

Captain`s Comments

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Benches Appeal

Many years ago wooden benches were provided by members as individuals or groups and by sponsors and they proved popular. Sadly these are now showing signs of wear and tear (the benches, not the members) and they need to be replaced.

Time and inflation have pushed up the prices of long-lasting, maintenance-free steel benches, but we can perhaps do a deal if we buy in bulk. Would any member willing to support this appeal please respond to Murray Ritchie, Vice Captain & Greens Convener - either by email to murray.ritchie@ntlworld.com or via the General Manager`s office ?

Letters will be going out soon and will be posted on the notice board.

The Digital Dividend

In this edition of our Newsletter we would like to enlist your help to move the club further into the digital era. Hopefully, many of you are reading this in electronic form using a link you have received via email. We currently have around 400 email addresses – thanks to all of you – but we feel that that with over 1100 members, there must be about another 300 of you with access to email. **PLEASE** let us know your address – you can go to www.hiltonpark.co.uk and add it via the front page – it is really easy. Talking of the web-site, you might want to visit it anyway since we have brought it up to date with information on medals, matches, teams, competition entry forms etc.. Development of further features is planned.

The club can make real savings by using email and the web. We can keep in touch with you more regularly and give you access to information and documentation which simply can`t be done just now because of printing and distribution costs. However, if you don`t have access to the internet – don`t worry ! – we will continue to use print and surface mail for those who prefer it.

Captain`s Comments

Hopefully you will all enjoy this second issue of our newsletter. The golfing season is well underway with many of the team matches now played, however, it is proving more difficult every season to field full gents teams – especially in the Donald Cameron League. We have already had to raise the handicap limit to get a team and we even had to entice two juniors to play recently ! (see overleaf). Please consider playing for a team – Ian Orr will be happy to talk to you. Meanwhile, the ladies in the Patrick League are continuing well with their defence of the trophy for the tenth year !

We are aware that the diary this year is jam-packed with medals and competitions. This is something we will be looking at near the end of the season.

The better weather has helped dry out the courses and the grass is literally jumping up. The improved condition clearly contributed to the success of the recent Ladies and Gents Invitation Days and the Arnold Clark Outing.

You will see from the notice board that it is our turn this year to go to Ponteland near Newcastle on 29th July and Belvoir Park – Belfast on 16th September. I would encourage members to put their names up for these trips. The hospitality we receive is wonderful and the members will probably want to get a chance to meet (and beat !) all the Irish ladies who came over last year and showed a very high calibre of golf as well as being charming with it ! I was particularly impressed when the Irish team arrived in their beautiful green blazers – very stylish !

Louise Cooper - Captain

`Pitchure` This !



The balls in the picture mark the position of pitchmarks found on the 9th Hilton just before the recent dry spell. As you can see there were plenty of them. You can prevent this needless damage to our greens simply by using a pitchmark repair fork – available at the pro shop. Please make the effort to repair other marks as well as your own and we all might hole a few more putts !

Photos – in the last issue we asked for examples of your photos of the course. Thanks go to **Duncan McCallum** for a compilation CD with a good variety of views.. A number of these are being enlarged and will be mounted and framed..

Other examples are still welcome – please either drop in at the office or email to

info@hiltonparkgolfclub.fsnet.co.uk

Junior Girls – with 41 members now playing, we have the biggest girls section of any club in the West of Scotland – a real endorsement of the club's commitment to the development of youngsters. Well done to Louisa Pelosi who won both the scratch and net prizes in the Junior Girls League Medal in May – qualifying for the final in September.

Junior Boys – a good run continues in the JJ McCarry league. Unfortunately the Junior Open scheduled for 14th July, has had a poor response so far – but there is still time – so please encourage the boys to enter.

FINALLY – please let us know how we can improve the Newsletter – and what else you would like to hear about.

Comments to –

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

Golf Items

Ian Orr has assumed the position of Match Secretary. Ian has a wealth of past experience and will be working with Bob Hair – the Handicap Convener. If you have any questions or concerns regarding matches or would like to play for a team – please contact Ian.

Ladies - Well done to Jan Grant, Hilton Park, and Lynn McColl, Bearsden who had a winning score of 63.6 in a successful Ladies Invitational Day. Over £300 was raised for Riding for the Disabled, Glasgow. Thanks to everyone.

Congratulations to Fiona McLean, Gemma Webster and Kylie Walker who have been selected for the County team to play in the Jamboree at East Renfrewshire on 26, 27 and 28 June. Why not go along to support the team.

Well done to Corla Van-Griethuysen who had a hole in one on the Hilton at the 12th when playing in the Victory Cup. Well done also to Cherry Jamieson who was one of the LGU Area Qualifiers and played in the Grand Final at Crieff Golf Course on 4 June.

The new computer is now installed in the Ladies Section and after a few teething problems is working well.

Membership

As a result of our more flexible terms and packages we have had considerable success in attracting new members. In addition to our press adverts we have been helped by the Hillfoot and Stockiemuir Road service stations distributing leaflets for us – thanks to them for this.

Unfortunately, we also lose members from time to time, so we are still keen to welcome anyone wishing to join. A good way of introducing people to the club is to organise a visiting party – why not consider the club as the venue for your next social or company outing ?

Gordon's First Impressions

It is now 3 weeks since I joined Hilton Park and I have to say it has been both hectic and enjoyable. I am sure you have all noticed the changes to the office layout – apologies for any disruption the work may have caused, but it is all complete now – thanks to Tom Evans and Robert Goodfellow. My assistant – Dianne O'Brien – started last week and I am sure those who have met her will agree that her smiling demeanour makes her a great addition to the Hilton Park team. Please feel free to pop in to the office and say hello, our door is always open and if there is anything we can do to help – just ask. I look forward to keeping you informed about life in the office and hope to see you soon out on the course, happy golfing !

Hilton hero Hendry !

Let's hear it for new junior member James Hendry. After only a few days as a Hilton Park member James was one of two juniors pulled off the practice putting green and pressed into service when Hilton Park found itself three men short for the team to play Kirkintilloch in the Donald Cameron league. With a handicap of 10, young James - just a few days short of his 16th birthday - was sent out last against Kirky's anchorman and he brought home the point that took Hilton Park to victory. Not bad for a lad who had played Hilton only three times previously. He even had to let his mum know he'd be home late !

Ian Orr, our new match secretary, said: "He was the hero of the match and we were all thrilled for him."

