

# Dumbartonshire Golf Union Newsletter



*Dear Captain, Club Manager & Committee Member*

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter, keeping you up-to-date with our latest activities here at Dumbartonshire Golf Union. Please circulate widely within your club perhaps by e-mailing out to your members.

## STROKEPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP



A very strong field containing George Duncan (Windyhill) the current Scottish Amateur Champion, the Balmore Golf Club Team (the silver medal winners in the 2016 European Team Championship) along with Chris MacLean and Steven Stewart the current 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> placed players in this year's Scottish Golf order of merit.

The winner of the scratch event was Chris MacLean (Balmore) with a 2 round total of 132. After an opening level par 70, Chris then equalled the course record at Kirkintilloch with a stunning second round 62, 8 under par. The leading 16 players go on to contest the Matchplay Championship at Hilton Park Golf Club in the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> July.

**Champion Chris MacLean being presented with the trophy by Alan Bell, DGU President.**

## SPRING MEETING



A field of 52 players from 15 clubs competed at Kirkintilloch Golf Club on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. The scratch winner with a score of 72 was Greg Halkett (Kirkintilloch) and the handicap winner was Kevin Smyth (Windyhill) with a score of 73-1 72.

It was a very blustery day and all the players found the conditions very trying. This was reflected in the CSS on the day of +3 at 72.

**Scratch winner Greg Halkett (Kirkintilloch) being presented with the trophy by DGU President Alan Bell.**

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## WEST OF SCOTLAND STROKEPLAY

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We were the hosts this year and the competition was held at Dullatur Golf Club in April. A strong field of 75 entries from across the West of Scotland competed for this major prize. The winner was Calum Fye (Cawder), a current Scottish Mens Internationalist and Glasgow Golf Union Strokeplay Champion, who won with a 1 over par total of 141. In the 2nd round an eagle 2 at the 14th hole on the way to an inward 33 saw Calum claim another notable victory.

In second place was Colin Edgar (Elderslie) with a 2 over par 142.

**Winner Calum Fye with DGU President Alan Bell and Dullatur GC Captain Gerry Hobday.**

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## INTERCLUB KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

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There are strong entries from nearly all clubs in the Champion of Champions and Handicap Champions competitions. 10 juniors are playing in the Junior Champions competition. 15 clubs are participating in the team competition but only 6 in the junior team competition.

The matches are now well under way with a good completion rate seeing nearly all the matches being played on time.

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## SCOTTISH BOYS AREA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

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Our team of Callum Burns (Balmore Golf Club), Kyle Reid (Balmore Golf Club), Lachlan Reynolds (Hilton Park Golf Club) and Ian Taggart (Lenzie Golf Club) did exceptionally well to claim second place and in fact were unlucky not to secure first place after an excellent performance in the morning set of foursomes matches. It was a great result by our boys against the other Scottish Areas, some containing current boys' team internationalists.

**The team being presented with their runners-up medals.**

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## BOYS TEAM MATCHES

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An encouraging start to this year's West of Scotland League campaign with a narrow defeat by 4.5 to 3.5 away to Stirlingshire, followed by a comprehensive victory over Glasgow at Bearsden Golf Club, 6.5 to 1.5. Our next match is on the 16<sup>th</sup> July, away to Renfrewshire at Eastwood.

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## YOUTH TEAM MATCHES

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We aim to enter a team in the Youths' Area Team Championship at Ralston Golf Club in September.

We start our defence of the West of Scotland league title in September with a home match at Clober against Glasgow.

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## GENTS TEAM MATCHES

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We will be entering a 6 man team for the GolfKings Scottish Men's Area Team Championship at Newmachar in early September. We were runners up in 2015 and if we can field our strongest team we hope to be competing for the title again this year. Our West of Scotland league campaign kicks off in mid-September with an away match against Glasgow.

Balmore will be representing the Area in the Scottish Mens' Club Championship at Eastwood Golf Club in September. The Balmore trio triumphed at Stranraer last year going on to participate in the European Men's Cup Trophy in Portugal where they finished in 2nd place.



**The Balmore team of Neil McConnachie, Chris MacLean and James Wilson.**

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## COACHING

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The sessions at the golf range at Bishopbriggs have now been completed and we have moved onto the outdoor sessions at Balmore Golf Club.

The assessments for the next intake into the Coaching College in October have started but the nominations from the clubs have been low in number. We will though try to maintain the college structure so that we have it in place when the next band of promising young players comes through.

A further trawl round the Junior Convenors is taking place to make sure we are not missing any juniors who would benefit from the Coaching College experience.

**DGU Coaching College intake 2016.**

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## INDIVIDUAL DGU PLAYER ACHIEVEMENTS

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Through early development at the Coaching College, competitive team matches at Boys, Youths and Gents level, the national team championships at Boys and Gents level along with our Strokeplay and Matchplay Championships leading to the National competitions, we aim to provide a structured pathway to allow players to develop to reach their highest potential. Recent successes by our players are detailed below.

**Chris MacLean** (Balmore) : winner of the Tennant Cup, leading Scottish qualifier at the British Amateur, runner-up in the Irish Amateur Open, currently 5<sup>th</sup> in the Scottish Golf Order of Merit

**Steven Stewart** (Clydebank & District) : runner up in the Battle Trophy at Crail, runner up in the Craigmillar Park Open, currently 6<sup>th</sup> in the Scottish Golf Order of Merit.

**James Wilson** (Balmore) : Top 20 finish at the Welsh Open Strokeplay, currently 16<sup>th</sup> in the Scottish Golf Order of Merit.

**Ian Taggart** (Lenzie) : currently 33<sup>rd</sup> in the Scottish Boys Order of Merit.

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## COURSE RATING

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Our team have attended the latest training session run by Scottish Golf and will be carrying out the programme of assessments during the summer.

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## DGU CLUB FORUMS

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As agreed at the AGM a series of forums was held to allow clubs to give their views on the future priorities for the DGU. Although not very well attended the forums were very useful in clarifying the clubs' priorities going forward. Any significant changes will be proposed for agreement at the next AGM.


Some items such as a re-vamp of the Reciprocal Golf scheme, promotion of club opens on the DGU website and facebook page are underway.

An initiative in terms of Junior Golf is the creation of Inter-Club medals whereby a Junior member of an affiliated club can play in a Junior medal at any club in the Area that is part of the scheme. If the idea is supported we will look to implement for 2018.

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## DGU FACEBOOK PAGE

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We are hoping to increase the number of club members who are linked to our Facebook page so we can keep them informed of matters of golfing interest across the Dumbartonshire Area. Can I ask clubs to advise their members of our Facebook page and to link to it by using the "like" function on the following page: [DGU Facebook Page](#) 

Members can also keep in touch through our web page at [www.dgu.org.uk](http://www.dgu.org.uk)

On behalf of Dumbartonshire Golf Union, thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

*John Strathers, Secretary.*