

CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER. DECEMBER 2020

After what has been an unforgiving year for all of us this is just a short, final newsletter for 2020 to keep you all aware of what has been happening over the last few months.

As you will be aware, we managed to organise a 5 event "mini tour" after lockdown restrictions were relaxed and got the winter stableford series underway. These competitions were all well supported, and thanks are due to all who played, and everyone involved in the organisation of these events, especially Ian Kerr and Ian Johnston - thanks for all your efforts gents.

We can only hope that relaxation of both tier and travel restrictions will allow for a full programme of tournaments in 2021, details of which can be found on our website.

<https://www.scottishseniorsgolf.com/competitions/2015-fixtures-list>

Entry forms are in course of being prepared and will be published on the website early next month.

We have just been informed by the R&A that they have moved dates for the British Seniors Open and the Home Internationals for 2021. This will cause a conflict with our Matchplay and West of Scotland Open. We are currently reviewing the situation and will update in due course. A copy of the R&A press release is attached to this email for your information.

SPONSORSHIP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our main sponsor McCrea Financial services, and our 4 new regional event sponsors - Thistle Windows, Onestop Group, ShotScope Technologies and GolPhin for Kids. This season's cancellations meant we did not reap the benefits of this additional sponsorship and we thank them for their continued support next season. This sponsorship is very much appreciated and will allow us to hopefully improve the level of support to the players and administration at each our events.

Currently we have no sponsor for the South of Scotland Open so if you are aware of anyone who might consider such sponsorship please feel free to contact myself or Ian Fraser, the South Area Representative. 07970 604291 sheila144@btinternet.com

A.G.M.

At our last Zoom committee meeting Gordon MacDonald put forward a suggestion that, due to the uncertainty of being able to hold the postponed 2020 A.G.M at the start of next season, we defer the Meeting until August 2021 with the current committee retaining their posts until this time. Accordingly, with your approval, the committee have adopted Gordon's suggestion.

Resulting from the cancellation of the 2020 A.G.M. the audited accounts for year ending December 2019 were not circulated to the membership and I have taken the opportunity to attach a copy of them to this newsletter. It has also been agreed by Committee to forward the accounts for 2020 to the membership and this will be done as soon as the finalised audited accounts are to hand, along with a brief question/answer paper relating to the pertinent points from our Treasurer Jim Paterson .

Regarding the committee, we still have a vacancy for a Super Seniors Representative. This section is growing from strength to strength and will only continue to do so, especially with the introduction next September of both the 3-day International Masters tournament at Gullane No2 and the inaugural match between the S.S.G.S. and the U.K.S.G.A. to be staged at Royal Burgess G.C.

Should anyone be interested in this post please do not hesitate to give me a call.

2021 Annual Subscriptions

As previously advised, any member who paid their 2020 annual subscription will not require to pay this again in 2021. If you did not pay the £25 annual fee in 2020, then this will fall due for payment in January 2021. Ian Kerr will send our further details early next month to those members affected.

2021 EVENTS.

Resulting from the recent "mini tour "events, 2 issues were highlighted which have now been discussed at length during our last committee meeting.

A) **SLOW PLAY** - This has been an ongoing issue, not only confined to S.S.G.S. events, for several seasons and in an effort to alleviate this problem we have decided to limit our fields to a maximum of 129 competitors with a minimum of 9-minute intervals between tee times. We would also remind members that our slow play policy can be viewed on our website. <https://www.scottishseniorsgolf.com/competitions/slow-play-guidelines>

B) **HOST CLUB FEES** - Negotiation of course fees for the mini tour events confirmed that, as we had previously realised, the rates for prime times at our host clubs are increasing and are going to increase further over the coming years. To give the Area Representatives a little more leeway when negotiating course fees, we are raising the entry fee for our main strokeplay events in 2021 to £40.00 with the matchplay event entry increasing to £50.00. Entry fees have not been increased for many years, and still represent excellent value for money for 2 rounds of golf over great golf courses.

This increase will also give us the opportunity to review the prize funds paid at each event, potentially on an individual event basis. We are currently conducting this review and it will be finalised at our next Committee meeting. Further information will be provided before our first main event in 2021.

Several other innovations are also being introduced next season to make our tournament administration even more professional so look forward to a few surprises at Montrose next April !!

Wishing you all an enjoyable, if somewhat unique , Festive period and, fingers crossed, look forward to meeting up again during the winter stableford events next February and March, subject of course to any COVID restrictions that may still be in place at that time.

Stay safe,

Keith.

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