

Melrose Golf Club

AGM 9th December 2019

Captains Report

Introduction

I would like to start tonight by thanking the Club committee for all their hard work over the past year. The club does not run itself and without the many willing volunteers we would not have such a successful and enjoyable place to play our golf. At the start of the year we had a vacancy on the committee for competition secretary which thankfully was quickly filled by Andrew Bell. It's been a steep learning curve for Chucky, but he has done a great job and been well supported in the background by Alan Duncan. Jean and Dave Shiel have continued to do a great job behind the bar with the help of a great number of others, too many to mention, but your help is appreciated. Past Captains Sooty and Doug have always been available when I've needed a chat as has last years Captain and club secretary Steve.

Early on in the year Ian Ramsey fitted some replacement windows with a few volunteer labourers. He did a great job and the second half of the project will be completed in the not too distant future. Thanks Ian, the club are grateful for your time and joinery skills.

The Golf Course

The course is obviously the most important part of the club. Greens convenor Gary Craig working with our excellent greenkeeper Sandy and his assistant Doug work hard to make the course the best it can be. When the weather allowed, the course was in great nick. There's nothing we can do about the weather and the amount of rain we've had in the later part of the season certainly caused Sandy and Doug more than the odd headache. That aside the course was enjoyable to play, and I feel we can already see the positive impact of the new equipment acquired mid-way through the year. Again, special thanks to Graham Hannah for all the graft he's put in, on and around the course this year. Much of the work goes unseen but it is appreciated and makes a huge difference to the club.

Competitions

On the competition front firstly congratulations to our championship winners, the C class winner Kenny Gilchrist, B class winner Richard Buckley and our club Champion Ian Ramsey. Also, congratulations to our Ladies champion Janice Whiteford. We got off to a good start this year with the Captains get together which was just a bit of fun, but it was great to see the club busy. We had a full summer of competitions with the memorable ones from my side being the Captains Prize and the Greenkeepers Revenge Charity day where we raised over £800 for Parkinson's UK. The visit from the local Super 6 rugby squad for a 2-man Texas Scramble was another enjoyable day although where some of them were hitting the ball was outrageous. Hopefully the visit is something we will see again next year. Thanks to Mike Dalgetty for cooking on these days and to Jimmy Graham for supplying a decent BBQ. It was also great to see Doddie Weir at the club later in the summer supporting Gregor Townsend in his golfing challenge of playing one hole at every border course. My one regret is that due to the weather we didn't manage to play the Captains vs Past Captains match. Hopefully it will be played early next year.

Juniors

The juniors have again been well looked after by Janet Brown and Sooty. Welcome sponsorship from JS Crawford has enabled us to introduce a shortened junior course with score cards supplied by Dining with Doreen.

Sponsorship

I would like to thank all the sponsors who have supported the club throughout the year. It is greatly appreciated. We can never have too many sponsors so if you know of anyone who would be willing to sponsor a competition, or a hole please get in touch.

The Future

We, along with every other club will start using the World handicap System in the new year. Scottish golf has provided the club with an operating system to use instead of Master scoreboard. There will no doubt be a few teething problems, but we are all in the same boat. We will have access to the Scottish Golf help line should we need it. I would ask all members to be patient while this beds in.

The club's success depends on its members and their willingness to support the course whether it be on committee, volunteering or simply playing in competitions. We are in a good place financially and Doug keeps a tight reign on the purse strings, but we can't be complacent. Its challenging times for golf courses and if anyone has any suggestions on how we can improve things please speak to one of the committee. We have a great course with a well-priced membership and we are always looking for new members. If friends or family are looking to join, they will be made most welcome.

As I've said previously, I've been a member here for 50+ years and its been an honour to have been your Captain for 2019. There's been the odd bump along the road but hopefully the club has continued to make progress. Thanks again for everyone's support and the best of luck to my successor Andrew Stirling and here's to a great 2020.

Grant Hogg

Captain 2019