



GLASGOW GOLF UNION REVIEW OF SEASON 2017

Welcome to the first review of the activities of the Glasgow Golf Union. It provides a concise summary of the golfing matters for the season recently concluded. Details of competition results and other similar information highlighted in this review can be found elsewhere on the Union's website at www.glasgowgolfunion.com.

Hopefully all GGU Members and other readers will find this interesting and informative. As it is the first edition, the Executive would be happy to receive any comments and suggestions on both the work of the Union and the format and content of the review.

Glasgow Golf Union Competitions in 2017

This year we introduced a new handicap competition for club golfers whereby each of our 10 course owning clubs would enter a team of three. Selection would be the winners of the first, second and third class sections in a club nominated competition. The final was held at Bishopbriggs G.C.

It was decided to reduce the Junior Stroke-play Championship this year from 36 holes to 18 holes and, at the same time, introduced age and handicap groups. This produced a much larger entry, particularly from younger juniors.

On the other hand, after discussion with some of our low handicap players, it was decided to discontinue the Autumn Meeting.

An innovation was the introduction of an online booking system to allow entrants to select their tee off time and pay their entry fee at the time of booking. It has the advantage of storing the details for each player so after the first time the process becomes quicker than the previous system. This will be the intended method of entry next season.

Competitions: Championships

Scottish Area Team Championship held at Newmacher in October:

Our team, consisting of Callum Fyfe, Graeme Cross, Andy Fairbairn and Gordon Miller of Cawder G.C together with the Brendan McKenna and Steven Manning Pollok played well but lost in the Quarter finals 3 ½ -2 ½ to the eventual winners North East. Of particular note was Callum Fyfe's achievement of 18 under par for 36 holes.

Junior Stroke Play/ Matchplay Championship Cathkin Braes in July:
The winners were Nick Branney (*pictured below*) for the 18 hole stroke play



and Louis Fleming (*pictured below left*) for the matchplay



Scottish Area Youth Team Championship:

Played at Stranraer in June with a Glasgow team comprising of Louis Fleming, Haggs Castle, Alan Murphy, Ralston, Chris McMillan, Bishopbriggs and Jack Williams, Sandyhills, finished a creditable 11th, an advance of 4 places from the previous year.

Strokeplay Championship held at Cawder in July:
The winner was Craig Chalmers (*pictured below*)



From this competition emerged a Cawder team who went on to represent their club and the Glasgow Golf Union in the Scottish Club Team Championship, the qualifier for which was held at Eastwood, the team finished mid-table.

Matchplay Championship held at Cawder in August:
The winner was Craig Chalmers of the home club.

Glasgow Open Amateur Championship held at Pollok in August:
The winner was Dave Sibbald of Bonnyton who retained the trophy with a fine 36 hole total of 143.

The Glasgow Youths Open Championship held at Ralston in September:
The winner (*pictured below*) was Stuart Cameron of Elderslie.



The Area Youths Team Championship:
The winners (*pictured below*) were Renfrewshire.



West of Scotland Junior Boys Stroke-play /Match play Championships at Bishopbriggs GC in July:
Stroke-play Winner was Allan Woodehouse of East Kilbride Golf Club.



Match-play Winner was Chris McMillan of Bishopbriggs Golf Club.

Competitions: Events

Champion of Champions Final held at Cawder in September:
The winner was Jonathan King (*pictured below*) of Glasgow G.C.



Club Handicap Trophy held at Bishopbriggs G.C. in October:
The winners were Ralston G.C.

Order of Merit 2017:
The winner was Steven Manning of Pollok G.C with 1140 Points.

Glasgow Seniors held at Gailes Links in May:
Scratch winner was Drew Waddell of Glasgow G.C
Handicap winner was David McLintock of Ralston G.C.

Summer Meeting held at Cowglen in July:
The winner was Billy Davidson of Haggs Castle G.C.

Competitions: Team matches

A Team (Glasgow A):

The A team represented Glasgow at the Scottish Area Team Championship (see above). The West league is played from the middle of September for 5 weeks during which the team had 3 home matches and 2 away. Glasgow won 2 and lost 3 but it was great to bring in some new and old faces, e.g. Ryan Woods and Tony Docherty and a great effort from all the players.

Boys and Youths:

Boys Team

It has been a difficult year due to not having a settled team, there have however been some great performances. Chris McMillan of Bishopbriggs was undefeated winning 3 and halving one of the four matches in which he played. Nick Branney of Cathcart Castle was undefeated in his 3 matches.

All the boys that have attended our GGU Coaching sessions under Alastair Forsyth have shown improvement.

Youth Team (Glasgow B):

We have played 4 matches to date with 2 losses to Dunbartonshire and Ayrshire including an abandoned match against Stirlingshire. There have been some solid performances, Jack Williams has won all his games while Chris McMillan has won his only match. Of particular note was the performance of 12 year old Matthew Hughes playing off a h/c of 10, and a 10 year old making his debut in the Youth team. Louis Fleming of Haggs Castle has had a notable year, his victory in the Haggs Castle Boys Junior Championship, was followed by being a finalist in the Men's Championship.

Youth Development:

GGU Junior Coaching Update 2017:

Alastair Forsyth ex European Tour professional was appointed GGU Coach in March 2016 as we developed a plan to identify a talent pool of boys and girls to work with and develop going forward. We entered 2017 with a plan that had a number of objectives and after an initial selection process involving 50 Juniors from our 10 Course Owing Clubs, 26 Juniors including 6 Girls participated in our level 1 and 2 Coaching programmes delivered by the GGU Coach. During the playing season priority was given to those players who had the potential to be selected to represent GGU at Boy's level for Area and National Competitions. We are encouraged by the progress shown across all our coaching groups.

Course Rating:

This season has seen the GGU team of volunteers and two additional assistants re-rate three courses within our area namely, Rouken Glen, Cathcart Castle and Cowglen. All courses affiliated to S.G. Ltd are required to have their course S.S.S verified by a team of approved raters and a re-visit should be done within a 10 years period of their last rating. At present G.G.U are on schedule with this programme and in 2018, Linn Park, Glasgow Gailes and Hags Castle are due to be re-rated.

SSS and Handicapping:

The Union will assist all member clubs on SSS and Handicapping issues. The most common area is on "preferred lies". The period of preferred lies is from October to April inclusive. Out with this period, permission from the Union must be requested. Details can be found in C O N G U Unified Handicapping System booklet which should be held by all clubs.

Thank You to all our Sponsors in 2017:

Competition:

Seniors Championship
Glasgow Stroke-play
Boys Stroke-play & Matchplay
Glasgow Open
Youths Team and Open Amateur
Champion of Champions
Club Handicap Trophy
Junior Champion of Champions

Sponsor:

Julia Fields Interiors Ltd
D McGhee & Sons
R Jamieson & Co
Glasgow City Council
The Wood Consultancy
Finco Contracts Ltd
The Quaich Company
Machin Landscapes

We also appreciate the support of all the players who participated in our 2017 competitions and especially the host Clubs and their Members for giving up a significant part of the day to allow our competitions to take place. We look forward to your continued support in 2018.

President's Summary:

Against the background of apparent disarray and recently announced delays in Scottish Golf Ltd.'s Strategic Plan for the future of golf in Scotland, Glasgow Golf Union have continued to play their part in the delivery and development of golf in our Area.

Good progress has been made in the achievement of our 2017 objectives as follows:

1. Gender Neutral Constitution introduced and Child and Young Adult Safeguarding Policy updated.
2. Support and Advice to our Members Club's by continuing development of our website and social media platforms along with the introduction of the competition online booking system, Members Forum, and this newsletter.
3. Junior and Youth Coaching & Development in conjunction with Alastair Forsyth, with a Girl's coaching group formed.
4. New Men's and Junior competitions introduced in 2017.
5. For the 2nd year we have introduced a deficit budget freezing the £3 Affiliation Fee since 2011 and will continue to seek to develop golf in Glasgow in conjunction with Member Clubs.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and I do hope that you have found it both informative and of interest.

Please feel free to contact us with your views or suggested areas for improvement via our [website](#) or [Facebook](#).

Andrew Smith
2017- 2018 GGU President