

**Captain’s Annual Newsletter**

**March 2021**

Dear Member.

Welcome to another year of golfing at Thurso Golf Club.

As I mentioned in my AGM Report, the past year has been a very strange one for all of us. Golf would always come well down the list of our priorities when family and friend’s health are at risk. Due to Covid restrictions we lost access to the Clubhouse and its facilities and it was a later than normal start to the season, but when we were allowed to golf again we were blessed with fantastic weather and a course in tip top condition. It was the boost we all needed.

Due to other sports being under more severe restrictions, Thurso Golf Club found ourselves with an increased number of very welcome new members. We hope they continue to enjoy the course and camaraderie. Government Grants helped cover the shortfall in funding from bar revenue and Visitors, so all in all, thanks to the hard working Committee, its volunteers and its members, the Club managed to get ready for safe golf and deal with the ever changing restrictions placed by Scots Gov.

Led by our Greens Convenor, Alan Simmonite, Frazer Sparling, his green keeping staff and volunteers have been busy around the course during the winter months. A lowered tee at 14, widened paths and a lot of drainage clearing plus various other course enhancements has set us up well for the season ahead.

A new Rough mower will be a welcome addition to the Greenkeepers machinery. This is due later this month and will speed up the process of rough cutting whilst leaving a better finish. The Greens Committee have also been looking at an extension to the Greenkeepers shed and we expect to see more developments on that during the season.

The fees for 2021, agreed at this year’s AGM, have been maintained at the same level as last year in all categories, this decision was taken as a direct result of the impact of Covid at the Club last season.

This year we are asking that as many of you as possible pay your fees / arrange your standing orders via on-line banking. This will not only cut down on the paperwork and cash handling but will also reduce the Covid risk to all concerned. We understand that as yet, not all members have on-line banking, cash payments will still be accepted in the meantime. Account details can be found on the Membership forms.

In an effort to keep our cash flow steady throughout the year, any member wishing to join our standing order system for the payment of fees would be welcomed. You can contact the Membership Secretary or any Committee member for more details on the scheme.

We are always on the lookout for enthusiastic Committee members and volunteers. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who think they may be able to assist.

So, as we move into spring and summer, let us all hope we can turn the corner on this pandemic and get back to our normal lives. I hope we can fully reopen the clubhouse and get back to talking over the game just had, the putt just missed, the ball just lost, the drive of the day and the score best forgotten and erase it all over a pint or two whilst planning the next round.

I look forward to another year as Captain and I hope with your support we can continue to improve the Club for all users. Here’s to warmer weather, blue skies, big greens, a re-opened bar and a Covid free environment!!

Wishing you all a happy golfing season, hope to see you all on the course!

Alan Coghill

**Alan Coghill**

Thurso Golf Club Captain