

# Glasgow golfer eyes spot at Royal Aberdeen

## Scot's bid: McArthur in Balgownie reminder

**IRISH OPEN**

Glasgow's Andrew McArthur reminded Scottish Open organisers an event invitation should begin at home after moving within sight of the lead on the second day of the Irish Open in Cork.

While little known American Mike Miller has managed a Royal Aberdeen invitation despite completing just two European Tour events and missing the cut in both, McArthur has contested just one Scottish Open albeit 11 years ago and as an amateur.

McArthur recorded four birdies and did not drop a shot in a score of 67 to move to four-under-par 138 and be inside the top-15 at Fota Island.

It left the Scot six strokes behind Finland's Mikko Ilonen, who added a 68 to his first round record 64 to move two clear of his rivals on 10-under 132.

The trio of former US Open champion Graeme McDowell (66), Frenchman Romain Wattelet (65)



Andrew McArthur: Struggled with the driver

and double past Irish Open runner-up Robert Rock (66) are in second place on eight under.

McArthur struggled in his practice rounds and it was his use of a four wood off the tee that helped the Scot. "I am pretty pleased but then I have struggled with the driver, so I've been hitting a lot of four woods off the tee over the two rounds," he said.

McArthur is one of only four Scots, from a starting contingent of 14, to be assured of playing all four rounds in Ireland.

Greenock's Chris Doak added a two-under 69 to move to three-under 139 and also avoid any of the drama that spoiled his first round where he was forced to call a two-stroke penalty in playing the wrong ball.

The only other Scots to make the cut were Marc Warren, who posted a one-par 70 to be on one-under 141, while Alastair Forsyth and Jack Docherty made it on level-par 142.

Stephen Gallacher missing the cut for a second event in a row with scores of 73 and 71. Fellow Press and Journal columnists Paul Lawrie (71) and Richie Ramsey (70) bowed out on one-over 143.

The Aberdeen pair were in good company with home favourite Rory McIlroy also missing out on the same mark after a 69 yesterday. Grantown's Duncan Stewart also went home after a 73 for 144.



WORTH THE WAIT: Fortrose golfer Donnie MacFarlane has bagged his first hole in one at 79

## MacFarlane just ace after 63 years

BY DAVE EDWARDS

The old adage 'if at first you don't succeed, try, try again' could have been written for Fortrose and Rosemarkie's Golf Club's longest-serving member, Donnie MacFarlane, who at 79 has had his first hole in one.

MacFarlane, who was Inverness Thistle's goalkeeper for two seasons in the 1950s, joined the

Fortrose and Rosemarkie club 63 years ago in 1951.

He aced the par-3 132yd fifth hole at his home club using a seven iron while partnered by Maurice Brown, John Campbell and Tom Mcougan.

Reflecting on his achievement, MacFarlane said: "I don't really know what all the fuss is about, it's just a hole in one. I just hope my playing partner Maurice

Brown is the next one to get one. When I hit my tee shot I knew that the ball had gone on to the green but I couldn't see it from the tee because of the slope. When we got to the green Maurice called me over and we saw the ball at the bottom of the cup. "After 63 years playing golf I had pretty much given up ever getting a hole in one but it just goes to show you."

## Brooks is toast of north after win

Aberdonian Barry Brooks maintained the lead over the last 36 holes to run out a six-stroke winner of the Scottish senior open amateur stroke-play championship over the Rosemount course at Blairgowrie yesterday.

Brooks had scores of 70, 69 and 74 for a three-under-par total of 213. Three Englishmen tied for second place - Alan Mew (Stoneham), Roy Smethurst (Crewe) and Stephen East (Moortown).

Brooks, the Aberdeen Links champion in 1992, is a member at Meldrum House, Oldmeldrum.

Brooks is the first winner of the title from the north since Norman Grant (Moray) won at Falkirk Tryst in 2000. Richard Latham (Woodhall Spa), the defending champion, finished sixth on 221.



Barry Brooks shows off the silverware

## Watson leads way

Scotland's Sally Watson mastered the windy conditions to claim the halfway lead in the Allianz Slovak Open in Brezno yesterday.

Watson carded six birdies and just one bogey to add a 67 to her opening 69 for an eight-under-par total and three-shot lead over France's Valentine Derrey and Klara Spilkova, of the Czech Republic.

● Fraser Mann shot a one-under-par 61 to be the halfway leader in the Glen-cruitten 36-hole pro-am at Oban yesterday. Mann leads by a shot from Kenny Walker (Castle Park).



# Messi wants all-out attack

## Group F: Star forward calls for Argentina to go on offensive against Iran

ARGENTINA v IRAN



Lionel Messi wants Argentina to go for all-out attack and field three forwards against Iran today.

Napoli forward Gonzalo Higuain is expected to return for Argentina as they look to build on their 2-1 win against Bosnia.

Messi has urged coach Alejandro Sabello to include him in a front three against Iran alongside Higuain and Sergio Aguero.

He said: "We are Argentina and I think we need to concentrate on ourselves without fixating on who we are playing."

"We feel more comfortable with two up front and me behind because it makes it easier to counter-attack and, because we have more people in attack, we have more possibilities."

Although Messi scored in his side's opening win against Bosnia, the four-time world player of the year was far from satisfied with his own performance.

He said: "In the first half I found it difficult to get a hold of the ball and when I did I was very far from goal."

"The truth is when I did have the ball I lost it several times and, at other times, I was playing it backwards."

Iran coach Carlos Queiroz has confirmed he will step down after the World Cup, blaming a lack of government financial backing.

The former Manchester



HEAD MAN: Argentina's Lionel Messi during a training session at Cidade do Galo

United assistant manager, who has been Iran's coach since 2011, said: "My connection will finish here at the World Cup."

"There was not support from the government - there has stopped being a genuine interest because of the financial situation."

"The dialogue has been cut off and I have already decided not to stay."

## Boateng brothers lock horns

GERMANY v GHANA

Sibling rivalry will come to the fore today when Germany takes on Ghana.

Germany's Jerome Boateng will come face-to-face with his half-brother Kevin-Prince Boateng, who opted to represent the Ghana.

The half-brothers were both born in Berlin to separate mothers but Kevin-

## Misimovic undeterred by opening defeat

NIGERIA v BOSNIA

Bosnia and Herzegovina playmaker Zvezdan Misimovic insists his team-mates remain full of confidence, despite an opening defeat by Argentina.

The World Cup debutants suffered a 2-1 reverse against one of the

strongest teams in the tournament. But Misimovic, who plays for Chinese side Guizhou Renhe, says there is plenty of positivity in the Bosnian camp ahead of today's Group F match against Nigeria.

The 32-year-old said: "We gave a good account of ourselves in our first game. It was completely uncharted

territory for us. We shouldn't have gone behind the way we did with an own goal but we managed to get back into the game."

"We wouldn't measure ourselves against a team of Argentina's standing but if we continue to play as we did against them then we can achieve something in Brazil."

US v PORTUGAL: RONALDO SET TO GRIT TEETH FOR THE CAUSE

Portugal's talisman Cristiano Ronaldo is set to play through the pain against US tomorrow. The 29-year-old, who played in his side's crushing 4-0 defeat to Germany, suffered a recurrence of the knee injury, which hampered him throughout last season, in training. Portugal's doctor Jose Carlos Noronha has



denied reports he advised Ronaldo to rest his knee for around two months after a scan showed significant pressure on his tendon, risking a tear that could end his career. The Real Madrid forward may take

painkilling injections to ensure he is able to take to the field against the Americans tomorrow. United States midfielder Kyle Beckerman says his team-mates are expecting Ronaldo to play. He said: "We hear all that stuff but we're preparing that he'll be playing."

## Park up to speed on Algerian forwards

S KOREA v ALGERIA

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South Korean defender Park Joo-ho said his side must be ready to face Algeria's speedy forwards in tomorrow's Group H encounter.

The 27-year-old, who plays for German side Mainz, hopes his team-mates can build on their 1-1 draw against Russia in their opener. He said: "Their attackers have speed and great individual skills. As one of the defenders, I have to be prepared for that. I don't think either team will have a lot of chances."

Park watched the 1-1 draw against Russia from the bench and is desperate to play a part against Algeria. He added: "I am not disappointed about being a substitute. I tried to find solace in the fact that I am in the World Cup squad but obviously, as a football player, I am dying to play even for just one minute."

## Eden plays down the accolades

BELGIUM v RUSSIA

Belgium's Eden Hazard was played down his international manager's claims that he is one of the best five players in the world.

Marc Wilmots lavished the praise on the Chelsea attacker but Hazard reckons he is not worthy of such an accolade.

He said: "I don't think I deserve it. To be thought of as one of the best five in the world, I would need to score more goals for a start. I would really need to score almost every game because that is what the best players in the world - like Leo Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo - do every season. I can play better."

The Belgians take on Fabio Capello's Russia tomorrow on the back of a 2-1 Group H win over Algeria.

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