

SGUpdate



SCOTTISH GOLF
UNION

from Alistair Low, Chairman October 2007

Dear Golfer

Welcome to SGUpdate. This newsletter aims to keep you up to date with our progress over the last few months and the developments we are making on your behalf.

2007 has seen the SGU continue to build upon the very successful seasons we have enjoyed in recent years.



John Gallagher crowned the Scottish Amateur Champion 2007

Championship Review

Scotland was proud to host the European Amateur Team Championship at Western Gales Golf Club in early July with 20 nations competing for Europe's biggest amateur team title. We are extremely grateful to the club and to all of our partners who supported the event to a successful conclusion, which saw Ireland claim the title for the first time in 20 years. Scotland lost to France in the semi finals, but rallied on the final day to defeat England and claim the bronze medal.

We returned to the west coast later that month, to host our flagship event, the Allied Surveyor's Scottish Amateur Championship at the historic Prestwick Golf

Club. John Gallagher from Swanston New came through a field of 256 to become our new champion, defeating Carnoustie's Keir McNicoll in an excellent final.

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Among our many other 2007 champions, too numerous to mention individually, was Kevin McAlpine, then the holder of our match play championship, who completed the double by winning our stroke play championship at Royal Dornoch. The Scottish U16 Championship, held this year at Brunston Castle, marked 30 years of SGU sponsorship by Douglas Gillespie. We are extremely grateful to our longest standing sponsor for his support over such a long period. This year's championship was won by Ian Redford from King James VI Golf Club.



European Team Championship 2007

The Belhaven Captains and Secretaries Championship proved a huge success again this year and our congratulations go to Tom Quin and Des Irwin from Polmont Golf Club, who were worthy winners. The Belhaven Scottish Club Golfers Championship also proved to be extremely popular, attracting 25,000 golfers from across Scotland, becoming the biggest Scottish golf participation event. The final was given an extra boost by Setanta, who provided television coverage of the event for the first time. Congratulations to Iain Ashley and Graham Patterson from Harrison Golf Club who won the event.



Belhaven Club Champions Iain Ashley and Graham Patterson from Harrison pictured with Belhaven's Bill Melville

The inaugural UBS Great Scottish Pro-Am, was recently hosted at the Fairmont St Andrews Bay Golf Resort & Spa and was a great success. The new event was supported by leading professional golfers, including Sam Torrance, Marc Warren and Scott Drummond.

Proceeds from the event will be invested into junior golf, supporting the development of Scotland's future golf stars. Many thanks to UBS, the professionals and leading amateurs who supported the day, and to all of the guests who entered teams. We hope the annual event will go from strength to strength in years to come.

The Walker Cup provided another highlight of the season, with the GB&I team narrowly missing out to the USA by just one point. Scotland was represented by Craighielaw member Lloyd Saltman.

Lloyd and Richie Ramsay, who have been part of many Scottish team successes in recent years have now turned professional and we wish them every success in their future careers.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who help make our championships a success and to the many clubs who make their courses available to us.

Congratulations to all of this year's champions



Lloyd Saltman will continue to shake up the competition on the professional scene



Richie Ramsay continues to fly the flag for Scotland

Website and Scoring

Our on-line championship scoring system was introduced this season, with a new and improved live tournament software system in place. At some of our key events we were able to offer hole by hole scoring which proved to be very popular, enabling you to keep up to date with how your club's members were performing in the country's major amateur events. Please continue to support this service by visiting www.scottishgolfunion.org

SGU Golf Central

The SGU Golf Central website service has become a hugely popular on-line tool for members and clubs alike, generating more than one million hits per month, with more than six thousand golfers now registered and more than 420 clubs live on the site.

We are continuing to evolve our on-line activities to assist clubs and add value to memberships, with a number of new developments in the pipeline. SGU Golf Central is the best way of accessing all the information you need from membership vacancies to entry forms.

If you want to find it, book it, play it or join it, go to www.golfcentral.co.uk

Handicapping and Course Rating

Work on the quadrennial revision of the CONGU Unified Handicapping System (UHS) has been completed and the CONGU (UHS) Manual will be sent out to all clubs by the end of this year.

SGU Rules Reminder Posters have also been produced for display at golf clubs. Two of these have been issued recently and further posters will be sent to your club in the coming months.

Clubgolf

Growing the Game is one of our key goals and is vital to the future of our sport. Clubgolf, the national junior golf strategy, has achieved some significant milestones during the year including:

- The introduction of over 26,000 children to golf in schools – which equates to over half of Scotland's P5 school children
- The participation of more than 900 schools which are now delivering clubgolf
- The training of more than 1,100 volunteer coaches.

Keeping our activity in the spotlight and at the forefront of the sport has been key, and there was a clubgolf presence at all the major golf events hosted in Scotland this year. A new initiative – 'Girls in Golf' – a project to tackle the under-representation of girls in the game – was recently launched and we will report on this project's progress as it develops.



Claire Queen and Kathryn Imrie lend their support to the 'Girls in Golf' launch

Clubgolf also launched its new revamped website this summer – www.clubgolfscotland.com. Here you can keep up to date with all of the latest news on the national programme.

Developing Talent

The SGU Academy programme is now in its third year of operation. 107 boys and 24 girls are now benefiting from intensive coaching programmes throughout Scotland. These young golfers are set to benefit from up to 100 hours of structured coaching sessions per annum, and we are hopeful future results will follow the trends of the last two years.

'Pathways', the new performance and coaching plan for Scottish Golf has been agreed, in partnership with the SLGA, sportscotland, PGA, Scottish Institute of Sport, Area Institutes of Sport and Scottish Universities Sport. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this plan. We are confident that this will continue to aid the progress and development of the amateur game.

Finance & Sponsorship

Our 2007 audited accounts will be approved at our AGM early next year and will be available on our website www.scottishgolfunion.org from February 2007.

In my last newsletter, I outlined a number of new partnerships which have resulted in record levels of sponsorship income. These investments have boosted our financial standing and enabled us to enhance many of our activities, both on and off the course.

We are extremely grateful to all of our sponsors, both new and long-standing, for their continued support of the game. In an ever competitive environment for external funding we will continue our endeavours to attract new sponsors, to build upon the services we currently provide to sustain the game and support our member clubs.

In addition, we would also like to express our gratitude to our partners, the R&A, sportscotland and EventScotland – their generous support is vital to our ongoing development and the achievement of our goals.

Tee Times

Thanks to the generosity of the clubs concerned, the SGU is again able to offer tee times at Troon, Muirfield, Dundonald and Prestwick with reduced green fees to members of affiliated golf clubs. These offers have been very popular and there is limited availability. Proceeds from tee-time sales assist our junior golf development programmes. Please contact the SGU on 01382 549500 to book.



Dundonald is one of the prestigious courses you could play at a reduced fee

The 19th Hole

The construction of our new offices at the Duke's Course in St Andrews is nearing completion. We expect to commence our lease on the office and move from our present headquarters at Drumoig early in 2008.



The Dukes Course in St Andrews will be our new home

We welcome your views on all areas of our activity, from growing the game to developing talent and supporting our member clubs, and would encourage you to contact us with your feedback.

Further information on our activities can be found on our website www.scottishgolfunion.org.

Thank you for your continued support.

Alistair Low

Alistair Low
Chairman

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