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e-Mail

We want this letter to reach you by e-mail. If we had everyone's e-mail address we could update you easily and individually. If you have an e-mail address and we don't already have it please complete one of the small cards in the main lounge Bar – or email

[info@hiltonparkgolfclub.](mailto:info@hiltonparkgolfclub.fsnet.co.uk)

fsnet.co.uk

Keeping you informed

Welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter. Our aim is to inform you – briefly – of upcoming activities and events around the club which may impact you over the next couple of months. We will also include some highlights of recent achievements – but we want to try to focus more on where we are going rather than where we have come from !

Clubhouse

The majority of essential remedial Clubhouse works are now complete and the next phase will focus on some remaining remedial works and recommended improvements. To minimise disruption to members, these will be carried out later in the year when the Club is quieter. Details will be posted on the notice board in due course. In the meantime, as reported at the AGM, the Club's architect will be commissioned to prepare the detailed plans costs and approvals for merging the two lounges.

Looking ahead, the upholstery and carpet in the main lounge will soon need to be renewed. During this, consideration will be given to reinstating the dance floor. The sombre appearance of the main lounge needs to be uplifted to provide a warmer and more welcoming environment. If there are any members with capability in interior

We want to involve you more in all that is going on – so we are kicking off with a couple of competitions – described overleaf – where you have a chance to contribute to the development of **your** club. We are also keen to hear from any member who feels he or she could contribute in some way to our progress.

You don't have to be on the Committee to help !

design, your help would be most welcome. Contact **Brian McAuley**

Courses

On the greens front there is good news and not so good news ! The good news is that 80% of our ten year drainage programme is now complete. Over the winter we dug approx. 3000 new metres of drainage and drained two greens. The not so good news is that the weather played havoc with work on the 11th Hilton. We expect the contractors to finish that job during early July.

Other short term priorities for tackling weather-related problems are 1) concluding the drainage on the 3rd, Hilton which has been particularly difficult, 2) draining the area in front of the 1st tee, Allander and 3) draining outside the clubhouse around the 18th, Hilton.

New Club Manager



As you may have already read on the Hall notice board - Gordon Simpson (above) will be joining us from Newmachar at the end of May as Club Manager. We wish him well on his appointment and look forward to working closely with him.

Courses (cont'd)

We are also acutely aware of the drainage problems on the 8th & 14th Hilton and 17th, Allander. The tree felling programme for this year is almost complete and stumping will start asap. Our new Senior Greenkeeper – Stuart Neil and his assistant Gordon Harvey are working hard on these challenges and are tidying up both courses and restoring neatness. Full Greens Committee and Drainage Group minutes are now available on the notice board and I will happily answer anyone's questions personally.

- **Murray Ritchie** Vice Captain & Greens Convener.

Stamp YOUR mark on Hilton Park -

We are looking for a fresh new **LOGO** to represent the club and act as an immediately recognisable "brand". There must be budding designers out there amongst you – here is your chance to be recognised as making a lasting mark on your club.

Please pass any designs – rough or finished to the office by 31st May and we will announce the winner shortly thereafter.

Photos – we are also keen to see any of your photographs - artwork of the course or interesting golf scenes – in order that we can better decorate the club. Chosen images will be enlarged, printed, framed - with attribution to the donor - then hung in the bar and lounge areas.

If your image is digital please send it to - info@hiltonparkgolfclub.fsnet.co.uk If it is a print or transparency just hand it in to the office.

FINALLY – please let us know what you think about the Newsletter – especially how it can be improved and what else you would like to hear about. (A Juniors News item will be included in future !)

Comments to –

Lewis Niven
(lewisniven@aol.com) or any Committee Member.

Golf Items

With the new season now well under way the courses are becoming busier. The late cold snap has held back the growth a bit, so it is worth re-iterating that it is up to each and every one of us to look after our courses – replacing divots, repairing pitch marks etc..

The Ladies Matches will be starting soon and all ladies are encouraged to enter one or more of these leagues. The Elizabeth Ogilvie is a scratch evening league - usually reserved for our low handicap players. Greenlees and Harper Kennedy are daytime scratch leagues. The Allander is an evening handicap league used primarily to give higher handicapped ladies a taste of match play. The Chrissie Anderson League is for ladies over 60 years of age and is great fun to play in.

Unfortunately, three of our early ladies competitions were cancelled or postponed because of the weather. Please note that the re-scheduled Ladies March Medal will take place on Tuesday 2nd May. Mark these dates in your

Captain`s Comments

Dear Members

Just a short note to wish all members a happy golfing season. Hopefully you all can see the work that has been done to the courses with the tree felling allowing light to the greens. No doubt this will make them faster in the summer ! Please enjoy all the facilities the club has to offer this season and with luck, your handicaps will come tumbling down – but remember – golf`s a giggle ! - **Louise Cooper** - Captain

Finance

This is a very busy time of year for the management of the club`s finances – what with the collection of subs., updating the computer and counting the beans for the quarterly VAT return ! In addition, we are actively looking at two issues – accepting credit cards throughout the club and how to fund replacement lockers for both Ladies and Gents. There are complexities in both projects but we are committed to delivering them and we will keep you informed of progress.

Membership

You will probably have noticed that we have advertised recently in both the local and national press – and that following approval at the AGM we have introduced extremely attractive packages for new members, cadets and families. Initial results from this are encouraging, but we still have capacity for new members and we would ask you to encourage any of your friends or family who might be interested to come along and try us out - the more the merrier !

Life Members

Owing to an admin. error involving the SGU contribution, **Life Members`** subscriptions were overstated by £9.30 each. Anyone who has paid this and who wishes to be re-imbursed should simply ask at the office. All monies unclaimed will be donated to the Brian Peach Memorial Fund.

Social

diary NOW – and enjoy some great food and good company at Hilton Park –

CURRY NIGHT - Saturday May 13th - **SOLD OUT !**

GALA DAY – Saturday 12th August

ITALIAN NIGHT – Saturday 28th October

COMBINED CLUB PRIZEGIVING * – Friday 24th November

CEILIDH – Saturday 9th December

CHILDREN`S XMAS PARTY – Sunday 17th December

CASINO NIGHT – Saturday 3rd February

* As you will note above – the Combined Prizegiving means that the Ladies Prizegiving scheduled in the diary for 4th October will no longer take place.

Any suggestions for other interesting and innovative events will be welcomed – just contact **Corla Van-Griethuysen** – Social Convener