



# CATHCART CASTLE GOLF CLUB

## SPRING NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2010

Issue No. 1

April 2010

### COMING EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

**QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY 30th APRIL**

**CAPTAIN'S PRIZES and DANCE - SATURDAY 22nd MAY**

**GALA DAY and DANCE - SATURDAY 19th JUNE**

### CAPTAIN'S COMMENT

We are now well into 2010, hopefully having left the worst of the weather behind us and can look forward to a full playing season in fine weather on a course which will be in tip-top condition. The usual range of competitions and social events has also been programmed for your participation and enjoyment.

My main wish for this year however, is that we manage to continue to attract relatives, friends, neighbours, whoever, to the Club by convincing them that Cathcart Castle is the Golf Club that they should join to experience the same benefits of club membership that we already experience. The Council have been pro-active in this area and will continue to promote and improve the Club's undoubted appeal together with formulation of attractive new membership packages.

Above all I wish each of you a fun-filled year in which you strive to achieve all of your goals.

Gordon Campbell.

### MEMBERSHIP

**As you are no doubt aware, in common with most clubs in the area, we are struggling to maintain our membership levels. The website contains information on current offers being made to try to attract new members to the Club.**

**At present there is no entry fee for ladies, and the gents entry fee has been reduced to £1,000 which can be paid over three years.**

**Introductory Membership is also proving popular. The idea is to allow men to join with no entry fee initially and a subscription of £575, plus bar card.**

**These members cannot play in Saturday medals and have no voting rights, nor any rights in the assets of the club. After one year of Introductory Membership he must either join as a full member and pay the entry fee, or resign.**

**It is up to the existing members of the club and the staff to ensure that these gentlemen enjoy their year at the Club, and will be keen to join at the end of it.**

**If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining ask them to get in touch with the office, and arrangements will be made for them to come along for a courtesy game, and hopefully take up membership.**

### COMPETITIONS AND HANDICAPS

The dreadful weather since December unfortunately led to the section stage of the Winter League being badly affected. Nevertheless the knock-out phase was successfully completed before the end of March, and resulted in C S Brown and D G Marshall beating the defending champions I M Montgomery and S Kelly by one hole in the final.

The introduction of the new computerised bookings for medals has been generally well received and, together with the move to open bookings later and on Wednesdays, seems to be a more equitable system for the majority of members.

Thanks are due to Ron Fairholm, who has spent a lot of time installing the software and training the Committee in its use. Discussions are continuing within the committee to fine-tune the structure of the existing competitions programme for the season to maximise the opportunities for members to participate.

Whether your handicap has lapsed (marked as "starred" in the list) or if you have yet to obtain a handicap for the first time, remember it is now sufficient to submit one medal card and two others. One member has already proved this can be done in less than a week!

Finally, communications to the Competitions and Handicaps sub-committee can now be made by e-mail via [gentscompetitions@cathcartcastle.com](mailto:gentscompetitions@cathcartcastle.com) as well as by the traditional methods.

### SURVEY OF MEMBERS

**The Council of Management has decided that to enable it to run the club in a way which best suits the membership, it will conduct a survey of members views and requirements regarding the running of the club, and the services provided to members.**

**To this end a questionnaire will be issued shortly, and It is important that as many members as possible express their views on this, so that the Council can form as accurate a view of members' wishes as is possible.**

**The questionnaire will be available in the lounges and on the web-site, but it would be of great help in the analysis of results if as many members as possible responded via the web-site, so that results can be analysed automatically.**

### COMMUNICATION

**If you have not already done so please send an e.mail to:**

**“ [secretary@cathcartcastle.com](mailto:secretary@cathcartcastle.com) “**

**so that your e.mail address can be recorded and saved to enable the club to send you newsletters and other club information more economically and efficiently than at present.**

## DRESS RULES

Dress Rules have been relaxed on a trial basis in the general lounge, in an effort to try to encourage better usage of the clubhouse.

Members are now allowed into the lounge wearing smart jeans. No new dress rules have been written, in the hope that members will adopt a sensible attitude to “smart/casual” and dress accordingly.

Denims are still viewed as being unacceptable dress for the golf course, so please if you are coming to play golf; no jeans.

## DISABLED TOILET

The disabled toilet is now operational. Able bodied members are asked to refrain from taking advantage of its proximity to the lounges, and respect the facilities by leaving them for those less fortunate.

## FROM THE PRO SHOP

### SCOTTISH GOLF SHOW

This year I participated as part of the PGA team at the Scottish Golf Show. I spent three days at the Show which took place at the SECC doing over 90 lessons. I can assure you all there is nothing I didn't see during this time (shanks, tops, hooks and plenty of fresh air shots)!! Book a lesson and get your season off to a flyer.

### SCOTTISH CLUB GOLFER

During the Golf Show I was asked to participate in a photo-shoot for the Scottish Club Golfer Magazine (not quite Hello or OK), but then again I'm not Brad or George. I believe the photos and article will feature in next months magazine - keep an eye out.

### STOCK

The season has started very slowly for all of us due to the unpredictable weather. My spring stock is arriving shortly but please bear in mind the level of stock will not be as high as in previous years due to the financial climate, but as always please feel free to ask for anything you don't see in the shop and in most cases I will be able to source it.

### WEBSITE

As most of you are aware we have a Club website ([www.cathcartcastle.com](http://www.cathcartcastle.com)) in operation. I regularly update the Professional Shop page (with the fantastic help of Ron Fairholm) with competitions, offers, golfing tips and news. Please feel free to email me direct ([stephenduncangolf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stephenduncangolf@hotmail.co.uk)) with any questions, comments or suggestions. Please take the time to have a look.

Finally I would like to wish you all a great season and thank you for your continued support.

Regards, Stephen



## WEB-SITE

Ron Fairholm is constantly adding new features to the web-site, which is now the envy of many clubs.

A lot of work has gone into the amalgamation of the new competition and handicap programmes and the web-site, and we hope members will find the functionality and features of benefit. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.

New features include a “Members” area which includes:

Competition Results and Score Analysis,

On-line handicaps and print your own handicap certificate,

Book medal tee times and review starting sheets.

Remember to visit the web-site notice board, it is updated on a regular basis, and contains the following useful features.

Greens-staff reports reflecting the up to date condition of the course, eg snow, temp greens, etc.

Notification of social events, and a new feature, a fixtures Calendar, now in Google format so you can copy this information straight into your own web based calendar.

## LADIES SECTION

In spite of the weather we have had a very sociable winter season with lots of ladies around the clubhouse even when there was no opportunity for golf.

The winter ball game continued to be run efficiently by Pat Lavelle and Sheila Orr and although the course was closed some Wednesdays up to 40 ladies played whenever possible. The lunch and prize-giving on 17<sup>th</sup> March were very enjoyable with Sharon Mitchell the overall winner.

Our competitions for the season have started with Sunday/Wednesday split ballots and we hope for some warmer, drier weather soon. Any ladies wanting a few holes without pressure will find some like-minded company on Mondays at 10:00 am. All are welcome and no handicap is required.

We have had two very successful social evenings over the winter. In February we had a fashion night with Tricia Chennell, who is the personal shopping consultant at John Lewis. She spoke about her work and demonstrated wardrobe management using just two or three colours and styles.

In March we welcomed Maurice Paterson and Keith McMillan to help us brush up on some of the rules situations regularly encountered round Cathcart Castle. We had a most informative and entertaining evening illustrated with photos taken on the course and with a lot more laughter than is normally heard at a rules night.

Each of these social events attracted over 80 ladies and a raffle at the fashion night raised £231 for our charity, Mbingo Hospital in Cameroon.

Gala Day on 19<sup>th</sup> June is our main fund raising event and lots of help and donations are needed from all members of both sexes. Please contact any committee member if you can help.