

# COLVILLE PARK GOLF CLUB

## Newsletter

Issue 3 - Season 2008 – October

### *Captain's Message*

Since the last newsletter we have been plagued with the worst weather we have encountered in August since records began. September is proving to be equally as bad. The golf course is taking a pounding and unfortunately the course has had to be closed to protect it. Green keeping machinery has of course got to be used on the course to enable work to be carried out and we as an executive have instructed the staff to use it a little as possible. Due to the conditions we are in danger of losing the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> greens and major work as had to be carried out, this has been exacerbated by the green staff rolling the greens attempting to get the greens playable. The decision to close the course or parts of the course is not taken lightly and it is the professional decision of the Estate Manager in consultation with the Green's Convenor, the Country Club wish it to be known that they have no input in deciding if the course is playable or not. Over the last weeks I personally have had numerous complaints from members, some saying the course should or should not have been open, many saying, after they have completed the round, the course should not be open, why then did they complete their round? I would ask for your co-operation and understanding during this time.

Drainage of the course has been highlighted over many years and in extreme conditions it cannot cope. The cost of major drainage work a few years back was in excess of a quarter of a million pounds, you can therefore assume it will be nearer the half a million pound mark. We will of course be attempting to drain the wettest parts of the course during the winter programme.

On a brighter note congratulations to Robert Wright in winning the Club Stroke Play Championship. I hope that we can complete the fixture list and that we get a dry spell during September and October.

### *Greens*

At the moment all the greens are under extreme pressure due to the weather conditions, but the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> have been hit worst due to poor inadequate drainage, and all require to be re-drained.

A drain has been added to the wet area at the left hand side of the 5<sup>th</sup>. This drain was directed back towards the sump at the side of the avenue, and as we all know this cannot cope with the amount of water it receives at the moment, but we had no other alternative due to the landscape.

William Welsh has contacted suppliers regarding price increases in 2009, Hamilton Brothers who service our equipment will be adding 5%, Richard Aitkin's and Rigby Taylor who supply fertilisers, seeds, herbicides etc increases vary from 15% to 30% on their various products, fuel has also seen a massive increase this year from just under £500 per 1000 litres now costing us around £760. William Welsh has made arrangements to meet with these companies to see about bulk buying to see if we can save money this way.

At the moment we are slit tining the greens to open up the subsoil, heavy machinery is being kept off the course where possible, bearing in mind we sometimes have no option to be on the course with machinery due to grass growth. The height of the cut has been lifted on the fairways, greens and tees machines due to the poor conditions. The putting green has also been closed, due to the conditions.

It will also be our intention to Hollow Core all of the greens on the Golf course and this work will commence around the middle of October.

### *Administration/ Golf Secretary*

Once again could we remind all members that all business related to matters of the Golf Club must be put in writing for the Secretary's attention. Members of the Golf Executive should not be approached while on the course or the grounds of the Club unless in extreme circumstances.

### *Social*

The Mixed Open Foursomes competition turned out to be a success with 43 couples taking part, we also managed to organise the weather and got a lovely sunny day for the competition. The Jerviston Salver winners were Mr G Walker & Mrs A Walker (Lanark) who scored a 76 – 10.5 = 65.5 and the Scratch winners were Mr S Cox & Ms L Keohne (Louden Gowf) who scored a 75. The Annual Dinner and Presentation of Prizes will take place this year on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The tickets are priced at £20 and the band playing this year will be the LA Show-band. Tickets for this event are available from either Joe Higgins or Joe Robertson. We would ask members to come along and support this event.

### *Golf Professional*

Work is currently underway to re-locate the Professional Shop up into the main building. The shop will be located in the section of the Games Room that previously contained the pool tables. It is expected that the work will be completed and that Sam will move to his new abode around the end of October/beginning of November. We would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the golf club members, in thanking Sam for his efforts this season and we wish him well for the forthcoming years at CPGC.

### *Match & Handicap*

Members should note that supplementary scores can now be used by anyone needing scores to retain their handicap. Details regarding this are on the Notice Board in the Gents Locker Room.

Also please note that if a ball lands on a Winter Green whilst the normal greens are still in use then the ball must be lifted from these winter greens. Again full details regarding this rule are on the Notice Board.

The main finals competitions have now been played and the winners of the Gents Competition Finals were as follows;

Match Play Champion – D. Hurrell

Two-Ball Foursomes – R. Wright & S. Felvus

Colville Cup – F. McMillan

Wm Smart – W. Tierney

John Black Trophy – M. Ross & M. Smyth

Well done to everyone above and remember to buy tickets for the Dinner/Dance & Presentation of Prizes!!

### *Ladies*

Congratulations also go to Karen Paterson for winning and retaining both this year's Ladies Club Championship and Match Play Championship.