

### **SSGS Matchplay Championship 2017 – Alyth Golf Club**

The Alyth course was closed on the Sunday before our Championship started due to flooding, but we were lucky to have good weather for all five days of the Championship. The course was in excellent condition, and although not long, the tricky greens make scoring difficult. Nick Robson (Meldrum House) led the qualifiers with a 3 under par total of 137 (67, 70), with David Logie (Craigie Hill) second on 141. The qualifying cut for the top 32 players came at 157.

After two days of match-play we were left with Nick Robson (Meldrum House), Robert Smith (Nairn), John Fraser (Royal Burgess) and Phil Dempsey (Tulliallan) in the semi-finals.

Nick looked to be in control of his match against Robert, and was two up with two to play. However, Robert produced a miraculous pitch to save par at the 17<sup>th</sup> and reduce the deficit to one, and then won the 18<sup>th</sup> as well. Nick squeezed through at the first extra hole thanks to Robert leaving himself an almost impossible two-putt from the back of the green.

Phil was perhaps a surprise name in the semi-final line up but he had earlier beaten Graham Bell (Downfield) in the quarter final. He made it through to the final with a comfortable 5 & 3 win over John Fraser. John was gracious in defeat, saying that he had played well, but that Phil had played much better and deserved his win.

In the final, Nick covered the first five holes in 2 under par and was three up. Phil had a very unlucky bounce off a sprinkler head and into a bunker at the 8<sup>th</sup> to lose the hole and go four down. However, he won the next two holes in par before losing the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to allow Nick to restore his four hole advantage. Phil reduced the deficit to three by winning the 13<sup>th</sup>, but Nick secured victory by finding the green in two at the par five 16<sup>th</sup> to win by a margin of 4 & 2.

### **SSGS Super Seniors Matchplay Championship 2017**

The Super Seniors Matchplay championship was also played at Alyth and the top 8 net aggregate scores qualified for the matchplay stages. The leading qualifiers were William Jenkins (Eastwood) and John Scott (Grange) on 143, and the qualifying cut came at 146.

Both the leading qualifiers were knocked out in the first round of matches. In the semi-finals Andrew Laird (Deeside) beat George Rodaks (Pitreavie) by 2 holes, and Peter Kinloch (Cardross) beat Lindsay Clark (Edzell) by 2 & 1.

Peter led the final early on by holing a 20 foot putt for a birdie at the 5<sup>th</sup>, and a 15 footer for par at the 6<sup>th</sup> to go 2 up. Andrew battled back and won the 11<sup>th</sup> after Peter found some trouble in the trees, and he also won the 13<sup>th</sup> to square the match. Peter holed another good putt to birdie the 16<sup>th</sup> and go one up. He then had a par 3 at the difficult 17<sup>th</sup> which gave him a 2 & 1 victory. Both finalists are over 70 years of age and played very well on what was their fifth consecutive day of competitive lay – well done to both of them.