

# CARLUKE GOLF CLUB

## NEWSLETTER



Issue 11 | June 2021 | [newsletter@carlukegolfclub.com](mailto:newsletter@carlukegolfclub.com)

### IN THIS ISSUE!

Captains Blog

Course Update

Greenkeeper Profile

Important Info!

WHS Quick Guide

Pro Shop News

June Fixtures



Clydesdale Food Bank is a SCIO,  
Scottish charity no SC045073

### CAPTAINS BLOG



Hello Fellow Golfers

We are now in to the full swing of the golf season. Match play ties are being played and all our teams are now engaged in their various league matches. I have had the good fortune to watch our Men's team at a couple of away games and I have to say our course is as good as any I have visited locally.

After a long dreary May it looks like June will be a bit more promising

weather wise. This month is traditionally a busy one. We have open competitions as well as our annual Silloth taking place. My thanks to our organising teams for making all the necessary arrangements, these events would simply not happen without the hard work in the background. Also, my thanks to the various sponsors and those members who have made donations. These are all greatly appreciated and add to the attraction of our events. Can I also remind everyone that raffle tickets for our Silloth draw are available behind the bar. Again, there are some great prizes on offer including a 4 ball at Archerfield.

As you will know we have now moved back into Level 2 Covid Restrictions and our bar is now operating on an almost normal basis at long last. It is great to see everyone making use of the clubhouse once more and Fiona and Baber and her team are doing a great job catering for the huge demand for restaurant bookings.

Applications for new memberships have begun to tail off during the last month. We have seen a large intake of new members from the beginning of the season. As a result, we have been monitoring the tee sheets, particularly those at the weekend to see if we should introduce a waiting list for new members. I'm pleased to say there is still capacity at the moment, although we will keep this under review.

On a personal note, I have been quite surprised how readily I have adapted to the new World Handicap System. The ability to enter General Play scores is a great addition and will benefit those members who are not able to play in medal competitions. I know the jury is still out and it is early days, but I am hopeful that things will all settle down over the course of the year and everyone will get their head around their "Handicap Index, Playing Handicap, Slope Ratings etc...."

Hopefully a flaming June and lots of good golf to come.

Stay safe. Captain Bill

### CAPTAINS CHARITY

Our Captain has chosen the Clydesdale Food Bank as this year's charity. There will be various events throughout the year to raise money but you can do so at any time by clicking on the below link. Thank-you.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/carlukegolfclub>



@golfcarlake



facebook.com/carlukeGC



carlukegolfclub



youtube.com

# COURSE MAINTENANCE - MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Unfortunately we have seen a recent rise in the amount of un-repaired pitch marks **AND** divots. This is essential maintenance that is the responsibility of EVERY member and if not carried out will result in a decline in the standard of our golf course. Please politely remind your playing partners if they simply forget (it happens).

For those that are not aware, each green is allocated a letter of the alphabet and members with a surname beginning with the letter should **ADOPT** the green and make an effort to not only repair their own pitch marks but also any others they find on that green.

## PITCH MARKS - ADOPT A GREEN

HOLE	LETTER	HOLE	LETTER
1	A	10	MAC
2	B	11	M
3	C	12	MC
4	D	13	N & O
5	E & F	14	P
6	G	15	Q & R
7	H	16	S
8	I, J & K	17	T, U & V
9	L	18	W, Y & Z



## QUICK INFO

- **COURSE & SLOPE RATING CARDS** - please pickup your copy from the pro-shop.
- **BAG TAGS etc** - swipe cards, membership stickers and bag tags for new members have been placed in envelopes and will be available from behind the bar during opening hours
- **OPEN COMPETITIONS** - Booking is open for all Open competitions. Visit the club website and click Book Now then click Book an Open Competition and login to BRS.
- **TEAM MATCHES** - Team matches have started so please be aware of closed tees at certain times. Check the website fixture list for details.
- **CATERING** - Mon Closed, Tue 11am - 8pm, Wed & Thu 11am - 3.30pm, Fri 11am - 8pm, Sat 11am - 6pm, Sun 11am - 7pm
- **BAR** - Tuesday to Sunday 12 noon till 8pm (subject to change depending on footfall)
- **CONTACT DETAILS:**
  - For general enquiries (admin/treasurer) contact Lynne on [admin@carlukegolfclub.com](mailto:admin@carlukegolfclub.com)
  - For handicap/fixture/Open comps contact [info@carlukegolfclub.com](mailto:info@carlukegolfclub.com)
  - For all other matters email [secretary@carlukegolfclub.com](mailto:secretary@carlukegolfclub.com)

# COURSE UPDATE

Hello All,

Well here we are again, another month older, only 4 weeks away from the longest day, and not a hint of a sun tan yet. ( anybody who says they have got a tan is weatherbeaten!!)

I heard at the weekend that this is the coldest May for 40 years, must be one of the wettest as well!! We have gone from almost drought conditions at the end of last month, back to having areas of rough that we cannot cut because its too wet. The worst bit is the left of the 1st, which I believe was the most commented item on the members survey i.e. drainage of this area. We have had companies in putting together a drainage plan and a quote for this part of the course, so fingers crossed, (if it dries up enough to work in!!) we may be able to get it dried up and playable all year round.



Also this month, the drain in the gully in front of the 13th tee was finally connected up and backfilled. Some sand and seed was raked over the top of it and there is a hint of grass cover coming already.

The rest of the bunkers were topped up as required, including most of the fairway bunkers which were given a light dusting.

The greens were still struggling at the start of the month to recover from the deep scarifying they received at the end of March. Because of this, we decided not to hollow tine the greens as planned, but instead to aerate them using an air injection machine called the "air2g2". The fact that the greens were firm and dry offered excellent conditions for this machine to work

with the added bonus that there was little or no disruption to the surface. The hollow tining will now be done nearer the end of the season.

The small stumps that were left when some of the trees were felled, were removed using a stump grinder.

Feeding was applied to tees, surrounds and greens and there is evidence that these areas are starting to show signs of growth. The greens are slowly improving and there are some seed heads visible on some. This is a sign that the annual meadow grass (poa annua) which is the predominant species, when it decides its warm enough to show face, is starting to move. This will help with filling in and levelling out surfaces, combined with some verti-cutting and top dressing, and will eventually allow us to get them cut down and sped up a bit.

Heres hoping that the nice weather they are talking about for June actually materialises - and lasts until September lol.

Andy.



# GREENKEEPER PROFILE - ANDY COLQUHOUN



The second member of your greenstaff to bare all - oo err, ( sorry, Frankie Howerd moment) is me. I have answered the questions as honestly as I can - honest!!!

**Name** - Andy Colquhoun

**Job title** - Course Manager

**Years at CGC** - Apparently I am one of the few remaining members who can say they were in the clubhouse behind the 12th green circa 1963 /64 although I dont remember it!!! Basically I have been here for ever although I have been employed as a greenkeeper since 1984 and have been Course Manager since 1993.

**Are you a golfer?** - sometimes!!

**Handicap** - currently 7 - and rising. lol

**Best score** - In 1982 I equalled the then course record of 64. Big Tam Smith will verify that, it cost him a pound!!!

**Favourite machine to use** - I honestly don't think I have a favourite machine, I like any one of the cutting fleet that produces nice stripes and generates positive comments from the members.

**Favourite task** - I would have to go for re-building greens. We have done all the greens apart from 1, 6 and 14 in the last 20 years or so and it is very gratifying to see something in your minds eye, and a few weeks later bring it into reality and watch it mature into a decent playing surface. Favourite one we've done - 12th, just because it was such a big change and had a positive effect on the hole. For those who dont remember it, the old green was like putting up Tinto, (and back down again depending on where the pin was)!!!

**Given an unlimited budget change 1 hole** - Wouldn't take a lot of money for my idea, I'd get rid of that stupid tree from the middle of the 8th fairway. The amount of visitors, players and non- players who just look at that and go.....WHY???? .!!!!!!

**Funny story witnessed while working** - Long time ago and not naming any names, the caravan was brought in, after the Silloth I think it was, and someone who had gone out to help tidy up, travelled back in, in the caravan which was being towed with the tractor. Having played in the Silloth that day and having partaken in a small libation after the golf, the driver, (guess who) sort of forgot on the way in that there was someone in the caravan, and enjoyed some tunes on the radio, and perhaps even another beer. On arrival at the shed, the door of the caravan opened and a rather dishevelled passenger staggered out, followed by bottles and cans and shelves etc. No serious damage done, a quick apology and another shared beer and everything was fine.

**What is the most frustrating aspect of the job** - Golfers!!!! No seriously, what is incredibly frustrating is for the whole staff to work their socks off, preparing for a big open competition or a championship, getting the course in, or as near to as possible, pristine condition - only for it to chuck it down with rain for hours and see the thing cancelled, or not even played.

**What gives you the most job satisfaction?** - See above, but without the rain.!!

**Do you think the job is easier or more difficult than when you started?** - There are tasks which have been made easier due to advances in machinery, technology and science, but there are also so many demands placed upon us to produce a better quality product, because of these improvements. As an example, when I started, the fairways were cut with a set of trailed gangs once a week, and tees and surrounds were cut by hand once a week. Due to machinery advances, we now have a ride on mower for each of these tasks, which was seen as an opportunity to reduce staff numbers. However, demand for better surfaces means we are cutting fairways 2 or 3 times a week and tees and surrounds twice a week - so we actually are spending more man hours on these tasks, with less staff!!!

Next months profile will be, housewife's favourite, (well Annie's favourite) Gordon

## SILLOTH

The annual member and guest Silloth competition will take place on Saturday 19th June - check your email for the latest information on when online booking opens.

To book this event on BRS, members need to go onto Carluke Golf Club website and go to book an open competition. Then click on the silloth and that will take you through the booking and payment process. Cost is £20 per team and entry is open to all gents membership categories. We also have our fantastic raffle on the day with the first prize of a fourball at Archerfield. Tickets are £5 and on sale now from the bar.

## LADIES LOCKERS

I am updating the list of playing members lockers and to ensure that I have you against the correct locker I would appreciate it if you would let me know which one you are now using.

There are a number of vacant lockers available and if there are any playing members who would like a locker or if there are any ladies who wish to cancel their locker please phone/text me on 07766516645.

Thanks, Marlene (Locker Convenor)

## A QUICK GUIDE TO WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

The new WHS consists of 3 elements.

### Handicap Index

This is the base handicap and is the basis of the system. This is established using the average of your best 8 scores from your last 20 rounds.

### Course Handicap

This is the handicap you will play off from any given tee. This can be found on the chart shown in the Pro shop window or locker room. Please pick up a copy of the handicap chart from the Pro shop.

THIS HANDICAP IS USED FOR HANDICAP ADJUSTMENT PURPOSES

### Playing Handicap

This is used to establish competition results and is 95% of your course handicap.

The good news is all you need to do is enter your scores on your device or on the terminal in the bar and the computer will work it out.

Example

Handicap Index 6.1

Course Handicap 6.6 – rounded up to 7

Playing Handicap 6.3 – rounded down to 6

## PRO SHOP NEWS



As the Summer seems to have finally arrived and there's hopefully light at the end of this long tunnel we've all been through, first and foremost on a personal note, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of those members that send cards and messages following the passing of my Mum. They were greatly appreciated. You only get one Mum and I miss her like crazy, so if you still have one, look after her.

I would also like to say a big thank-you to one of our Members, Jamie Mowat, who's company Belac have decided to sponsor me and pay for some of my entries and hotel bills. This will go a long way to helping with rising entry fees and inflated hotel prices.

Competition golf is starting to come back for us Pro's and its been great to get back out competing, however the form has been a bit rusty but we will keep on working hard and see where it takes us. It's certainly difficult closing the shop at 6pm and going to practice then getting home after 8.30pm most nights - the joys of being a Club Pro! The last 3 events have been 15th, 9th and 5th placed finish - let's hope there is a win around the corner...

Now that we are officially allowed to teach, lessons are available to book in the Shop. Anything you're struggling with just give us a call - long game, short game, putting, chipping - anything you need help with.

**Lessons are £20 per half hour for members and £25 for non-members**

The Shop is finally starting to get some stock in - these are very challenging times in the golf industry with worldwide shortages in many items, with some manufacturers quoting September by the time they will have their next full shipments in and custom clubs in some company's are at least a 3 month wait. Much of the golf industry is supplied by China and things are not coming out the way they once were. shortages at the moment believe it or not are grips, balls, gloves and tees etc but hopefully it will be back to some sort of normality soon.

While on the subject of the Shop, we have taken on board some of your complaints, as have the Golf Club, and we endeavour to be better and stock will gradually build up. It is also worth noting that our stock is not on a sales or return basis - all the stock that has arrived so far is already bought and paid for.

The response to some of the new stock has been exceptional and I'd like to thank those that have supported us. This year we have mainly focused on Island Green, Stuburt, and Callaway - 3 different price points. However, if we don't have something that you are after we will certainly do our best to get it, and if we can't we will be upfront and let you know.

A big thank-you must go to some of our members for their help in the shop. Billy Wright and his Assistant (lol) Malcolm Bowden for all the painting, Gordon Dickson for supplying and fitting the new carpet tiles while being aided by Bert Robertson, and still to come, new blinds supplied and fitted by John Berry. Jim Bridges and his son are at present building a new desk which again will add to the look of the Shop. We thank you all.

Until next time, may all your drives be long and your putts short.

Craig

# JUNE FIXTURES

SEE THE CLUB WEBSITE FOR THE FULL FIXTURE LIST (ALL FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

**Tue 1:** Centenary Putter, SG medal, 9 hole stableford qualifier

**Wed 2:** Wednesday Medal 5

**Thu 3:** Lanarkshire Seniors' team match v. Cambuslang. Tee closed 11am – 12 noon)

**Sat 5:** June Medal

**Sun 6:** Hayes Trophy (open mixed greensome). Tee closed until 4.30pm approx. No Junior comps

**Tue 8:** Vice Captain's prize, S.G. Medal, 9 hole stableford.

**Tue 8:** Lanarkshire Seniors' team match v. Carnwath. Tee closed 11am – 12 noon.

**Wed 9:** Wednesday Medal 6

**Thu 10:** Seniors' Open. Tee closed until 4.30pm approx

Gents' team match v. Strathclyde Park (away)

**Fri 11:** Tinto ladies No. 3

**Sat 12:** Murray Trophy (strokeplay)

**Sun 13:** June Medals (all Junior groups)

**Mon 14:** Lanarkshire Seniors' team match v. Strathaven (away)

**Tue 15:** \*First round Ladies' Championship, Mauldslie Cup, Sunday Ladies' Cup & Forest Kirk Trophy, Copper Kettle, Lochleven Cup (medal final)

**Wed 16:** Wednesday Medal 7

**Thu 17:** Gents' team match v. Crow Wood. Tee closed 5pm – 6.30pm

**Fri 18:** Tinto ladies No. 4

**Sat 19:** Silloth Invitational (Gents' member + visitor) - tee closed until 4pm approx.

**Sun 20:** Russell Trophy No. 4

**Sun 20:** Ladies' SG medal (dual day)

**Sun 20:** Kerr Trophy – on the day draw (greensome) for Senior Boys, Junior Boys, Girls, Sills Competition (Juveniles)

**Mon 21:** Lanarkshire Seniors' playoff week (away), if section is won

**Tue 22:** Second round Ladies' Championships

**Wed 23:** Wednesday Medal 8

**Thu 24:** Gents' team match v. Shotts (away)

**Sat 26:** Vice Captain's prize

**Sat 26:** Vice Captain's Evening Event

**Sun 27:** Stableford (Senior boys, Junior boys, Girls), Strokeplay (Juveniles)

**Tue 29:** Third round Ladies' Championships

**Tue 29:** Eclectics round 1 - Juniors (tee off 12 noon)

**Wed 30:** Wednesday Medal 9

## CLUB SPONSORS

A huge thank-you to our sponsors for their continuing support!



**Taggarts**  
for you, for life



Leasing Services (Scotland) Ltd  
100 Carnwath Road, Carlisle ML8 4DP  
Telephone 07803197894  
E-Mail millburn100@gmail.com



## CLUB SPONSORS

A huge thank-you to our sponsors for their continuing support!



### Melvin Brothers Limited

Specialists in Fencing & Steel Fabrication

[www.melvin-brothers-limited.co.uk](http://www.melvin-brothers-limited.co.uk)

01698 887605



Your local Garage in Motherwell



Where possible please support our Sponsors!