

CARLUKE GOLF CLUB

NEWSLETTER



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CAPTAINS BLOG



Fellow Members,

Another busy month for the club and a very successful one.

Congratulations to all the class winners in our club championship and in particular to Lloyd Haddow on winning the scratch championship. It was an exciting finish right to the 72nd hole and over four hard fought rounds, he was a deserving winner. It was great to see the clubhouse full for the prize giving and to see so

many members on course for the closing holes. Lloyd also managed to win the Walker Rosebowl - definitely on a hot streak at the moment. A fantastic double.

Congratulations also to our Junior champions, Charlie Barnstaple and Abbie Barnstaple.

I would like to make a special mention for Jim Robertson and Dougie Walker who spent many hours in August at the club to ensure the championship and other events ran smoothly. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

It was an honour to be invited to Past Captains Day and meet some of our previous Captains that no longer play golf. A fantastic tradition within our club and very well organised by Past Captain Eric Barr. Congratulations to this year's winner, Jim Fordyce.

The course has been in fantastic condition for all of the tournaments played this month, as it has been all year. Thanks once again to Andy and the greens staff.

We are in the process of working with Andy on a 5 year plan for replacement of course machinery etc. as we need to ensure the excellent course conditions of the last few years are maintained. Hopefully each year we have sufficient money to upgrade or replace as required and we have already committed to some items for replacement this year - more to follow on this next month.

Hopefully you will all have noticed the most recent clubhouse upgrade with the much needed replacement of the front door! Not only does this help with security but also improves the first impressions of our club.

Regards,

Captain Fraser



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COURSE UPDATE

Hello all,

Well, I did ask for some decent weather before the end of the season, and we are now in a lovely spell of warm, sunny weather, so someone must be listening! That being the case, could I have the six numbers for next Saturday's lotto, please. Lol

As I said in my last newsletter piece, August was a very busy month. Golfwise, we had a new Club Champion - congratulations to Lloyd for beating the rest of the field, (and the weather in the first week!!) and to all the other winners.

We had a couple of close calls where we almost had to cancel the 1st round of the Championship, and the Rose Bowl, but between the greens drying out in between showers, and some valiant squeegeeing from our volunteers, we managed to get everything played.

It was a busy month from the greenkeeping side, as well as the golf, but that was down mainly to having a horrendous run of bad luck with breakdowns. Both our fairway mower and our rough mower had pretty serious breakdowns, which kept them off the course for a time (the rough mower is still idle as we are waiting on a spare part and we are using a demo machine which is trailed behind the tractor). There is never a good time for this kind of thing to happen, but August, at Carluke, with plenty of heat and moisture, is without doubt, the worst time it could have happened.

Fortunately, we had sprayed the rough with a growth regulator, which helped to keep it under control.

While we are on the subject of greenkeeping matters, I have provisionally booked the machine in to hollow core the greens for later this month, (week commencing the 18th). Getting this done while there is still a bit of heat in the ground and growth in the plant, allows for a speedier recovery and smoother surfaces. There will obviously be some disruption to play during this week with the initial coring and clearing up, followed by sand filling of the holes and brushing and rolling. This will mean the use of temporary greens while the normal green is being worked on, but, as usual, we will endeavour to keep disruption to a minimum. However, if the weather is on our side, the greens should be fine for the following weekend.

Here's hoping our "Indian Summer" continues for a wee while yet and we can enjoy some golf in the Autumn sunshine.

Looking forward to the Committee outing this Friday to Largs, hopefully the weather holds out for us and some good golf is played.

Can't believe that the next one of these I do, it will be almost Closing Day!!!!

Until next time...

Andy, Sammy, Gordon, George and JJ.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The Club Championship reached a climax on Sunday 21st August with Lloyd Haddow coming out on top to lift the Colville Cup and join the list of previous winners that have graced the honours boards at Carluke Golf Club. Played over 4 rounds and starting 2 weeks prior on a very wet Saturday which saw play suspended for an hour, the Club Championship went down to the very last hole with Lloyd and Euan MacNicol both level going on to the 18th tee, however, a par was enough to seal victory for the new champion. It was a see saw battle between the pair with Lloyd leading by 5 going into the third round then Euan producing a wonderful 72 in very blustery Saturday conditions to give him a 3 shot lead going into the final round.

The final round would continue the see saw theme with a nervy finish at 16, 17 and 18 where the title swung one way and another with Euan taking a 5 at 16 to give Lloyd a 2 shot lead with 2 to play, but Lloyd would find trouble at 17, unluckily, going out of bounds with his approach to the green. With Euan teeing off first at 18, with the scores tied, the windy conditions pushed his tee shot out of bounds which opened the door for Lloyd and he duly obliged with a solid par to bring home the win.

We caught up with Lloyd after his win to get his thoughts and find out what has made him a well deserved Club Champion. Unlike many that spend hours practicing, Lloyd is quite the opposite and he said, "I don't practice, I don't go to the driving range and have never had a lesson, I just go down and play. Getting out on the golf course is 3 or 4 hours where you don't need to worry about life and enjoy yourself."

Lloyd was known for his footballing skills forging a career in the lower leagues of Scottish football where he played with Stenhousemuir, Berwick Rangers and Alloa after starting out at Motherwell as a youngster. With little time to play golf other than a few times a year, he played more regularly following his retirement and joined Carluke in 2009. Asked if he was nervous about the prospect of becoming Club Champion, he said "I was never nervous at any point, I've played football in front of 40,000 and 50,000 people and work with 33,000 volts on a daily basis, that's when the nerves can kick in."

On the preceeding Sunday to the Club Championship finale Lloyd was also victorious in the Walker Rosebowl with a 69 securing him victory on the day. Asked about the success, Lloyd said "I don't think anything further than the next shot and take each shot at a time without worrying what has gone before or what may come after. Hit it and git it is how I play." After 16 consecutive pars, a birdie on 17 and a par at 18 signed off a textbook round to lift the Walker Rosebowl.

Despite admitting that there are better players at the club, Lloyd has put his recent success down to his mindset. Instead of going pin hunting like many of us do, Lloyd is happy to find the middle of the green and when he differed from this approach on the 17th of the final round of the Championship it could have been costly as the ball would go out of bounds. Lloyd said, "I tried to put it close with the first one because I knew if I did then the win would almost be mine. I went for the pin which I never do but with the second ball I was just thinking of hitting the green." Lloyd also credited his victory to just going out and enjoying the game, and was helped on the final day with close friend Frazer Young who caddied for him.

In the handicap categories the winners were Jamie Thomson who lifted the James Anderson trophy for the first class, Stewart Greacen winner of the Gazette Cup in second class and taking home the Gardiner and Laverick trophy in third class was John Moore. Congratulations to all of the winners.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP



JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

As Carluke golf club junior convenor I am very proud to announce our junior club championship winners.

Charlie Barnstaple becoming our new Junior club champion.

Abbie Barnstaple becoming our new Junior girls champion.

A big thank you to all members and parents who helped make our championship a great success and a special well done to all junior participants.

Colin Merriweather



HISTORY OF THE CLUB - PART 6

The early 1990's would see some changes to the course with 4 new bunkers put in place at the 9th hole and the troublesome 11th green completely lifted to be replaced with turf from the 6th fairway. Further bunker work was carried out with new ones added at the second hole with the bunkers at the 3rd and 8th hole being remodelled. A boundary fence was also erected from the 12th green to the 17th green.

Andy Colquhoun was appointed the club's first course manager in 1993 and 30 years later he remains the course manager at Carluke.

In 1994 the club would celebrate its Centenary Year having formed 100 years earlier in 1894.

The Centenary celebrations were planned long in advance with the initial Centenary committee (see picture below of the centenary committee) formed in January 1992 and the centenary year got properly underway with the Centenary Quaich played for on 1 January 1994 with 49 hardly souls in attendance on a frosty New Years Day.

At the 1994 Opening Ceremony the club captain would tee off with an 1894 driver and gutty ball. The club would hold a golf festival during July with 7 events taking place over 8 days with over 400 competitors taking part. Other highlights of the centenary year included the centenary match against Drumpellier Golf Club which would see 50 members from each club playing at each venue.

