

# Areas & Counties Newsletter



## *Dear Secretary*

A warm welcome to the second edition of our Areas and Counties newsletter, keeping you updated with the latest information from within Scottish Golf and across the game in general.

Since starting in my role as Chief Executive in August, I am hugely encouraged by the opportunities that exist. During a busy period, I have been regularly meeting our Board of Non-Executive Directors, stakeholders, partners and our dedicated staff as we plan a positive future to help build stronger clubs, grow the number of players enjoying the game and develop future champions.

There is no doubt Scottish Golf needs to adapt our priorities and deliver solutions and strategies that will grow the game in a sustainable way. That is our challenge and one that I am confident we can deliver on together.

Having already met a number of Club, Area and County representatives in past weeks, I now look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our forthcoming Areas and Counties Update Meetings, along with our Chair, Eleanor Cannon. Please find further details on these meetings below.

As ever, we welcome your feedback on how we can improve communication and improve the relationship between the Board and our Area and County partners. Therefore, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if there is any issue within your Area or County that you would like to discuss.

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## AREAS & COUNTIES UPDATE MEETINGS

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We recently sent out correspondence to Area and County secretaries regarding a series of update meetings with myself and the Chair of Scottish Golf, Eleanor Cannon.

The purpose of these meetings is to update you on where we are as an organisation, the issues and priorities we have been dealing with since I came into post in late-August, and the future challenges, direction and opportunities we are working on.

From the meetings, we would like to obtain your thoughts and feedback on these priorities so that we are aligned in our common aims to grow the game and deliver a more sustainable sport.

There is a tremendous amount of history and experience within our sport and we would be delighted to be able to hear from you, not only about current plans but also any areas which you believe require attention as we move forward together for the future.

We have arranged a number of days in December and early in the New Year to facilitate these meetings and we would like to do these on an Area and County basis, so that we can focus on what your particular organisation's needs are. Therefore we would like to have each Area and County together representing that particular geographical region.

**To arrange your meeting, please complete the proforma included within your invitation and return to my colleague Ruth Hughes. Eleanor and I very much look forward to meeting you and working with you in shaping and growing our game.**

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## SCOTTISH GOLF AWARDS | AREAS & COUNTIES TICKET OFFER

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We are delighted to announce a preferential ticket price for Area and County representatives to attend next year's Scottish Golf Awards, which will take place at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange on Friday 24 February. As well as celebrating the achievements of Scotland's golfers and golf clubs across all levels of the game, the event has become an important part of our fundraising activities, with Beatson Cancer Charity selected as our charity partner alongside the Scottish Golf Charity as next year's beneficiaries. The event has helped to raise nearly £75,000 for charity over the last three years.

Our ticket offer provides a £15 discount on individual tickets at £80 per person (standard price £95) or a £150 discount on a table of 10, priced at £800 (standard price £950) including VAT. The package includes a glass of champagne, bottle of beer or soft drink on arrival, delicious 3-course meal, entertainment hosted by Dougie Vipond and Alison Walker, as well as the chance to mingle with leading golfers and stars from other sports.

To purchase your tickets, visit our online shop via the link below and use the following discount codes when making your purchase. Simply add the code in the Promo Code box at checkout:

[> Book Your Seat at the 2017 Scottish Golf Awards](#)

> Table of 10 promo code – **areacounty10**

> Individual ticket promo code – **areacounty**

This year's categories include our Lifetime Achievement Award, Aberdeen Asset Management Player of the Year, Club of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Team of the Year, Club Manager of the Year and our Inspiration Award, as well as honouring the various national Order of Merit winners at all levels for male and female golfers.



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## NOMINATIONS OPEN: VOLUNTEER & CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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An important part of our annual awards ceremony is recognising the work done by those at the grass roots level of the game and nominations are now open for the Club and Volunteer of the Year Awards. If you know someone who has made a significant contribution to golf at area, county, club or national level, we want to hear from you.

Is there a club in your area or county which has had a year to remember, through increased membership, improved facilities or making a difference in their local community? Our Club of the Year will receive a grant of £1,500 to support a future project or initiative.

The four shortlisted volunteers and clubs will each receive two invitations to attend the Awards, with the winners presented on stage on the night. To make your nominations, complete the form on the links below by Monday 9 January.

[> Club of the Year – Nomination Form](#)

[> Volunteer of the Year – Nomination Form](#)

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## SCOTTISH GOLF RULES SCHOOL: LEVEL 2 COURSE

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Next year's popular Rules School Level 2 course, supported by The R&A, will be held at The Duke's clubhouse in St Andrews from 14 – 16 March. The course is aimed at those keen to further their knowledge of the Rules of Golf and develop their skills for future refereeing opportunities.

All successful candidates achieving 80% and above will be invited to be part of the Scottish Golf Rules Panel, with the chance to work across our portfolio of national championships.

The two-and-a-half day course costs £120 per person, which includes lunch, refreshments and a 'Decisions and Rules' book, as well as a preparation guide and practice papers. To book your place or to find out further information on the course, please call our Events Department on 01334 466477 or email [events@scottishgolf.org](mailto:events@scottishgolf.org)

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## HANDICAP CONVENORS SEMINARS

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From early February next year, we're running a number of Handicapping Seminars across Scotland. The two-hour regional seminars are free of charge and are open to Match and Handicap Convenors from any affiliated golf club, with places subject to demand.

The seminars will be dedicated to providing a generic overview on the CONGU Unified Handicapping System and will also look at a number of changes introduced in 2016 and how they affect your club. Workshop topics will include: Club Handicaps; 9-Hole Qualifying Competitions and Supplementary Scores; and Alteration of Handicaps. Please book your place if you or your fellow representatives are interested in attending these seminars with further information available at [www.scottishgolf.org/club-services/](http://www.scottishgolf.org/club-services/)

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## CHANGES TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Following a comprehensive review, we have made a number of changes to our national championships, with several to come into effect from the start of next season.

Having engaged with players, clubs and other stakeholders to help shape the changes, the new look calendar is designed to provide a better platform for our amateur golfers to perform on while showcasing some of the country's outstanding courses.

The most significant developments concern changes to the formats and timings of the major national match play championships, and you can read about the changes in full via the link below. We believe these changes will be positively received, but welcome your feedback should you wish to contact myself or the Events Department.

### [> Changes to National Championships](#)

Further to these changes, we will shortly be announcing the schedules for our series of handicap events for 2017, offering playing opportunities on a national stage to golfers of all abilities. There are some exciting new developments to look out for next season, including two new sponsors and a brand new event for men and women.



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## AND FINALLY... ENJOY 9 THIS WINTER TIME...

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Scottish Golf is among a number of golfing bodies working hard to promote the many benefits of playing 9-hole golf. With Scotland blessed with many 9-hole golf courses, it's far from a new concept, but it's a shorter form of golf that can suit today's busy lifestyles, from those competing in 9-hole medals to those taking their first steps in the game.

A digital video campaign – supported by a host of leading names including Pdraig Harrington, Martin Kaymer, Matteo Manassero, Catriona Matthew and Charley Hull – promotes the benefits of shorter formats of the game, which are perfect for this time of year. We would be grateful if you could share this video in your Area or County, via website, e-newsletter or your social media channels

[> Find Time for 9 Video](#)

On behalf of Scottish Golf, thank you for your continued support and I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks. Finally, best wishes for a lovely Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kind regards

*Blane Dodds, Chief Executive*