

Melrose Golf Club

AGM 10 December 2018

Captain's Report

Introduction

I would like to start my report by thanking the Committee for their support throughout the year. We are just volunteer members who step forward to try to run the Club. When I started out as Captain last December things were all good, but by the time of the first committee meeting January there had been three resignations! Thankfully Gary Craig and then Derek Page stepped in as Secretary and Competition Secretary and I thank them both for their valued contribution over the last year.

We also had the great fortune that Jean and Dave Shiel volunteered to run the bar too, and on behalf of myself, the Committee and the members I again thank them for their superb work and warm reception they give to members and visitors alike, a valued part of any golf club, with thanks also going to Dave Campbell and Dougie Laidlaw for filling in on shifts too and Keith Grieve who continues to help out. Of course, I cannot leave the subject of the Committee without mentioning the man who got me into this: thanks to Past Captain William Wallace for your help and support throughout the year.

The Golf Course

I think said it every time I presented the prizes over the year: that I have never seen the course looking better than it has this year and that is not just because we had one of the best summers for years. It is down to the hard work and experience of our Greens Convenor/Greenkeeper Sandy Whillans and his multi-talented assistant, chainsaw Doug ! Thanks to them both. Special thanks must also go to Graham Hannah who, when he was home from his military job, spent many hours keeping the course and around the clubhouse tidy and helping Sandy and Douglas out on the course too, thanks Graham. The new bunker on 9th, the re-shaped 6th tee and the cleared area around the 5th all looking good.

Competitions

We have had some great days this year. From my viewpoint Captain's Day; the Opens at the club; Championship Day; and the Gent's Outing to West Linton have all been days I'll not forget – great weather, great company and good for the club. We also had the BGA team event here in August which was a real success too.

I would like to congratulate our two Club Champions this year for their excellent performances with Janice Whiteford winning the Ladies Championship and this year's Gent's Champion once again being Ian Ramsey. I would also like to congratulate runner-up Brad Herbert who in three years went from the C class champion, then B champion to a worthy runner up in the A championship.

The 2nd Charity day was a great day with many teams playing the rugby themed Greenkeeper's revenge competition in aid of the My Name5 Doddie Foundation charity which raised £767 for that worthy cause. Thanks also go to Mike Dalgetty who did a great job after volunteering to be the bar-B-Q chef for the day on what he described as a crappy wee bar-B-Q ! (Which was mine)?

We also played the Captain v Past Captains match again this year in honour of the creator of this great competition back in 1993, John "Choppy" Crawford who sadly passed away this year and I thank Esther Crawford for her generous contribution to the day which if I recall the Captain's team did actually win! We also raised a glass or two to John's memory.

Juniors

The level of junior participation is a slight cause for concern but we continue to cater for the young golfer with Janet Brown and Junior Convenor Mark Sooty Gillie organising them during the summer months, thanks to both especially Janet. We are also going to create dedicated junior tees around the course to help get youngsters into golf here at Melrose.

Sponsors

I would like to record the appreciation of the club for all the sponsors help we receive throughout the year. There have been one or two drop out this year and the committee is actively working to attract more into the club, so if any member knows of a potential sponsor, whether it be for competition sponsorship or someone for the one vacant tee sign deal, then please let a Committee member know.

The Future

The success of a club like Melrose depends on member involvement: the willingness of individuals to step forward to help run the club. That is not easy and sometimes difficult decisions have to be made. When I started as Captain a year ago, the club had made a loss and I and the committee promised to try and turn this around, we had to really! So with the hard work of all the committee and the generous help of Dave and Jean behind the bar, things have improved as Douglas will show in his report later. Following a torrid start as mentioned earlier we a full committee this year, but as personal circumstances change this has resulted in the resignation of our Competition Secretary Derek Page, but again as I said before, this will be addressed later.

We have a great wee course in an attractive town and our subscription is pretty good value for money. So let's try to sell our club when we are out and about and make sure we have a future for our club. It has been both an honour and a privilege to be your Captain for 2018, it's been a challenge at times but I got through it relatively unscathed and hope I've left the club in a better position than a year ago. I'm not going anywhere, by the way, you will be lumbered with me as Secretary again next year assuming there are no objections later! Thank you and I wish all the best and good luck to my successor Grant Hogg for next year.

Steve Ervine

Captain 2018