, and we send best wishes to him for a happy retirement.

Meanwhile we look forward to welcoming our new Club Manager Barry Martin in the New Year.

The Golf Course was favoured by many local people for their daily exercise, and it was good to hear the many appreciative comments.

And happily we have gained new members on both Courses, and we welcome them warmly to the Club.

As the coronavirus situation worsened, our ladies got together really quickly, to see where they could help. It was great that so many of our members helped out their golfing friends during this time, in small but important ways. Thank you all for that!

Meanwhile the two WhatsApp groups got livelier, providing plenty of fun & games to pass the time! And our new 'Zoom' coffee mornings were fantastic for keeping everybody in touch with each other.

Several big birthdays have been celebrated - at a social distance - Cathy Waller and Lorna Craigie reaching 80. And at Christmas, Marie White will be joining that inspiring group! There's no question it will be an unforgettable birthday year for them!

A big thankyou goes to Alison Paterson, who is still in charge of our 'Little Lockerroom Library' - which normally makes a great contribution to our funds. However she tells me she would welcome an offer of help to run it after Covid restrictions are lifted.

At the beginning of May, the chance to get back to Golf was like all our Christmases in one! It was such a joy to be out and playing on the course once more! With gradually relaxing restrictions we were finally able to play in groups, and quickly learned the new rules - pins in & handshakes out!

Our Match Committee - Ros McNeill & Alison McGovern - went full speed ahead & provided us with a great programme of Competitions - with Sunday Golf proving a clear success story!

It was especially good to be able to hold the Championships - almost as normal - after all the other cancelled events of the year.

On a perfect day and with great support from the ladies, the matches gave us our 2020 Champions - Megan Brown & Jackie Kidd - Many congratulations to both!

Innovation to the fore, we fixed the day (and the weather) for the Ladies' first-ever 'Not an Outing'. This was indeed a fun day out in the sun on Pitfirrane Links!!

Many thanks to Sam Burton for as usual organising such a successful day (and let's not forget the co-ordinated tee-booking at 8 am one morning!)

More great sunshine saw a full turnout of 42 players for my Lady Captain's Prize Day!

Thankfully you all said you loved the Tex-Mex format, as well as the freebies! - and our fund-raising efforts added greatly to our total Charity donations for the year, which went to the Trussell Trust Food Bank and to the Fife branch of the Guide Dogs. And after the special August Mixed Scramble a further large donation went deservedly to the NHS.

The sun shone once more - we were so lucky! - for our special 'Dunfermline Solheim Cup', repeated by popular demand. We definitely raised spirits on the Course with our European Blue & Gold alongside the Stars & Stripes of this year's winners!

Congratulations USA!

For our winter golf we are really happy that Margaret Farrow is again organising the Sunday League, with able assistance from Liz Howie, and they are hoping you will enjoy the new format of 9 - hole Stableford play. This sociable fixture been going on for 45 years, so I encourage you to continue to support it!

We all realise how lucky we are to have had the sport of Golf to turn to throughout this difficult year. Thank you all for bearing with us and with the Council through all the stages of the Covid-19 restrictions.

In my view the outstanding achievement of our Ladies Committee this year has been our success in signing up to the 'Women in Golf Charter', which has been promoted by the R & A.

Dunfermline G. C. now joins a growing number of Clubs committed to improving the landscape for women and girls in all areas of the game. This is a great step forward which I believe will have far-reaching significance for our sport.

Particular thanks go to Ros for her work to get us to this point.

I want to finish with a few more thankyou's.

First to my fabulous, hard-working Ladies Committee:

Ros McNeill has been our excellent Handicap Secretary for 4 years now, helping us all in so many ways. She should certainly have earned her retirement! Instead she, and Alison McGovern too, face the challenging task of guiding us through the new World Handicapping System! Many thanks to you both, and also for keeping us playing in these strange circumstances. And a further big thankyou to Ros for generously recycling her honorarium for the benefit of the Ladies Section.

Committee members Anne Gordon & Jackie Kidd have always been really involved with all the Committee's plans and activities – thank you both for your great input.

I was sorry that Sheila Fernie had to step down this summer. But we hope she will enjoy next year's golf, whether here or maybe in Singapore!

I'm also so grateful to Ann Chisholm and Megan Brown for agreeing to join the Committee. It's much appreciated – and I'm sure they will enjoy having that extra involvement.

I'd like to wish our new Lady Captain every success in the role. We are so lucky to have such a great candidate in Ros - and I have every confidence that she will have your interests at heart throughout the challenges of the coming year, as well as having your continued support.

Finally I want to thank so many of the Ladies membership for their kind & generous support throughout my Captaincy.

These two totally contrasting years have presented me with the strangest experience – and of course it has sometimes been a challenge - but in the end I would say it's been both really enjoyable and satisfying.

It's been an honour and a pleasure to 'do my bit' for Dunfermline Ladies!

5.HANDICAP SECRETARY'S REPORT

It has been a strange season this year with lots of new vocabulary to learn – lockdown, levels, tiers, bubbles - and socialisation seriously curtailed. However, I feel getting back to golf has been our saviour for exercise, fresh air, a chance to meet and play with another "household" and get back to some sort of normality!!

Before I get into the report details I would like to say a few "thank you"s.

- Firstly, to yourselves for your continued support of the competitions and especially supporting all the new processes introduced to keep us safe from covid-19. I appreciate that last year it was a big leap to get everyone booking on their smartphones and ipads but it has proved a godsend in this new and ever increasing

“contactless” world. The zoom coffee calls and whatsapp groups have kept us smiling throughout so thank you. If you would like to join one of the groups, then please contact us.

- To Alison McGovern, for sharing the admin load for the competitions this year– helping reschedule the fixture list, making the draws, closing the competitions. As this is my last year as Handicap Secretary, I know the role is in safe hands.
- To the committee for their support during these challenging times. We have always had a good rapport and I appreciate the responsiveness when we have needed to make quick decisions.
- To the pro shop (Chris and John) for keeping us right and managing our entry process.
- To Bob who, although he has retired now, for sending out our communications and keeping me right on process.
- To the greenstaff for ensuring the course was well prepared for our competitions, I know I have really appreciated the autumn colours at the moment.
- To Louise and Paul and their bar and kitchen staff for their table service and service with a smile in these everchanging times of rules and regulations, 6 or 7 iterations so far.

FIXTURES & STATISTICS

Normally I would bamboozle you with the statistics for the season but with this year’s fixtures curtailed, I have included only a couple:

- the average weekly entries for the Tuesday and Sunday games increased from 30 last year to 56.
- We managed to play 20 competitions in the shortened season
- Pre the World Handicapping System, 23 ladies improved their handicaps, similar to last year.

WINNERS

Huge congratulations to our winners – especially to Megan Brown and Jackie Kidd on Championship Finals Day.

Despite the short season our best scores this year were just as good as previous years :

- a net 67 (twice!) from Megan Brown
- +4 par score from Lesleyanne Tufft,
- 39 stableford pts from Hilary Patrick
- And the USA won our Solheim Cup this year

HALKETT COURSE

We have welcomed a number of new members to this course this year. Unfortunately due the Covid rules we were unable to have the weekly competitions we had started last year but we have recently reinstated the eclectic competitions over the winter and do have further plans. Again there is a whatsapp group and if you would like to be included please get in touch.

WOMEN IN GOLF CHARTER

The club has recently signed up to the Women in Golf Charter. This is part of the R & A’s global drive to increase the number of women and girls participating in golf and to encourage more opportunities for women to work within the golf industry.

The Charter has a number of aims but the one which is most appropriate for Dunfermline Golf Club is :

“Develop an inclusive environment for women and girls in golf and grow female membership in Scotland”

So we will be building on this throughout the new season.

WORLD HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

The new world handicapping system has gone live and we are still getting to grips with it so please bear with us but please contact if you have any questions.

There have been a number of separate communications on this but here is a reminder of the key points of the new process and the new terminology:

- Your handicap has been replaced by your Handicap index - most of you will have seen your HI but if you haven't you can see this on HowDidiDo/ClubV1 & the Scottish Golf App.

- Your HI is calculated from the best 8 of your last 20 qualifying rounds.

If you want to see your handicap record it is currently shown on the Scottish Golf app.

- Your Handicap Index is used to calculate your Course Handicap.

This is the number of strokes you receive per round. This is similar to your old handicap except that now your CH will vary from course to course - the more difficult the course the more strokes you will receive and vice versa.

It's the CH is that you write on your card - if you are using HowDidiDo you will see it's already there - all you have to do is fill in your gross scores.

If you are using a card you can find your CH by using the Handicap lookup chart in the Pro shop.

Your HI and CH will not change over this winter as all our competitions are non-qualifying so you have plenty of time to get used to the new system.

- For competitions from now on there is a slight difference - you will receive a Playing Handicap. This will normally be 95% of your Course Handicap.

This is calculated automatically- you don't need to work this out but you will notice the difference in the results.

We will be starting to use this next month in the Winter Stableford competitions.

- There are also adjustments for adverse playing conditions - this is now called the Playing Conditions Calculation or PCC. There are other safeguards in place to make sure your HI doesn't change too rapidly.

- All scores will be processed by Scottish Golf at midnight on the day of playing so you won't see any handicap changes till the following day.

- The more scores you enter the more accurate your HI will be.

During the qualifying season you can enter as many casual scores as you like from your home club or any other course that you play. How many you enter is up to you – but you can still play bounce games when you want.

- Finally this has been a major change in the way our handicaps are calculated and managed. If you want to know more detail there is a lot of information on the Scottish Golf website. As you might expect there are still quite a few anomalies in the system but Scottish Golf are working their way through them and ask for our patience.

FIXTURE LIST 2021

We made a number of changes to the 2020 season which we have not been able to fully see through and assess the success so we will be trialling similar in 2021 with a number of considerations in mind.

- we hope to provide variety, competition, fun and the opportunity to socialise.
- we want to have a bit more “equality” for weekend competitions and a more regular weekend day/time so next season we will look at having a 10am start on Sundays
- there will be a third trophy played for at the same time as the Club Championship knockout week for those with handicaps of 28 to 54.
- Again like last year we want to spread out the opens/invitationals and replace the Ladies Open with a 4 Ball Better Ball

Please watch this space!!!

CLOSING REMARKS

I wish you all the best for your golf for the winter months ahead and good health for you and your families. I can already see the winter eclectics are heating up and getting very competitive.

As always I like to leave you with a motivational statement:

“Please don’t ever give up today because of a poor shot yesterday!”

6.LADIES COMMITTEE FOR 2020-2021

Committee Members:

Anne Gordon and Jackie Kidd remain in post

Ann Chisholm proposed Alison McGovern seconded by Joan Peden

Megan Brown proposed by Val Burns seconded by Ros McNeill

Both duly elected

Handicap Secretary Ros McNeill stepping down, Alison McGovern proposed by Val Burns and seconded by Jackie Kidd – duly elected

Ladies Captain Val Burns stepping down, Ros McNeill proposed by Val Burns and seconded by Anne Gordon – duly elected

7.AGM

Ros encouraged ladies to register to attend the club AGM on Monday 30th November at 7.00pm

8.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. World Handicapping System – Alison McGovern provided an overview and update and welcomed and questions by email (this is included in the Handicap Secretary's Report)

2. Get into Golf – Jackie Kidd outlined the Get into Golf offer, directed the Ladies to view on the club website and share with anyone who was interested

3. Friendlies – Anne Gordon provided an update, 3 confirmed responses for 2021 and she encouraged ladies to take part

CLOSURE OF MEETING

Ros McNeill declared the meeting closed at 7.50pm

The Meeting was followed by a brief virtual Prize-giving Presentation & an excellent slideshow provided by Megan.