



New Web Site!

Hopefully by now most readers will be aware that the club has a new web site, but just in case you have not yet visited it, please take a minute to go to

www.hiltonpark.co.uk and log in to the Members` Area – using your Surname and Membership No. – including the alphabetic suffix.

Here you will find information on members contact details, club minutes, AGM papers, diary etc..

We would appreciate any comments - email to office@hiltonpark.co.uk

Entry Sheets

Due to poor participation the number of Extra Day Medals held on holiday weekends is being reviewed. Likewise, tee reservations for some poorly attended competitions are being reviewed, to free up the courses. However, to facilitate greater participation in medals and competitions, the entry sheets currently posted in the Pro Shop will be returned to their former positions on the notice boards in the Clubhouse.

Golf Update Edition

This edition of the Herald is devoted almost exclusively to items relating to the game of golf. You will find information on administrative and rule changes as well as team news for both last year and the upcoming season.

Handicap System Changes

The new rules and regulations for the CONGU Unified Handicapping System for 2008 to 2011 have been published and come into effect for the 2008 season. You can find further information on these changes and others to the UHS at the CONGU website - www.congu.com - where you will also find guidance on "Myths and Misconceptions" and answers to "Frequently asked Questions" about the game of golf. The new CONGU manual can be viewed in the Handicap Office and further copies can be obtained direct from the Scottish Golf Union. The following are the major changes which should be noted:

Changes to the arrangements for Supplementary Scores

These will apply to Handicap Categories 2, 3 and 4 who have returned 6 or fewer Qualifying Scores during the previous playing season. A Supplementary Score can only be returned at the Home Club of the player. Up to a maximum of 10 Supplementary Scores can be returned during the playing season, limited to only one per week. You must signify your intention to return a Supplementary Score before you play by signing the Supplementary Scores book. Fuller guidance on the submission of Supplementary Scores is posted in the clubhouse.

Introduction of 9-Hole Qualifying Competitions

These are intended for members who are unable to play 18-Hole Qualifying Competitions frequently enough to maintain their handicaps. We will run a couple of 9-Hole Qualifying Competitions during 2008 for the ladies to gauge their popularity.

Separate CSS calculations for 'Home' and 'Away' players

These are being introduced for Open competitions. It is recognised that the 'Away' player is at a disadvantage in playing a course compared to the 'Home' player. Research has shown that the disadvantage is between one and two strokes. The new system is designed to take account of these different scoring patterns and provide a more equitable basis for handicap alterations. The changes will have no effect on the actual results of open competitions.

Stableford/Nett Double Bogey Adjustments

These adjustments have the effect of reducing your net score at each hole to a double bogey for handicap purposes and will now apply to both 'home' and 'away' scores.

Playing in Medals

Please note that members entering medals **must** sign into the computer **before** playing. Players failing to do so will be deleted from the competition and their entries to the sweep and 2-club will be forfeited. When signing into the computer, please ensure that the correct name is entered. If you enter someone else's name by mistake, please notify the Handicap Secretary.

No Returns

Please note that if a player fails to return a card or has a large series of no-returns in a Qualifying competition, their handicap will be increased by 0.1 of a stroke. In exceptional circumstances, where a player has to abandon their round through illness or incapacity, their handicap will remain unchanged and their score will not affect the CSS. However, if a player has a series of no-returns and is appearing to build their handicap, they will be deleted from the competition and may have their handicap suspended.

Are You Legal ?



Please be aware that the new rules governing non-conforming drivers are now in force. The R & A have issued a list of over 450 drivers which no longer conform to the rules of golf. The use of these drivers in medals, competitions and team matches could result in disqualification. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that their driver is legal. If you are in any doubt, please visit the R & A website www.randa.org or check the list of non-conforming drivers held in the professional's shop.

REMINDER – AGM Friday
22nd Feb. 7:00pm
Milngavie Town Hall

Ladies Night
Thurs. 6th March

Please join us for a ladies night on Thursday 6th March 2008 at 7.15pm in the Clubhouse. We will be discussing the plans for next season. There will also be a quiz and then you can enjoy a fantastic finger buffet from the lovely Frank! Tickets cost £6.00 and can be paid for on the night. If you would like to join us, please add your name to the list in the ladies section.

Gents Team Competitions 2007

Our Donald Cameron team results were poor once again this year due to the unavailability of a number of key players and to a certain extent a limited number of low handicappers able or willing to play. Hopefully 2008 will produce better results under the management of Donnie McKinnon and Joe McAlweenie. The club were represented in all other inter club competitions without featuring prominently.

Gents Open Competitions 2007

The Gents Invitation, Glayva Open and Fraser of Allander (mixed) proved highly successful despite weather problems affecting two of them. The Seniors Open and the Allan Galloway Seniors Texas Scramble were also well attended. Grateful thanks are due to Gordon Simpson and the Greens staff for their work during the bad weather on the the Gents Invitation day. The Glayva has become hugely successful with many regular returning competitors. This year it was fully subscribed with our own Donnie McKinnon taking first prize. The inaugural Seniors Open Texas Scramble in memory of Allan Galloway was fairly well attended and was won by a home team. Rosemary Galloway was good enough to present the trophy to the team of Robert Hair, John Duffy and Stuart Dick.

Junior Boys 2007

The team had a disappointing season, however, their enthusiasm and potential talent will be nurtured to achieve greater things in the year ahead. Gordon Simpson has agreed to introduce the Young Masters Junior Golf Programme designed by the PGA to introduce juniors to all aspects of the game. This will help to develop both their playing ability and their understanding of the rules of golf and golfing etiquette. As mentioned in the AGM Report, David Mclean will be standing down as Boys Junior Secretary and we are indebted to him for his commitment and efforts over the last three years. We are urgently seeking a new volunteer as his replacement and if you are interested, please contact David or Bob Hair as soon as possible.

Ladies Competitions

This year, fortunately, all our major competitions were played on their original dates and the opportunity to play in four championship qualifiers will continue next year. Entries were much the same as last year, although for some team competitions, such as the Coronation Fours and Jubilee Salver, numbers seem to be declining. Please enter these competitions, as they are fun to play in and do not affect your handicap ! There has, however, been a noticeable increase in the entries in the winter competitions, which is very welcome. In 2008, the competition entry sheets for ladies will return to the clubhouse and be displayed on the notice board upstairs. Congratulations go to Sue Henderson, Hilary Dundas and Elaine Grant, the winners of our Children 1st Tri-Am Competition, who have successfully qualified for the final of this event in May 2008 at Bothwell Castle GC. The popular Ladies Invitational day was again a great day for all those involved. However like many clubs in the west of Scotland, the numbers attending the Ladies Open Day has continued to fall, so in 2008, the Open Day will be incorporated into the Invitation Day on Wednesday 4th June. And finally, the display of entry sheets for the Yorke Trophy and Lady Anne Speirs Trophy signal that the start of the new golf season is not far away. Enjoy your golf!

Ladies Teams – 2008 Season

Many of the ladies feel that playing for their club in a team match is 'beyond their capabilities'. This is not the case. There are several ladies teams which compete in different leagues and anyone who has played in them will tell you what great fun they are, both from a golf and social point of view. There's also the chance to play on courses you may not have played on before. There are scratch leagues and handicap leagues so you don't have to be a low handicap player. There are daytime and evening leagues so even if you work during the day there will be a league to suit you. I would encourage all ladies to look on the Team Notice Board and put your name on the league which best suits you. **Your club needs YOU.**