



Season Opener 2018

NEWSLETTER

February 2018

[Edition 1, Volume 1]

Social

...

- St Valentines Dance
Fri 10th Feb to Scoonie Brae
in the Function Hall
Tickets £5 going fast.
- Sat 10th Mar Capt v V Capt
Karaoke in Members Lounge
- Sat 17th Mar Sportsmans
Dinner in the Function Hall
With Jim Morrisson & George
McNeil Tickets £25.
- Sat 24th Mar Tia Urquhart
Our talented waitress in the
Lounge.
- Sat 21st Apr Clark & Boj in
the Lounge.
- Sat 5th May Charlie Cooper &
Co in the Lounge.
- Sat 26th May Vice Versa in
the Lounge.
- Sat 23rd June Jay Dee in the
Lounge.

SKY SPORTS

The package also includes a box in the Function Hall and we are looking to beam Big Matches, World Cup & Ryder Cup onto the Main wall.

Captains Words of Wisdom

An exciting new golf season is almost upon us. With an influx of 80 new members since July last year we will be having "Meet the Sports Committee – Introduction to Competitive Golf at the Thistle" nights during February.

The Function Hall has been transformed into a modern venue and is a credit to the Members who gave their time and efforts to keep the cost down while maintaining a high standard of finish, thank you. A great christening of the Hall is in store at the St Valentines Dance. Tickets will be sought after as Scoonie Brae were terrific at the recent 150 Year Ball.

Our Links course is benefiting from increased revenues allowing, in particular, a Green reseeding and treatment programme in September which is proving a success.

It's been a frustrating winter as we have missed more days than normal. However our team's top both the North East Fife Winter Scratch and Handicap Leagues and between cold snaps we still enjoy Quality winter golf as the Links continues to play well.

Finally my time is nearly over, it's been a pleasure to serve the club but it's not a one man band. We have a great team on the committee, Ian and his dedicated Bar staff, Denise's excellent Restaurant team, Andrew our Secretary who has steered me well throughout.

Finally I'd like to thank Derek and wish him well as he steps up to take over Captaincy with Tam Shields support as Vice Captain.

Good Luck in the coming season to you all.

"Gouff Dings A"

Alan Lee - Captain



Finance

Our uptake of new members and good retention of existing members continues such that we finished 2017 with 537 members in total over all categories.

With 76 taking up our 15 month & 18 month offer sees New members establishing themselves and getting to know the "Thistle" and the advantages of Winter Golf on the Links .

We offer a unique combination where a friendly welcome in the clubhouse mixes with our fiercely competitive golfing tradition and being fortunate that our competitive subscriptions allow Leven Thistle to operate as a value for money All Year Round Golfing Experience.

For the 3rd Year we have reinvested back into the fabric of the club with refurbishments of the Lounge, Restaurant and the Function Hall.

There are Special offers open to New Members – See Website

Fees till 31/12/18 15 Months

Full Member	£480
Age 26 to 29	£320
Age 21 to 25	£250
Age 19 to 20	£200
Age 16 to 18	£50
Students	£150
Senior 65+	£390
New Country (Between Forth & Tay Bridges West of M90)	£380
Junior Under 16	Free

Contact our Secretary
leventhistle@golf@madafish.com
Easy Payment Scheme available
Request on application

Catering

The popularity of 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 your family any day of the week, excluding a Tuesday, in the Dining room. Booking is 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 was a valuable source of income and bookings continued but not as well as we would like. With the completed transformation the Hall is up there with the best in the area.



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

Our refurbished 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.

Its Free to members, family & friends for Parties etc. Please contact Ian & Denise to check availability, discuss catering needs and confirm Booking.

Tel 01333 426333 Option 2 or 3



Special thanks to Jim Rae who not only managed the work he got stuck in at every opportunity and in particular the change out of the lighting. Helped by Barry Walker, Davie Hogg , Davie Fairley , Ian Anderson & Arthur Tindal.

John Mudie (JM Decorators) for the Paint work

Alan Hogan supply & fitting the carpet

Steve & Kris Murray (KSM Joinery) for the Joinery repairs & finishes

Tia Urquhart our talented Waitress for the fantastic "Thistle " artwork .

Sports

Fixtures for the 2018 season are now posted on the Website and in the Locker room.

The NEFWL Handicap Team with 1 game remain Top of the League and a final match win at LGS should secure the honour's. A healthy introduction of new members has strengthened the squad.

Pos	Club	Matches				Games				Pts
		PI	W	L	D	W	L	D	Diff	
1	Leven Thistle	6	6	0	0	16	4	4	12	12
2	New Club	6	4	1	1	12	8	4	4	9
3	St Andrews	5	4	1	0	12	5	3	7	8
4	Craik	5	2	1	2	10	8	2	2	6
5	Ladybank	6	3	3	0	10	10	4	0	6
6	Lundin	6	2	3	1	12	10	2	2	5
7	Scotsraig	4	1	1	2	9	6	1	3	4
8	Earlsferry	4	1	2	1	7	8	1	-1	3
9	Drumog	5	1	4	0	3	14	3	-11	2
10	Leven G.S.	4	0	3	1	5	9	2	-4	1
11	Charleton	5	0	5	0	2	16	2	-14	0

The NEFWL Scratch Team remain unbeaten and are Top of the league with 3 games to go.

Pos	Club	Matches				Games				Pts
		PI	W	L	D	W	L	D	Diff	
1	Leven Thistle	6	6	0	0	16	4	4	12	12
2	New Club	6	4	1	1	12	8	4	4	9
3	St Andrews	5	4	1	0	12	5	3	7	8
4	Craik	5	2	1	2	10	8	2	2	6
5	Ladybank	6	3	3	0	10	10	4	0	6
6	Lundin	6	2	3	1	12	10	2	2	5
7	Scotsraig	4	1	1	2	9	6	1	3	4
8	Earlsferry	4	1	2	1	7	8	1	-1	3
9	Drumog	5	1	4	0	3	14	3	-11	2
10	Leven G.S.	4	0	3	1	5	9	2	-4	1
11	Charleton	5	0	5	0	2	16	2	-14	0

The popular Winter Eclectic started with 4 week sprints in Nov , Dec , Jan & Feb with winners going to a Play off.

Played Thurs , Fri , Sat or Sun each week please pay your £5 monthly entry at the bar before playing each period.

Nov Winner Ian Murray

Dec Winner M "Spike" Smith

Jan Winner Greg Thomson

2017 Champions

Baird Cup – Club Champion
Stuart Hill defeated Jock Adie

Patrick Cup Hcp Michael "Spike" Smith defeated Lee White

Silverburn Cup Seniors Alan Ewing defeated Bill Hogg

Dave Walker Cup – Juniors
Scratch Liam Ratcliffe defeated Jonus Summers

With over 100 Category 1 members (20% of our membership) allied to our very keen Category 2 & 3 members we offer and are enjoying competitive golf throughout the handicap spectrum.

It is intended to have "An Introduction to Golf @ the Thistle "evening in February to explain to New members the intricacies of entry to Matchplay comps , advance booking of Strokeplay medals and Team matches etc . Also getting a handicap. And just as importantly a meet up and introduction so there are no strange faces , we are all friends and fellow golfers. Emails will be sent out soon.

If you have any queries please contact the Sports committee or come see us on a Tue night 6 to 7 in the evening.

leventhistlesports@outlook.com

Anticipation of the handicap needed to attain one of the 50 coveted spot's for selection as we defend the Lindsay Shield in

2018 adds a new spice to clubhouse conversations. Again we are likely to see many of our new members tasting this unique competition.



Some of the 2017 St Andrews Lindsay Shield Team

Although golf is predominantly a singular game at the Thistle we enjoy excellent Team Golf in All categories – Social matches with a mix of Scratch & Handicap 4 Balls against Monifeith , Ballater & Charlton.



Following the success of these matches we have confirmed Home & away with Arbroath and discussion with Kilsplindie for matches in 2018 continues.



The Team who visited Kilsplindie

Out on the Course

Unlike previous years there has been some disruption to what we have come to expect as our normal Winter Golf. Course closures and Winter greens have been in play more often than we have become accustomed.

However when the course has been open we have enjoyed a course that plays well, particularly the Greens which have been exceptional. This cold snap which has hit us is offering the course a well earned rest.

We experienced another year of excellent Links golf in 2017. The greens remained smooth and true throughout the season and within the Agronomists benchmark requirements. Your patience was appreciated and shoots of growth from the over seeding campaigns during September will be enjoyed this year.

You will have seen White Out Of Bounds markers creeping in on the right of the 16th Hole and the opening out of the fairway and removal of the bushes on the ridge on the left. This is the result of discussions with Fife Council to mitigate the damage to adjacent property and cars following numerous complaints and insurance claims and issues from residents. This needed to be taken seriously and we believe this initial boundary and hole realignment closes the matter. We will however review the setup of the hole any design

changes in the future which would go to members for approval.

We continue our 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. Special rates may be granted at Ballater & Braemar on request in advance.



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

leventhistlegolf@madasafish.com

We value your “constructive comments “on the course,please do not discuss or raise issues with the Green keeping staff, they are under instruction from the Head Green keeper & The

Links Committee. Please address comments through the Links

admin@leven-links.com.

Visitor numbers are on the increase, however we are targeting them out with Peak member times to avoid congestion and speed of play issues.

Slow play occasionally rears its ugly head during the season and we appreciate your patience as we try to resolve the matter. It’s a work in progress as we adopt initiatives such as Ready Golf to make Golf on the Links an enjoyable experience. Please report instances with details of Day, date , Tee time and some details to investigate.

Tour operator success in 2017 continues to improve into 2018 as we engage further with the current and new operators.

Visitor income from all categories including Members guest has increased and we have Budgeted a further increase in 2018 for further investment into the course.

The 2017 Links Open made a £2600 contribution to a fund which is earmarked to introduce sprinklers to the 1st & 18th Fairways. This will be a theme year on year as we work to upgrade the irrigation system on the course.

Seniors

Thank you to our Seniors who do a lot of work in and around the clubhouse. This giving something back really shows the Thistle spirit that runs through the club.

Our Seniors enjoy 17 Interclub Matches during the Season which Dates and venues can be found on the Website or in your Club Diary.

A group of our Seniors put something back into the course by doing a few hours work out on the course every Monday. Thank you for your time and efforts, it shows our members pride and respect for the club & course.



Seniors section Annual Outing

Juniors

We would like to thank Blair Doig who is stepping down from his committee duties and is handing over the reins of Junior Convener to Paul Galloway.

It was good to see the Juniors well represented at the recent Presentation of Prizes picking up both Junior and Adult competitions.

However there were some excellent individual

performances and handicap reductions recorded throughout the season and we expect more of the same this year.



The Thistle & St Andrews Junior's

Junior lessons are held every Tuesday night. Here is Melanie showing us a great swing for someone so new to the game.



It's Free so bring your Kids, Grandkids and any friends are welcome to get an introduction to golf. There's even an invitation to Older ones if you need a wee pointer for the new season ahead , why not come down and see Ed & Sandy from 7pm.

We look forward to an exciting 2018.



Pro Shop

The Pro Shop recently celebrated 2 years. How times have changed.

Club Merchandise

Leven Thistle Celebrating 150 Years Logo club wear proved hugely popular



See the latest 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.

