



Congratulations -
Martin Laird !

Ex-Hilton Park boy, Martin Laird, will play on next season`s full PGA tour – following his fourth place in the final Nationwide Championship event at Barona Creek Golf Club, California. This moved him to 13th on the money list and earned him his place in the top flight of world golf – the main PGA Tour. A fantastic achievement.

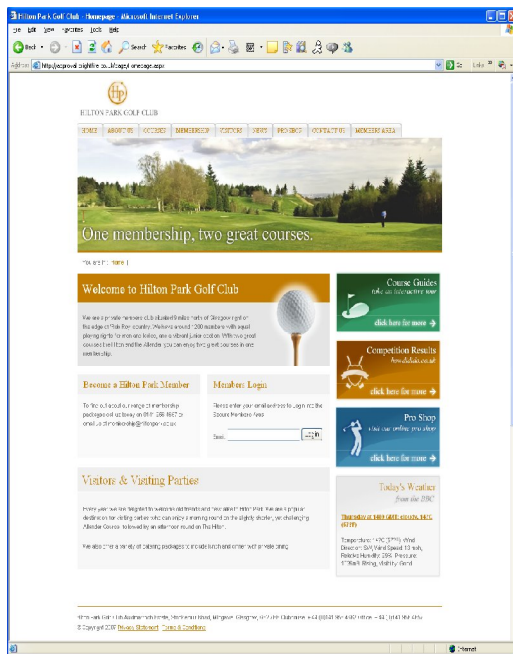
Now help us find the next Martin !

We are looking for a volunteer to help nurture another Martin Laird ! David McLean has a done a great job over the last few years as Junior Boys Representative and we are now looking for someone to take over. The person will be responsible for

welcoming new boys to the club, organizing and running medals and competitions and liaising with other clubs regarding team events. Please approach Gordon or any of the Committee if you can help.

Comments – as ever – to lewisniven@aol.com

New Web Site – Coming Soon !



We hope to launch the new club web-site in early December. The picture to the left is a preview of the home page and gives a good indication of the new style. All pages will follow a similar, standardised layout, which we believe better reflects the spirit of the club than does the present site.

In addition to promoting the club to potential new members and visitors, the site will have a password-protected members` area, through which we intend to channel more communications to you. Information such as members` phone numbers (not addresses), minutes and other internal club documents will be readily available. The intention is that the site will become a valuable resource for members, while also helping to attract interest from outside.

Captain`s Comments

Well, that`s another season gone and we`re back to winter golf and dark nights. Time flies when we`re enjoying ourselves!

We can look back on 2007 as the year when we began to make real progress with membership numbers. The Open Day was a spectacular success with more than 50 new ordinary members plus 20 juniors and a family taking up our special offer on the day. This was followed by a significant additional influx of members from other courses, taking our new intake to more than 100 in September and October alone. And some of them are very handy players. Quite apart from the welcome financial boost for the club, this should sharpen our competitive edge – a sign of the times at Hilton Park! Well done to Gordon Simpson and all involved in our successful marketing effort.

We also worked hard to improve both courses and the greens in particular, which some say were the best ever, despite a wet summer. Much praise has been deservedly directed towards Stuart Neil and the green staff for their efforts– but much more is still to do. The committee is now working on our ambitious winter course improvement programme. Some decent winter weather would help greatly !

As we prepare for the winter golfing season and a busy annual general meeting I think we can say the club is in pretty good shape and the future is looking brighter again at Hilton Park.

Murray Ritchie – Captain

Committee Members Required

Ahead of the AGM in February, we are looking for volunteers for the Committee. The workload is not as onerous as many might imagine, but it is important. If you have been an Ordinary member for at least three years, please consider helping the club by applying. A notice requesting nominations will be posted on the main notice board.

House Report

The recent extensive repair work on the roof seems to be paying off with no sign of further leaks – talking of which, the Gents' toilets are also now in full working order – with further upgrading due early next year.

Stuart Neil is occupying Cedar Cottage and the other two are due to be let out in December.

Diary Dates

Tapas Night
17th November.

Prizegiving
23rd November

Seniors Xmas Lunch
13th December

Childrens' Xmas Party
16th December

Ladies Xmas Lunch
19th December

Annual General Mtng.
22nd February

Rule Changes

There have been some R&A rule changes introduced recently – regarding identification of a ball in a bunker or water hazard, carrying of non-conforming clubs and accidental ball deflection. A notice and factsheet listing the main changes has been posted on the Notice Board outside the gents' changing room.

If you have difficulty reading the computer version of the Herald – a text-only version is attached to the email notifying you of this issue..

Winter Work



A programme of work over the winter months started at the beginning of October. There have been burst drains present throughout the summer – during which they are difficult to fix because of the man hours taken up by cutting. Also, until the bursts are opened, it is impossible to judge the effort required to fix them – meaning they could lie open all summer. The one on the 1st Allander has been opened – but will need more work later – however, the 13th Allander looks more promising. Bigger drainage work is under way behind the 15th Hilton – a mechanical digger (above left) is a great help, but it is still back-breaking work.

All the fairways and walk off areas have been solid tined – in addition the fairways have been slitted and scarifying is under way. Small patching work is being done on areas of high wear, however, the bulk of the work will be drainage of greens as was done last winter. The target is eight greens – but much will depend on the weather.

David Mc Lean – Greens Representative

Ladies Leagues Report

Greenlees

This was our first year in Div. 1. We expected some very hard games and that is exactly what we got. The ladies played extremely well and managed to finish high enough up the league table to be in Division 1 again next season. The winners were Cochrane Castle and the trophy was presented at Prestwick St Nicholas. Cherry Jamieson represented the Hilton Park team.

Harper Kennedy

We finished in the middle of the table this year. The winners were Stirling Golf Club, who were presented with the salver at the AGM in Helensburgh Golf Club. Hilton Park was represented by Lana Macdonald, Rosie Bruce and Dorothy Woodger.

Elizabeth Ogilvie (Patrick Trophy)

Due to losing several key members we were unable to continue our amazing run of victories (11 years out of 12). There was a tie for the winning position with Hayston & Lenzie sharing the trophy. The Patrick Trophy Dinner was held at Douglas Park Golf Club and seven ladies from Hilton Park attended.

Allander

Hilton Park continue to fight hard in the league and finished higher up the table than in previous years. The league is seen as a training ground for ladies new to match play and Nancy Stevens, who for the last three years, has acted as match secretary, is to be commended for encouraging all the players. Nancy has now handed over the job to Pat Syme. We wish Pat well over the 2008 season.

Chrissie Anderson

This league for the more mature ladies, is very friendly with the emphasis more on enjoyment than competition. Any lady who has played in it will confirm that it is great fun. Thanks go to Christine Garrow for organising the league this year. Frances Ireland will be running things next season and any lady interested in playing should watch the notice board for the match dates.