



## GLASGOW GOLF UNION END OF SEASON NEWSLETTER 2020

Welcome to the end of season edition of the GGU Newsletter for 2020.

**To all GGU Club Members from Sandy Anderson – President 2020**



2020 has been a year like no other with COVID19 dominating all our lives and placing severe restrictions on our ability to function as normal. Many of our activities within GGU have been restricted or cancelled during the year. The GGU Executive however decided to proceed with some of our competitions later in the season when restrictions eased and the advice given by The Scottish Government and Scottish Golf allowed us to proceed on a limited basis.

This has also been a challenging year for all our Member Club's and hopefully our decision and that of Scottish Golf to return a proportion of the Member Affiliation Fee to each Club has helped to ease the overall financial burden caused by COVID 19.

On the bright side it has been encouraging to note the increased levels of membership generated across all our Affiliated Clubs and we look forward to these increased membership numbers being sustained into 2021.

Glasgow Golf Union will continue to support our Member Clubs throughout these challenging times and provide as much support as we can to assist our Clubs going forward in 2021.

## Annual Dinner and Prize-giving

Luckily, we were able to proceed with our Annual Dinner and Prize-giving this year at Cathkin Braes Golf Club on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March where we were able to present trophies and vouchers to our Winners from 2019. In addition, I would like to thank Ian Ross and Jim Leishman MBE who provided very entertaining insights into their lives and the “Game of Golf”.



*President, Eleanor Cannon (Scottish Golf) and Club Officials at the 2020 Annual Dinner*

I'm sure all 125 guests who attended enjoyed their evening and I would personally like to thank all those who supported our raffle, in aid of Junior Development Coaching. Thanks, are also due to Cathkin Braes Golf Club for hosting the evening and allowing us the use of their excellent facilities.

A note for the diary - subject to some level of normality resuming, we currently plan to hold our 2021 Annual Dinner at Sandyhills Golf Club on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.



Michael Kenny of Bishopbriggs GC – Handicap Trophy winner 2019

**Photo Gallery** - The photo gallery of the [2020 Annual Dinner](#) can be viewed on our website.

## Competitions



Whilst Scottish Golf and many other Areas and Counties took the decision early in 2020 to cancel all competitions, GGU were determined, where possible, to provide some competitive golf for our Members when the Government advice allowed us to proceed.

The three competitions we ran included the inaugural Seniors Stableford Championship played over Hags Castle. The course was in splendid condition especially considering the downpour it had to endure the previous day.

Congratulations are due to Andrew Storey of Hags Castle who was victorious over his home course on a breezy day.

### Glasgow Open Amateur Championship

Callum Macaulay (pictured right) of Tulliallan Golf Club won the prestigious Glasgow Open Amateur Championship at Pollok Golf Club with a terrific 36-hole total of 135 just pipping Gordon Sangster of Cathkin Braes.

The course at Pollok was in immaculate condition with the greens fast and true, and the sun shone on the players all day.

The Glasgow Open acted as a qualifier for the GGU Matchplay Championship held at Sandyhills Golf Club the following weekend.



### Matchplay Championship

The Matchplay final at Sandyhills was a closely contested affair of high-quality golf with Greg Brown of Cathkin Braes Golf Club winning at the 20th over a gallant Alan Murphy of Ralston Golf Club. GGU Hon. President and former Walker Cup player Gordon Cosh was impressed by the quality of the golf played and the excellent spirit in which the match was conducted.

Winner Greg Brown with President Sandy



Finalists Alan and Greg with President Sandy





All of the events run by the GGU had high entry numbers and it is the intention of the GGU to build on this in future years. Thanks to all competitors who took part in these competitions and to our Championship sub Committee of Vic Skelton, Andy Quinn and Andrew Smith for their hard work and dedication in arranging these events despite the challenging conditions set by COVID restrictions.

*Pictured (left) at the Glasgow Open Andy Quinn and Vic Skelton*

**Photo Galleries** - The photo galleries of the [Glasgow Open Amateur](#) and the [Matchplay Championship](#) can be viewed on our website.

## Executive

The GGU Executive were introduced to Zoom meetings this year as we have been unable to meet face to face since March. I would like to thank all the Team for their support during my 2 years as President and for adapting well to these new conditions.



I would especially like to thank Gordon Jamison of Ralston Golf Club who has decided to retire from The Executive and as our Junior and Youths Team manager after 10 years. Gordon your enthusiasm and support of our Junior Members during this time has been outstanding and I wish you well in your retirement.



I would also like to wish Jim Wilson of Cathcart Castle Golf Club every success when he assumes the position of President at our AGM, to be held when circumstances allow.



I am also pleased to announce that Stephen Machin has been nominated as Vice President of the Union. Stephen was the Matchplay Champion in 2011 and 2012, and the Strokeplay Champion in 1987.

Thanks to all for your support and I wish you well for the future.

## Scottish Golf



The GGU Executive has always been very supportive of our governing body and recognise the many challenges they face in leading our Clubs through these difficult and unprecedented times. We look forward to the introduction of the World-wide Handicap System and the many benefits that the new VMS can bring to our Clubs at no additional cost. 2021 should be a pivotal year for the Game in Scotland.

## “The Wee Boundary Bell” update

Graham Dunnigan of the Donald Cameron League reported that the “Bell” trophy is now almost ready. We are hopeful this competition between the North and South Glasgow Junior Leagues will be able to go ahead in 2021 as a season “curtain raiser”.

## Obituary

Unfortunately, 2020 saw the passing of William H. Keen the GGU President in 2009/10. Willie as he was better known was a great supporter of Golf in Glasgow and he will be sorely missed by all at Sandyhills and the wider golfing community in Scotland.

## COVID-19

As I write this annual report our lives are still dominated by COVID 19 and the many restrictions this has placed on our day to day lives. At least since May we have been able to enjoy playing our great game on our courses in Glasgow as Golf was fortunate to be allowed to restart and deemed safe for all. Whilst our Clubhouses and locker rooms remain under restrictions, we can only look forward to 2021 in the hope that normality might resume.

## The Affiliation Fee

There is no change to that voted for by Scottish Golf’s membership last year.

The increase from £11.25 to £14.50 will take effect from January 2019 and will be frozen until the collection of subscriptions in January 2022.

The Glasgow Golf Union Affiliation Fee has once again been set at £3 per playing member and has remained fixed at this level for over 6 years.



## World Handicapping System (WHS)



At the time of writing Scottish Golf (SG) are in the final process of introducing WHS, the GGU are confident that, after the inevitable teething problems, this worldwide approach will be of benefit to golfers everywhere. SG are very active in promulgating the activities taking place to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. The following is typical of their recent efforts

*'We are now in the final week before WHS comes into play here in Scotland. Thank you to all clubs who took part in our golfer awareness campaign last week, it was great to see so many clubs from across Scotland utilizing our information graphics and key messaging toolkit.*

*As we continue the countdown to 2nd November, the second week of our campaign will focus on:*

- *Course & Sloping Rating*
- *Playing Conditions Calculations (PPC)*
- *Exceptional Score Reduction*
- *Soft and Hard Cap*
- *WHS Summary for Golfers'*

## Course Rating update

Scottish Golf Ltd require area unions to review the re-rating of all affiliated golf course's every ten years. The GGU we are up to date with our program and as a result all of our courses will have the required "Slope Ratings" when the new World Handicapping System is implemented in November 2020.

## Junior Development

We are currently reviewing our Coaching and Junior Development provision to our Member Clubs and expect to be in a position to communicate our new vision and strategy in this area by February 2021. This is an important and complex area and the GGU is evaluating the detailed proposals which have been received to ensure our next investments are in the best possible areas.

## The role of the GGU Website and Social Media

The GGU is trying hard to ensure that our member clubs have as much visibility as possible of our activities and who to contact for information on our full range of services. Our Website and Social Media sites are easy to use and informative. The Competition Online Information and Entry portal with its Competition Results Page has been a big success since its introduction and is very well used as is our Facebook and Twitter links.

We have also used our sites to promote our member club's Open Competitions and that initiative has been welcomed by all the clubs who run these important events.

In addition to the publication of regular news items the GGU also give its members regular updates on pertinent news items and communications from Scottish Golf and the Regional Forums. We also include links to our Member Clubs and Sponsors websites.

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If you need further information on our services or would like to become involved - contact us

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