

Areas & Counties Newsletter



Dear Secretary

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, as we continue our monthly updates for you on the latest activities and topics of interests across Scottish Golf.

As we seek to strengthen our communication platforms throughout this year, we would be grateful if you could distribute the newsletter to the rest of your committee. I look forward to meeting many of you at our Annual Meeting in St Andrews on 11 March and provide further details on the event in the newsletter below.

SCOTTISH GOLF AWARDS: ALL THE WINNERS...

I was delighted to attend the Scottish Golf Awards at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange on Friday night. It was a fantastic evening, celebrating achievement at all levels of the game in Scotland and raising valuable funds for the Scottish Golf Charity and our charity partner for this year's event, Beatson Cancer Charity.

It was also pleasing to see so many people in attendance from across the golfing community coming together to enjoy the occasion, share stories and make new connections. I believe it is a quality event, produced by our staff in-house, and it is held in great esteem across the sporting sector in Scotland.



It was terrific to see Paul Lawrie collect an Inspiration Award for all his work to grow the game, with the well-known Dunaverty duo of Belle Robertson and Jock MacVicar receiving Lifetime Achievement accolades for their contributions to golf at different levels. We were also delighted to be joined on the night by the likes of Stephen Gallacher, Pamela Pretswell, Richie Ramsay, Alastair Forsyth and Beth Allen as they showed their support for the event.

I also enjoyed seeing the pride and honour shown on stage by the Volunteer and Club of the Year winners – Douglas Slater from Stromness Golf Club on Orkney and Muir of Ord Golf Club from the Highlands. Their passion for the game is what golf is all about and congratulations to them, as well as all the volunteers and clubs nominated.

You can see various images from the night on our website and social media platforms, while the link below will take you to the news story on our website highlighting all the winners.

[> View the 2017 Scottish Golf Awards Roll of Honour](#)

[> View images on Scottish Golf Facebook](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY: SCOTTISH GOLF ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY 11 MARCH



I look forward to welcoming representatives from Clubs and Areas & Counties for a networking day at Scottish's Golf Annual Meeting in the Home of Golf. Our event takes place this year on **Saturday 11 March 2017** at Fairmont St Andrews and you are invited to attend to meet, share experiences and debate. As stakeholders, it is clearly important for you to be represented.

The event includes the opportunity for a complimentary 9 holes of golf in the morning – with tee times allocated from 8.30am – before a buffet lunch and the Annual Meeting from 1 – 4pm, concluding with the AGM.

The afternoon agenda will focus on consulting on the issues and opportunities for Scottish Golf with the objective of growing the game.

We will present on the year in review and the priorities for the organisation going forward, while we look forward to being joined by Peter Lederer, the former Chair of VisitScotland and The Gleneagles Hotel, who will also hold a Q&A session on the value of golf to Scotland. If you haven't registered for the day already, please use the link below to do so.

For those wishing accommodation at the venue, a preferential room rate is being offered by the hotel.

[> Register for Annual Meeting](#)

CONSULTATION AND FORTHCOMING PLANS

Having met many of you at our Area & County meetings before Christmas and in the New Year, I wanted to provide you with an update on our consultation plans. I felt it was a very productive meeting process, consulting on the Scottish Golf strategy and the priorities within it, and I thank you again for your time.

As an organisation, we have now started consulting on our new plans, priorities and strategy. As you are aware, we have constructed a new one-year plan in partnership with **sportscotland** with the objective of inputting the feedback and creating a four-year plan.

We will be setting up Club Forums so that clubs around the country can hear from myself and the wider Scottish Golf team. This will also be an opportunity to gather initial feedback from clubs around some of the priority areas. Other key partners have already been contacted, such as The PGA and The R&A and this will continue.

I am very keen that we ensure as many voices are heard to identify the issues holding back the expansion of golf in Scotland, so that we can all be a part of the solutions in terms of the delivery of growth for our game.

The Consultation Plan will be published on our website and will be delivered over the spring and summer of this year with a target completion date of 31 August 2017 in line with the target dates for the **sportscotland** partnership investment.

DIARY DATES: AREA & COUNTY TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

As previously detailed, the GolfKings Scottish Men's Area Team Championship, the Scottish Women's County Championship and the Boys' Area Team Championship return to our events calendar in 2017 and will be played under the same formats.

The Area Team Championship takes place at Newmachar from 8 – 10 September, the Women's County event heads for Glenbervie from 15 – 17 September and the Boys' Area Team is being held at Stranraer on 18 June. Going forward, we will look forward to consulting with you on how best to stage these events in 2018 and beyond.

We will also be communicating with all clubs shortly for our portfolio of handicap championships for 2017, including our new partnership with Revive Active. The Irish-based company will become headline sponsors of the Scottish Women's Regional Medal finals, a nationwide event open to all female club members in Scotland. This builds on our new partnership with PING, supporting the Scottish Mixed Championship for the first time.



STAFF CHANGES AT SCOTTISH GOLF

I am pleased to announce that our new staffing structure for the organisation is close to being finalised. Fraser Munro started his new role as Head of Events on 20 February and is quickly working with his new team for the calendar ahead. With a clear focus on driving service excellence and a real desire to ensure that a first class experience is delivered for the players, volunteers and staff team alike, I'm confident in Fraser's leadership going forward.

Kevin Fish has now left the organisation and we all thank him for his contribution at club level. However, we will continue to work with Kevin on a consultancy basis across our delivery of seminars, workshops and education courses. He will also continue to support members of staff, as well as maintaining Scottish Golf's existing commitment to key partners. We are also close to announcing our new Head of Finance and IT, and will soon update the staff section of our website so you know who to contact for any enquiries you may have.

CAPTAINS WEEKEND REMINDER

You are reminded that we are running our third annual Captains Weekend on 25 – 26 March and look forward to welcoming leaders and senior staff at club level for 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 I look forward to meeting many of you again at our Annual Meeting in St Andrews on 11 March.

Kind regards

Blane Dodds, Chief Executive