



Newsletter 2012

Issue 2 January 2012

Dear Member

Once again the weather has not been kind to golfers during the 2011 season, therefore it was surprising to see an increase in visitor numbers during the season. Memberships stood up well against the previous year and outings remained strong, but numbers attending those outings appeared to be under pressure with people just not having the time to attend was the feedback.

Apartments and Villas continue to grow their occupancy with a large amount of repeat business. 'Stay and play' greatly improved in 2011 and being able to offer Saturday Tee times attracted a number of overseas parties, our largest party being 38 Golfers from Sweden. Earlier in the year we had a group of Norwegians who managed to drink the clubhouse dry one weekend, and the good news is they're coming back!

Our focus for 2012 is to improve the level of service and experience for golf members and visitors when visiting Inchmarlo Resort & Golf Centre; and to work closely with the Club Captain and office bearers to integrate the business and staff in harmony with the members to create a first class club atmosphere.

Over the last 2 years much work has been undertaken on the Lairds to improve the drainage of the greens enabling a faster putting surface. This year we shall continue to work hard on improving the speed of the greens, but a great deal of this is down to weather

conditions at the time. We have already pencilled in a "Grayden" for late July which extracts circa 40 tonnes of thatch and replaces it with kiln dried sand. This was carried out last year and has made a significant improvement to the greens, however unfortunately last year we were blighted with the coldest and wettest spell in many years, the week after this work was undertaken and the recovery time took months not weeks. Continued path improvements and general maintenance are planned throughout the year but there are no significant plans afoot to change the overall layout of the courses.

Many members have been asking on the progress of the proposed Hotel & Leisure Development at Inchmarlo. At present due to confidentiality clauses all I can confirm is that we are in detailed discussion with an International Hotel Operator and Developer, and will be in a position the earlier part of 2012 to expand on what can only be described as an exciting opportunity not only for Inchmarlo and Deeside, but for Aberdeenshire as a whole.

Finally I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and effort during last season through some difficult weather conditions, and the members and customers who have continued to support us. I look forward to 2012 with fingers crossed for better weather conditions.

Colin Wilson

Managing Director

Ladies Report

As the new season is fast approaching, we look back on last year and what was a very enjoyable and well supported golfing season.

The season began with our coffee morning which raised £111.50 for Macmillan cancer support and the County Centenary Lunch at The Marcliffe which was an enjoyable afternoon with very entertaining speakers.

To get everyone into the swing of things for the new season, many ladies took part in our 6 weeks of group lessons with Andrew and Ryan which was well attended and we look to repeat this again next season.

In May 20 ladies went to Westerwood in Cumbernauld for a weekend of golf and socializing and 13 ladies enjoyed another weekend away in October at Granton on Spey and Boat of Garten in what has become an annual trip. Our away day this year was to Edzell and was attended by 36 ladies. The weather was kind to us and everyone enjoyed 2 rounds of golf played over this very scenic course.

The monthly Red Tee evenings on the Queens course started in May. This has been successfully run by Doreen Baillie and consists of fun competitions open to all lady members and included a Soup and Pudding fun day! A total of £454 was raised for Macmillan.

Gents Section

The end of 2011 season came around quickly. It does not seem that long ago that we were teeing off in April full of hope for the season ahead. 2011 was a busy season for the club. Now we are starting to look forward to the 2012 season. Last year the committee worked hard on ensuring things ran smoothly, and in most part, they did. We saw the introduction of an invitational day, which was a huge success and we look forward to building on that in 2012. With the continued enthusiasm from the committee we look forward to trying out more events for the members in 2012. We would like to thank you for your support through 2011 and look forward to seeing you on the course over the winter months and into the new season.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Robin Smith every success as Captain in 2012.

Jack Douglas
Captain 2011

Aberdeenshire Ladies County Golf celebrated their Centenary year. 28 clubs gather at Deeside to take part in a fun competition and enjoy the July weather. Congratulations to Jackie Sutherland winning the county Trophy for the three best net scores in the Silver Division and Jackie Taylor who won the three best net scores in the Bronze Division. Jackie Taylor also won the trophy for the best single net score overall. Inchmarlo also fielded a team in the Watt Duffus Trophy at Banchory and the Lyons Foursomes at Cruden Bay.

Another success for Inchmarlo was the winning of the Pennant Trophy at Peterculter by Joanna D'onghia, Susan Black, Liz Clark and Joanne Brankling. Inchmarlo also finished 4th in the Bennachie League this year

When you add to these all the other players who won prizes in opens and Joanna D'onghia, Susan Black and Ali Cousland who were in teams who finished 1st, 2nd and 4th at Balgownie, then we really did have a brilliant year.

Congratulations also to the 2011 Club Champion, Louise Smith, Silver Division Champion, Alison Reid and the Bronze Division Champion Janice Innes.

The Evergreens, which is open to any ladies of

50+, have played on Mondays throughout the season. Several times the weather disrupted play but this did not stop the ladies from enjoying various competitions including mixed Texas Scramble with the senior mens section. Congratulations to Annie Cameron who was the overall winner of the Evergreens Summer Quaich.

On a social front, members enjoyed a wine tasting and a very successful Christmas fair which raised £534.50 for Macmillan. A ladies Christmas lunch and a dinner were held in December. A total of £1100 has been raised for Macmillan Cancer Support through various fundraising events throughout the year.

The committee would like to thank all the lady members for their support and encouragement throughout the season. On a personal note I would like to say how much I have enjoyed being captain and am looking forward to next season.

Happy Winter golfing

Tricia Halliwell
Captain

Senior Section

The Inchmarlo Seniors are still going strong. Meeting every Monday and Wednesday morning no matter what the weather throws at them. If anyone age 55 years or older is interested in meeting up and playing with our Seniors, please come along and join them on either a Monday or Wednesday. We are currently on our winter tee time of 9.30am.

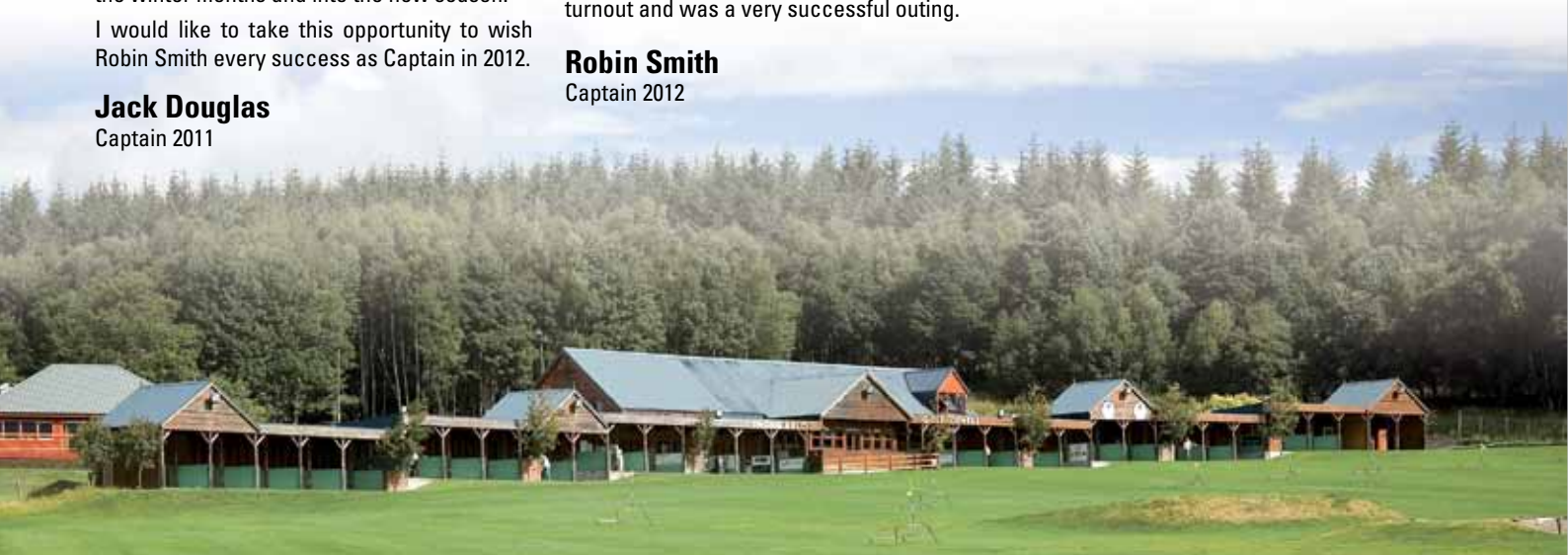
The Senior Gents Winter Programme is up on the notice board in the pro shop. Please also keep an eye on the notice board for the proposed outing venues for 2012.

The Seniors have joined the North East Senior Association (NESA). The NESA outing was held at Inchmarlo this year which had a good turnout and was a very successful outing.

Robin Smith
Captain 2012

Junior Section

Throughout December our winter coaching programmes proved to be very popular with our up and coming golfers despite the testing weather conditions. Our next block of lessons will commence week beginning 20th February and will run for 4 weeks on a Monday, Thursday and Friday after school. To secure your place, please contact the pro shop on 01330-826422.



Apartments & Villas

Our accommodation had a very successful season in 2011 with the occupancy being up on last year. We increased our working relations with 'Your Golf Travel' which saw a significant number of golf package bookings which not only increased our income through the accommodation but also saw the guests playing golf and enjoying our restaurant facilities. This along with bookings from Norway, wedding parties and a large percentage of repeat business resulted in a very successful season.

MEMBER OFFER

Why not invite your family and friends to stay at Inchmarlo with our member offer. Stay for only **£75 for a 2 bedroom villa per night** or **£99 for a 3 bedroom villa per night**. Valid until 31st March 2012



Pro Shop Get set for the new season

Adult and junior lessons are available from the pro shop in addition to 9 hole playing lessons and 18 hole playing lessons. Book 5 lessons and get the 6th lesson free. You also have the option for your coaching to include video analysis and use of the Explanar which is voted one of the best teaching aids in the world.

Adult ½ hour lesson **from £23**, Junior ½ hour lesson **from £15**

Or treat yourself to a set of custom fit golf clubs to enhance your game in the coming season. For just £50 per hour, our professionals can provide a custom fitting service using state of the art FlightScope radar tracking technology to enhance the club fitting experience ensuring all golfers can now be fitted with the ideal set of clubs to match their game. Purchase a set of clubs after your custom fit and receive a **20% discount** on the cost of your custom fit.

To arrange a club fitting with FlightScope, contact the Pro Shop on **01330 826422**

Lessons

Ladies member group classes starting Wednesday 21st March. Sign up sheets on the notice board.

Junior after school lessons starting Monday 20th February. Contact the pro shop to book a place.

Please also check the notice boards for details of Senior coaching starting soon and for our Easter holiday coaching programme.



Winter MOT

The winter gives you the ideal opportunity to give your golf equipment a thorough MOT and ensure everything is in good condition in preparation for the new golf season. Below are a few areas you may wish to consider:

CLUBS: Thinking of changing your clubs? Why not use the winter months to have your current clubs assessed using state of the art FlightScope Technology. Find out if your current clubs are performing effectively for you or test them against some of the latest models on the market and see how they compare.

The winter months offer the perfect opportunity to get used to your new set so you can hit the ground running at the start of the new season.

GRIPS: Making sure your grips are in good condition is essential after all this is the only part of the club you have contact with. Over time heat, dirt and oils from your hands all cause your grips to breakdown, making it

difficult for you to comfortably take hold of the club.

A fresh set of grips is an inexpensive and fast way to revitalise your clubs and give you confidence when swinging the club. Why not pop in to the Professional Shop and check out some of the fantastic offers we have on grips.

SHOES: It is essential that your feet are comfortable during your round, 9 or 18 holes in a pair of shoes that fit incorrectly will greatly affect your performance.

Are you finding it difficult to keep your footing while playing? A good set of spikes combined with sound set up fundamentals will help provide a solid base giving you the best opportunity to make consistent swings.

Any of the staff in the Professional Shop will be more than happy to inspect the condition of your clubs, grips and shoes the next time you are at the club.

Membership Fees

With the renewal of membership fees upon us again, this year we have taken into account the current economic climate. We have also had several discussions with the Committees and members and are delighted to inform you we have reduced the Green Fees for 2012 as follows:-

Ladies & Gents (27 hole)	£550
(9 hole)	£250
Seniors 55+ (27 hole)	£350
Junior from	£50

Junior Membership Special Offer

Are you age 8 – 11 years and interested in improving your game?

Sign up to a block of 6 individual lessons with one of our Professionals and get your membership **FREE**.

Contact the pro shop for more details and to book your lessons.

Since reducing the fees we have had a positive uptake on new members with limited places remaining.

See our website for all membership categories and renew your membership now.

www.inchmarlo.com

Ladies coffee morning will be held on Saturday 17th March 9.30 for 10.00 in the Clubhouse

Pre Season Sign Up Day

Come along on Saturday 25th March to sign up for the match play competitions in the coming season. Find out about the national handicap database.

For a bit of fun we are planning to have a Queen's Course Challenge. Can you get round in 27 shots plus handicap allowance? Stop playing when you run out of shots! Can you reach the 9th green or will you take the walk of shame? Would you have shots left in the bag? A small entry fee to cover the prizes, with the proceeds going to out Ladies Section charity pot.

The challenge is open to all, members and visitors alike. Come along and join in the fun. Tee times from 9am – 1pm.

Course Update for Winter

The following article provides members with a summary of key events that have either taken place during the year or are planned to take place as part of our winter programme.

General Overview of 2011

2011 proved to be a challenging year for our golfers and Greens staff. Early snow in October seemed to set the weather conditions for the rest of the winter where we had long periods of snow on the course lasting until late March/early April. Thankfully however we did have a good April & May with warm conditions which helped get the course back on track. Sadly the good weather did not last long with heavy rainfall in June which was never far away over the summer months.

The snow impacted badly on the 11th, 12th, 13th & 18th greens on the Lairds course, however thanks to intensive treatment and perseverance by our Greens staff, it was almost fully recovered by June when we held the Ladies County Jamboree. This event was a great success with positive feedback on the course condition and they hope to return again next year.

In July we carried out Grayden on the greens which made a big impact on the condition of the greens albeit it was delayed by a few weeks as a result of an unexpected cold snap in the weather. The path on the Lairds 2nd was upgraded and edged which should prevent future flooding of this area.

Summary of 2011/12 Winter Programme

The winter programme is very much weather dependant and may be modified depending on the weather conditions.

Winter Hours

Apartment & Villa Reception

Jan - March Mon - Sun 8 am to 8 pm

Pro Shop/Driving Range

Jan - March Mon - Wed 8 am to 8 pm
Thurs - Sun 8 am to 6 pm

Lairds Course

Paths & Drainage - Will in general be edged and tidied with particular attention being paid to the path at the 2nd which will be extended to join on with the existing path on the right hand side of the green, and the path on the 8th which will be extended to join on with the bridge in front of the 8th green.

Work will be carried out to improve the drainage on the 4th, 5th & 6th fairways. The path on the 18th will also be drained and re-done to prevent future flooding.

Queens Course

Paths & Drainage - All paths will be weeded and edged over the winter months.

The 2nd & 4th fairways will be drained to cure drainage problems.

In addition to the above winter programme, and as a result of the member satisfaction survey carried out earlier this year, the following work will also be carried out on both courses:-

- Improve the quality of the bunkers by weeding and edging the bunkers
- Level out some of the tees on both courses
- Clean out ditches & burns and water hazards
- 150 yard distance markers placed on the side of the rough

Restaurant

Jan - March
Mon - Wed 9 am to 3.00 pm last orders
Thurs - Sun 9 am to 8.00 pm last orders

Members are encouraged to contact the club if they are thinking of coming down later in the day during bad spells of winter weather. The clubhouse will close early if there are any health and safety concerns.

Winter Golfing Rules

GUR/Restrictions

There will be work carried out on both golf courses. This will be carried out with minimal disruption, however there will be roped off areas, as well as ground under repair. Please observe these restrictions by avoiding walking over or playing out of them.

Winter Buggy

The winter buggy restriction is outline below.

1. Buggy restrictions are applied to both courses between November & March depending on the weather & golf course conditions.
2. The restriction prevents members from using ride on buggies.
3. The only exceptions to this are members who have a doctor's note or are over 65.

Winter Etiquette

We can see a marked improvement on the condition of our golf courses. Much of this is through our membership taking personal ownership of issues and opportunities to improve. Arguably one of the greatest opportunities we have for further improvement is the way we treat our golf courses. Replacing divots, repairing pitch marks and raking bunkers are our personal responsibility. Our request is to follow the simple rules and in particular over the coming months, comply with the following winter etiquette:-

1. Tee off no earlier than 8am to allow the Greens staff time to assess the course and amend the greens as appropriate.
2. Play off winter tees
3. Use fairway mats at all times (mats are available from the pro shop)

Thank you for your support during the season and here's hoping the weather is kind this winter and we get to play.

Your place in Royal Deeside