

Areas & Counties Newsletter



Dear Secretary

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, our first of this new golf year. I hope the information below provides you with an update of our latest activities across Scottish Golf and continues to keep you informed of areas of interest. As we seek to strengthen our communication platforms throughout this year and beyond, we would be grateful if you could distribute the newsletter to the rest of your committee.

Personally, I've had a busy and enjoyable start to the New Year, concluding our Areas & Counties Update Meetings around the country and having the pleasure of meeting many of you in person, as I will detail further below. I look forward to working with you all to drive Scottish Golf forward and please do not hesitate to get in touch should you wish to discuss any matters relevant to your Area or County.

AREAS & COUNTIES UPDATE MEETINGS

I am delighted that I have been able to meet all Area & County representatives in recent weeks, consulting on the issues and priorities important to you. I was joined by our chair, Eleanor Cannon, for these consultation meetings, along with Karin Sharp, Corporate Services Director, when Eleanor was unable to attend.

I felt it was a very productive and positive process, consulting on the Scottish Golf strategy and the priorities within it, and I thank you again for your input and taking the time to meet us. As discussed, we are taking a one-year approach, so we can have a much more consultative strategy going forward to build a bigger four-year plan. This gives you and our other stakeholders an opportunity to feed into the plan, so we have a rounded consultative view on our strategy going forward.

Please contact me if there is anything else you would like to discuss in light of these meetings.

DIARY DATE: SCOTTISH GOLF AGM SATURDAY 11 MARCH

As many of you will already be aware, the Annual General Meeting of Scottish Golf will take place on Saturday 11 March at the Fairmont St Andrews.

I look forward to meeting many of you again in the 'Home of Golf' and hope as many of you can attend as possible to gain your input and provide the opportunity to have your say. As stakeholders, it is clearly important for you to be represented. This year's programme includes the option of 9 holes of golf in the morning, before a buffet lunch and the AGM in the afternoon. Further details will be communicated in due course.

AREAS & COUNTIES TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

I am delighted to advise that the GolfKings Scottish Area Team Championship, the Scottish Women's County Championship and the Boys Area Team Championship will be played under the same formats on this year's Scottish Golf championship calendar.

I know these events are all very important to your respective Areas and Counties and we will look forward to consulting with you this year on how best to stage these events in 2018 and beyond.

Details of dates and venues for the various Area and County team championships this season will be confirmed in due course.

SCOTTISH GOLF AWARDS TICKET OFFER

With excitement growing as we countdown to 24 February, please be reminded that you have the opportunity to take up a discounted offer for Areas and Counties to attend the 2017 Scottish Golf Awards. Our popular fundraising event returns to the Edinburgh Corn Exchange, celebrating achievement at all levels of the game.

Come along and enjoy a fantastic night with our offer for Area and County representatives at **£150 off for a table of 10 and £15 off for an individual ticket**. Our excellent ticket package includes a glass of champagne on arrival, delicious three course meal with wine and the chance to mingle with Scotland's leading golfers and famous sports stars. Paul Lawrie is among those players to have confirmed their attendance for the evening.

Organised by the Scottish Golf team, the Awards recognise the success of the game's leading Tour professionals and top amateurs, as well as the work done by PGA coaches and grass roots heroes.

The 2017 ceremony will be hosted by BBC broadcaster and Deacon Blue drummer Dougie Vipond and leading sports broadcaster and golf enthusiast Alison Walker, with funds raised on the night going to the Beatson Cancer Charity, the event's new charity partner, and our own Scottish Golf Charity.

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

STAFF CHANGES AT SCOTTISH GOLF

We are currently finalizing our initial review regarding staffing structure. This has been a key priority since I came into my role last August.

I am delighted that Fraser Munro has been appointed to the role of Head of Events and will start his new position in the coming weeks ahead of the new domestic season. Fraser has a wealth of experience in golf, most notably with the Ladies European Tour and the Ladies' Golf Union.

After the departure of Steve Paulding, Stuart Clayton has also taken over as Acting Head of Performance, while Jackie Davidson has moved into the role of Acting Head of Development. We are also recruiting for a new Head of Finance and IT as we finalise our new staff team going forward.

[> View Scottish Golf staff profiles](#)

IMPROVE YOUR HANDICAPPING KNOWLEDGE

Our latest series of Handicapping Workshops return soon (from 1 February), designed to help Match and Handicap Convenors prepare for the new competitive season.

With eight venues and dates to choose from, we are inviting convenors to come and enjoy an interactive session with our team of experts, focusing on current key issues and FAQs, such as 9-hole competitions and supplementary scores. Please book your place if you or a fellow representative is interested in attending.

[> View further information](#)

NETWORK AT THE CAPTAINS WEEKEND

With hugely positive feedback from our previous two events, Scottish Golf will be running our third annual Captains Weekend on 25 – 26 March.

This informative and enjoyable weekend event provides volunteer leaders and senior staff at clubs with a better understanding of the drivers and tools required to maximise their tenure and help their club thrive. The package includes dinner, golf and the opportunity to network with fellow captains, so please book your place or spread the word about this popular event.

[> View more information](#)

On behalf of Scottish Golf, thank you for your continued support and best wishes for the season ahead.

Kind regards

Blane Dodds, Chief Executive