



*Watch out – there`s a thief about !*



*Unfortunately we recently had an incident where a set of clubs was stolen from the foot of the steps at the side of the Allander lounge. The owner had left them there – briefly while changing, at a quiet time of the early evening. To make matters worse – he had left his car keys in the bag ! This kind of opportunistic theft is extremely difficult to eliminate, but we can all do our bit, by minimizing the time we leave our clubs unattended – and by challenging anyone we see who looks suspicious or out of place. All it takes is a pleasant “ Can I help you ?” to make a thief realize he has been noticed – and hopefully, cut his losses and leave !*

*Gent`s Invitation Day  
– 24<sup>th</sup> June*

*The above is not yet fully subscribed. This is a major event in the Club calendar and all gentlemen are encouraged to support it.*

*As ever – comments to  
lewisniven@aol.com*

New Logo



## HILTON PARK GOLF CLUB

As many of you may have noticed already, we have designed a new logo (above) for the club. We intend to use this device as the `identity` of Hilton Park on signage, correspondence, equipment, clothing etc., introducing it gradually throughout the club. We hope you will agree that this looks cleaner and less cluttered than the old crest and that the overall impression is one of quality, openness and efficiency. These are values which we believe are an important part of the ethos of our club.

### Captain`s Comments

After a record wet autumn, we finally got down to our big winter drainage programme at the end of March - weeks behind schedule. This year I would like to bring forward this work to the late autumn to minimise disruption and give the courses longer to recover before the season. The courses look as though they will be in fine condition for 2007. Stuart Neil and his team deserve our support and thanks for their hard work. Let`s hope they are aided by a good summer.

Members have been asking about the new lockers. The committee will review various funding methods and will monitor our finances during the summer in order to put specific proposals to the next AGM.

I urge all members to use our new pros` shop. David Watt and James Clarke are proving a hit with their friendly service and competitive prices. Visitor numbers are increasing but we are still turning away more than we accept because of our crowded competition schedule. We must find a way of accommodating more weekend visitors if we are to improve the club`s finances. You are advised to check the list on the notice board or web-site for the latest details if you are planning a special game.

Have a great season at Hilton Park !

*Murray Ritchie – Captain*

### Hole Sponsorship

It is our intention to attract sponsorship for each hole on both courses. This should be an ideal opportunity for members to promote their business or service to a receptive, and – naturally – hugely discerning – audience ! Details can be obtained from the office.

### Greens Report

#### **First aid required !**

Last year, soil samples taken from the greens gave them a very poor bill of health, showing poor root development, compaction, low porosity, a mixed variety of grasses and high density of moss. All greens are therefore in need of different degrees of treatment throughout the year. A detailed programme of this year`s in-season treatment will be posted on the Notice Board in May.

#### **Please do your bit to help improve the quality of the greens by carefully repairing all pitch marks.**

If you would be interested in joining a group of Club members involved in helping to care for the courses please give your name to Diane in the Office.

*David McLean  
Greens Representative*

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### Membership Update

The **Captain** writes - For the first time that I can remember we have not had a single resignation because of the state of the courses – which says something about the recent improvements. The number of those leaving is just about matched by those joining – but we always welcome new members.

**Remember the £100 saving for those introducing new members !**

## Success Stories

Warm congratulations to two Hilton Park youngsters who are enjoying huge success.

**Martin Laird**, the former Scottish youths champion, who went to the USA to seek his golfing fortune, has claimed his maiden victory on the Nationwide tour. This means he has a great chance of playing the full PGA tour next season. Imagine – a Hilton Park boy teeing it up with Tiger and the rest! What a prospect.

Martin (24) birdied the final hole to win the Athens Regional Foundation Classic over the Jennings Mill CC course in Georgia. He picked up \$90,000 - rather more than he was used to winning against his pals at HP a few years back!

**Gordon Yates**, Hilton Park's rising amateur star, won the R & A Bursars' tournament over the Old and Eden courses at St Andrews with rounds of 69 and 71. This puts the popular Stirling University youngster, into the European side for the Palmer Cup to be played in Maryland on 7/8<sup>th</sup> June. Gordon will also represent the R & A Bursars in the Manuel Prado team event in Lima, Peru.

All at Hilton Park wish Martin & Gordon the very best of luck.



Yes – it's a Committee member again!

There has been some critical comment recently about the fact that, despite the Committee now being smaller in number, there has been no reduction in reserved convener parking spaces. Our view is that these spaces are not just for the use of the Committee, but are for anyone who is present on official club business eg. members of the Golf Council. If this applies to you – feel free to use a convener parking space.

## Report from the Golf Council

The new Golf Council, comprised of representatives of the various playing groups, - gents, ladies, juniors and seniors (gents), have had two meetings to date chaired by the vice-captain. A key aim this year is to bring procedures in relation to medals and competitions for gents and ladies into line where possible and to reflect the impact of having touch screens available both in the hall and in the pro shop.

A starter system is to be introduced this year and all members are asked to support this whilst reporting any problems with procedure to the Golf Council. It is required that a member from each group reports to the pro shop prior to playing, to allow a record to be kept of the course being played, the time and the number in the group. This will help us identify the usage of the courses, particularly the busy and quiet times thus knowing when it is best to slot in visitors. It will also help to control the flow of playing groups, help find playing partners for new members, improve security and reduce illegal use of the courses. **There are no plans to move to an advance booking system for members.**

As the management committee have re-confirmed that the annual prize-giving is to be a joint affair, the Golf Council and in particular the ladies' representatives have been tasked with developing ideas to make the event more appealing to members.

There are increasing complaints about **slow play** and this particularly refers to the men at weekends. The following guidelines should be observed. On average, 9 holes should take 1½ hours and be no more than 1¾ hours. It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. If it loses a clear hole and is delaying the group behind, it should invite that group to play through, irrespective of the number of players in the group. **Playing in a medal, competition or tie is not an excuse for slow play.**

Players should be ready to play as soon as it is their turn. When playing on or near the green, they should leave their bags or carts in such a position as will enable quick movement off the green and towards the next tee. When the play of a hole has been completed, players should immediately leave the putting green. Cards can be marked when other players are teeing off.

Bob Hair – Vice Captain

## Clubhouse

The clubhouse requires constant attention – and much of this work goes on un-noticed. The roof repairs are almost complete – ending the leaks – we hope! and bringing more daylight into the hall. There was not enough time to complete the merging of the lounges before the playing season, so this will now take place at the end of September. A new dishwasher has pleased the caterers and the bar has a new till. We have found it difficult to find a good plumber to fix the gents' showers, but believe we now have one who will stop the scald / freeze cycle!

Corla van Griethuysen – House Representative