

Baberton Winter Bulletin



DECEMBER 2009

Captain's Report

With winter approaching it is time to reflect on the Club and look to the challenges ahead.

The Course

The course is always the No.1 priority and I have to congratulate Simon Gray and his team for presenting the course in such great condition throughout the year. I even had one member say to me that 'Baberton now has the best presentation he has seen over the last 40 years'. The visiting teams at the Ladies Scottish County Championship Finals were also fulsome in their praise of the course during their tournament.

The drainage work undertaken during the last winter season has proved to be successful, and fully tested after the wettest August on record. We plan to make further course improvements for next season on bunkers, cutting back some trees at the 17th and 12th and planting some new trees between the front 4th tee and the 3rd green.

There is no doubt that the investment we made in the new greens has been hugely worthwhile and essential to the Club's future.

Membership

The biggest challenge now ahead for the Club is to bring the membership up to our previous levels to maintain our income stream. Currently we are 27 members below the required level and we

tend to lose around 40 members in any one year. Golf Clubs throughout the UK and certainly in Edinburgh are showing declining membership for a variety of reasons and we are all competing for fewer prospects. This year we have introduced new membership categories without entry fees for 'Midweek' and 'Young Adults' and will be introducing Corporate membership categories to cater for transient business people.

Despite our efforts this year we have only taken in 10 new ordinary members, 13 deferred ordinary members, 3 Midweek, and 6 Young Adult. I still believe the best way of introducing new members into the Club is through the existing membership, so please be active in trying to bring new members into the Club. In addition to personal contact, please think about publicising Baberton in your work place, or other social areas, by electronic means or on a Notice Board. Membership advertising leaflets are available for circulation as required. The new Baberton web site has all the supporting details you need to inform prospective new members.

We now have a course to be proud of again. It is challenging and interesting for all levels of golf and with the new greens giving us pretty well 12 months of play, we have a great product to sell.

SGU Initiatives

The SGU are also being proactive in explaining the benefits of joining a Club and being a member.

They have introduced an SGU Golf Club Member Card, available only to members of Golf Clubs in Scotland. Members can now buy this card for £10 per annum which gives access to any participating Golf Clubs in Scotland for half of the normal visitor fee. Details of this are on the SGU central web site. Baberton will be a participating golf club in 2010.



Clubhouse Development

At the time of this Bulletin, we are still awaiting approval of the last outstanding planning issue relating to the protection of the tree belt and an outstanding 'bat' survey and are in discussion with the planning authorities and City Councillors. We now hope to have approval in January 2010 and will issue a separate notice as soon as we have the news on this and on the next stage of the development.

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Captain's Thank you

Captain's 'Thank You'

As my time of Captaincy draws to a close I have many 'thank-yous' to make.

During my tenure as Vice Captain and Captain, all the members of the Board, and Bernard and Sylvia, have been a pleasure to work with and been totally devoted to the best interests of the Club. The same goes for all the volunteers whether taking part in Committees or not.

Andrew's excellent catering is a real asset to the Club and Tracey and her team always give a friendly welcoming service.

We are also very fortunate to have

Ken Kelly who runs a well stocked Pro's shop, lets us try out different new clubs, will custom fit us for new irons and give us tuition if required. He keeps us up to date with his web page and along with David Smith, his assistant, administers a smooth booking and teeing off system.

The greens' staff provide us with daily course reports and deserve heaps of praise as I have had many compliments and few complaints about the course!

I have enjoyed meeting many new acquaintances and the (usually!) friendly banter of members in and around the Clubhouse. There is a



good ambience about the place.

All your support has been great and made the Captain's role an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

A big thank you to you all!

With Raymond Brown coming in as the new Captain, I know the Club is in good hands for the future.

Charlie Geddes Trophy



Bert Kerr, Norman Irvine & Lawrie Morton very kindly presented a special new trophy for the Seniors Open Texas Scramble- 'The Charlie Geddes Trophy'

The trophy was presented by Helen Geddes to Ian Lawrie who represented the winning team

House News

December is a busy month in the Clubhouse and it is lovely to see so many members and guests having Christmas lunches and dinners. Those who attended the Christmas Gala Night had a most enjoyable evening. Christmas Day lunch is fully booked and members also have the opportunity to get together in the Clubhouse at Hogmanay. The children will enjoy the entertainment of a

clown and a visit from Santa at their Christmas party.



In September we welcomed visitors from all over Scotland when the Scottish Ladies Golfing Association held the Scottish County Finals at

Baberton. Players, officials and spectators were all complimentary of the welcome they received and of the standard of catering in the Clubhouse.

Our thanks to Andrew Grieve and his staff and Tracey Horton and the bar staff for all their hard work throughout the year and for ensuring that Baberton is an enjoyable place to meet.

Golf Committee

Annual Review of Handicaps

The annual review of handicaps will take place early in the New Year in accordance with CONGU guidelines. Any member whose handicap is adjusted as a result of this review will be informed personally of his/her new handicap.

Lapsed Handicaps

Members whose handicaps lapse as at 31st December as a result of not having submitted 3 qualifying scores during 2009 will not be eligible to play in competitions at Baberton or elsewhere until their handicap is restored. Such a member may play in a competition to submit a card for handicap purposes but a minimum of 3 cards is required to have a handicap restored. Ladies must submit the 3 cards from the red tees whilst gentlemen must submit at least one card from the medal (white) tees. Such cards must be marked 'For Handicap' and the date and tees used must also be marked.

Gents Competitions

In 2010, there will be a stroke competition on a Sunday, invariably the last Sunday, each month from April to October with a corresponding decrease in the number of competitions on a Saturday. This is a result of members' suggestions and a view in the Golf Committee that it should make it easier for all members to submit the three cards required to maintain a CONGU handicap. Four tee times in the morning and four in the afternoon on these Sundays will be reserved such that a member can put down only his own name and then a draw will then be made. It is hoped that this will also help new members to integrate into the Club.

Open Competitions

As well as in other media, our Open Competitions will be advertised next year in the 'Wee Yellow Book' following agreement with the new owners of this publication.

Ladies Report

2009 has been a good year for Baberton Ladies at Home and Internationally.

We started by winning the Interclub in the most atrocious conditions (Karen Marshall, Fiona Hunter, Fiona de Vries and Katharine Logan) followed by extreme temperatures (30 degrees) at the Morison Millar where we were 3rd.

The hosting of the Scottish Ladies County Finals was a great honour and a display of wonderful golf. The final day proved to be most exciting with Midlothian (Karen in the team) and Northern Counties with little between them. It came down to the last putt on the 18th green for Northern Counties to secure the win.



Winning Team—Northern Counties

In the Midlothian 5-a-side Competition Baberton were 3rd, in the Mid-summer 4's Fiona Hunter with Sharon Macpherson won 1st scratch.

Karen Marshall progressed to the semi-final of the County Championship.

Rosemary Bain and Maggie McPherson reached the semi final of the Summer Bronze knockout while Katharine Logan progressed to the semi final of the Summer Silver knockout. Fiona McLaren won the McIntyre Trophy at the Autumn Meeting with the best overall score.

Karen Marshall and Fiona de Vries qualified for the match play stages of the Scottish Championship at Southernness and Karen was the winner of 2009 Strathtyrum Strokeplay Trophy.

Fiona Hunter is the Scottish Senior Ladies' Stroke Play Champion. The Scottish Ladies Senior Team captained by Pamela Williamson, with Fiona de Vries and Fiona Hunter in the team, won the home

International - the first time Scotland has won. Both Fiona Hunter and Fiona de Vries are in European Senior Ladies Team and Pam Williamson is Captain

Well done to all of them.

The last competition for 2009 was fun. We were blessed with a sunny crisp winter day for our Christmas Fayre and after golf, 50 of us had Lunch followed by a few stories and carols.

Fiona Hunter

Scottish Senior Ladies Stroke Play Champion



Finally I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2010.

Corporate Membership

The Board have decided that to increase the income of the Club we will introduce Corporate Membership and Sponsorship. The following gives an indication of what is available and we ask all members to assist in promoting both strategies either in their own company or in a company in which they are employed.

Corporate Membership

We have developed three different methods of Corporate Membership to suite the requirements of Companies or Organisations. This information is now on the club website and is available from the office. To assist in the promotion and development of the club we ask you to take this information to any Company or Organisation you consider would be interested in such membership and ask them to contact the Club Office if they require further details.

Corporate Sponsorship

We are arranging to have Corporate

Advertising on our Score Cards, Fixture Cards and Stroke Saver Books in either full page or half page setting. This is an opportunity for members to promote their Company to the membership of the club and visitors to the club. Think about the number of rounds of golf that are played on Baberton each year and the number of times people will repeatedly see your advertisement. This will give you the advantage of 365 days a year repeat advertising as opposed to spot or periodic advertising. For full details please contact the Club Office.

As an alternative to the above, the Club is actively working on procurement of new on Course Furniture, part of which is an Information Board detailing playing requirements and course conditions. This board will be situated next to the Professional's Shop and has the facility to carry the advertising information for thirty Corporate Sponsors. This is an ideal opportunity for your Company or Organisation to obtain repeat

advertising 365 days a year and to be associated as a sponsor with a successful Golf Club. For further details please contact the Club Office.

Subscription Facility

Earlier this year the Club introduced a facility for members to pay their Annual Subscription by Monthly Direct Debit. This facility has two important functions, firstly to allow members to spread the cost of their membership over a full year as opposed to paying in one lump sum and secondly to spread the income of the Club in a more even fashion. To date approximately 150 members have taken up the option and we would like to take the opportunity to remind members that this facility is still available. If you wish to take advantage of the facility and for further details please contact the Club Office.

For further details please see notice on website.

Clubhouse Hours during the Festive Season

Bar Hours

Christmas Eve	11.00 am—5.30 pm
Christmas Day	11.00 am—4.00 pm
Boxing Day	11.00 am—4.00 pm
Hogmanay	11.00 am—4.00 pm 7.30 pm—1.00 am
New Years Day	Closed
2nd January	11.00 pm—12.00 am

Pro—Shop Hours

Christmas Eve	8.30 am— 4.00 pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	8.00 am— 3.00 pm
Hogmanay	8.30 am—4.00 pm
New Years Day	Closed
2nd January	8.00 pm—4.00 pm

Baberton Golf Club

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.BABERTONGOLFCLUB.COM

Social Functions

Hogmanay Party

With KLS Disco

*Thursday 31st December 2009 at
7.30 pm*

Tickets £8.00 available at the bar

Hot Stovies available to order



*Merry
Christmas*

Burns Night

Saturday 30th January 2010



Tickets £16.00, on Sale from

Friday 8th January 2010

at 7.00 pm

Ladies Social Events

Whist Drive

Tuesday 19th January

Charity Bridge Drive
Tuesday 9th February

Social Evening

Monday 8th March