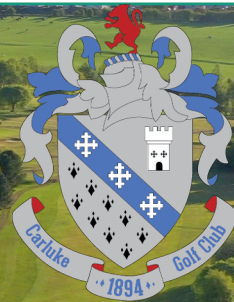


# CARLUKE GOLF CLUB

## NEWSLETTER



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### CAPTAINS BLOG



Hi Fellow Golfers,

It has been a busy May on the course and in the clubhouse and eventually we have seen a change in the weather. The Gent's Seniors Open Scramble and Ladies Open Greensome were both fantastic days and we received many compliments from visitors regarding the condition of the course.

It's now full steam ahead as the competitions come thick and fast with the Mixed Open Greensomes already played in early June and the Gent's Seniors Open, Invitational Silloth and the Ladies Championship coming up in the next few weeks. Good luck to all those that are playing and a massive thank-you to those involved in organising these competitions. A lot of work goes into making them a success and without the help of our members they would not be possible.

I have already mentioned the compliments received at our Open competitions regarding the excellent condition of the course but in addition many visiting parties and visiting teams have been extremely positive about what we have at Carluke. From the way that the course is presented by Andy and his team, to the refurbished clubhouse and the fantastic food and drink served by our catering and bar staff. We really do

have a club to be proud of.

Finally, a big thank-you to our catering team for organising many successful socials over the last couple of months. Not only does it bring members and guests together in a different setting from the course itself, but we have also raised a fantastic amount for the Clydesdale Food Bank and the Defibrillator Fund.

Good luck in all the upcoming competitions!

Captain Fraser



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## COURSE UPDATE

Hi folks.

Its been a strange old month with changes in weather, changes in staff and changes in course condition!!

The cold wet weather from the start of month has now given way to scorching hot sun and long dry days. Neither of these are ideal for the course but we have had some growth and the course in general is taking shape nicely. At this point I would like to assure everyone that we will do our utmost to get the course in as good condition as possible, but, due to staffing problems, which I will come on to, you may notice some areas a bit scruffier than normal. We would ask that everyone shows a little patience and understanding and we will get to everything in time.

Regarding our staff situation, one of the guys decided to leave 2 or 3 weeks ago - and just.....left, without giving notice or even telling us he was going. As a result of this we have welcomed George onto a full time position on the staff and are currently working feverishly trying to get him trained up on all the cutting equipment. Before there was any suggestion that we were going to be a man down, one of the guys asked for the last week in May off. I said, unknowingly, that would be fine and then, not only are we a man down, but we are also having to water greens and some tees daily, so that, with one gone and one on holiday, effectively leaves us three men down at times!!!

As I said we will crack on and do what we can and we are hoping to recruit an apprentice quite soon, which will obviously help as well.

A couple of people have offered their services on a voluntary basis, to help out doing bits here and there. This is much appreciated, but, I believe from the clubs insurance policy we are not able to accept these kind offers. As I said, we will battle on and get through this and get the course in the condition we have become accustomed to.

Just as a point of information, the scorched area at the front of the first green was a serious oil leak on one of the machines. I roped it off until it was completely dry to stop people walking it onto the green. The oil used in these machines is biodegradable so if anything, there will only be surface damage which a bit of scarifying and overseeding will sort.

Hopefully the good weather will last, with some rain at night, (or on a Tuesday, only kidding Ladies :)

Busy time coming up with open competitions and Ladies Championship so good luck to all competitors.

Hopefully next months newsletter will be more positive.

Until next time

Andy, Sammy, Gordon and George.

## TEAM UPDATES

Over the past month the team matches have been coming thick and fast with the season now in full swing. Details of the fixtures can be found via the fixtures list and your support would be very much appreciated if you can get along to watch the teams in action. In this month's Newsletter we get to hear from Craig MacNicol of the gents team below, and updates from the ladies and seniors teams.

### **Gents Team**

We are now in the midst of the men's team matches for the season, with a total of eight games to anticipate. Carluke Golf Club currently holds its position in the third division, alongside Larkhall, Bellshill, Bothwell Castle, and Wishaw.

To ensure flexibility throughout the season, we have assembled a pool of 16 players to choose from. This allows us to accommodate work commitments and holidays. The selection process involves considering handicaps, as well as reviewing scores from medals and current performance. Based on these factors, we decide on the top ten players and reserves for each week's match. Unfortunately, we cannot include all players every time, but we sincerely hope that everyone will continue to support their fellow teammates, even if not selected.

We experienced a slow start to the matches, narrowly losing our first game at home against Larkhall. The match took place on one of the coldest nights I can recall, with a strong easterly wind making it challenging for the home team. In the following week, we suffered another defeat away to Bothwell Castle, which is never an easy place to play. Three defeats have since followed at home to Wishaw, away to Bellshill and away to Larkhall.

Nevertheless, we remain optimistic and determined to achieve several victories going forward. The initial setbacks have presented us with a challenge, but we hope we can pick up some points out of the remaining league games.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Andy and his team for their exceptional course preparation and pin placements. Our course has received praise for its superior condition compared to others we have played on thus far.

I also want to express a big thank you to Baber and Fiona for ensuring that we are well-fed after our matches, even when they extend late into the evening.

Lastly, I invite anyone who is interested to come and support our team, whether it's at our home matches or away games.

Best regards,

Craig MacNicol



## TEAM UPDATES CONTINUED

### Ladies Team

The ladies played their first game of the new season with a tricky away tie against Drumpellier on the 11th May with the team halving their match, which was a great result. The next game was against Strathaven on Monday 22nd May with the match ending in defeat.

To all the ladies playing good luck and enjoy your game.

### Gents Seniors Team

The Gents Seniors (over 55's) team began their season with a tough trip away to Colville Park and suffered a tight 3-2 loss. However, fortunes would soon turnaround with three wins on the bounce with an away victory at Torrance House and two home victories against Kirkhill and Torrance Park with the latter being a convincing 4.5 to 0.5 victory which puts the team in with a great chance of qualifying for the semi finals from the current section of the draw.

It's been a difficult job picking the team for team captain Whitey Moffat with many players being in great form and he thanks all involved for their support/positive reaction.

## PRO SHOP NEWS

With the season now in full swing it's been a pretty busy time at the club. The weather has been stunning as of late the course is in fabulous condition although it is now needing a bit of a drink, hard to believe when a month ago we were on preferred lies.

With a bit of help in the shop from Colin McCaskill and the Wilson brothers it should free me up a bit to play and do a bit of teaching. It's been pretty frustrating time nursing a shoulder problem however, I have been able to play a bit. I visited Stirling for the annual Tartan Tour event and was level par for the two rounds which had me well down the pack but there was a lot of rust and there was also some good stuff.

Next up was a pro am at Dumfries, a chilly blustery day sent the scores soaring, however, I was able to register my first top ten this year.

Also there was a trip down to Celtic Manor where a new tour has surfaced where pros, amateurs, lady pros and lady amateurs all compete together, it's very competitive and a lot of fantastic courses to be visited this year, check it out [www.Europeanplayerstour.com](http://www.Europeanplayerstour.com) so hopefully back into some competitive golf in the coming months.

Until next time keep em straight.

Craig.





## HISTORY OF THE CLUB - PART 3

Still in the late 1940's, a new water pipe of 600 yards was laid from Scoularhall to the clubhouse with volunteers digging the ditch on their time off at the weekends. Back then the course was closed on a Sunday, however, a special general meeting was held which resulted in the course being open for play on Sunday's. At the beginning very few members took advantage of this new found freedom.

At this time the club would enter into negotiations with Coltness Iron Company to purchase the course with Coltness offering the land to be acquired for £1,000, however, with the club only having £100 in the bank the purchase was not a viable option. The land was eventually purchased by a farmer from Strathaven and he agreed a 15 year lease with the golf club at £60 per annum. Hallcraig Brick Work ceased their business operation and relocated elsewhere. With all of the uncertainty of the leasing of the course together with the club's difficult financial position over the years it was decided to initiate a capital fund for the eventual purchase of the course.

In 1948 the monthly medal competition was introduced for the first time in its present form. The following year the club was granted its first alcohol license as the club looked to generate revenue from other sources. A small bar was commissioned in the clubhouse with an estimated cost of £14 which was built by members and the visitors book was introduced as a necessity to comply with the licensing regulations. Wines and spirits were kept in the old brick works power house for security reasons when the clubhouse was not open.

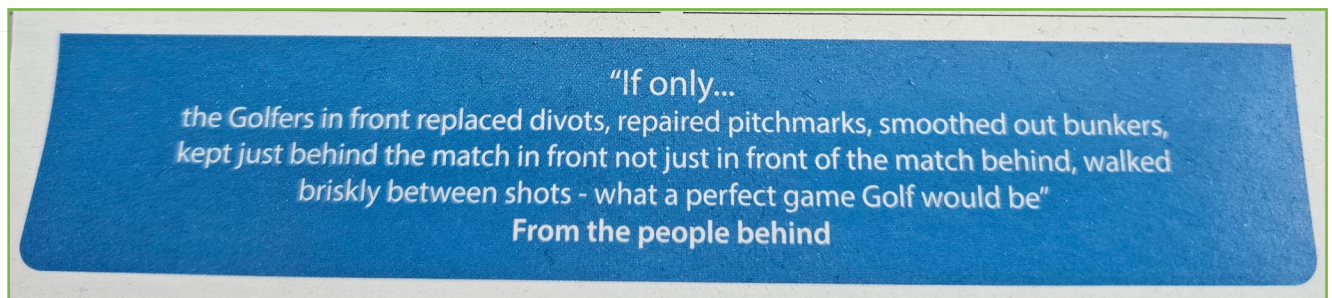
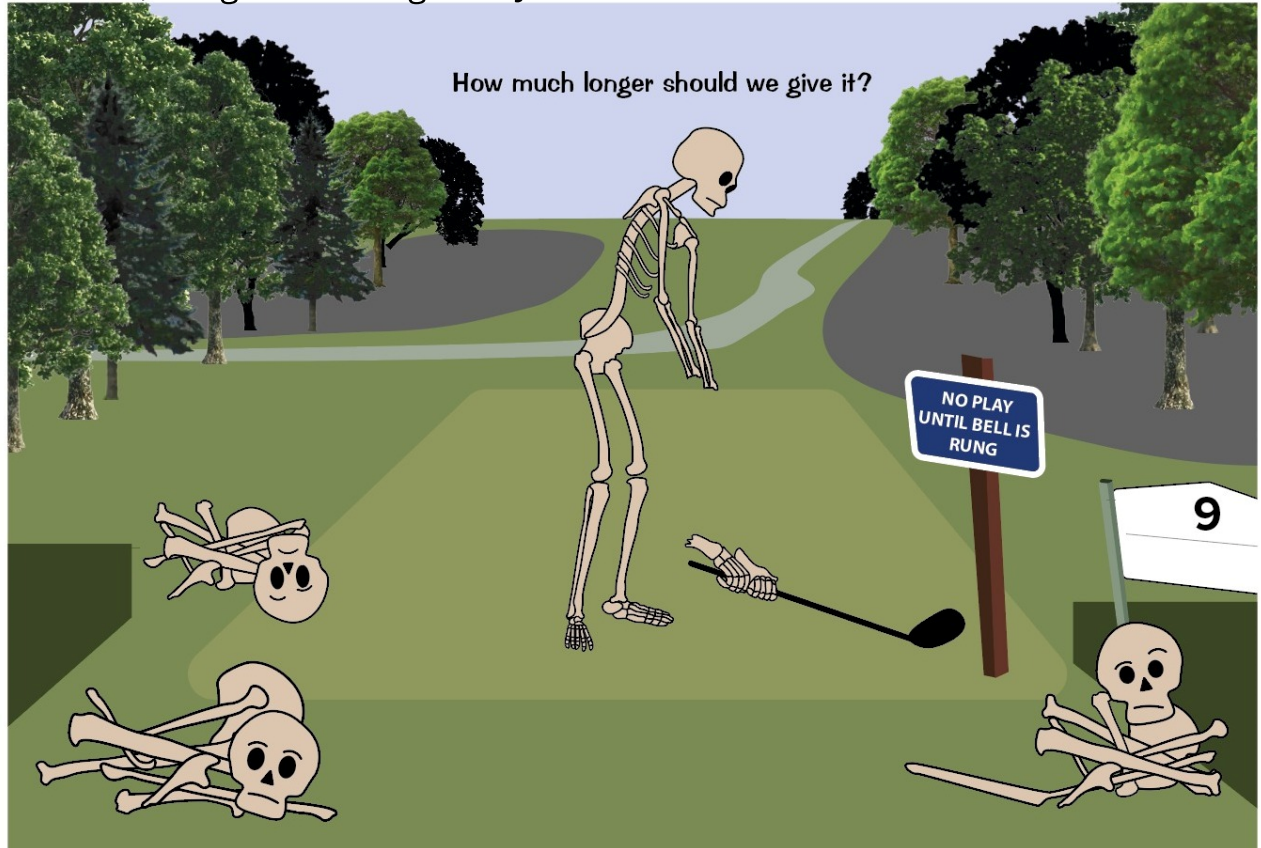
Around this time the greenkeeper was in charge of selling golf balls which was an add-on to his greenkeeping salary.

In the year of 1950 gas lighting was first installed in the clubhouse at a cost of £35. Members were required to use surplus materials to make flags for the greens. Further proposals of medals that are still played today, Captains Prize and Vice Captains Prize were introduced for the first time.

In the year of 1958, with the ongoing issues of the ownership of the land containing the golf course, Lanark County Council purchased the land with the club's lease being renewed.

## MEMBER'S PHOTOS

Based on an idea from club member, Jack Thomson, this drawing has been produced by Rebecca Russell, daughter of long time Jock Russell.



Pictured above is a quote from a scorecard at Cruden Bay Golf Club which was sent in. We're sure many people will resonate with.

Pictured left is Annyse Ewing who won the Honorary President's prize with the prize being presented by the Honorary President and Club Secretary, Gavin White.

If anyone has any art or any funny golfing pictures from over the years please feel free to send into the club and we will endeavour to include in future newsletters.