

Dumbarton Golf Club Newsletter

www.dumbartongolfclub.co.uk

July 2010

If you've received this newsletter by post instead of e-mail, but have an e-mail address, could you pass it to the Secretary please. We're continuing to post out hard copies this time, but in future it is our intention to send the newsletter out entirely by e-mail and the website, and have hard copies available in the Clubhouse for others to see.

Please, please pass on your e-mail address to the Secretary .

(secretary@dumbartongolfclub.co.uk).

The Pro Shop

May and June were great months with the sun shining and lots of happy golfers came and went through the doors of the Pro Shop. The new Club Sweaters and Polo Shirts arrived and look fantastic. David has moved supplier from Lyle and Scott to Glenbrae in an attempt to keep prices as keen as possible without compromising on quality. The Stromberg trousers are the must-have item this season and sales of these, at the lowest price around, have been going well. Junior coaching has taken place with both male and females as we look to build our reputation as a Club which is forward thinking. Motocaddy trolleys have received excellent feedback and all members who have purchased them speak very highly of the product. They must be good, as David has been spotted on the course using one. The Pro Shop Price Match remains and there have been many happy customers availing themselves of this service with the cheapest prices in the area being achieved. As always, David and his staff welcome any feedback you may have.

Catering

Coming Up with da Franco!

Ben and Margaret will be continuing with their very successful carveries and the dates for the next few are:-

25th August, 19th September and 21st November.

If you fancy a change and experimenting with some new culinary delights, Ben and Margaret will be having some themed restaurant nights.

Italian Night	11th September
Mexican Night	16th October
Curry Night	13th November

As mentioned in the Social Section, da Franco will be providing food on the evenings of the cabarets between **5.30pm and 7.30pm.**

Christmas Lunches

I KNOW it's too early but to keep you in the loop, Christmas lunches will be starting on 6th December and we will be having a **Party Night on 17th December**. This would be an excellent evening for your work night out!!!

More information on the Christmas Day menu will be posted on the noticeboard and on the website in August! And why not finish the year off in style at our Hogmanay party with an excellent Scottish themed buffet!

Membership

We've introduced a Friends and Family scheme to incentivise members to encourage friends of family to join the Club. Details are posted on the notice board and on the website, but basically, if you introduce a new Ordinary Member, we'll put £30 on your bar card. There are different options of paying fees, and a popular choice is Fairway Credit, which allows members to pay for their fees in monthly instalments. This option is not only available for new members, but existing ones who pay in two instalments who wish to change to this when their fees are due should speak to the Secretary. As well as being a convenient way to pay your fees, it actually helps the Club as well, since we get the total amount of your fees from the Credit company as soon as you make your first payment, which is obviously useful from a cash flow point of view. Please think about it. Also, please be aware that if it is your intention not to renew your membership, you **MUST** inform the Secretary in writing **BEFORE** the AGM (usually early February). Members who do not notify their resignation before the AGM are liable to pay their fees for the following year.

Competitions

As usual our Opens held in the second week in June were a huge success. The first was the Gents Open, The Gordon Shield, which took place on a sunny but windy Saturday in June. The conditions didn't stop some remarkable scores being posted. The first player out on the day was our own Neil Roache, who set a high standard by returning a nett 65. The score looked unlikely to be beaten as competitors battled against the wind. However, the very last player out on the day was Mark Gallacher, who was a member of the greens staff at Dumbarton until recently. Mark, from the Vale of Leven, returned a magnificent nett 63, to pip Neil at the post. The winner of the scratch prize was Eamon McElroy with 69 blows. Clearly the boys have been taking heed of their mentor's advice! Well done! On Sunday 13th, the Mixed Open was another well attended event and was won by Dumbarton couple Ronnie Taylor and Josephine Monaghan with a remarkable 65, and the scratch prize went to Lorraine and Iain Campbell of Cardross who had 71 gross. Our third Open was the Seniors Open, held on Tuesday 15th June and the winner with an outstanding score of 62 was Pat Friel. Congratulations to all the winners. The Juniors Open is being held on Monday 9th August.

Further congratulations are due to our McIntyre team, who have won the league. A fantastic achievement in the year when Dumbarton is the host club.

Our Social convener has been working hard to involve members in team matches. John first of all challenged a team from the Seniors Section to play against his own team, and the result was a defeat for John's team. Next he decided to challenge the Ladies to a

match, clearly confident of a successful outcome. Unfortunately the result of this match was that John again suffered a narrow defeat of five games to one. Well done the girls!! After his third defeat when he challenged his green team to play the blue team, it looked as if he may have to resign from his captancy. However, we have it on good authority that he's keen to battle on! The Juniors are next and we await with bated breath the result of this match. The matches have been immense fun for everyone whether playing or not, and certainly a few barriers have been removed, which can only be good for the Club.

Questionnaire

As you will be aware, we asked for your opinions via a questionnaire recently. We had a good response rate, and we certainly did receive your varied opinions! Thank you to all who took the time to complete the questionnaire, it gives the Committee a purpose, and is helping us prioritise the things which the members think are important. It is encouraging to see that there are things which most of you feel we do well, and there are obviously areas where we need to improve. The committee will be discussing the results in detail and will form an Action Plan to address issues you've highlighted. More information about how things are progressing with this will be coming out in the next Newsletter in September /October.

Clubhouse

New Entrance

We are continuing with our plans to build an impressive new entrance and the funds being raised from the Quiz are being allocated towards this vital project. Planning is well underway and we hope to see progress very shortly. It is our intention to create a permanent, impressive entrance that all members can be proud of. We want to create a lasting impression in the minds of all golfers who come to Dumbarton.

In addition to this, the attractive new Tee Signs have arrived and will be going up over the next couple of weeks. These are very impressive and will bring a touch of class to every teeing area. The signs will have information on hole layout and teeing distances. The new club sponsors will be clearly visible on each sign. They are made of the highest quality materials and will look sensational.

Website/Facebook

Our Facebook site has been getting more and more friends and if you haven't set your Facebook account up yet, you are missing out on info updates and great fun with feedback and comments from members on all Club topics. If you need any help on setting up an account, please get in touch and we will talk you through it. If you are on Facebook, let us hear some of your thoughts and share some of your pics. The more we use this, the more popular and informative it will get.

The website is also brimming with new info and all things Dumbarton GC. We have links to our very special sponsors and all sorts of information on course layout, green fees etc. We would love to hear your feedback on this as we are constantly looking for ways to improve our services.

The Social Scene

We already have a few dates for your diaries as our Fabulous Cabaret Season approaches! We have secured the talents of some superb acts and at present we can confirm the following tribute acts:-

Cabaret 4th September Freddie Mercury

Cabaret 9th October Rod Stewart

These acts come highly recommended and we anticipate a good turnout on these nights so again get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

The Quiz nights have continued to be a success however we plan to schedule these appropriately given the hectic events program that will be happening soon. August 20th has been marked in for the next one and the prize pot is back at £300!!! Remember to get tickets early as we have been full to capacity so far!!

We have also enjoyed another successful Dumbarton's Got Talent and we must stress that the Rod Stewart tribute act we have booked for October IS NOT Joe McPhilemy!! Thanks to all the acts that took part and to the members who supported the evening.

The Course

We've had a number of visiting parties at Dumbarton this year, which is a great boost to our income, both in terms of supporting the caterers, but also in money being spent at the bar, not to mention the income from Green Fees. Please be patient on days when there are visiting parties, and appreciate the fact that they are bringing in much needed revenue.

Next Newsletter Procedure

In an attempt to keep our costs down and also to free up some administrative time, we will be changing the way newsletters will be distributed from now on. We are currently creating an online magazine with all the usual info but in glorious Technicolor! It will have links to different sites to give you more information about the Club and golf in general. This will also allow us to add photos and graphics. For those with no internet access, we will continue to print newsletters however rather than post them out, we will make them available from the clubhouse so make sure you get yours.

Tommy Robertson

It is with sadness that we report the passing of a long established member, Tommy Robertson. Tommy was a life member of the club, and a regular player until quite recently. Our sympathies are passed on to Tommy's wife Evelyn and family.

And finally...

We are delighted to announce that the course record has been broken. Eamon McElroy played in the July Medal on Saturday 17th July and scored an incredible 62 scratch. Well done, Eamon!