



# CRAIGIELAW GOLF CLUB

## 18<sup>th</sup> AGM 2022

### CAPTAIN'S REPORT



## INTRODUCTION

We are all living in extraordinary times.

The COVID pandemic has had a huge influence on us both individually and collectively and impacted on Craigielaw Golf Club in many ways; some unexpected.

We all thought that the introduction of the vaccination regime would resolve the problems and mean a quick return to normality; then the war in Ukraine and the economic situation arose. While some things did improve, many other issues arose that caused serious problems for the Craigielaw Management Team and the staff who service the Course, Clubhouse and Lodge, namely:

- Staff absences due to COVID, staff changes and shortages and difficulty in recruiting due to market conditions,
- Difficulty of supply of goods and services across the full spectrum of the operation, and
- Like us all, the rising cost of these goods and services, especially energy.

Another factor that impacted on the maintenance of the course was the long period of drought that, combined with the above, placed extensive stress on the green staff and the irrigation system. The course remained in reasonable condition despite the weather conditions and is now in really good shape. Since his arrival, Paul Hay in conjunction with Jonathon Porteous have instigated an impressive improvement in the course and its layout, which is set to continue.

The Appendix to this report gives an overview of the areas of work discussed and approved throughout the year by the Craigielaw Management Team in conjunction with the Members Liaison Committee. Many of the points were initially raised by members. Should any member wish to raise any issue in the future, please contact any member of the MLC.

A big thankyou must be given to the Craigielaw Management Team, Pros in the shop, Greenkeepers, Receptionists, Catering and Cleaning Staff for the hard work, dedication and determination that they have shown to provide, under difficult circumstances, the service that we have all grown to expect from Craigielaw Golf Club. It is also fitting that we thank Wemyss and March Estate for keeping faith with and providing the financial backing to ensure that the venture of Craigielaw Golf Club and Lodge endures.

Coming down to Craigielaw for the golf, the welcome, the camaraderie, the laid back atmosphere, the hospitality and that view from the Members' Lounge is good for the soul – long may it continue!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have helped me during my first year as Captain:

- Derek Scott and Jonathon Porteous from Management,
- Craig, Cameron and Steve from the pro-shop with organising tee times, helping with coordinating and recoding of events and the presentations of prizes,
- Vanessa Torquemada and her staff for all the hospitality arrangements,
- The receptionists at the front desk who keep me right,
- The League Teams for their welcome when I attend their events,
- Gordon Smith for his help and advice and the excellent work he continues to carry out for the Juniors; who in turn deliver for Craigielaw,
- The members of the MLC – Evlyn Raistrick, Duncan Mennie, Chris Lannin, Iain Clark, Rodney French and Guy Dalziel for putting up with me, and finally
- Evlyn Raistrick who, as of today, will stand down from her role as Past Captain. She raised the bar for the role of Captain with the help, support and encouragement she gave to the League and Junior Teams – a hard act to follow. I thank her for all the help and advice she has given me throughout my term as Vice-captain and now as Captain and am pleased that she has decided to retain her seat on the MLC.

Due to COVID the MLC meetings were not held for 1½ years. Accordingly MLC members were given the option to stay on beyond their term and all have chosen to do so. The one change is that of the position of Vice Captain, which has been offered to and accepted by Guy Dalziel.

## GOLFING ACHIEVEMENTS

2022 was another hugely successful year for Members of Craigielaw Golf Club.

### Medals, Orders of Merit and Pairs Competitions

Congratulations to all the members who won Craigielaw medals, Orders of Merit and Pairs Competitions. You will all be invited to a Medal Winners Event.

### The Championships

- A Division Club Champion is **Craig Davidson** who triumphed over **Kenny Glen**,
- B Division Club Champion is **John Ross** who beat **Daniel Keane**,
- Par 3 Links Course Champion is **Ethan Nicolson** who beat **Rodney French**, and
- Junior Club Champion is **Magnus Brady** who beat **Lewis Russell**.

### The Winter and Summer League Teams

- Craigielaw won the East Lothian Winter Cup beating North Berwick at Luffness GC in the final, and
- The Summer League made it through to the Quarter Finals of the knockout stages.

### The County Cup

- **Craig Davidson**, **Kenny Glen**, **Ross Colquhoun** and **Mark Watt** won the County Cup at Longniddry Golf Club meaning Craigielaw Golf Club retained the Cup; a feat not done in the 154 year history of the Cup - a historic achievement.

### Individual Members

#### Kenny Glen

- Lothians Champion of Champions 2022 at Longniddry GC beating Glencorse's Stephen Lamb in the Final, and
- Winner of two Lothians Order of Merit events.

#### Craig Davidson

- Overall winner of the Lothians Order of Merit,
- BIGGA Scottish Champion (Greenkeepers) at Royal Dornoch,
- Semi Finalist in the Lothians Amateur Championship 2022 at Royal Burgess GC narrowly losing on the 18th to the eventual winner, Connor Wilson.

#### Ross Colquhoun

- Winner of the Hope Medal at Kilspindie GC, and
- Winner of a Lothians Order of Merit event.

#### Angus Carrick

- Represented Scotland in the Men's Home Internationals at Ballyliffin Golf Club, Ireland,
- Represented Scotland in the European Amateur Teams Championship at Royal St. George's, England,
- Selected for Scotland Men's High-Performance Squad, and
- Notable performances in elite amateur events across the UK for example 11<sup>th</sup> place finish at the Links Trophy in St Andrews.

#### Ollie Mukherjee

Angus Carrick, defending Champion, Craig Davidson and Ollie Mukherjee qualified for the Scottish Amateur Championship at Gales Links.

- Ollie Mukherjee becoming Scottish Amateur Champion at the tender age of 16 – a fantastic accomplishment.

## GOLFING ACHIEVEMENTS (continued)

### Junior Golf

#### US KIDS Tournament

- A successful tournament held in the summer with Craighielaw used as headquarters for the event, and
- Craighielaw's **Fraser Walters** finished in a T7 position for the 11 year old Boys category

#### Craighielaw Junior Team

- The Junior Team won the East Lothian Junior League for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row – an excellent record,
- The Junior South Links Champion is **Theo Cameron** beating **Max Saltman**, and
- **Sam** and **Ollie Mukherjee** represented Scotland at the European Boys Team Championships at Golf Club St. Leon-Rot in Germany.

Their victory in the East Lothian Junior League qualified them to play in the Scottish Junior Team Championship at Stirling. They played well but did not win. Gordon confirmed that his usual team has a large contingent of West based players who participated in the competition for other clubs from the West.

If any members know of any East based talented young golfers please notify Gordon, he would be happy to welcome them into his Team.

### Senior Golf

#### The Seniors

David Raistrick, Secretary to the Auld Hares, confirmed that:

- The Seniors played 14 matches this year, adding Peebles to their fixture list,
- They won 3 matches, lost 7 and halved 3, abandoning one after the greens flooded, and
- The highlight of the year was in the home match against Eyemouth when **Pete Blance** had an albatross the 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Ladies

Evlyn Raistrick confirmed that the Ladies played four friendly matches this year against:

- Musselburgh,
- North Berwick,
- Kilspindie, and
- Gullane.

The match against Haddington was cancelled due to rain.

No wins for the ladies this year but all close matches.

They also competed in the Sime Salver, this year held at Longniddry

### Professional Golf

#### Professionals

**Gabrielle Macdonald** and **Grant Forrest** continue to ply their trade on their respective European Tours.

# APPENDIX

Overview of some of the areas discussed, approved and implemented throughout the year by the Craigielaw Management Team in conjunction with the MLC.

## PARTICIPANTS

Craigielaw Golf Course Management	Captaincy	Members Liaison Committee
Derek Scott Jonathan Porteous Paul Hay Tom Mackenzie	General Manager Director of Golf & Assistant GM Head Greenkeeper Consultant Golf Course Architect	John Murdoch Evlyn Raistrick
	Captain Past-Captain	Duncan Mennie Iain Clark Christopher Lannin Rodney French Guy Dalziel
		MLC Member MLC Member MLC Member MLC Member MLC Member

No		Item	Comment	Proposed Timescale
<b>1</b>		<b>COURSE</b>		
<b>1.1</b>		<b>MAINTENANCE</b>		
	1.1.1	<b>Severity of the rough</b>	The ongoing "Laser" treatment to kill off the coarse agricultural grasses while not affecting the finer fescue is continuing. This controlled process is being repeated on a yearly basis until a finer, wisper fescue rough is achieved that will still act as a penalty but where balls can be easily found. The annual thinning out of the rough will continue ntil the treatment is complete	<b>On programme for Completion by Summer 2025</b>
	1.1.2	<b>Bunkers</b>	Paul Hay has an annual rota for maintaining/upgrading the bunkers. Improving the consistency of the sand is included in that process and is likely to take 2 years.	<b>On programme for Replacement of sand by Spring 2025</b>
	1.1.3	<b>Irrigation</b>	The bore water supply <b>is</b> periodically tested and continues to be suitable for irrigation of the course in terms of water purity and supply. The positioning of existing sprinkler heads has been reviewed and plans to upgrade the sprinklers heads are being drawn up.  The software that runs the irrigation system has been upgraded to produce data on the level of watering being provided to the various areas of the course. The resulting data will be used to determine any required improvements and extensions to the irrigation system and increase in water storage.	<b>Ongoing</b>  <b>On programme for Completion by Winter 2025</b>  <b>Ongoing</b>
	1.1.4	<b>Clearing Ponds</b>	The vegetation in the ponds at the 1 <sup>st</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup> and on the Short Hole Course have all been cleared.	<b>Complete</b>
	1.1.5	<b>Back Tees</b>	Levelling and expansion of Tees form part of Paul Hay's general maintenance plan.	<b>On programme for Completion by Summer 2026</b>
	1.1.6	<b>Repairing Divots and pitch marks</b>	The <b>trial</b> of soil/seed bags to aid the repair of divots was unsuccessful and a proposed divot repair day for members is scheduled to take place in the Spring of 2023. The perennial problem of repairing pitch marks lies with the members.	<b>Spring 2023</b>  <b>Ongoing</b>

## APPENDIX (continued)

No	Item	Comment	Proposed Timescale
<b>1</b>	<b>COURSE (continued)</b>		
<b>1.2</b>	<b>DESIGN and IMPROVEMENTS</b>		
	CGCM undertake a continuous appraisal of the course maintenance and design, which incorporates some of the ideas and suggestions contained in Tom Mackenzie's 20 Year Course Review, and will implement improvements in stages.		
1.2.1	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Green</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of the high Leylandii trees behind the 17<sup>th</sup> Green to improve the conditioning of the green has been undertaken.</li> <li>The proposed treatment of the boundary of the adjacent house by the planting of a proposed beech hedge along is under discussion with the owner.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete</b></p> <p>On programme for Completion by Spring 2023</p>
1.2.2	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Hole</b>	The remodelling of the approach to the 11 <sup>th</sup> green to eradicate the recurring flooding of the fairway has commenced.	<p>On programme for Completion by Spring 2023</p>
1.2.3	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Tee and Practice Putting green</b>	<p>The enhancement of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hole is in the final stages of design that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enlarge and level the existing practice putting green.</li> <li>Provide a new teeing area that will incorporate the adjacent "Championship" Tee, which in turn</li> <li>Will have further implications for overall alignment/layout of the fairway and bunkers.</li> </ul>	<p>On programme for Completion by Autumn 2024</p>
1.2.4	<b>Signage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General signage throughout the course has been completed</li> <li>The notice board at the 1<sup>st</sup> tee confirming WHS Course Index figures, etiquette information and location of the 1<sup>st</sup> tees will form the enhancement of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee noted in 1.2.3 above.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete</b></p> <p>On programme for Completion by Autumn 2024</p>
1.2.5	<b>Waste Bins and Recycling Strategy</b>	New waste bins and recycling strategy forms part of an ongoing review of waste disposal, environmental matters, sustainability and recycling in order to obtain a Golf Environment Organisation Certificate from the R&A	<p>On programme for Completion by Spring 2025</p>
1.2.6	<b>On Course Toilet Provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The refurbishment of the course toilets at the 4<sup>th</sup> Hole has been completed.</li> <li>Discussions are underway with Kilspindie for the replacement of the Toilets at the 11<sup>th</sup> Green, which they own but which Craigiellaw share the maintenance, with a view to providing brand new facilities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete</b></p> <p>On programme for Completion by Autumn 2026</p>
1.2.7	<b>Future design changes/improvements</b>	The other comments and suggestions covered by Tom Mackenzie's 20 Year Course Review are under consideration and will be discussed at future MLC Meetings to prioritise and programme those deemed beneficial to the course.	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>

## APPENDIX (continued)

No	Item	Comment	Proposed Timescale
<b>2</b>	<b>CLUBHOUSE</b>		
2.1	<b>General Maintenance and Refurbishment</b>	<p>There is a budget for the general maintenance and refurbishment of the car park access and the clubhouse building, services, fixtures and fittings.</p> <p>Work on the car park has been carried out.</p> <p>The controls to the central heating in the clubhouse has been replaced.</p> <p>The refurbishment of furniture has commenced but came up against a problem with delivery so a new supplier is being sought.</p> <p>New carpets and flooring will be fitted in the new year during off season when the customer demands on the facilities calms down and is likely to take 5 days when respective areas will be out of use.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>On programme for Completion by Spring 2024</p>
2.2	<b>Introduction of a scoring terminal in the Members' Lounge</b>	A scoring terminal for recoding medal scores has been provided in the Members' Lounge and is well used.	Complete
2.3	<b>Staffing Levels</b>	<p>Due to factors associated with Covid19 and restriction on migrant workers there has been difficulty in recruiting staff. Increased efforts are being made to build up the Team for 2023.</p> <p>A new Head Chef, Benjamin Glaz, was appointed at the beginning of October 2022.</p>	Ongoing
2.4	<b>Food Costs and Quality</b>	<p>A review of food costs was undertaken and the initial survey of other clubs, some of whom subsidise their catering services, showed that although Craigelaw was not the cheapest it was not the most expensive.</p> <p>Food quality has improved but a reduced menu has had to be adopted due to staff shortages</p> <p>The Head Chef and Clubhouse Manager will carry out a full review of the catering service and their suppliers prior to introducing a new menu.</p> <p>The current world supply of goods and services and the rise in staff costs will inevitably mean that there will be an increase in catering charges.</p>	Ongoing
<b>3</b>	<b>EVENTS and HANDICAPS</b>		
3.1	<b>Main meetings to be two day events.</b>	<p>The fixture list for 2022 changed so that all main meetings will be played over two days.</p> <p>This will continue from now on</p>	Complete
3.2	<b>Impact of WHS on participation in Medals.</b>	<p>As any round of golf can be entered for handicap purposes, medals could lose some of their importance and accordingly membership participation in medals was not at high.</p> <p>The trial of a monthly "Sweep Day" did not generate a higher level of participation and therefore is dropped.</p>	Complete
<b>4</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP and COMMUNICATION</b>		
4.1	<b>Craigielaw Website</b>	The site developer has confirmed that the proposed changes/improvements can be achieved within the next upgrade.	On programme for Completion by January 2023
4.2	<b>Communication with the general membership</b>	Derek Scott has confirmed that the best way of communicating with the general membership is by individual email that incorporate Member Updates. He intends to continue with that approach.	Ongoing