



MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

As we enter a new golfing season, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone every success for 2008 and especially to all those members who will be representing the club in the various competitions. It is an honour for me to be your Captain and I will work tirelessly and to the best of my ability for the good of Ballyclare Golf Club and the entire membership.

Jim Crooks

Captain

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on 18 March 2008 with over 120 members in attendance. A note of the meeting will shortly be posted for all members to see. One of the issues raised and which will be addressed immediately is the need to survey members on their views on the condition and presentation of the course and to give them the opportunity to make constructive comments. Survey forms are available in the Pro Shop – please complete and put them in the box provided in the Pro Shop or the card return box outside if the shop is not open – it is your chance to help make a difference.

There has been a change in Council membership and allocation of Convenor's duties so you will want to take note of the right person to contact if you have any concerns or constructive suggestions to make in relation to their areas of responsibility. Membership of Council is now as follows:-

Captain Sam Maxwell	Jim Crooks	Match & Handicap	Convenor
Vice- Captain Millar	John McAllister	Public Relations	Convenor Billy
President	Morris McCollam	Greens Convenor	David Brady
Past Captain	Bobby Thompson	Juvenile Convenor	Terry Dunlop
Hon Secretary Addley	Bobby Thompson	Catering Convenor	David
Asst Hon Secretary Dodds	Jim Harvey	Bar Convenor	Bobby
Hon Treasurer	Tom Henry	House Convenor	David Lyness
Asst Hon Treasurer Moore	John Marks	Development Convenor	John
Secretary Manager Larry Heaney	Michael Stone	Social Convenor	

Ladies Section – We would like to wish our ladies section all success for 2008 and assure you of the continued close co-operation with the lady membership throughout the year. We would like to extend best wishes to Lady Captain Cheryl Donaldson, Vice-Captain Margaret Graydon for a successful year and to Lady Secretary Susan Mairs to whom you can turn if you need any help or advice.

New Members

Since the autumn newsletter was issued we welcome the following new members.

Full – Colin McGookin, James Procter, Kenneth Montgomery, Rod Boyd, David Mildenhall, Art Adams, Steven Ashcroft and Philip Campbell.

Lady – Linda O'Neill and Claire Caulfield

Juvenile – Stuart Gilmore, Sarah Gilmore, Jonathan Moore, Patrick Reid, Harry Reid, Gareth Weir, Bradley Cahill, Scott Barr, Mark Campbell and Emma Caulfield.

House – Darren Fleck, Jamie Hamill, Tom Brown, Ken Kirkwood, David McClelland and Doris Heaslip

At the time of writing we still have vacancies for about 25 more full members and like most other clubs we have temporarily suspended the joining fee to help us bring our membership back up to the 480 maximum.

Urgent Priorities

Subject to available resources, we hope to make early progress in effecting urgent roof repairs, refurbishment of the toilet areas and construction of the driving range. As other funding permits further internal refurbishment is planned on a phased basis. We would be glad to hear from any members who is willing to volunteer their time and expert skills to help us minimise costs of this work – some have already done so and we are grateful to them for their unselfishness and effort.

Facilities for Juvenile Members

The Lindsay Baird Bursary Committee headed up by Jimmy McCullough and his Committee are doing excellent work which will benefit all our boys and girls and ultimately the Club in the longer term. Not only have they a very proactive fund raising programme but equally a very proactive spending programme. You can read more about their work on the notice board in the rear entrance area. If any member would like to help sponsor the main fund raising day on 17 August 2008, please contact Jimmy, Jane Harvey or Colin Lyttle. Recently the old trolley room has been converted to give the kids extra room and to enable them to have direct access to their own area from outside and so avoid having to walk dirt through the entrance area. We are especially indebted to Brian Craig (sen) and Billy Hinton for turning this recent suggestion in to reality in such a short space of time.

Competitions

Our Fred Daly team tee off this Sunday (13 April) at 3.30pm against Banbridge at Ballyclare – come along and give them your support to help get them off to a winning start. The return leg is at Banbridge on Sunday 20 April (tee off 2.30) – good luck boys. The regular juvenile competitions start again on Tuesday 24 June at 9.30. These competitions are open to both boys and girls who have an official handicap. To obtain a handicap, submit three 18 hole cards, signed by a member with a handicap, to Terry Dunlop via the Pro Shop.

The weekly Wednesday Pro Hat competition is back by popular demand – the first competition was held on 9 April.

Website

Don't forget to keep an eye on the club website www.Ballyclaregolfclub.net – this is being updated on a continuous basis by Neil Irwin.

Equipment

All members should by now be using their new conforming drivers when playing in all Club competitions. Colin will be hosting demo days on the practice area in April when you can try out the latest clubs on the market and then buy them from him. His new stock of 2008 golf wear is arriving by the day – remember Father's Day on 15 June – Colin will give you a great deal on a suitable present for these important events or at any other time.

MISSING PERSONS

Can any one help our Past President Hugh Jamieson complete the Past Captains' montage boards which are displayed upstairs between the Restaurant and main function hall. He is missing a photograph of JT Smith (1925) who we understand was a former manager of the Ulster Bank in Ballyclare and formerly from Coleraine. On the ladies side we are missing photographs of Mrs Cunningham (1925) who was previously associated with the Blue House in the town, Mrs HC Scott (1927) whose husband was a local solicitor and Mrs E Byrne (1937) who may also have been associated with banking in Ballyclare. If any members know anything about these former members (some of you might well have been around at that time) or their current families, Hugh (or any member of the office staff) would be glad to hear from you so that he can follow up on leads.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

In an effort to get information to members quicker and more efficiently, Colin our Professional and Secretary Manager will be compiling a group email address list of as many members as possible so that you can be sent relevant information on an ongoing basis. If you want to be included leave your email address with Colin over the next few weeks when you sign in for golf, or with Michael or Angela in the office.

Finally – all success to everyone in 2008 – if you can't be good be lucky but most of all enjoy yourselves.