



# Spring Thistle

**NEWSLETTER**

*Spring 2017*

## Captains Words of Wisdom

With wins against St Andrews and Carnoustie we celebrated the winning of the Lindsay Shield, a terrific result as the Thistle celebrates 150 Years .

With the influx of New members in recent years it is encouraging to see we all integrate together as a friendly welcome is one of the cornerstones of the Thistles values. We ran 2 Introduction nights and the Sports Team are in attendance and more than willing to clarify any golfing matters Tue nights 6.30 to 7.30 or by email.

The transformation of the Restaurant as well as looking so much better has given Denise more seats and space for better table management. In the Function Hall we renovated the bar to give staff more space and allow them to provide a more efficient service.

We are fortunate to play a great Links course and we continue working to increase revenues to allow further investment to ensure we provide a course that plays excellent year on year. You can help by inviting friends and workmates as guests to play Links golf. Unfortunately the Fusarium that afflicted our greens has not recovered as quickly as we would have liked due to the driest April in history and low soil temperatures. Please be patient as we wait on sun and rain. Membership is nearing the 500 mark and it's encouraging to see so many under 30 year olds giving a good foundation for the future of golf at Leven Thistle. We are in a great place for the new golf season and the first of the 150 year Celebrations our Sportsmans dinner was a great success and achieved our targets..

Wishing you all a successful year's golf.

**Gouff Dings Aw**

**Alan Lee - Captain**

[Edition 1, Volume 1]

## *Social*

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- Saturday 6th May Gavin Patrick Vocalist in Lounge
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May Jay Dee Vocalist in Lounge
- Friday 30th June Mixed Bag in Function Hall Tickets on sale.

## • Leven Thistle 150 Year Anniversary Celebrations.

**Sat 25th March Sportsman's Dinner in the Function Hall**  
This was a great nights entertainment enjoyed by a Full House and along with a Raffle , Auction of prizes which bettered our Target contribution towards the 150 Year Grand Ball

**Sat 29th July 2017 Elizabeth Taylor Day to be used as a Pro / Am – Am Day Followed by the Ballroom Gitz in the evening in the Function Hall Tickets £10**

**Sat 30th Sept 2017 150 Year Grand Ball Venue St Andrews Bay Tickets £60 On Sale now with £30 Deposit to spread cost.**



## Finance

Bar income continues to surpass targets following excellent year on year increase 2015 and 2016 we are already seeing increased growth into 2017.

This is achieved as members enjoy the Lounge and the growing popularity of the Restaurant and Function Hall.

Our uptake of new members continues as we near 500. 25 & Under members total over 80 almost 20% of the membership which is a category other clubs are now courting as younger golfers are fewer. We are in the fortunate position that our subscriptions allow Leven Thistle to operate as a value for money All Year Round Golfing Experience.

**There are Special offers open to New Members – See Website**

### **Fees till 31/12/17**

Full Member	£400
Age 26 to 29	£250
Age 21 to 25	£175
Age 19 to 20	£150
Age 16 to 18	£40
Students	£175
Senior 65+	£275
New Country (Between Forth & Tay Bridges West of M90 )	£275
Junior Under 16	Free

**Contact our Secretary**  
[leventhistle@golf.com](mailto:leventhistle@golf.com)  
Easy Payment Scheme available  
Request on application

You the Members continue to be great ambassadors of the club being our 1st line salesmen as year on year we increase our membership, this introduction of

New members is healthy for the clubs future prosperity.

## **Catering**

Im sure most of you will by now have dined in the refurbished Restaurant and will agree it is an excellent and better experience given it is more open and offers more flexibility of table arrangements to suit party sizes. The cuisine at the Thistle provided by Denise and her staff continues to offer what is probably the best quality food at competitive prices in the area.



Treat family any day excluding a Tuesday in the Dining room. Booking advisable.

Call 01333 426333 Option 2 to Book, or Call on your way down to have Breakfast and Tea or coffee waiting on your arrival.

The Function Hall renovation of the bar not only looks better more importantly it gives staff additional space to provide a more efficient service.

Social memberships are available for £30 so encourage friends and relatives to join us and enjoy the facilities and social activities.

**Our Function Suite continues to secure advance bookings for Special occasions, catering for up to 120 people. Great value as our Bar prices are much lower than Hotels etc.**

**The Upstairs Function Suite is Free to members, family & friends for Parties etc. Please contact Ian & Denise to check availability, discuss and catering needs and confirm Booking.**

**Tel 01333 426333 Option 2 or 3**



## **Sports**

**Fixtures for 2017 are posted on the Website .**

**We facilitated 2 Open evenings mid Feb meeting New members to explain how golf at the Thistle operates. Anyone who would find this beneficial or have any queries re getting or transferring a Handicap we need your CDH No on a Certificate. Please contact us by email to arrange.**

**[leventhistlesports@outlook.com](mailto:leventhistlesports@outlook.com)**

**The Winter Eclectic in 4 Periods of 4 weeks over the winter resulted in a Play Off between Ian Murray ,Danny Burns , Steve Murray and Bob Tait. Congratulations to Michael Murray the winner.**

**With 86 Category 1 members approx 20% of our membership allied to our very keen Category 2 & 3 members we have very competitive golf throughout the handicap spectrum.**



The Monifeith Team who won the way leg of the Belhaven Shield 8-3 . Return match is at Leven in September. Good to see some New members in the team and enjoying an excellent days golf and socializing.

Congratulations to the First 2107 Winners

Club Medal

Paul Ratcliffe 70 Scratch

Campbell Medal

Michael Murray 68 Nett

We started our Lindsay Shield campaign full of expectation to regain the title we spectacularly won in 2015. This win was a great springboard for the resurgence in our fortunes in recent years. The team gets stronger with the New members joining as we are recognized as a Golfers Golf Club and our love of Golf spreads. With a team of 50 Golfers with Max 5.1 Handicap there is a wave of enthusiasm and expectation in the club.

This expectation turned into reality with firstly a 28 ½ -21 ½ win against St Andrews followed by a 32 – 18 win against Carnoustie. This included a tremendous 15 ½ - 9 ½ away win. It was great to see so many of our New members tasting the unique atmosphere of this competition.



### Out on the Course

We are fortunate to have a course that plays well throughout the Full Calendar year.

We look forward to another year of excellent Links golf in 2017. However due to a completely dry and cool temperatures during April regeneration of the grasses to fill in the areas of Fusarium disease we were plagued with has not recovered yet. This will improve back to smooth and better overall colour once the soil temperatures rise allowing all the grasses on the greens to grow consistently during May.

Your patience is appreciated.

We have Reciprocal agreements with Auchterarder, Aberdour, Balbirnie , Balwearie , Burntisland, Canmore, Crieff , Downfield , Dunfermline, Elmwood, Kinross ,Pitreavie and Thornton where members can enjoy a game at Guest rates subject to availability and terms.



**The BRS Electronic Booking System allows members total visibility of available tee times. If you have space, please encourage other members to join you as we endeavor to fulfill our commitment as a friendly club. This being a big factor in our recruitment success.**

If you have any comments or are experiencing difficulties please contact us

[leventhistle@golf@madasafish.com](mailto:leventhistle@golf@madasafish.com)

We would be interested to hear your “constructive “comments on the course please contact us

Please do not discuss or raise issues with the Green keeping staff, they are under instruction from the Head Green keeper & The Links Committee. Address comments through the Pro Shop.

We are now a Premier account holder with Tee of Times the On line booking agency and are in



2nd place for Fife bookings with Visitors on the increase. We are targeting them at times out with Peak member times to avoid speed of play issues.

### Seniors

The seniors have 17 Matches during the Season which can be found on the Website.

Retaining the Cowan Quaich against Carnoustie and St Andrews being the main focus.

We offer Great value to New Senior Member's with Fees till 31.12.17 of £275.



### Juniors

The Junior team have a hard act to follow in 2017 having finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Fife and 5<sup>th</sup> at Royal Burgess in the Home Nations .

Winning the Joe Gourlay Cup with 2 great team efforts at St Andrews and Carnoustie at Leven .



### Pro Shop

The Pro Shop staff move into their 2nd season giving us an improved service and raising the awareness of Leven Links and the visitor experience.

Welcome to Liam Duncan

Player Profile Handicap 3 ( 2.6 from 7.1 last year )  
Studying HNC Professional Golf  
SRUC Elmwood College  
Home Club Dunnikeir Park  
2 Time Junior Champion  
Represented DPGC in Fife Team Champ , Summer & Winter Leagues  
Represented Fife at Boys and debuted for men winning 1 ½ out of 2 points against East Lothian  
Tied 18th in Scottish Junior Tour  
2nd in Junior How Did I Do order of merit .  
Qualified and Won Junior Overall Final at Brabazon

### Club Merchandise

Samples of Clubwear with the Leven Thistle Celebrating 150 Years Logo are on view in the lounge for ordering at the Pro Shop. This will be the standard Logo on All garments through 2017.



**See the 2017 Catalogue posted in the Lounge and on the Thistle Website or in the Pro Shop.**

Orders continue to be taken through Leven Links Pro Eric Walker at competitive prices.