

Elie Sports Club

Chairman's Report 2016-17

Highlights of the season

I would like to start by running through some of the highlights from the 2016-17 season:

- Facility usage during the Easter 2017 holiday period recovered from the downturn experienced in 2016. The timing of Easter holidays and weather during this period had a major influence on activity levels from year to year.
- Family summer golf competitions included the Theo Johnson Family Foursomes, Watson Quaich, Rockliffe Family Foursomes and the Junior Ryder Cup. All were well supported.
- The junior local membership category has remained steady since its inception and we support the benefits that it brings for local children and their engagement in sporting activities.
- Junior Friday golf competitions ran through all the summer months building from modest entries at the start of July through to high levels of entries at the end of July and early August. One Friday competition at the beginning of August attracted 83 entries.
- The Summer Golf and Tennis Camps ran smoothly with a good mix of visitors and members. Numbers attending were lower than normal during the first three weeks of July but recovered for the balance of July and August. I would like to record my thanks to Skip Martinez and Rory Mattson for their work on the Tennis coaching and to Gavin Cook and his team of Michael Bradfield, Graeme McDougall, Shaun Birkmyre and Hannah Robb for their golf coaching.
- The Junior Open Tennis Competition was a successful week played in good weather conditions. There were some scheduling issues with golf competitions running during the same week and these are hard to avoid at this busy time of the year.

- Overall the Baird Course has attracted favourable comment on its condition. Some concerns have been noted regarding the severity of the rough in places and the impact this has had on pace of play and this will be reviewed for next season. I would like to express our thanks to Richard Jenkinson and his green keeping team for all the work they have carried out on our behalf.
- The bowling green continues to be in excellent condition thanks to all the hard work of the greens staff. It is the envy of all the visiting teams. A full programme of matches has been played throughout the summer with the men being third in their league and the ladies in the middle of theirs. In the Club Championships Bruce Bowers was the winner beating David Leitch in the men's final and Lesley Humphrey beat Kirstine Cochran in the ladies' final. Elie Bowling Club were the winners of the Duffis Park Open Day at Cupar.
- We are grateful to Pathhead Nurseries for agreeing to sponsor the supply of plants and planting of tubs which we purchased at the start of the summer.

Financial position

The accounts show a significant surplus for the year to 31 March 2017 and we had a very healthy cash balance at that date. Most of this surplus is due to a one-off refund of VAT previously accounted for on visitor income. During the year, the Club donated £10,000 towards the costs of the new pumps and storage tanks which the Golf House Club have installed and which will secure the future supply water to the Sports Club's irrigation system.

Junior Open Golf Tournament

The traditional junior golf week in April was relaunched as a stroke-play competition in July this year. Against a backdrop of low entries at other junior events we were pleased to attract 43 entries to this year's competition with some excellent scoring. Thanks are due to all those who helped with the running of the Tournament and the Golf House Club for providing access to Elie Links at this busy time of the year.

Future developments - update

In last year's report, I highlighted three areas where significant investment would be required:

1. Tennis Courts – during the year we arranged to have the synthetic surface of the tennis courts in front of the Pavilion deep-cleaned at the start of the season and this has improved the condition of the courts and will help to extend the playing life.
2. Irrigation System - work has now been completed by the Golf House Club to secure the water supply for our course irrigation system.
3. Driving Range – the existing range building has been improved during the past year with new interior boarding, changes to interior lighting, a foam base in the hitting area and the paintwork has been refreshed. Externally the building woodwork has been stained and chipping nets constructed and installed on the range. A significant amount of this work was

completed by Gavin and his assistants and I would like to record my appreciation for their efforts. We are planning to invest further sums in developing the driving range by increasing the number of covered bays and providing raised target areas. Subject to achieving planning permission, we hope to complete this work during the winter season.

Committee

I would like to finish by thanking all the members of the Committee for their assistance during the year. Jason Elles has served two terms on Committee as Finance Convener and is retiring from Committee at this year's AGM. On your behalf, I would like to thank him for all he has done over the last six years and the strong financial position he is leaving us with.

Kenneth Garland, Captain of the Golf House Club, has taken over as Chairman for the next two years and I wish him well during his time in office. Finally, I would like to thank our Secretary, Tim MacDowel, and our Club Manager, Gavin Cook, for all their considerable efforts throughout the year.

John Fingland

30th September 2017