

Captain's Newsletter April 2021

I trust you and your families are all well and that the clubs are dusted down in readiness for the forthcoming season.

Finally, after our enforced shutdown, it looks like competitive golf is set to return and the 2021 tournaments will get underway with the President's Cup at Ladybank G.C. on the 20th & 21st of May.

Despite everyone's concerns regarding Covid 19, entries are nearing the maximum for this tournament and are increasing daily for the following events showing there is certainly an appetite for a return to competitive play. Further updates will be published on our website under latest news, in the coming weeks.

The Committee have increased the prize funds for this year's events. Look out for a few new first tee additions which hopefully will give a little extra comfort, over what is an extremely long day, to our main starter David Terrey, as well as adding a bit more professionalism to our tournaments.

As you may be aware from the fixture list, we have 4 new sponsors for our regional events and I am sure you will give them all a warm welcome and I hope you will find any presentations they have at these venues of interest.

Regarding tournament administration Scottish Golf Ltd. have discontinued use of the GolfBox system. We are currently in discussion with S.G.L. regarding access to their own VMS system and can only hope we will have full use of this system confirmed before our first event. We have been assured that this system will provide all the functions experienced with GolfBox coupled with added benefits and we trust there can be a smooth transition between these systems.

We are also in the process of updating and enhancing our Website. The planned improvements will allow members to complete and submit entry forms online without need of printing off paper forms, as well as a chat room to allow improved internal communications between members etc.

S.G.L. have also confirmed that they will be supporting the entry of the Scottish Senior International Team for both the Home Internationals and European Team Championships in 2021

This can only be good news for golf at senior level following withdrawal of full backing in 2019. This meant that the Team had to raise their own sponsorship to ensure participation in these events. Ronnie Clark, in his role as Team Captain, has had an approach from a further potential sponsor offering support in the form of additional kit. A welcome bonus to Ronnie and his team and we wish them every success in both these forthcoming tournaments.

It is with great regret that I must inform you that Gordon MacDonald has resigned from his position as Honorary President of the S.S.G.S.

The Society is ever evolving, however Gordon found himself at odds with several decisions reached by the Committee over the past year and felt he had no option but to resign his post.

The S.S.G.S. was Gordon's brainchild and without his vision and unstinting effort The Society would not be in existence today and for this all members, both past and present, are indebted to Gordon. He brought continuity to Committee in his role as Honorary President and his forthright views and opinions will be sorely missed.

He intends to continue competing in S.S.G.S. events and I'm sure he will continue to contribute from the side lines.

It is also with regret that the Committee have accepted the resignation, for personal reasons, of Neish Chisholm. Neish has represented the North Area for several years and again his hard work and sage input will be greatly missed.

Provided there are no further setbacks on the path out of lockdown, I look forward to meeting with all the well kent faces at Ladybank G.C. next month along with many new members, of which there have been a large number over the past 12 months despite the lack of competitive golf.

Stay safe and keep those swings well oiled.

Keith Ross.

Captain.

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