

Prize giving 2021

As already intimated the Committee have taken the difficult, and no doubt to some, the disappointing decision to postpone the prize giving to a time yet to be decided. The reason for this is due to the risk of COVID infection that a gathering of potentially 100+ people still poses. Although the majority of members are now fully vaccinated, infection rates are still high and it is the health of the members and staff that is most important. The Committee hopes that you will understand the reasons behind this postponement, and you will support the event when it does take place.

Course

Greens

As you are all probably aware we have struggled with the bare patches on the greens this year. There are many contributing factors that have caused these patches such as the wet mild winter, followed by the relatively cold, dry spring. We have sought expert advice on how to remedy these areas and we now have several processes and techniques to apply which will hopefully see the grass growth return and prevent the damage from reoccurring.



Watering System

The watering system was fully assessed during the summer and a schedule of repairs has been prepared. It was pleasing to find that no major faults were discovered but several minor repairs and replacement parts were identified. Work starts on this on 06 Oct and is not expected to have any impact on the playing of the course.

Winter Program

Joe is preparing his winter program and we will update you on what is planned when this is finalised and approved by the committee.



Clubhouse and Surrounds

A number of improvements have been implemented over the summer. The shop and office have been cladded, a new wifi system has been installed and a new phone system has also been put in place. We have a program of projects for the winter and these are listed below.



Gents Toilets

The gents toilets and shower area will be renovated during the winter period. This work will take approximately 3-4 weeks and the toilets will be not in use while the renovations take place. Gents will be able to use the toilet in the junior locker room as long as there are no juniors present, and they can also use the ladies toilets in the clubhouse.

Front Locker Room

The plan for the front locker room is to make this into a visitors locker room. It is the aspiration to have this completed in time for next season.

Caddy Car Shed

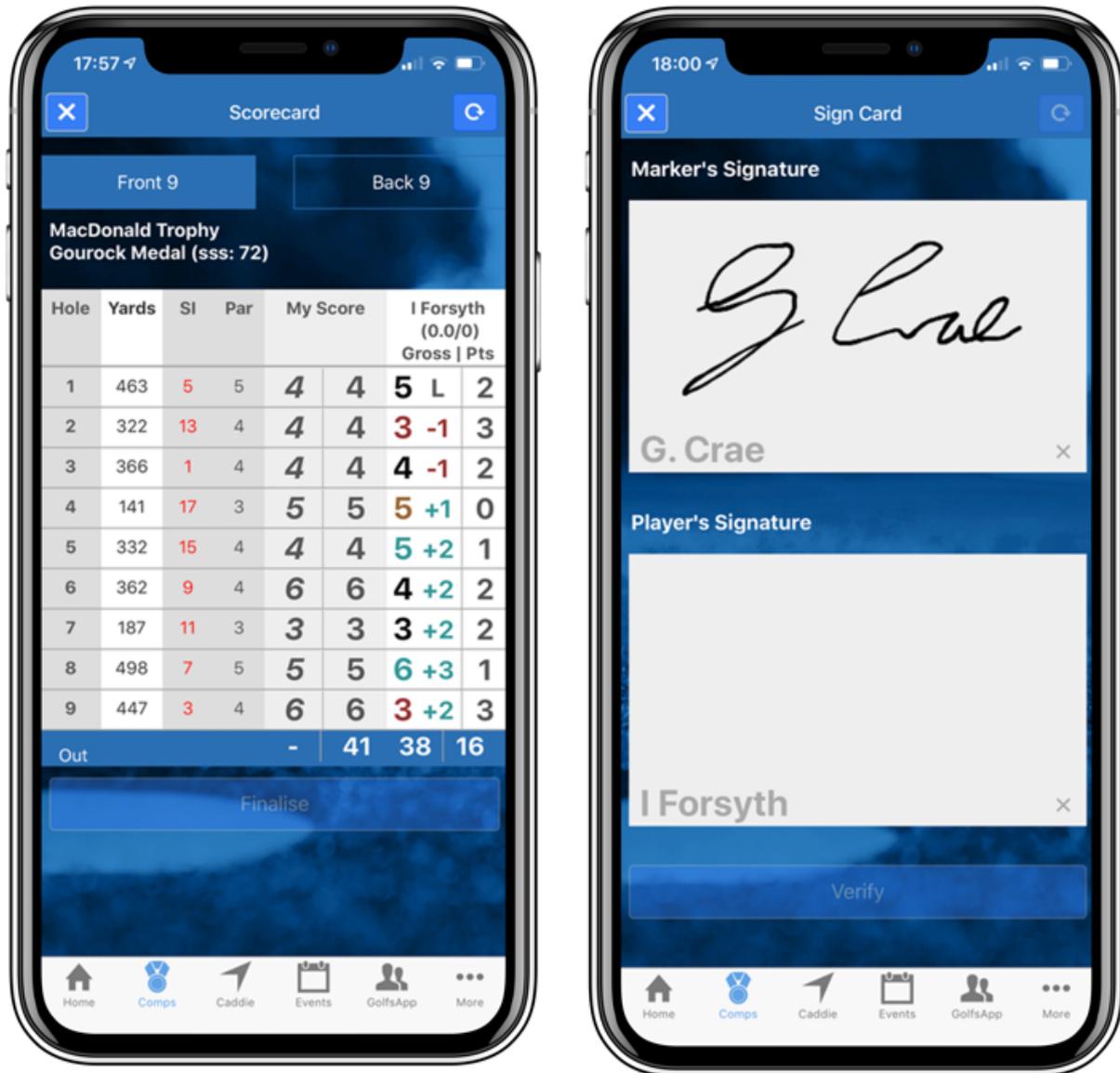
Although this is not a priority, the caddy car shed is also in need of repair or replacement. Options are being looked at and once all have been assessed a decision will be made.

Bar Area and Kitchen

A number of improvements have already taken place, such as a new stove in the kitchen and re-organisation of the bar and store area with the kegs being moved out of the staff

entrance corridor. Work is ongoing and as Edward and Nicole become more settled further improvements will be implemented to enhance the bar and restaurant areas.

Competitions and General Play



Gents Winter League and Ladies Snowdrops

The gentlemen winter league will start again on Saturday 02 October. The tee is booked from 1000am to 1030am for the gents who will be followed by the ladies winter snowdrops competition. Edward will ensure the fire is on and will be providing soup and sandwiches. As these are non-qualifiers there is no need to enter on the SGU app, but the COVID rules still require a list of those playing to be kept. Those wishing to record a general play score are more than welcome to do so and indeed in the spirit of the WHS all players are encouraged to record a general play score when they can.

Summer Ballot Times

We are looking at re-introducing the ballot times for medals for next year. However, there are still COVID requirements for all players to be booked in advance. So we will figure out a way of complying with all legal requirements whilst being able to run a ballot system for the medals.

We are also going to implement a members only booking period on Saturday mornings from 0700 to 1030. We will then have our visiting parties from 1030 onwards. The reasoning behind this is to simplify the booking process enabling members to have a period at the weekend when they know there will be no visiting parties. It also helps with the organisation of the catering to formalise the times that parties can play. The club's major events will still take priority and will run as normal. The app and booking sheet are already being updated with all the competitions for 2022.

Governance

Committee

We are reviewing the current governance structure with the view of re-aligning more towards the Scottish Golf Union preferred model for club governance. For the most part there will be no noticeable difference as we are only looking at involving more people in each of the key areas. What this means is having small sub-committees to assist the convenors. The benefits of this change are that it provides assistance to the convenors and provides an element of succession which eases planning for the longer term.

In particular we need volunteers to join the greens sub-committee, the competitions sub-committee and help with our marketing and social media presence. For more information on what would be expected please speak to Captain Alex for greens, Alan Finlayson for competitions and Ruaridh for marketing and social media.

Captains Comments

It has been a busy summer and the committee has been working hard to ensure the balance between our COVID requirements and the enjoyment of our members and guests is maintained. We have gone through some major changes this year, with the introduction of the new world handicapping system and the roll out of the Scottish Golf Union app for managing our competitions and booking of the tee. There have been some ups and downs and we acknowledge the difficulties some have experienced. Rest assured we are in constant contact with SGU and are providing feedback both good and bad.

We have a full winter program of projects planned, to the course and the clubhouse as detailed above and we will keep you informed as to their progress.

Thank you for all the support throughout the summer and I look forward to seeing those hardy souls that make up the winter league and snowdrops throughout the winter.