



# Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club

LINKS GOLF SINCE 1793

# NEWSLETTER

## #05

## WINTER 2024

## Welcome

Welcome to the seasonal newsletter for the Winter of 2024 keeping you up to date with the latest news and developments at Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club. As always we welcome your feedback.

### VISITING GOLFERS 2024

It has been fantastic to see so many golfers from so many different countries visiting the Links this year. The feedback received from tour operators, touring groups, families, couples and individuals has been brilliant, so our thanks go to all of the staff for the warm welcome that they receive on arrival in addition to the service we provide for them all in our clubhouse following their round of golf on the Links. A few pictures of some touring groups are below so they have as you can see, ventured out in all weathers to experience playing on our historic and unique Scottish Links Golf Course.

To name just a few countries out-with the norm, we have been visited by golfers from Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Argentina, Brazil, Belgium, Austria, Finland, China, Bermuda and Norway amongst many others!



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THE 15<sup>TH</sup> 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)

WINNER AT THE SCOTTISH GOLF TOURISM AWARDS – MARCH 2024 – BEST COURSE/ VENUE





## THE CAPTAIN'S REPORT

It has been another successful summer at Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club despite a number of challenges. We were pleased that, following the damage caused by storm Ciaran at the end of October 2023, we were able quickly to repair and protect the first and second tees and buffer the first fairway with sand to protect it until we were in a position to finance more permanent works.

The Go Fund Me appeal has raised approximately £35,000 and a big thank you to all members (and many non-members) who contributed to this. All monies raised through various initiatives including the Golf Day/ Fundraiser with support of the Kingsmills Hotel on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024 which raised over £24,500 will be used to kick start the funding of the next stage of works to protect the side of the first fairway and a small area beyond the second tee. Mike has also secured additional funding through an application process with the Port of Cromarty Firth Authority whereby they were supporting local community projects as part of a community sponsorship programme and I am pleased to say that we have secured an additional £5,000 for the coastal defence project.

As a rough estimate, the additional works will cost the club a further £150,000 and whilst the club has some reserves, we will need to raise more money next year so we would urge any members who have not already made a donation to the fund to consider doing so.

It was decided some time ago to irrigate seven of our most "at risk" fairways and this work will have been completed by the time this newsletter is published. The purpose of this work is not to alter the fast running of the fairways in the summer but to protect them during exceptionally dry spells. We will also continue with our rolling plan to replace some of our older green's machinery/equipment for the benefit of our greens staff and the Links.

Despite the terrible Summer, the links have been well used and George and his team have maintained them to an exceptional standard allowing us to host a number of events, culminating in The World Hickory Open Championship which took place at the end of October with the participants all enjoying our traditional links.

The new James Braid Competition (open to men and women) was a great success with Fraser Patience winning the men's competition and Hayley Lewis winning the women's competition. You will also see that the new scorecards now rate all the tees for play by both men and women. It is my hope that the Club will continue to look to integrate its competitions and activities as I believe that this reflects how the modern family will want to play golf together. On this note, the Club ran a successful junior coaching program again this summer and a program to encourage women to get into golf. Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time to make this happen.

The catering was a bit of a disappointment this summer with Linus and his team at Braid's Restaurant leaving mid-October. However, I am delighted to say that the Club has been able to secure the services of Craig Douglas (Cove Restaurant) as the new franchisee and he started working here on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

*continued...*



Craig has worked in some of the best restaurants in Scotland before coming to us from his position as Head Chef at the Kingsmills Hotel and we wish him every success. We hope you will support him and spread the word.

We are also planning some work in the Clubhouse over the winter period. You may have noticed that the soft furnishings and carpet have all been cleaned and we will continue to monitor this. The restaurant area needs upgrading and the bar itself will be modernised before the start of the 2025 playing season.

You will also have received a draft of a new constitution for the Club with a covering letter explaining the more significant changes. I would urge you all to read it and give us your feedback. I would like to thank Tom Hillis and his sub-group for producing this readable and clear document to act as the basis for the Club as we move forward.

Finally on a personal note. My term as Captain is coming to an end. It has been a great honour to be your first female Captain and I have thoroughly enjoyed it, mostly because of the great help and support I have from the Council and Club Staff, who all work very hard to keep the Club moving forward. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team in place and I would urge you all to consider putting your name/s forward to sit on Council. It is your Club and all the benefits you enjoy would not happen without a thriving Council.

**Cathryn Field, Club Captain**



Some of our visiting golfers



## THE WORLD HICKORY OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The FINAL DAY'S play of the World Hickory Open Championship took place on the Links at Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 with 62 players competing for the coveted titles.

Hickory Golf for those who may be unfamiliar with it, is a variation of golf played with old-fashioned hickory shafted golf clubs and it was fantastic to see as always. With active groups from the USA, Canada, Asia and countries from throughout Europe competing this form of golf continues to be great fun and is on the increase in terms of popularity throughout the world.

The attraction of playing with hickory clubs is that they reintroduce 'feel' to the golf shot. Proponents also claim that Hickory golf allows golfers to play classic golf courses as they are meant to be played and, as our own Club is the 15<sup>th</sup> Oldest Recorded Club in the world, that has a resonance with us. There were various categories used at the Championship which included:

- **ANTIQUE HICKORY SHAFTED CLUBS:** This category is for equipment whose club heads were made prior to 1935.
- **MODERN AUTHENTIC HICKORY SHAFTED CLUBS:** This category is for equipment made to replicate, as nearly as possible, clubs that were made prior to 1935.
- **RETRO FITTED CLUBS:** This category is for clubs that were made in 1935 or before and at the time of their release were available with both wood and steel shafts.

At the conclusion of the Championship, a dinner and prize-giving for everyone took place at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness.

Details of all the winners on the next page.



## World Hickory Open Championship 2024 Prize Winners

### Archie Baird Team International Team Event sponsored by Arbikie Distillery

**Archie Baird International Team Event Champions: Japan 2** 90 pts

*Takuya Yoshikawa, Katsuyuki Fukumoto, Masaki Jyoni, Yukinori Suzuki*

**Archie Baird International Team Event Runners up: Japan/Scotland** 89pts

*South Korea – Shaun Smith, Sang Jun Oh, Yuji Nakamura, Mariyo Myamoto*

**Archie Baird International Team Event Third: Florida Shankers** 87 pts

*Peter Hitchin, Paul Fiedorek, Clive Mabbutt, Bryan Bruce*

### World Hickory Open Individual Event

Ladies World Hickory Champion (gross):	Szilvia Karpati (Switzerland)	301
Ladies World Hickory Runner-up (gross):	Tatjana Thos (Germany)	320
Ladies World Hickory Champion (net):	Mariyo Myamoto (Japan)	238
Ladies World Hickory Runner-up (net):	Anne Mari Matilainen (Finland)	286
Men's W H Amateur Champion (gross):	Takuyai Yoshikawa	242
Men's W H Amateur Runner-up (gross):	Ralph Evans (England)	255
Men's W H Amateur Third (gross):	Jarmo Maunu (Finland)	257
Men's W H Amateur Champion (net):	Yukinori Suzuki (Japan)	208
Men's W H Amateur Runner-up (net):	Sanh Jun Oh (South Korea)	223
Men's W H Amateur Third (net):	Marko Matikka (Finland)	224 (BIH)
Honourable 70 Champion (gross):	Terrell Coffield (England)	284
W H Seniors over 50 Champion (gross):	Marc Roosli (Switzerland)	257
W H Seniors over 50 Runner-up (gross):	Stefan Russmann (Switzerland)	269 (BIH)
W H Seniors over 50 Third (gross):	Yuji Nakamura (Japan)	269
World Hickory Professional Champion:	Roberto Francioni (Switzerland)	236
World Hickory Professional Runner-up:	Heinz Peter Thul (Germany)	254
World Hickory Professional Third:	Jeffrey Mansfield (Australia)	270
World Hickory Professional Fourth:	Mike Stevens (USA)	290

### Nearest the Pin & Longest Drives

Nearest the pin Men: Deal Hudson (USA)

Nearest the pin Ladies: Tatjana Thos (Germany)

Longest Drive Men: Basil Ruedi (Switzerland)

Longest Drive Ladies: Mariyo Miyamoto (Japan)

Best dressed Gent on the course: Greg Smith (USA)

Best dressed Lady on the course: Erika Frey (Germany)

Special prize for bravery (swam in the North Sea after losing his match at Fortrose & Rosemarkie: Basil Ruedi (Switzerland))





## GOLF DAY/FUNDRAISER WITH THE KINGSMILLS HOTEL IN INVERNESS FRIDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

As you will all be aware, at the end of October 2023, the left side of the 1st hole including areas around the 2nd tee were devastated by the unprecedented storms. With over £163,000 being spent to date, to repair the damage with further work planned by means of rock armouring prior to the start of the 2025 playing season, the anticipated costs are going to be in the region of a further **£150,000**.

At the end of June this year, **The Kingsmills Hotel** kindly approached Mike at the Golf Club to offer their help in organising a special golf day to hopefully raise additional funds for the repair and safeguarding of our historic Scottish Links Golf Course against further coastal erosion.



Following the initial meeting, a golf day was organised (limited to 21 teams of four) which would then be followed by a dinner, prize-giving and entertainment at the Kingsmills Hotel on **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024**.

The whole day consisted of:

- Bacon Rolls & Tea/Coffee from **10.30** for everyone playing that day.
- A shotgun start at **12.00** (the best **TWO** stableford scores count on each hole from the **FOUR** players in each team which was then used to form a team aggregate on each hole).
- **TEAM** prizes (which were announced and presented that evening at the prize-giving in the Kingsmills Hotel).
- **INDIVIDUAL** prizes for the best score/s by ladies and gents on the day (announced and presented that the evening at the Kingsmills Hotel).
- **Closest to the Pin Prizes** on each hole for the ladies and gents playing plus a straightest drive on the 6th hole (announced and presented that evening at the Kingsmills Hotel)
- **A Chipping Challenge** at the back of the 3rd tee which included a drink and burger cooked by one of the Chef's from the Kingsmills Hotel.
- A **3-Course Dinner and a Drink** on arrival at the Kingsmills Hotel including a raffle.
- **Grand Auction** and **Silent Auction**.
- **Evening entertainment from Kenny Smith & Michael MacMillan (Torridon)**.

We are very pleased to announce following the golf day on Friday, with phenomenal support from some of our club members, visitors from other clubs which included a team entry from New York and so many generous businesses, the Golf Day raised over **£24,500**. All monies will go directly to the vital repair works on the Links.

The atmosphere **all day** was truly heartwarming – drawn to supporting the club and embodying the community spirit that we are so proud of in the Highlands. Together with the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness, we will have safeguarded a further section of our historic course; and we are so very grateful to everyone who contributed.

*continued...*

Our thanks go to Tony Story, Craig Ewan, Tracey Milton, Aileen Tuckwood, Angus MacLeod and Melena Ewan plus all of the other staff at the Kingsmills Hotel for everything they did to help us!

**We are looking into the possibly of repeating this next year!**

Images of the winners with our club captain, Cathryn Field presenting the prizes



1<sup>st</sup> Team Prize – (left to right) – Ronald McCallum, Rory MacLeman, Donnie Paterson & John Jack



2<sup>nd</sup> Team Prize – (left to right) – Colin Fraser, Val Mitchell, Shona Sutherland & Graeme Sutherland



3<sup>rd</sup> Team Prize – (left to right) – Duncan Alexander & Ewen Alexander (missing were David Bisset & Fergus Bisset)

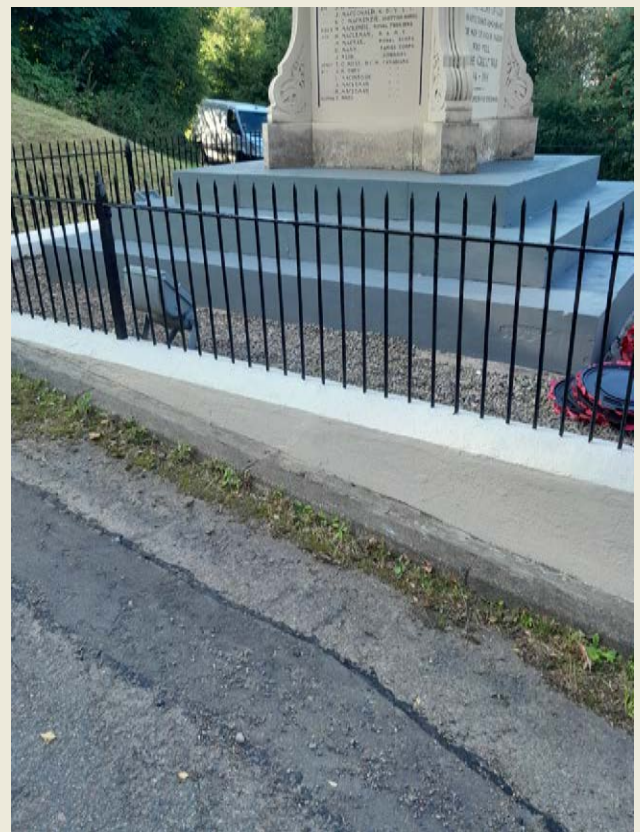
## AVOCH GENTLEMEN'S GOLF SOCIETY (AGGS)

The 27<sup>th</sup> playing of the competition was played on the links on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024, with 52 players taking part this year. The day started off with a wee dram in memory of George McLeman who had passed away a few days earlier.

The overall winner this year was Alick Patience (pictured centred to the right). Alastair Cameron won the scratch prize and Ronald Macallum won the Robert Jack trophy for the best handicap score.

As normal, we raise funds for local charities and this year we were pleased to make donations to Black Isle Cares, RNLI (200th Anniversary), Highland Disability Golf and the Ross County Football Club Foundation. We were also pleased to arrange for the stonework and the fencing area at the war memorial in Avoch to be repainted and an excellent job of this was done by Chico Stewart of Dunbar Painting (picture after).

Finally, we did set £500 aside to pass to the Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club to assist with the ongoing coastal erosion issues.



# CLUB NEWS

## JUNIOR COACHING

In June this year, 44 youngsters aged from 5 to 16 years took part in golf coaching sessions delivered by 14 enthusiastic volunteer coaches. The sessions were well received by the youngsters many of whom showed significant improvement over the five sessions.

Sisters Evie and Holly Smith were joint winners of the Callum Junior Trophy, awarded to the most improved (and dedicated!) young golfers.

Grateful thanks to the volunteers who gave up their time and golfing prowess to promote the game amongst our younger generation – and well done to the youngsters whose attitude and behaviour was consistently excellent!



## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

**Gents Scratch Winner**

**Gents Scratch Runner-Up**

**Gents Handicap Winner**

**Gents Handicap Runner-Up**

**Ladies Scratch Winner**

**Ladies Scratch Runner-Up**

**Ladies Handicap Winner**

**Ladies Handicap Runner-Up**

**Senior Gents (55+) Scratch Winner**

**Senior Gents (55+) Scratch Runner-Up**

**Senior Gents (55+) Handicap Winner**

**Senior Gents (55+) Runner-Up**

**Chris Gaittens**

**Allan Cameron**

**Rory MacLeman**

**Neil Edwards**

**Lynne Fraser**

**Anna Paterson**

**Rosemary Stallard**

**Marina MacCulloch**

**Doug Younie**

**Stewart Robertson**

**Gordon M Thomson**

**Neil Gillies**

## BOOKING GOLF ONLINE THROUGH BRS A REMINDER FOR MEMBERS

If you are booking a tee time online, you can do so, **14 DAYS IN ADVANCE**. **AS A REMINDER**, if you are booking a tee time online and you are unable to make it, **YOU MUST** cancel this at the earliest opportunity so that other players/members are able to book a tee time. This will be monitored!

If you are booking your golf online, please ensure that **ALL** names are included as part of the booking whether this be a 2, 3 or 4 ball (not just one name).

All prizes will be awarded at our Annual Prize-Giving and Race Night which will take place on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024 from 6.30pm.

# CLUB NEWS

## THE WILLIAMSON FOODSERVICE GENTS ROSEHAUGH MEDAL FINAL

This year's final for the GOLD medal took place on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024. Our thanks go to Williamson Foodservice in Inverness for their continued, kind and generous sponsorship of the event. The final was contested by Andrew McDonald, Rory MacLeman, John Lackie, Steve Ellis, Douglas Wilkinson and Brian Hunter and the winning score on the day was returned by **Steve Ellis** (handicap 6) with a nett score of 71.



Rosehaugh Medal Final – Andrew McDonald, Brian Hunter and Rory MacLeman



Rosehaugh Medal Final – Steve Ellis, Douglas Wilkinson and John Lackie

## THE LADIES MEDAL FINAL

Congratulations go to **Jacqui Phillips** who won the Ladies Medal Final which was also played on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024. Jacqui, playing from a handicap of 25, won with a nett score of 76.

## THE LADIES ST. ANN'S QUAIH FINAL

Congratulations go to **Margo Patience** who won the Ladies St. Ann's Quaich Final which was played on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Margo won with a score of 32 stableford points.

## THE LADIES ORDER OF MERIT – 2024 PLAYING SEASON

**Hayley Lewis** was the winner of the Ladies Order of Merit competition for the 2024 playing season so congratulations go to Hayley after she accumulated 600 points throughout the season in our Club competitions.

## THE GENTS ORDER OF MERIT – 2024 PLAYING SEASON

**Andrew Brown** was the winner of the Gents Order of Merit competition for the 2024 playing season so congratulations go to Andrew after he accumulated 620 points throughout the season in our Club competitions.

## THE GENTS SUMMER AGGREGATE – 2024 PLAYING SEASON

From 23 counting competitions played throughout the season the winning scores were calculated on the basis of the best FIVE scores (scratch and nett) from those competitions.

**Vouchers will be presented at the annual prize-giving in December.**

### SCRATCH WINNERS

**1st Place: Chris Gaittens**

Aggregate Total 342 (70 + 70 + 69 + 69 + 64)

**2nd Place: Andrew Brown**

Aggregate Total 349 (71 + 70 + 70 + 69 + 69)

**3rd Place: Lewis Reid**

Aggregate Total 358 (74 + 73 + 71 + 71 + 69)

### HANDICAP WINNERS

**1st Place: Kevin Fowler**

Aggregate Total 346 (70 + 70 + 69 + 69 + 68)

**= 2nd Place: Andrew McDonald** Aggregate Total 348 (71 + 71 + 70 + 70 + 66)

**= 2nd Place: Richard Carey** Aggregate Total 348 (72 + 70 + 69 + 69 + 68)

# CLUB NEWS

## OPEN AMATEUR TOURNAMENTS 2025

OPEN TEXAS SCRAMBLE	Gents, Ladies or Mixed 4-Person Team	Saturday 29-Mar-2025
THE BLACK ISLE OPEN FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP	Gents Foursomes – Stroke Play	Saturday 19-Apr-2025*
LADIES PAIRS BETTER BALL OPEN	Ladies Four Ball Betterball	Saturday 03-May-2025
OPEN MIXED GREENSOMES	Mixed Greensomes Stroke	Sunday 04-May-2025
SENIOR GENTS 50+ STABLEFORD OPEN	Gents Singles Stableford	Thursday 15-May-2025
3-BALL BETTER BALL OPEN	Gents and Ladies 3-Person Team	Saturday 31-May-2025
GENTS ROSS-SHIRE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP	Gents – 36-Holes – Stroke Play	Saturday 14-Jun-2025
OPEN TEXAS SCRAMBLE	Gents, Ladies or Mixed 4-Person Team	Sunday 29-Jun-2025
3-LADY TEAM OPEN	Ladies 3-Person Team	Tuesday 15-Jul-2025
SENIOR GENTS 50+ STABLEFORD OPEN	Ladies 3-Person Team – Stroke Play	Thursday 17-Jul-2025
GENTS 36-HOLE OPEN	Gents Singles – Stroke Play	Saturday 26-Jul-2025
KINGSMILLS HOTEL PAIRS BETTER BALL OPEN	Gents Four Ball Betterball	Saturday 09-Aug-2025
25TH KELLY OPEN FOURSOMES – 12.30 START	Gents Foursomes Stroke	Sunday 10-Aug-2025
SENIOR LADIES 50+ STABLEFORD OPEN	Ladies Singles Stableford	Tuesday 12-Aug-2025
SENIOR GENTS 50+ STROKE PLAY OPEN	Gents Singles Stroke	Thursday 14-Aug-2025
GENTS 18-HOLE STROKE PLAY OPEN	Gents Singles Stroke	Saturday 06-Sep-2025
LADIES STABLEFORD/STROKE PLAY OPEN	Ladies Singles Stableford	Saturday 13-Sep-2025
OPEN TEXAS SCRAMBLE	Gents and Ladies 4-Person Team	Saturday 27-Sep-2025
GENTS 18-HOLE STROKE PLAY OPEN	Gents Singles Stroke	Saturday 04-Oct-2025

\*Saturday, 19-Apr-2025 (36 Holes Qualifying) & Sunday, 20-Apr-2025 (Match Play Stages)

To book online for any of our Open Amateur Tournaments for the 2025 playing season, please click onto the link below: [https://www.brsgolf.com/fortrose/opens\\_home.php](https://www.brsgolf.com/fortrose/opens_home.php)



# News from the Clubhouse

## Cove Restaurant

The team at Cove Restaurant would like to take this opportunity to say how amicably proud we are to be able to be part of this fantastic historic golf club and the warmest of welcomes to everybody. Our philosophy and vision is simple. We are here to cook fantastic food and bring a fantastic service to all members and visitors.

We are united with Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club and want anybody that walks through the doors into the Club to be insanely proud. We aim to encourage young people into the hospitality industry and behind the scenes work very hard to ensure any member of staff is getting the best experience and training in order to progress their careers in the industry. Every plate of food that leaves the kitchen will be given the best treatment possible with the assurance that it is cooked to perfection.

We offer a range of menus from light bites, Clubhouse Lounge, A La Carte dinners, Sunday Roast and new to the Club we will be offering Signature Afternoon Teas. We are able to provide Tailor-made functions so, if you have a birthday, special day, a celebration of life, or Anniversary please get in touch with us and we will tailor everything to your needs. We aim to cook simple food executed to perfection. We look forward to welcoming you all and making some new friends along the way.

## Tapadh Leibh

Owner, Craig Douglas will be at the heart of the kitchen bringing a new level of food to the Black Isle. Having spent his career working in some of the finest restaurants around the World, Craig's passion is poured into every single dish that comes out of the kitchen. Craig is well known in the local area for his splendid cuisine as he previously worked as the executive chef at the 5-Star, Ness Walk Hotel and also at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness. The team at Cove Restaurant hope to welcome you all soon.

Website Link - <https://fortrosegolfclub.co.uk/food/cove-restaurant/>

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU CAN ALSO BOOK/RESERVE A TABLE ONLINE VIA THE OPEN TABLE LINK ON THE CLUB WEBSITE DINING SECTION

Telephone: 01381 620529 (option 2) or 07872 817717

E-Mail: [coverestaurant.fortrose@outlook.com](mailto:coverestaurant.fortrose@outlook.com)

**CHRISTMAS MENU NOW ON THE CLUB WEBSITE**



## OPENING TIMES

From November 2024

### The Bar

- Monday 11.00-18.00
- Tuesday to Thursday 11.00-19.00
- Friday and Saturday 11.00-22.00
- Sunday 11.00-19.00

### Cove Restaurant

- Monday CLOSED
- Tuesday to Thursday 10.00-18.00
- Friday and Saturday 10.00-21.00
- Sunday 10.00-18.00

### Pro Shop

- Monday and Friday 09.00-17.00
- Saturday and Sunday 08.00-16.00



QR code for booking online



# LADIES SECTION

Another golf season has flown by ...and it has been a very successful one for ladies' golf at Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club. Over the last two years our programmes – Couch to 9 Holes in 2023 and Couch to Course in 2024 – which have been so ably led by Aileen Wilson, have attracted several very enthusiastic new lady members who have contributed greatly both to competitions and social events. Several of them have stated how nervous they were to enter competitions but that our very friendly lady members have welcomed them with open arms and they now feel 'at home'. We look forward to many more ladies joining in the future.

As ever, we had a very competitive season with some terrific performances. As last year, our congratulations go to Hayley Lewis who won this year's Order of Merit with 600 points. The 2024 Championship was won once again by Lynne Fraser after she defeated Anna Paterson in the Scratch Final. Rosemary Stallard took the top spot in the Handicap Section when she defeated Marina MacCulloch. Marina triumphed in the Rosehaugh Medal, however, winning a lovely bottle of Tomatin whisky and Lynne triumphed for another year in our Ladies' Individual Open. Fortrose ladies took four of the first five places in our 50+ Stableford Open 0 -22 handicap section, with Lynne Fraser taking the top spot followed by Elaine Hillis, Fiona Clark and Annette MacArthur. Val Mitchell took the top spot in the 22+ handicap section with Hayley Lewis coming second. A great day on the course for our ladies! A special mention goes to Margo Patience for winning the St Ann's Quaich Final in only her second year as a golfer. A fantastic result! Congratulations also go to Jacqui Philips for coming top in the Medal Final and to Joan Murphy and Fiona Lackie for winning through to be our representatives in the Daily Mail Foursomes in 2025. Good luck ladies!

A huge thanks go to all the ladies who have served on the Committee for the last two seasons. Through your efforts, our ladies have been able to enjoy some superb social events and some fun golf competitions. 24 ladies enjoyed a great end of season outing to Nairn Dunbar Golf Club on the 31<sup>st</sup> August which was organised so competently by Helen Morrison. Various ladies have very much enjoyed participating in four fiercely fought 'Friendly' matches which have been very ably organised by Loraine Nixon. Our end of season Closing Match and Lunch was a great success with over 30 ladies enjoying a glorious day on the course in the autumn sun.

I have been honoured to serve as the last Lady Captain at Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club and believe that the Committee and I leave women's golf at Fortrose in a good place. Our facilities [ locker room and toilets] are looking very smart as do our lady golfers in their new Fortrose and Rosemarkie 'kit'. The only way is up! I wish the ladies who assume roles of responsibility for developing women's golf at Fortrose in the future all the very best.

**Susan Belford, Lady Captain**



# News from the Greens team

As the Autumn and Winter season is fast approaching our focus shifts from course preparation to course remediation. Our Winter programme is getting underway and as the years go by it seems there is less time to complete it. The golfing season has been hectic to say the least with time sheets heavily booked out and with plenty of visitors coming from all over the world to savour our links. When the course is looking good and playing well, then all the hard work is worth it. Thank you for all the positive comments. Proudly, my staff who have worked tirelessly again trying to keep up with everything have to be congratulated for their efforts.

The season started quite late with a cool and dry early summer period and from July onwards there were no prolonged dry periods at all and the irrigation system laid idle. This has helped the fairways no end with enough rainfall to promote steady growth and to help with seeded divot repairs. I'm not sure what the winter weather will bring but I'm betting on a cold one!

We have had a new replacement John Deere fairway machine added to our fleet recently and the fairways are coming up beautifully with it. Next on the list is to replace our small tractor which is coming up 15 years old.

Our planned irrigation instalment to seven fairways is underway and this will safeguard the turf from drying out when we encounter any droughty weather. Sprinklers are going into 1 - 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> fairways. Irrigation to these areas will be diligently used at times when needed and also help with seed germination which is essential given the level of golf and presentation required these days. Last winter we had a new additional water tank added to give us ample water if required during high use periods.

Coastal erosion works: The works undertaken this Spring by GF Job (contractors) to protect our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> tees and along the 1<sup>st</sup> fairway has been effective. Costing is currently underway to finish the entire length of fairway and just past the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee with rock armour but it will not be cheap!

Workwise, through the winter, we have around 11 bunkers to repair this year. We will have already completed the hollow coring, sanding and seeding of the greens. The planned hollows on either side of the 3rd fairway never got done last winter, so may get done this winter. We are also looking at building a new and alternative 11th Medal tee for the gents adjacent and below the current one, which would be the same length and open up the dog leg view of the hole. As part of this project, aeration and sanding of the areas would help to promote firmer and more resilient playing surfaces. When the colder and frosty weather is more apparent, bush management for both regeneration and health and safety purposes, along with machinery upkeep, will be carried out.

On the practice range, we are still hopeful of replacing and re-aligning our main mat. This is to encourage hitting towards the left side portion of the range and reduce the amount of golf balls ending up over the caravan site fence which we regularly hand-pick 30 to 40 balls every time we go into that area so please aim to the left side and DO NOT hit longer clubs if playing from the right side. During November through until mid-March, we would require all practice to be taken from any of the mats available unless you are chipping onto the practice green. This will give the grassed areas a chance to recover after the heavy use this year. Thank you in advance.

Thank you to any volunteers who assisted us throughout the summer in divoting the fairways. This is really appreciated. Enjoy your golf.

George Paterson - Head Greenkeeper



## WINTER TEES, MATS & BLUE POSTS/STAKES

Please note that the **BLUE POSTS** went out onto the course on **Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024** where the **WINTER TEES** are now in operation until **Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**.

MATS WILL **COMPULSORY** FOR THE OFF-PEAK SEASON UNLESS YOU ARE PLAYING FROM OUTSIDE THE BLUE STAKED AREAS WHICH ARE CLEARLY MARKED BY THE GREENS STAFF ON EACH HOLE. IF YOU ARE PLAYING FROM INSIDE THE STAKED AREAS, YOU **MUST** USE A MAT. **THIS IS COMPULSORY!**

IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE THE LINE OF THE **BLUE POSTS** IN THE **THICKER ROUGH**, YOU **MUST** PLAY THE BALL AS IT LIES AND **NOT** FROM A MAT AS YOU WILL BE GIVING YOURSELF AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OVER OTHERS ESPECIALLY WHEN PLAYING IN COMPETITIONS! In the fairways, and in pretty much all cases, the first cut of rough really needs to be protected during the off-peak season so we would like to thank you all for your understanding during this time.

LIMITED STOCKS OF WINTER MATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE PRO SHOP AND AT THE BAR. If you do not already own a mat, then you can purchase one from the Pro Shop or at the Bar for a price of £12.00 each. You can of course source one online if you so wish.



## GREENS WINTER PROGRAMME 2024-2025

### GREENS

- Hollow tine/heavy hand sand/R117 fescue seed (Mid-October)
- Feed Symbio 5.2.10 (end of October)
- Spray greens against Leatherjackets (Early/Mid-November) - Acelypryn
- Deep slit greens/approaches (Mid-November)
- Spray greens with Instrata Elite fungicide (Mid-November)
- Verti-drain greens with 1/2" solid tines (End November)
- Spray greens Pervade penetrant, Defender and Fiata Stressgard colourant (November/December)
- Cone spike + R117 seed/sand (End February/early March)

### TEES

- Feed Tees (October) – work complete
- SL6 solid spike tees 3/4" solid tine (early October) – work complete
- Spray tees Krista Mag + Iron (November)
- Slit tees (December)
- Verti-drain tees (December)
- Core and sand tees (Early March)

### FAIRWAYS

- Irrigation instal to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 12th & 13th fairways (End of October)
- Remove spoil and turf around boxes and sprinklers (End of October/November)
- Blue Stakes out onto the edges of the course (Early November)
- Spray fairways Krista Mag + Iron (November)
- Deep slit fairways (November/December)
- Sand selected fairways (February/March)
- Granular feed weaker fairways (March)

### WALKWAYS

- Verti-drain and rope off heavily used areas + sand and seed any weak parts

### ROUGHS

- Cut and collect tall roughs (November) & Spray with Laser (March)
- Bunker renovation and other work will be carried out throughout the Winter period.

# Pro Shop

You might not know it by the weather outside but the summer golf season has come to an end and we aim to push on through winter when it's a great time to make changes to your golf game. Gavin, Jack, Ewan and myself will all be on hand to help you with anything you need during the off season

Coaching packages of 5 lessons for the price of 4 are still available and I find that winter is often the best time to make changes to your game so you can hopefully enjoy it more through the summer months. Five lessons cost £136. I am still teaching a Monday and Wednesday and Friday, but also have plenty of spaces on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Coaching prices will increase slightly in 2025, so it's a good time to stock up on a block if they will be required.

If you are looking to change equipment or have a question on if you have the correct equipment, please get in touch and we will be more than happy to assist. We have a new launch monitor which is great if you have a gap in yardage in the bag that you want to fill then we can dial in the club to fill that gap.

Winter is also a great time to look at the condition of your current equipment, and we have a huge range of grips in stock and can turn around grips usually on the same day. We will be having a sale weekend from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of November with big reductions on all items in the shop.

Thank you again for all your support this year, it really is most appreciated. We have a great golf club at F&R and we look forward to another fantastic year in 2024.



# FORTROSE & ROSEMARKIE GOLF CLUB

2024<sup>5</sup>

NESS ROAD EAST – FORTROSE - ROSS-SHIRE - IV10 8SE

TELEPHONE: 01381 620529 (OPTION 2)

2024<sup>5</sup>

## NEW YEAR QUIZ NIGHT



TUESDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

£100.00 FOR A TEAM OF FOUR

INCLUDES FOOD & A DRINK ON ARRIVAL AT THE BAR

7.30<sup>PM</sup> START

COME AND HAVE A FUN NIGHT WITH US AT OUR NEW YEAR QUIZ NIGHT

TEAM PRIZES & RAFFLE

TEAM ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2024

TELEPHONE 01381 620529 (OPTION 2)

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR

**ALL WELCOME WITH LIMITED TABLES AVAILABLE!**