



Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club

LINKS GOLF SINCE 1793

NEWSLETTER

#02

SPRING 2023

Welcome

Welcome to the second, seasonal newsletter for the Spring of 2023 which we hope will further improve communications with our members and keep you up to date with the latest news and developments of note at Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club. As always we welcome your feedback.

A Journey Through Time

World's Best Golf Destinations

Our course was recently reviewed by Jim Callaghan for the World's Best Golf Destinations, who described it as "the most intriguing course" and "an absolutely fabulous place to play golf".

[Read his full review here](#)

Our course also featured on the [golfshake.com](#) website as one of "Four Magical Golf Courses You Must Play in The Scottish Highlands".

[Read the review here](#)



Image courtesy of Jim Callaghan

Upgrades and improvements

New windows in bar/lounge area

After many years of deterioration we are pleased to announce that the windows in the lounge area have been replaced.

The locker rooms and patio have also been greatly improved. Full details on page 3 of the newsletter.



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THE 15TH OLDEST RECORDED CLUB IN THE
WORLD (1793) – IAGTO OUTSTANDING
SERVICE AWARD 2021

NO. 47 – SCOTLAND'S TOP 100 GOLF
COURSES – GOLF WORLD. A SCOTTISH GOLF
CHAMPIONSHIP VENUE

NO. 30 IN THE TOP 100 FUN GOLF COURSES
IN GB & I (OVER 2,000 COURSES IN GREAT
BRITAIN & IRELAND)

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOLF
TOUR OPERATORS – OUTSTANDING SERVICE
AWARD 2021





A word from our Club Captain

This is always an exciting time of year for any golfer as the days get longer and, hopefully, warmer with a full season of competitions ahead. The course is once again in great shape, thank you George and his team, Rob's shop is bulging with all the must-have items for the new season and we have our lovely new windows, locker rooms and terrace to enjoy.

Your new Club Council is in place and has already been busy. This year we will prioritise replacing some of the ancient machinery which George somehow managed to keep going over the covid years and we will continue to maintain and improve the clubhouse and its surroundings.

I am also glad to report that following a few years absence, a junior coaching programme is now in place. Robert will be coaching the more advanced players and Douglas Simpson has got together a group of member volunteers for the beginners.

Thank you to all who replied to the members' survey last autumn. Overall the responses were very positive but there were areas where we can still improve and we will be taking these forward over the next few months.

We are continually monitoring the position of members bookings so if you are not going to make a tee time you have booked at any point, please delete this from the system at the earliest opportunity which will then free up the tee sheet for other members to book. Under no circumstances should you fail to turn up without cancelling as this is unfair to other members who may want to play on any given day.

Finally, it just remains for me to welcome our new members and in particular, if you are looking for playing partners either for competitions or bounce games please speak to me or the other Council members and we will be happy to sort something out.

Cathryn Field, Club Captain

Don't forget our drone footage!



Our course flyover is live on the club website but members can view the piece of drone footage by [clicking here](#).

The same course flyover will also be playing on the television screen in the bar area for members, guests and visiting golfers to view.

New locker room refurbishment

Fitlockers have recently completed the work with the installation of **NEW** wooden lockers for both our Ladies and Gents locker rooms.

Members expectations have changed significantly over the last decade and it was important for us as a Club to provide all round quality facilities for our members and visiting golfers welcome to our venue from all over the World.

We now have just over 180 new lockers in the Ladies and Gents Locker rooms. Each locker has an Oak wood carcass and a solid Oak raised and fielded door which has been mounted with a solid Oak plinth. Lower level lockers also have coat hooks and a movable internal shelf. New flooring has been put in place since the completion of the project and the lower level lockers have a carpeted finish on top. New notice-boards have been put in both locker rooms and the new benches are also carpeted for changing purposes.



New patio area

As we enter the Spring, some of you will have seen the fantastic improvements which have recently been completed during the off-peak season with an extended patio area to the back of the 18th green/putting green and I am sure you will all agree that this just adds to the experience for our members, guests and visitors who come here and they will be able to sit outside and take in the stunning views we are lucky to have with a few drinks and/or food once Scottish summer arrives!

The extended seating area includes new patio slabs and is surrounded by glass panelling with new tables and chairs. This will act as a wind break when the breeze from the sea may sometimes force people inside on a cooler day. Our thanks go to everyone who was involved in this project for the benefit of all. Note – Please respect all of the golfers who may be playing on the 18th when you are seated outside.

If you have not viewed this personally, some images are included and you can also view the improvements from our live webcam:

<https://fortrosegolfclub.co.uk/webcam/>





CLUB NEWS

CLUB FIXTURES 2023

DRAWN CLUB COMPETITIONS 2023 – A REMINDER FOR MEMBERS (LADIES & GENTS)

For the 2023 season at Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club, we are running our **CLUB COMPETITIONS** for the **LADIES** and **GENTS** as a mixture of draws and book your own tee times so that you know where there is a **DRAW** and where you can **BOOK YOUR OWN TEE TIMES**.

[Click here for the list of fixtures](#)

When the Gents Spring Meeting was drawn and scheduled to be played on Saturday, 18th March 2023, there were initially 63 players in the draw. On the day of the competition and whilst the weather was not the best, it was reported that 21 players had withdrawn which was not only frustrating for the Pro Shop staff but also for the players themselves who were waiting around to see if their original drawn playing partners would turn up or even go out onto the course.

In an e-mail sent out to members Thursday, 2nd March 2023, it was clearly stated that when you booked for any individual **DRAWN** competition (which would generally open up for entry purposes one month in advance of the competition date) whether that be Stroke Play or Stableford, you would only be able to add in your own name within a specific time-zone (morning or afternoon) however the time you booked online would **NOT APPLY 100%** as we wanted to mix the draws as much as possible. The tee time you did book online would then be taken into account when the draw was made and you would then get a tee time as close as possible to the time you booked online so that as a member you are generally playing with different members throughout the season. This is also encouraging for new members to play in competitions in the main who may not know anyone.

Where it mentions a **DRAW** taking place just after 09.00 as stated **BELOW**, you would also be unable to book online after 09.00 or add your name to the sheets as they would be taken down so a late entry fee would apply.

The opportunity to play on the Links with your normal playing partners can be done at any time whether this be a bounce game, when putting in 'general play rounds' or in the Wednesday Sweeps. We hope going forward that when members do turn up that they are aware of draws published on the notice-boards and also on the website as per the links below which also includes a link to our results page:

DRAWS - <https://fortrosegolfclub.co.uk/competitions/club-and-open-competition-draws/>

RESULTS - <https://fortrosegolfclub.co.uk/competitions/club-news-and-results/>

LADIES CLUB COMPETITIONS ON A TUESDAY

The draw will take place just after **09.00 on the preceding Friday** and appear on the website and notice-boards not long after – late entries and withdrawals **MUST** go through the Pro Shop and not by writing your name on the sheet on display on the notice-boards where you may see a space. Last week we saw names added onto a competition which had been drawn already and the staff in the Pro Shop were unaware of this.

GENTS/LADIES CLUB COMPETITIONS ON A SATURDAY

The draw will take place just after **09.00 on the Wednesday** of that week and appear on the club website and notice-boards not long after – late entries and withdrawals **MUST** go through the Pro Shop and not by writing your name on the sheet on display on the notice-boards where you may see a space. .

GENTS/LADIES DRAWN CLUB COMPETITIONS ON A SUNDAY

The draw will take place just after **09.00 on the Thursday** of that week and appear on the club website and notice-boards not long after – late entries and withdrawals **MUST** go through the Pro Shop and not by writing your name on the sheet on display on the notice-boards where you may see a space.

Please also note that once a draw has been made and displayed, an alternative time cannot be granted. The Match and Handicap Committee and staff members at Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club would really appreciate it if you could follow these guidelines and that you are also aware of how the DRAWN Club Competitions will work which is then fair to everyone. Thank you.

CLUB NEWS

OPEN AMATEUR TOURNAMENTS 2023

THE BLACK ISLE OPEN FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP (36 Hole Qualifying – Saturday) The Top 4 Scratch & Top 4 Handicap Qualify for the Sunday Matchplay Stages	15 & 16 April
THE LADIES BLACK ISLE PAIRS BETTER BALL OPEN	6 May
THE OPEN MIXED GREENSOMES	7 May
THE 3-BALL BETTER BALL OPEN	13 May
SENIOR GENTS STABLEFORD OPEN (50+)	18 May
OPEN TEXAS SCRAMBLE	21 May
OPEN TEXAS SCRAMBLE	25 June
3-LADY TEAM OPEN	11 July
SENIOR GENTS STABLEFORD OPEN (50+)	13 July
MEN'S BLACK ISLE OPEN (36 Holes)	15 July
SENIOR GENTS STROKE PLAY OPEN (50+)	3 August
GENTS PAIRS BETTER BALL OPEN (18 Holes)	5 August
THE KELLY OPEN FOURSOMES (18 Holes)	6 August
SENIOR LADIES STABLEFORD OPEN (50+)	8 August
GENTS 18-HOLE STROKE PLAY OPEN	2 September
LADIES 18-HOLE STROKE PLAY OPEN	9 September
OPEN TEXAS SCRAMBLE	30 September
GENTS 18-HOLE STROKE PLAY OPEN	8 October

For more information and to enter [click here](#)

TOMATIN HIGHLAND SINGLE MALT

SPONSORSHIP 2023

The fixture list for 2023 has been updated (the gents and ladies competitions have been chosen) so where you see the Tomatin Logo against any of the club competitions from May through to August, the winner of that competition will win a 70cl Bottle of Tomatin 12-Year-Old Single Malt Whisky.

To access the fixture list please [click here](#).

Each winner will also be entered into a prize draw to win a 4-Ball plus a Clubhouse meal at Castle Stuart Golf Links (Cabot Highlands).



A REMINDER FOR ALL MEMBERS

- If you book online for a club competition during the early part of a time-zone, we will get you a time as close as possible to when the draw is made.
- The same will apply if you are booking a time for a club competition mid-morning or afternoon and/or later in the morning or afternoon.
- Please remember to sign-in via the touch screen for individual stroke play and/or stableford competitions once you pay your entry fee in the pro shop and please remember to put your score in afterwards via the touch screens (there is one located outside the pro shop and one upstairs in the bar).
- If you are experiencing any issues, please e-mail the club secretary with a photograph of your scorecard at the earliest opportunity.



RAKES IN BUNKERS

Members of the club playing in competitions and socially are being provided with this note so that you as the player can follow the correct procedure when leaving a rake in a bunker after a shot has been played.

Please also ensure that all foot/club marks have been raked correctly before leaving the bunker area.

Make sure that ½ of the rake (the handle end) is left out of the bunker and the other ½ is left in the bunker with the rake being placed in an area closest to the rough depending on where the bunker is situated in relevance to the hole you are playing on of course!

Remember that there are other players playing on the course playing after you so I am sure that they will appreciate you taking the time to rake the bunker properly should you be in one.

News from the Clubhouse

LATEST FROM BAR – NEW FOR 2023

As we go enter the month of April we will be using the services of more local Brewers situated close to the Club to provide for our members, guests and visitors who come to the Club/Course alternatives beers/lagers on tap in addition to providing Tennents, Strongbow and Belhaven.

The Cromarty Brewing Company are a family-run award winning craft brewery based in Cromarty who produce innovative, handcrafted, small batch beers. The Kowabunga pale ale has a luscious sweet malt base which provides a good body to the beer from five varieties of hops to give it an unmistakably juicy flavour and aroma. This has proved to be a popular product (where you could only get it by the bottle before) so we are going to have this on-tap for the season ahead. ABV: 4.6%. Alternative products are available so please ask at the bar for more information.



The Black Isle Brewery have been pioneering organic brewers since 1998. They believe they are the only brewery in the UK that has such a wide range of organic beers – from their core beers to seasonal and regular specials. The beer is brewed from naturally grown barley and hops free from synthetic pesticides and herbicides – better for you and the environment! Their flagship beer for twenty years or more has been the Black Isle Blonde Organic Lager. It is a crisp lager made with lager Malt, Pacific Gem hops and their house ale yeast. It's top fermented, lagered for up to 8 weeks and is entirely unique. This can be purchased on-tap when you are at the Club next. ABV: 4.5%. Alternative products are available so please ask at the bar for more information.



Very shorty, you will see that we have a new stock of a unique **Blended Malt Scotch Whisky** bottles for sale. This will also be sold by the dram! The bottles for sale come in a beautifully designed presentation box which can be purchased as the perfect gift to give to anyone of any special occasion. This is a bottle of pure blended Scotch whisky dressed in the painting of Chanonry Point by the acclaimed local artist Sarah Dunton. Please ask the staff at the bar when you are here next.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Bingo evenings
Friday, 21st April at 7.00pm
Friday, 26th May at 7.00pm



Craft Fair
Saturday, 3rd June 2023
10.00 am–12.00 pm



Club Lotto
Don't forget our fortnightly draws!

Bar opening times

From 1st May
Mon–Sun: 11.00–22.00hrs

LADIES SECTION

We are excited to welcome a new season of golf with a packed fixture list of events, both competitive and social, for all of our lady members to enjoy. We have a lovely new locker room and eagerly anticipate next winter's planned upgrade to the toilets. These now provide facilities which are commensurate with our fabulous course!

Competition news

Two divisions will be in operation from the start of the season (0-22 and 22-36) with handicaps limited to 36 in all counting competitions. We have increased the number of stableford competitions over the season, including monthly weekend 9- and 18-hole competitions which hopefully will appeal to working members. We have increased the number of Order of Merit competitions to 13 and these are listed on the Club website for your information. All members can now enter competitions online through the BRS app. This is a fantastic step forward! The fixture list underlines which competitions are 'book your own tee time' [(bookable 7 days in advance within our reserved tee time slots) and those that are drawn. The latter will be drawn on the Friday prior to the competition date with late entries required to go through the Pro Shop.

The Opening Match kicks off the competitive season on Saturday 25th March and takes the form of a team match play event. Do sign up and enjoy a fun day out which includes a baked potato lunch followed by a FUN Rules Reboot session to allow you to brush up on some of the rules of golf, both old and new, which continue to mystify some of us!

We are very pleased to launch a scheme, **Couch to Nine Holes**, which supports ladies in our community to have a try at golf. Rob will lead the teaching element of the programme and the ladies' committee (and other willing ladies) will provide follow-up support. If you know of any ladies who might like to give it a go (we will provide clubs), please let Mike know and he will pass on any interest.

And finallydon't forget to order your new Glenmuir ladies' kit. Rob has secured great prices for a polo shirt, gilet and jumper in our club colours with the club logo. Please request an order form from Susan Belford and return this as quickly as possible to ensure you are suitably decked out for the new golfing season.

News from the Pro Shop

SPRING IS HERE... SO THE GOLFING SEASON HAS FINALLY STARTED!

Junior coaching is going to be commencing after the Easter holidays. Over 50 juniors members have subscribed, so we are excited to get going with the future of the golf club. We are thankful for all the assistance offered by members to help with the junior coaching.

We are also going to be helping run a new ladies' 'Couch-to-9-Holes' group that will introduce new lady golfers to the game and hopefully, in time, this will boost the ladies membership.

I have a new member of staff joining us in April – Ewan Cuthbert. Ewan is a local boy who is doing his golf management degree at the UHI in Dornoch and will be joining us for the summer. Ewan is a good player and someone I have known since I first saw him swinging at 10 years old. He will be a great addition to the team. But, don't worry, Gavin isn't leaving!!

Spring is a great time to look at your equipment: do your shoes need renewing or spikes changing, are your grips hard and shiny and need replacing? And how about your golfing skills? Do you need help getting out of bunkers or holing a few more putts? A lesson and some honest advice can make a huge difference.

As always anything you need don't hesitate to get in touch or pop in.

Rob



News from the Greens team

We've had a mixed winter with periods of snow, frost and a few milder days thrown in. It was good to see some snow as it gave the course a little rest during these periods. March has been very cold which will give a slow start to the season unfortunately. We've had very little growth so far and not much weather to work with.

Rainfall last year amounted to 510mm which is relatively dry compared to the previous couple of years. We undertook some pot seeding work on the greens which although was a little late the weather played ball and we achieved a good seed strike. A mix of fine Barenbrug Fescue seed was used in a longer term approach to increasing the percentages of finer grasses that will withstand drought, increase ball roll, fewer chemical inputs, less aggressively managed, less seed heads etc. Many benefits to be had if the greens are given the chance for these grasses to colonize and survive.

We also invested a £3000 in seeding the eight worst affected fairways last September. Castle Stuart Links & Skibo kindly lent us their disc seeding machine and although conditions were not perfect as the ground was pretty hard at the time a reasonable seed strike was achieved. We have recently sprayed all the fairways with a wetting agent and iron spray during a lovely wet day. This will help retain soil moisture and the iron will help deter moss. A follow up spray in a few weeks with more wetting agent and some slow release nitrogen will be given which will help the younger grasses survive into the season.

Our winter work has mostly consisted of re-vetting bunkers of which 12 were completed this year. New sand has been added to them all and will be a little soft until they have bedded in. We also did some re modelling work to the left hand side of the 8th green where the whin line has been taken back several metres and some mounding put in. This area will remain GUR for another 2–3 weeks as the area under the sheet has been seeded and although germinating we have had no warmth recently. Some fairway whin edge lines have been trimmed back and the left approach at the 13th taken down to waist level as it will offer better view of road users whilst playing the 13th. These will grow back in a year or two.

We also dug out the last group of whins on the left of the 4th fairway which gathered a lot of golf balls. We have created another sandscrape which will again catch the stray shot and make for a tricky recovery, meanwhile speeding up play.

Some recent work included replacing the clubhouse borders that were old and shabby looking. The soil was dug out and re filled with dune sand and then replaced with Marram grass plants. The finished look looks much more inviting along with the recent upgrade of the outside seating area front of clubhouse.

Enjoy your golf this season!

The Greens Team

