

NEWBURGH-ON-YTHAN GOLF CLUB



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020

COVID-19 MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT FOR THE GOLF INDUSTRY

We certainly didn't think that the golf season would get off to this kind of start. Just as we got started it all ground to a halt and we find ourselves without the game we love... full story on pages 2 & 3.

COVID-19 HITS THE GOLFERS AND THEIR CLUBS

On the evening of Monday 23rd March, the UK Prime Minister delivered the news that everyone had been dreading. The announcement sent the country into lockdown, meaning that we, like all other clubs, were forced into closing the doors for at least the next 3 weeks, from that point. There has been a lot of work going on, behind the scenes, to ensure that once things get back to normal we have a course which will still be in great condition and we will have a club that that move forward from this and go from strength to strength.

What has all this meant to Newburgh Golf Club? Well, 2020 was portrayed as an exciting year to look forward to. A fresh approach to the upstairs operation with the new venture, "The view at Newburgh-On-Ythan Golf Club", due to start at the beginning of April. We also had planned to have 3 weekends of golfing and social events to go along with this opening. All of this, has sadly, had to be put on the back burner... for now. We have also had cancellations of visiting groups, who were due to be with us over the next couple of months and we have also had to cancel the Seniors Open on April 16th as well as the Texas Scramble Open on April 19th. Smaller, club competitions have also had to be put on the back burner, some of which may be rescheduled for later in the season.

We, as a club, are taking all the appropriate measures required, and advice from national and local governments as well as Scottish Golf to ensure that once we can reopen there will be as little delay or disruption to season from then on. The course is being looked after by Dale, who has been out at the club, daily, doing the jobs that just cannot be left.

There have been a couple of good articles regarding the outbreak and the effect on golf clubs which can be seen by clicking on the links below:

<https://www.nationalclubgolfer.com/news/coronavirus-golf-clubs-reality/>

<https://t.co/o0iaGEbQc5?amp=1>

STAY SAFE
STAY AT HOME
SAVE LIVES
PROTECT OUR NHS

CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Well....What a start to the new season and one I never thought I'd see in my first term as Club Captain or any time for that matter! Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to all the members who have sent emails of support and encouragement to the club during this time. The last few weeks have been extremely challenging for the club management with many late-night phone calls and emails as well as the numerous calls during the day in amongst our full-time jobs. So, a big thank you to Paul and the committee members for their efforts, its much appreciated by me, and rest assured we will continue to work hard for the club in these challenging times.

With no golf I realise many will be feeling frustrated, however, I strongly believe we can come through this as a club for the better. After both the First & Second World Wars participation

in golf skyrocketed and hopefully the lack of sport, outdoor access and with a major culture shift coming, we will see those who perhaps left the game years ago return or new groups taking it up. Remember, golf was the last sport to succumb to restrictions. That said, it's never been more important to the club to have the support of the members. We are owners and members of the club, and it's vitally important that we all stand side by side and support it through these difficult times, otherwise, we may not have a club like many across the UK will find in the months to come. I would ask that if you use social media please like the clubs Facebook Page, Twitter, YouTube channel etc, it's important that we continue to market the club as much as possible during this time, and with so many people being at home social media is the place to be seen and we all have a part to play.

To end on a positive note, a quote which I think sums up the general situation we are in perfectly "He that can have patience can have what he will" - Benjamin Franklin.

PS Remember, stay safe, wash those hands...and clubs in preparation for when we get back out swinging.

Yours in Golf

Jonathan
Club Captain

ON THE GOLF COURSE



On a happier note, the winter season was a successful one with only a handful of competitions having to be played on the Winter course. The Course itself remained open throughout with no need for any closures.

The Winter League, was again very competitive and hard fought, going to the last day before, Newburgh stalwart, Wullie Dyker, took the crown ahead of Keith Bowman in second place.

You can see Wullie take his opening shot of his final round here:

<https://youtu.be/R5TPUVoXiOs>

In the other big winter competition, Derek Mulgrew retained his Eclectic title with a score of 61, finishing 4 shots ahead of regular playing partner Andrew Milne.

WELL DONE TO BOTH OUR WINTER WINNERS!

Winter maintenance has been carried out the course with the bunkers at the 4th and 16th given make over. We also had quiet a lot of work done on the course with regards to the gorse bushes.

We had a machine in, which was used to cut back some of the gorse on the course. The main reason for this was to help keep the Rabbits away from the fairways. We are all aware of the

damage that they were doing and since this has been done there has been far less evidence of fresh rabbit droppings or indeed the rabbits themselves. Patching work will be the next step and once this has been done and had time to bed in, we should see a massive difference. None of this work has taken anything away from either the look or the difficulty of the course. Once the grass grows, we will have a distinct difference between, fairway, semi rough and heavy rough before reaching the gorse on the holes where gorse has been removed.



CLUB SHOP



The club shop had been restocked with the new logo clothing the week before the new season kicked off. We will soon have a section on the website where you can view the new items and order from the sizes, we currently have available.

Should you see anything that you would like, you can place an order, and this can be delivered to your door, subject to availability.

SOCIAL HUB

COMING SOON.....



One of the big questions throughout the winter months has been regarding our new bar and catering service. We have a signed agreement with the new franchise, and they will be able to get started as soon as is feasibly possible after the restrictions are relaxed, and we can get back to working at the club again. The licence passed the consultation stage with little to no recommendations on it and we are just a few weeks away from receiving our full open licence. We hope to see everyone desperate to get back to the club once open.

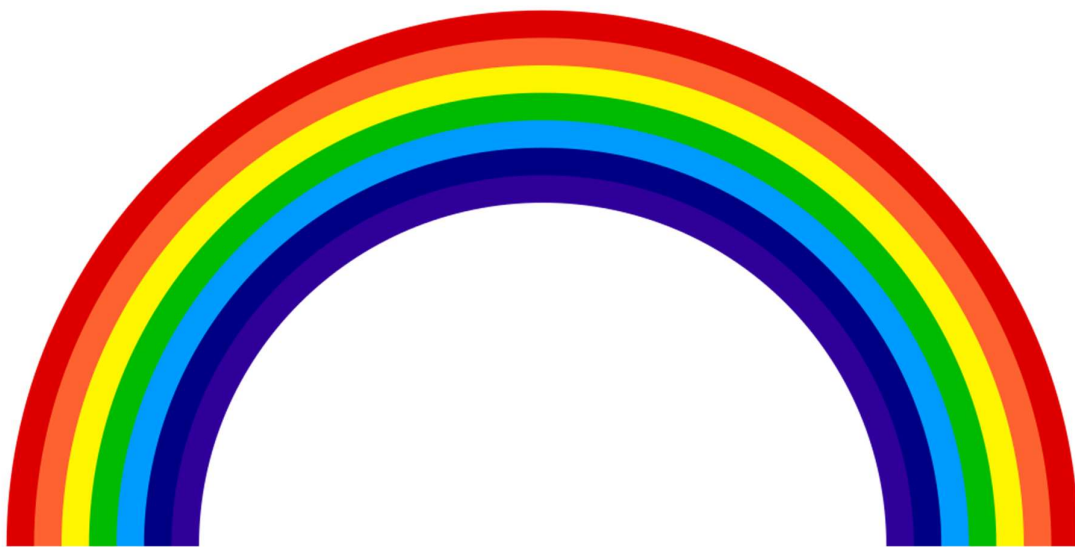
There have been a few things happening in the lead up to this, some of which you will have seen and others which have been arranged in the background. The painting upstairs has been completed and it has given a fresher look and colour to the whole area. The new colour scheme makes a big difference.

The kitchen has been given a deep clean and were just about to have new flooring laid when we were told to stay at home.

The club secured good deals on both the painting and the kitchen cleaning and through the Club Manager's contacts in the flooring industry the new flooring in the kitchen will not impact on the club financially.

We are all hoping that we get through this quickly and everything will open, and the club will have a vibrant future to look forward to.

Keep your eyes on all the social media outlets and the notice boards at the golf club for any news on events that will take place at the club.



STAY SAFE