

WELLINGBOROUGH GOLF



Club Magazine

FEBRUARY 2018



Farewell Friends

Monkey Business!



- Inside:**
- 125th Anniversary Dates
 - Courses over the years
 - Your Club Captains

www.wellingboroughgolfclub.com

Getting ready for a momentous year

WE are already into February, which begs the question 'where did January go?' - as they say in Latin, 'tempus fugit'!

In recent weeks, we have been busying ourselves on the Captain's Committee and sub Committees in order to deliver to you a year to enjoy both on and off the course.

All the men's Sunday morning competitions continue to be well attended with the 'White Covered Texas Scramble' proving to be both fun and enjoyable, even though we didn't complete a full round.

It did seem odd to address you twice on the same day with the greeting 'Good Morning Gentlemen'!

On Sunday, March 4th we are going to open the competition up to all sections of the Club as we did before on the Captain's Drive In.

I am sure the respective captains Mary (MacLaren), Ellie (Darnell) and Graham (Bayes) will ensure good representation from the ladies, juniors and seniors.

I would like to thank all of you that are involved in preparing and putting on the Sunday morning competitions - it is very much appreciated.

The Family Fun Day is now booked for Sunday, May 20th, while both the Summer Ball on Saturday, June 9th and the Party in the Gardens on Saturday, July 14th have their acts confirmed.

We also have a Musical Evening booked for the President's Day on Saturday, September 8th, while we have our 125 Year Celebration Week commencing on June 26th - more details of the dates to remember are on the next page.

More immediately we look forward to a Malaysian Theme Night on Saturday, February 3rd and back by popular demand (or personal needs!) is the Whiskey Tasting Evening on Friday, February 16th.

Special thanks to the past Captain, Steve Bailey and Richard Munns, who are selecting the whiskeys for the tasting - I think their preparations started before last year's tasting!

You can keep up-to-date on all the social events at Harrowden Hall by visiting the Club website.

The course, given the recent weather, appears to be holding up, with daily decisions being made on whether play can take place, for the benefit of our members and their course. A big thank you to Steve and the team.

It won't be too long now until we can enjoy the new course and it's challenges. Until then, please be mindful of the bunkers and soft surrounds.

Thank you.

2018 Club Captain,
Martin Wall



Martin Wall with wife Sarah, daughter Gabrielle and son Josh

125th Anniversary Dates in 2018

Please put these dates in your diary now, before you forget!

125th Celebration Week:

Tuesday, June 26th - Ladies '125' Individual Medal

Wednesday, June 27th - Seniors '125' Individual Medal

Thursday, June 28th - Juniors/Staff/Committee/Greenkeepers '125' Team Event

Friday, June 29th - Mixed '125' Team Event

Saturday, June 30th - Men's '125' Individual Medal

1893 Tri-Club Championship:

Sunday, May 20th at Oundle Golf Club

Sunday, June 10th at Northampton Golf Club

Sunday, July 1st at Wellingborough Golf Club

Wellingborough Golf Club's 125th Birthday:

Saturday, November 3rd - Nine-hole Team Event

Shotgun for all members - 9.00am & 12.00noon

Meal provided followed by fireworks at 4.30pm



Tap-Ins

ANDY Redding and Isaac Redding lifted the first club trophy in 2018 as they won the Kelly Bowls with an excellent score of 40 points on New Year's Day. Martin Noons and Tim Coleman finished runners-up on countback.

CHRIS Dickens, Shirley Chapman, John Gower, Janet Gower, Nick Palmer and Liz Palmer were successful in the January Mixed Competition.

DAVID Birkett and Mary MacLaren enjoyed the opportunity to play with a smaller set of clubs as they won their respective Seniors and Ladies Three Clubs & Putter competitions.

PAUL Sisman will be in charge for the next quiz night, which takes place on Friday, February 23rd. The last winners are pictured below.



CLUB Captain Martin Wall was one of 15 members to receive a cut in the annual handicap review. He will be playing off 16 at the start of this year.

GOLFERS are recommended to play 'Ready Golf' for all competitions, along with a winter-only rule that the flag is in or out for social golf.

STUART Philip and Kevin Smith were the first pair through to the quarter-finals of the 2018 Fish Plates KO competition.

JUNIOR member Ashleigh Critchley received a late Christmas present as she benefitted from one-on-one coaching with Robert Rock before playing a few holes of golf with the European Tour pro.

INSTEAD of taking your partner out for a Valentine's Day meal, just wait a few days and enjoy a delicious Sunday Carvery at Harrowden Hall on February 18th. To book, call 677234 or email catering@wellingboroughgolfclub.com.

WITH pages to fill in the Wellingborough Club Magazine, there are plenty of opportunities to advertise during the year. Please contact the Club Office to get your message across to the members and visitors in 2018 and beyond.



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Have you got any memorabilia to add to 125th year display?



LADIES Captain Mary MacLaren (pictured) said: "I can't believe that two months have passed already!

"It seems like ages since our fabulous Children's Christmas Party with our superb Santa (who the Dickens was that, I wonder?!) and our exceptional Elves (Mr. Captain and Mr. Vice Captain). Those costumes will be remembered for a long time.

"The snow nearly meant the kids missed out but fortunately we were able to re-schedule and what a party it was.

"Those that were unable to attend the new date had their 'Santa gifts' donated to our Ups 'n' Downs Charity as they deal with local families. Both Martin and I thought this would be a welcome donation at that time of year.

"Unfortunately, we've had a bit of snow so a number of competitions have been cancelled but, fingers crossed, we're getting more daylight in the afternoons and hopefully the snow has had its day!

"Our Ladies Christmas Invitation Day was a casualty but we have decided to replace this with a Ladies Easter Invitation Day, which will be played on Good Friday, March 30th.

"The ladies enjoyed our first social outing of the year in mid-January when we demonstrated our skills at the Bowling Alley - clearly some ladies had a misspent youth, namely Carol Gibbs and Jenny Wilkinson!

"As part of our 125 Year Celebrations, our President Mr Billson, along with David Wilson, are putting together a history of the club as well as a display.

"So if you, or your family, have any memorabilia or stories that could be used, please get in touch. We are especially looking for items that relate to the Second World War time frame.

"Finally, we wish Meghan (MacLaren) well as she jets off to Australia to play in the first LET events of the year, and also Ryan (Evans) and Kyson (Lloyd) as they prepare for their next respective 'Tour' events."

UPS 'n' Downs and the Beds & Northants MS Therapy Centre have been confirmed as the two Captains' Charities for the next 12 months at Wellingborough Golf Club.

Operating from Kettering, Ups 'n' Downs is a local based charity who support families affected by Down Syndrome throughout the county, but mainly in the east and north.

Affiliated to the national Down Syndrome Association, it is run entirely by volunteers and currently supports 45 families. Their website is www.upsndowns.co.uk.

The Beds & Northants MS Therapy Centre have been giving advice, support, care and therapies for 35 years, something Trust Fundraising Officer Paula Priestley is very proud of and is keen to continue for many more years to come.

She said: "We currently have around 800 registered members of which over 300 attend the Centre weekly and we also see about 10 newly diagnosed each month.

"It costs £400,000 to keep the doors of the Centre open, this equates to £8,000 every week and £200 per hour. The Centre receives no government funding, so we need to find the full £400k every year, so thank you to Wellingborough Golf Club."

The Ups'n'Downs - charity number 1123563.

The Beds & Northants MS Therapy Centre - charity number 802510.



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A fond farewell to a colleague and friend

ANDREW Woods has led the tributes for fellow Wellingborough Golf Club past captain Kevin Owen, who sadly passed away last month after a long battle with illness.

Woods, who was skipper in 2011 when he selected his friend to become Vice Captain, says it was an easy choice, and one he never regretted taking.

He said: "Kevin was a great character, a good golfer, great fun to be with and spoke with a softly spoken voice - well, kind of! I was delighted to make him my Vice Captain.

"He'd been a loyal member of the Club for a long time, he was a great sportsman, a good team player and he knew a lot of people. He loved Wellingborough Golf Club and he will be sadly missed."

Club Professional Ryan Evans said: "Kevin and his wife Rachael were two of my biggest supporters, particularly when I was competing as an amateur. They used to drive long distances to come and watch me play, including when I won the Berkshire Trophy (pictured below). I will always be grateful."

Ladies Club Captain Mary MacLaren said: "The Ladies section would like to offer their heartfelt condolences to Rachael and family after the sad passing of Kevin. He will be missed by all of us. You are in our thoughts and prayers."

Club Captain Martin Wall added: "Although I didn't know Kevin too well, I do know he will be greatly missed at the Club. It has been a difficult few weeks for Wellingborough with two more funerals and wakes at the Club in February as Norman Atkins and Graham Bush both died recently.

"Norman was a member for 30 years, while Graham, who was a good friend helped Wellingborough win the inaugural County Seniors Knockout Team event last year. They will all be missed."



Scratch League title defence starts at home

REIGNING champions Wellingborough meet the team they beat to the title last year in their opening fixture of 2018 as they host Northants County.

After a draw at County in their final match clinched the League for just the third time in club history, the men will go into the contest in confident mood.

Newly-promoted Kingsthorpe have a trip to Northampton first up, while Overstone Park host Peterborough Milton.

With each team needing to play their 10 group ties before the end of October, the opening round of fixtures are scheduled for Sunday, June 10th.



Can we make the most of local knowledge?

WELLINGBOROUGH have been drawn to play alongside Northampton A, Overstone Park B and Peterborough Milton C in Group 3 of the 2018 NGL Junior League.

The club, who have not lost a home fixture since 2014, will be able to benefit from local knowledge in two of their three matches as they host Overstone and Northampton.

With the top team in each group qualifying for the semi-finals, Wellingborough may need to get a positive result in their remaining fixture at Milton to progress.

Although the NGL have given suggested dates for these fixtures, the respective clubs will confirm in the coming weeks when the matches will take place.

Any boys or girls interested in playing for Wellingborough's team are advised to contact Junior Organiser George Khaw on 07711 901836 or georgekhaw@btinternet.com.

Harrowden Hall, meanwhile, will be the host venue for the opening batch of Intermediate League fixtures on Sunday, June 10th as seven men's teams begin their 2018 campaign at the Wellingborough course.

Collingtree Park face Overstone Park first up, Kettering play Cold Ashby, while reigning champions Kingsthorpe will be hoping for a repeat result against Northampton, who they beat by a single point in last year's final.

With all clubs hosting a round of fixtures before the top four sides qualify for the semi-finals, Wellingborough are in action for the first time in late June when they play Kingsthorpe at Collingtree.



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Around the world with our club professionals

WELLINGBOROUGH Golf Club pro Kyson Lloyd will be hoping to build on the experience of playing in a pro tournament in Africa for the first time after finishing eighth in the Actuaries Open in Mongomo.

With 100 golfers from six continents taking part in the event in Equatorial Guinea, Lloyd carded four birdies in an opening 71.

He dropped just a single stroke in a round of 69 on the second day to move into the runners-up position going into the last round.

Despite carding back-to-back birdies on the sixth and seventh holes and picking up another shot on the 18th hole, he couldn't maintain his challenge as he finished with a score of 74.

After booking his spot in the tournament by winning a qualifying event in Dubai at the end of last season, Lloyd was full of praise for the event organisers.

He said: "Mongomo is such a great place, the hospitality we received was second to none.

"The course is one of the best I've ever played - the layout was so demanding and visually stunning because it rewarded good golf and punished bad golf. It was a good tournament golf course."

"We were looked after really well and the weather was great too. It was 30 degrees and the sun was out so I couldn't complain, especially as I'd just left the UK where it was freezing cold and snowing!"

Lloyd, who celebrated his 26th birthday towards the end of January, also enjoyed a trip to Abu Dhabi a week earlier as he saw the leading players on the European Tour compete in the HSBC Championship.

After watching Tommy Fleetwood win the tournament, the Wellingborough pro had the opportunity to play on the National course a few days later as he took on the same tees and pins from the final round.

Meghan MacLaren, meanwhile, begins her first full season on the Ladies European Tour this month as she competes in four events in Australia within the space of five weeks.

The Wellingborough golfer (pictured) starts with the Oates Vic Open on Thursday, February 1st at the 13th Beach Golf Links in Victoria, before competing in the Actewagl Canberra Classic a week later at Royal Canberra Golf Club.

MacLaren, who secured her playing card on the 2018 LET by winning the Access Series Order of Merit last season, takes part in the Australian Ladies Classic Bonville at Bonville Golf Resort on February 22nd.

The 23-year-old, who narrowly missed out on grabbing a card on the more lucrative LPGA Tour in the USA at the final qualifying stage, is also in the field for the New South Wales Women's Open at Coffs Harbour Golf Club, which tees off at the start of March.



Three eagles in a day for Ryan in BMW Open

RYAN Evans showed his game is in fine fettle at the start of the year as he produced a strong display on his way to finishing 15th in the BMW Open in South Africa.

After qualifying for the European Tour by grabbing eighth spot on the 2017 Challenge Tour, the Wellingborough pro initially struggled for consistency as he bagged five birdies and seven bogeys in a 74 on day one.

Evans, who will be wearing 125th anniversary headcovers (pictured) during this year, turned it around brilliantly to make the cut with a 67, before surging further up the leaderboard with a remarkable third round of 68, which included three eagles.

The 30-year-old, who got engaged over Christmas, remained in good mood throughout the final day as he grabbed six birdies in a 69.

Apparel items with the Wellingborough 125th year crest logo are available to buy. Contact the Pro Shop.



Busy schedule for junior members in 2018

WELLINGBOROUGH will play a significant role in the 2018 NGL Junior Order of Merit as they host a Junior Open on Wednesday, August 15th.

The event is one of nine competitions, including the County Championships in late May, that count towards the overall standings as boys and girls compete for the net and gross prizes over 18 holes.

With the top 10 boys and girls in both the gross and net categories going through to the Grand Final, the competitors will have an added incentive to finish higher up the Order of Merit leaderboard as trophies will be awarded to the best golfers.

In a bid to encourage more youngsters to play golf, the Club have also backed a new NGL nine-hole Order of Merit by hosting a competition for higher-handicappers.



2018 Junior Order of Merit:

County Boys & Girls Championships at Oundle - Thursday, May 31st.

Collingtree Open - Good Friday, March 30th.

Overstone Park Open - Thursday, July 26th.

Peterborough Milton Open - Monday, July 30th.

Kingsthorpe Open - Friday, August 10th.

Wellingborough Open - Wednesday, August 15th.

Northants County Open - Monday, August 20th.

Cold Ashby Open - Wednesday, August 29th.

Northampton Open - Monday, September 3rd.

Grand Final (Moulton College Open):

Northants County - Wednesday, October 24th.

A BUSY fixture calendar for 2018 has been announced for young golfers to take part in club events at Wellingborough during the next 12 months.

Starting with a Junior Stableford on Thursday, April 5th, boys and girls can play in a collection of competitions as they build up to the Junior Club Championship, which takes place on Friday, August 24th.



2018 Junior Club Competitions:

Thursday, April 5th - Junior Stableford.

Friday, April 13th - Junior Stableford.

Friday, July 27th - Junior Waples Plate.

Thursday, August 2nd - Junior Ladies Cup.

Wednesday, August 15th - Junior Open.

Tuesday, August 21st - Junior Vets Cup.

Friday, August 24th - Junior Club Championship.

Wednesday, October 24th - Junior Stableford.

Juniors can also take part in the Sunday Stablefords that run from May to September. Visit the club website for all the dates.

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New greens, new bunkers, but the same natural environment

WITH Wellingborough Golf Club celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2018, member David Wilson investigates all the significant changes that have occurred at the club over the last century and a quarter. In the second of 12 monthly articles, he looks at the course alterations over the years.

WHEN Old Tom Morris played the first round on the old Nest Farm course he spotted good potential.

He stated that 'since the land was high, it would therefore always be dry under foot and the turf was of a very fine nature to make good greens without much trouble'.

Improvements were still to be made, including the purchase of sheep 'to keep the grass down'!

At Harrowden, the landscape of lakes, streams, woodland and a variety of specimen trees, both on the course and in the gardens, provided a perfect home for both wildlife and golfers.

Whilst preserving its natural environment, the Club has continued to improve this landscape for all abilities of golfers for over 40 years.

The drainage has improved beyond measure, while the ponds and trees have been carefully managed by experts.

When the Club bought Harrowden Hall for its clubhouse in 1974, the course had to be re-designed to bring the first tee and 18th green up to the end of the garden.

The old first tee became the 10th and the old 18th green became the ninth, while two par five's and a couple of short holes were also lost.

Improvements continued, before and after the new course was first played in 1982.

The Club Captain's Newsletter in October 1977 recorded that; 'Members have again experienced trouble and annoyance with areas of rough left for hay-making. This will not occur again! Bunkers will also require future attention. Approximately 50 tons of sand has been added during the season.'

The area between the third fairway and the fourth green was developed into a reservoir at the turn of the millennium so that the Club had its own guaranteed water supply.

The greens had always played well in the drier months but became soggy in the wet.

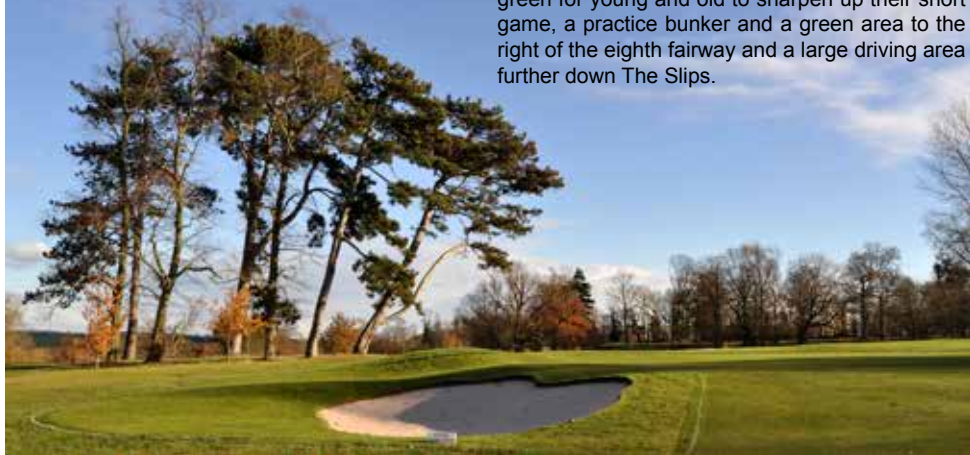
So, in 1999 the Club bit the bullet and had all the greens redesigned and reconstructed to USGA standards.

Since then, with good management and expert advice, the putting surfaces have become the envy of all who come.

Meanwhile the bunkers had been improved piecemeal over the years, but in 2017 it was agreed to completely re-structure, re-design, re-sand and re-turf them.

Helped by a dry late summer and autumn, the work was completed in November - a job well done!

Practice facilities now include; a putting green, a chipping area, a par three area behind the 17th green for young and old to sharpen up their short game, a practice bunker and a green area to the right of the eighth fairway and a large driving area further down The Slips.





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Results

Ladies January Stableford (January 23rd):

Silver Division: Winner: Ellie Darnell (29 points), runner-up: Carol Gibbs (28). Bronze Division: Winner: Sue Sharp (27), runner-up: Jenny Wilkinson (24).

January Midweek Stableford (January 18th):

1 Paul Jackson (35 points), 2 Antonio Fratangelo (34), 3 Les Hillman (31).

Ladies Texas Scramble (January 16th):

1 Carol Gibbs, Jenny Wilkinson & Fran Woods (net 57.6), 2 Jackie Banks, Mary MacLaren & Liz Waine (59.1), 3 Amanda Rawson, Gill Snelson & Liz Rees (60.8).

Mixed Competition (January 15th):

1 Chris Dickens, Shirley Chapman, John Gower, Janet Gower, Nick Palmer & Liz Palmer (86 points), 2 Roger Snelson, Gill Snelson, Ray Walker, Barbara Walker, Martyn Smith & June Smith (80), 3 Ian Marshall, Sue Sharp, John Banks, Jackie Banks, Roger Butler & Margaret Payne (77).

Ladies January Stableford (January 9th):

Division 1: 1 Gill Snelson (43 points), 2 Ida Huggins (43), 3 Liz Waine (43). Division 2: 1 Sue Sharp (39), 2 Denise Roderick (37), 3 Gill Rivers (35).

Winter Yellow Peril (January 7th):

1 Paul Leeson, Carl Leeson, Bryn Morgan & Carl Morgan (147 Points), 2 Martin Wall, Karl Hinde, Chris Dicks & Blind Card (143), 3 Adam Perry, Paul Albery, Andy Redding & Isaac Redding (136).



Seniors Three Clubs & Putter (January 3rd):

1 David Birkett (37 points), 2 John Patrick (36), 3 Graham Thompson (35).

Ladies Three Clubs & Putter (January 2nd):

Silver Division Winner: Mary MacLaren (26 points), Runner-up: Liz Waine (22). Bronze Division Winner: Sue Sharp (24), Runner-up: Gill Rivers (22).

Kelly Bowls (January 1st):

1 Andy Redding & Isaac Redding (40 points), 2 Martin Noons & Tim Coleman (39), 3 Steven Hammond & Cliff Evans (39).

Boxing Day Competition (December 26th):

1 Neil Wilmore & Tom Wilmore (49 points), 2 Jim Baylis & Lee Gardner (46), 3 Ed Billson & Michael Billson (45).

Junior Christmas Stableford (December 21st):

1 James Brazier (40 points), 2 Harris Chacksfield (32), 3 Michael Hinds (31).

Ladies Christmas Tea Competition (December 19th):

1 Sue Joyce, Fran Woods, Ann Wooley & Bina Shah (75 points), 2 Kate Nolan, Josie Patrick, Annie Evans & Liz Waine (68), 3 Janet Gower, Miriam Johnson, Liz Beaumont & Liz Rees (68).

Mixed Competition (December 17th):

1 Nick Palmer, Liz Palmer, John Gower, Janet Gower, Liz Waine & Graham Thompson (62 points), 2 Alan Price, Marianne Price, Stephen Townsend, Lema Townsend, Kenneth Haynes & Janet Haynes (58), 3 Hash Shah, Bina Shah, Ian Jolly, Yvonne Jolly, Michael Billson & partner (58).

Ladies Bottle Trot (December 5th):

1 Judy Bolar, Pat Dawson & Liz Waine (56 points), 2 Barbara Walker, Fran Woods & Sue Joyce (53), 3 Liz Palmer, Mollie Graham & Gill Rivers (52).

Seniors Christmas Scramble (December 4th):

1 Gerald Bristow, Terry Wilson & Jim Boughton (net 67.5), 2 Stephen Maycock, Kevin Henman & Hash Shah (68.2), 3 David Birkett, Andrew Charter & Joe Joyce (68.6).

Captain's Drive-In (December 3rd):

1 Aaron Tebbutt, Alonza Weekes, Isaac Redding & Joe Giammalva, pictured (87 points), 2 Mike Gilbrook, John McGowan, Shaun Field & Jamie Milligan (86), 3 Daniel Nixon, Richard Reynolds, Alan Lindsay & Tim Veal (83).

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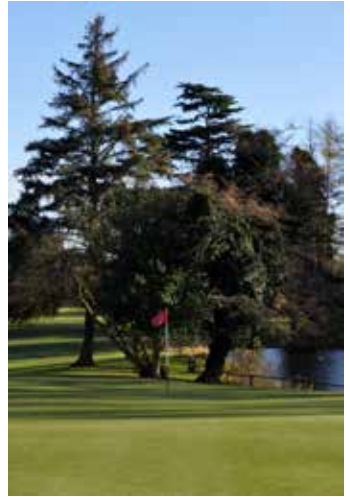
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February 2018 fixtures

Date	Start/End	Event
Sun 4th	08:15-13:15	Men's Competition
Tue 6th	10:00-13:00	Ladies 14-hole Competition
Wed 7th	08:30-11:30	Seniors Lonsdale First Round
Sun 11th	10:50-13:00	Mixed Competition
Tue 13th	10:00-13:00	Ladies 14-hole Competition
Thu 15th	From 08:00	Yellow Tee Midweek Stableford
Sun 18th	08:15-13:15	Men's Competition
	13:30-14:30	County First Team Practice
Tue 20th	10:00-13:00	Ladies 14-hole Competition
Sun 25th	10:50-13:00	Mixed Competition
Tue 27th	10:00-13:00	Ladies 14-hole Competition

Whisky Tasting Evening

Friday, February 16th at 7.30pm

£15 per person

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Bar Hours

Monday	11:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday	11:00am - 10:00pm
Wednesday	11:00am - 11:00pm
Thursday	11:00am - 10:00pm
Friday	11:00am - 7:00pm
Saturday	11:00am - 11:00pm
Sunday	11:00am - 6:30pm



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Thursday	10:00am - 5:00pm
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