



County & City Club

March 2011

RePortaGes

Captain's Table:

This is the first edition of the Club's Newsletter which is intended to add to our communications with members. I would particularly like to thank David Begbie, who has volunteered to be Editor of the Newsletter.

I am approaching the end of my two years as Captain during which time the major achievement has been the completion of the top floor renovation. Although the use of the bedrooms has been disappointing, I am sure that the expenditure has been fully justified, with the quality of the furnishings supervised by Bill Beaton being superb.

The financial situation of the Club is satisfactory although the reserves are much lower than previously due to the expenditure on the bedrooms. With the current level of membership, and usage, the Club runs at just about break-even. We have two major sources of income. Firstly, what members spend in the club, and secondly, subscriptions.

Arranged events are well supported, such as Sunday lunches, the Wine Tasting evenings and the Quiz night. However, there is plenty of capacity for other events, but each one requires one or two members to take on the organising requirements. The Council is open to suggestions from members and will give full support to those who are prepared to organise events. The Club is also an excellent location to have private parties. Eric and June are always happy to discuss the specific requirements.

Over the last few years the club membership has stayed at just over the 200 level with new members being balanced by resignations. New members are always welcome, subscriptions go virtually straight to the bottom line, and additional usage

increases income. Members are encouraged to invite their friends and colleagues to sample the excellent facilities on offer.

Enjoy reading the Newsletter. Any suggestions or items you would like to include, I am sure that David would be happy to hear from you.

Captain - Peter Everett.

Editor's Desk:

My intention is to start small and endeavour not to shrink. Quarterly, sounds right, emailed to members, and posted on the website. The primary task of this first edition has been battling with the technical ins and outs of structuring the document. How do Headers work? What format will download best (.doc or .pdf?). How well will pictures insert (in the next edition)? Will format be lost in printing? etc. We are still in the experimental stage. Hence the two stage download procedure to de-couple the header.

The newsletter name is an inspiration from my able assistant Willy Coggans. Willy joined the Club recently and has offered his services. In time, and costs permitting, we may have printed versions available, perhaps even to compete with the rather more glamorous affairs published by some of our reciprocal clubs.

For the avoidance of doubt Willy and I are novices to this discipline, but with time on our hands and the odd grey cell remaining.

David Begbie - Editor
(davidbegbie@btinternet.com)

Secretary's Slot:

It is important to keep an eye on membership numbers as members are the lifeblood of our Club. When I took over as Secretary all those years ago last century (1997) our membership was 189. It reached 200 at the millennium. It stands today at 208. In between times it has fluctuated considerably, reaching a peak of 228 in 2008 and 2009. Only 75 of those who were members in 1997 are still members, so there has been a considerable turnover in this period, we must continue to introduce new members to ensure the viability of the Club. Please look around among your friends and acquaintances (and family too) to see if any could benefit from the delights of membership.

The next printed List of Members will be issued to all members in June. This will be just after the new Captain and Vice Captain and Council members have been voted into office at the Spring General Meeting.

Incidentally this Meeting will be on Friday 27th May - not 20th May as stated in our Calendar. All members will of course receive notice of the Agenda nearer the time.

The new List of Members will contain, where appropriate, the name of the spouse or partner of each member. If you wish this name to be inserted, and you have not yet told me the name, please do so right away. The easiest way to make contact nowadays is via e-mail.

Apart from the golf events taking place throughout the next few months there are other Club activities to look forward to e.g. Wine Tasting, Sunday lunches, Cocktail Party. But above all there is the special

welcome which Eric, June and the staff give to all members and their guests who press that entrance doorbell to enjoy the Club facilities. Keep pressing that doorbell.

Donald McDonald

Theatre Group

After a very appetising supper provided by Eric and June nine members and partners attended Perth Theatre for a performance of Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" on 23rd February.

My wife, Valerie, a former English Teacher and a great fan of Miller's plays, believes it essential for every word written by Miller to be spoken by the cast, I, on the other hand, believe that the First Act of the play would greatly benefit from judicious pruning leaving out about half the dialogue.

The Second Act is superb theatre, and was well performed by the cast. Willie Loman's delusion and decline is well portrayed. The final breakdown, of what appeared to be his *raison d'être*, of his family is well portrayed with an excellent performance by Mrs Loman the true core of the family.

Altogether a good evening's entertainment enjoyed by most attendees.

Alastair MacLean

Curling News

The Club played it's first ever Curling match against the New Club in February. Unlike the golf matches against the New Club, we won! The match was played at Murrayfield, after a sociable lunch at the New Club. The 2 rinks were led by Hamish Milne.

Our internal competition for the Quaich will be played on March 31st in Perth. Anyone interested please make contact.

Lawrence Rutherford.

GOLFING PURSUITS

Dinner Matches

The total number taking part in the Winter Golf Dinner Matches this year was 30, with between 20 and 24 turning out for each episode.

Each episode comprises a start dinner (normally final Thursday in the month) where matches are drawn from a hat, and small wagers placed. The episode ends a month later (yes, at another dinner) where results are announced and dues grudgingly paid. Then it all starts again, under the strict control of our resident bookie, Ralph Guillianotti.

The second full season of these matches is now almost complete, surviving two of the worst winters in memory. This winter, not only did some matches have to be cancelled, but also a Dinner!

The betting is very hard to call. The handicaps range from 6 to 26, but by no means do the low handicap 'favourites' win. There have been some notable victories by the high handicappers. Bill Peacock's run of spectacular losses may have turned the corner, as he appears to be on a winning streak.

Result and trend information are closely guarded, ensuring high return insider trading, but all in all it is about as reliable as horse racing. The end of winter approaches with the final dinner (and settling activity) for the season scheduled for the 24th March, a very pukka black tie affair. New punters for the 2011/12 year are keenly sought, contact Fergus Young - Chief Whipp.

Summer Golf

The Winter Dinner Golf Match Series now at an end, and the attractions of the 2011 season beckon. As usual, our starters are away matches against Panmure and Elie Seniors in the first fortnight of April.

Iain McLeod and Bill Chalmers will lead out our teams.

Iain is much accustomed to leading and winning, and will take things in his stride. If not, we may see him sinking into more hirsute pastimes again.

Bill - after a hospital pass from Alan Christie - has agreed to step in at the last minute for the Elie match. A safe and steady pair of hands, with great hand-eye co-ordination - well, two out of three anyway - Bill will no doubt record our second victory of the season, thus erasing the memory of a loss last year.

We wish them both and their teams well.

The North Inch will again be the venue for our home matches, pinehursts and the August stableford. Large turnouts are expected for these events, in what could possibly be the last year in which they are played on the North Inch. The course, or a major part of it, may next year be out of commission for the construction of the monstrous Connect2 Bridge at or about the 16th short hole. This is a crying shame, but it appears the whiff of free money from an ailing charity is proving too much for the covetous noses of a grasping local authority.

It remains to be seen if the course, after completion of the bridge, will be worth playing, changed as it inevitably will be.

Nonetheless, at the time of writing, robust opposition to this bridge continues. The Club will have two representatives - the Vice Captain and Golf Secretary - on the North Inch Users' Group subcommittee which meets the local Council on Friday 25th March to discuss the finer details of the line of the bridge and its implications on the course.

May sees us entertain Royal Montrose for an exploratory match, and it is hoped that this will result in agreement for a full annual match in the years to come.

Similarly, Perth High Constables will meet us for the first time in August. Again we hope this may develop into an annual encounter.

Whilst the teams for the year have all been picked, and the draw made for the Knock Out, places are still available for the medals, stablefords and pinehursts. Anyone who has not yet entered for any of these events may do so by contacting the Golf Secretary at monkquell@btinternet.com. There is a waiting list for the Guest Day.

Arrangements are now well in hand for the annual outing. This year the venue is Lahinch (West shores of Ireland) with an intrepid group of 26 or so travelling out on May 16th for the week. Some driving and some flying - warm, still weather is assured!

Andrew Christie - Golf Secretary

RULES - TAKING FREE RELIEF.

The Rules allow for free relief for such things as immovable obstructions, ground under repair or a wrong putting green. It is always best to check with your scorecard as there will be occasions when relief is denied by the committee - for example the roads at the Old Course which would be obstructions on many courses have been deemed 'integral parts of the course' by the committee - therefore NO free relief. The Road Hole would never have become as famous if free drops were allowed at the green!

The Rules always allow for you to play the ball as it lies - you may want to - but in some circumstances they can insist you take relief - such as environmentally sensitive areas or GUR where taking relief is compulsory. So again, check the Local Rules on your scorecard.

You are entitled to relief if you have interference for any of the following:

1. your lie
2. the area of your intended swing
3. your stance.

There is no relief in the Rules for 'line of sight' - so if the obstruction is merely on your line then I'm sorry you must play the ball as it lies or (or declare it unplayable). When you take relief you MUST drop clear of all 3 of the above at your NEAREST point of relief (not your favourite point!) and you may then drop within 1 club length of this point and no nearer the hole.

I always advise people to check where they are going to drop before they pick their ball up - the drop might just be in a worse place!

Next time we will look at what to do when you are unfortunate enough to need a penalty drop - in the mean-time enjoy your golf!

Charles Dernie - Club Professional.

TRYM Group 2011

Arrangements are being made for a return to Aviemore and The MacDonald Spey Valley Championship Course where competitions will again be held for The TRYM Cup and The Christie Statuette.

This meeting will take place on Sunday 21st August and Monday 22nd August 2011. In ADDITION it is proposed to play the acclaimed Castle Stuart Course on Tuesday 23rd August.

The TRYM Group is open to members of the RPGS and who have played golf in Malaysia, Singapore or any part of The East Indies BUT for definite reasons not China or Thailand.

If there are any members (Long standing or NEW) who feel that they would qualify for the Group and would like to join the existing members then please contact Robin Mitchell at Robinandelspeth@btinternet.com as SOON as possible.

Discussions are also starting with the possibility of a match between The TRYMmers and Peter Everett's AFRICA BRIGADE. Information regarding this will be posted in due course.

Robin Mitchell - Chief TRYM

(Editor: I am reliably informed that the Everett Brigade (or Brigands) comprise Everett, Beattie, Graham and McGowan - all having a vague connection with Nigeria).

Walking Group

On the 1st February 11 of the Walking Group walked the Black Hill in the Ochals. (Editor: A picture of the group had been forwarded to me but I have been unable to import it into this document. Suffice to say it was difficult to tell whether the picture was taken before or after the outing, the two fine looking dogs accompanying the group looked in fine shape so I assume the picture is pre expedition).

The next scheduled outing is to Callander, Craig and the Brackline Falls on Tuesday 5th April. The recently constructed bridge at the falls is complete and well worth viewing. The group meet at the Broxden Park and Ride (map reference O88225) at 9.30am where car sharing is organised. For more details contact Brian Kitchin.



Wine Tasting

**Wednesday 13th April time
6.45pm for a prompt 7.00pm start
at RPGS**

Les Somerville of Enotria will be talking to us about selected European wines. There will be eight wines to compare and Les will guide us through the various countries/regions, and talk about the vines, grapes, soil and climatic conditions.

The cost is £20 per person which includes the wine supplied for tasting plus olives, a selection of cheeses and French bread. The evening two course meal will have a European flavour and will consist of a main course followed by a pudding and include coffee plus mints. The bar will be open for drinks before the tasting starts and drivers will be able to enjoy non-alcoholic drinks free of charge. I invite you to join us for this event and partners/guests are welcome.

The RPGS council have agreed that bed and breakfast accommodation will be available at the reduced price of £30 single room and £50 double for the night of 13th April. We have three double rooms and one single room available on a first come first served basis.

To make a reservation for the evening wine tasting and for accommodation please telephone Eric/June on **01738622265** or call into the club and add your name to the list on the notice board. You can also book by using the club email address and Donald

will ensure that your request is passed on to Eric/June for confirmation.

Please do not contact me for reservations as I am out of the UK until 31/03/11.

(Editor: These are excellent evenings, normally well oversubscribed. Wine tasted can be ordered on the evening at very competitive prices).

Club Dining

I am a relatively new member to the Club but it strikes me that while we have some 200 odd members there is a central core of some 80 who use the club on a regular basis. The Club is open each weekday with lunch served in the Dining Room on Tuesdays and Fridays. The roast beef is excellent value and with the good wine and very sociable company there is always a loud buzz about the Club. The Club is open each weekday with lounge lunches served as required. While more could always be accommodated on Tuesdays and Fridays, the lounge service is not exploited.

The Menu is wide and offers excellent value for the light lunch. Eric and June are always available with a ready smile and ensure a far more relaxing atmosphere than the humdrum fare available at many of the eateries in the town.

In addition Eric (our Chef) will always prepare special fare if advance notice is given.

Editor.

Sample items from the Lunch Menu:

Starters

	£
Soup of the Day	1.95
Prawn Salad Marie Roser	3.00

Mains

Deep Fried Scampi Tartare	4.75
Fried Fillet of Haddock Tartare	5.95
Omelette of Choice, Chipped	
Potatoes and Salad	4.25
Assorted Sandwiches	2.95
Minute Steak Toastie	3.95
Toasted BLT	3.05

Upcoming Events:

(other than mentioned above)

Sunday 17th April - Sunday Lunch

Tuesday 17th May - Walking Group

Sunday 22nd May - Sunday Lunch

Friday 27th May - Spring Gen. Meeting

Sunday 19th June - Sunday Lunch

Saturday 25th June - Summer Cocktail Party
and Gala Buffet

THE ROUND (Allan Osborne)

Today's the day, Ah know it is

Ah feel it in ma bones

For weeks it's been within ma grasp

But today there'll be nae moans

Ah'm fightin' fit, ma heid is clear

Ah'm tuned and at ma peak

So let me oan the golf course

The course records whit ah seek.

Ah'v paid the fee, the sweep an a'

Ah'm even in the ba's

And by the time ah leave this course the day

Ah'll hiv silver in ma paws

The last few weeks, ah'v been sae close

Ah'v played maist holes jist great

But always in amongst the guid

Ah'v hud a six and seven and eight

(to be continued)