



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



Short Report on 2011 WLGC Annual General Meeting

The 2011 AGM was completed in 50 minutes, which we are told breaks all records. The various reports printed in the notice of the meeting - Match, Ladies Section, Finance, Bar Catering, Greens, Clubhouse and Junior were mostly taken as read but where required, further information was given and discussion ensued.

Under Budget and 2012 Subscription, Alan Gibson gave a detailed analysis of the budget and following questions and discussion, it was agreed to increase the subscription for 2012 by £20 for full members, (pro rata for other member). Alan Gibson said the 2012 subscription will fund the following: an insurance premium charge which will give all members personal liability insurance cover on the course at WLGC and anywhere else in the world they play golf; upgraded CCTV system; new roofline PVC around the Clubhouse; 4 new buggies and a new buggy store; one new set Gang mowers (to keep the rough down), a new top dresser and a new sprayer; a new sheltered practice bay in the practice area; a new tee at the 10th; and ditching works at the 13th. All in all excellent value for money and a sure sign of continued investment in the Club which will stand us well in the years ahead.



Peter Ritchie congratulates Maureen Shanks on her election as WLGC Captain for the years 2011 to 2013

In his final Captain's report Peter Ritchie said that while the last two years has been hard work, it was made easier by the support he received from the Council and the members of WLGC. He paid tribute to Alan Gibson and his team for maintaining the course at an excellent standard despite the weather. He also thanked Alan Reid and his team for the sterling work they do in the pro shop and Alan Gibson for his support as General Manager and for the hard work he puts into this role. Finally he thanked his Vice Captain Maureen Shanks for her support and wished her all the best as Club Captain over the next two years. Maureen Shanks was then elected Captain of WLGC for 2011 to 2013. Maureen thanked Peter for an excellent two years in office and said she would do all she can to progress the golf club during her Captaincy.

Further appointments were: Vice Captain: J Cook
Council: J Harwood; J Armour; R Laing; W Marr; and D Raeburn

Your Golf Club Needs YOU



Now that the Annual General Meeting is over for another year, in the coming months West Lothian Golf Club is to embark on its own X Factor talent competition to identify the talent that will take the Club onto greater things in the future. We are looking for those individuals who feel they can contribute to the running of the club; in whatever capacity they feel comfortable. We

have a membership of 600 diverse and highly skilled characters who all have a love for the game of golf and a desire to see the Club thrive during these difficult economic times, so we want to harness the energy that is waiting to be unleashed.

We are looking for the Council Members of tomorrow who can help drive the Club forward in the coming years. All too often the general membership let an ever decreasing nucleus of willing souls get on with the management of the Club, well it's time to do your bit and get involved and your newly elected Council wants to spread the load and bring some of the available talent into the decision making process of the Club. You might like to be involved with the future course developments or develop the Business plan, or the Marketing plan, or house or social committees; there is a role for you.

If YOU think you would like to be involved in an exciting, dynamic golf club where YOU can have your say in its direction in the coming years then seek out any Council Member for a confidential discussion on our vision and where you can help to create the future!!



Shotgun Texas Scramble

The Club held the annual Shotgun Texas Scramble for the Stewards Trophy on Sunday 11th December. While slightly wet underfoot, all holes were playable and the course was in great condition for this time of year. The winning teams were as follows:

- **1st** (& winners of the Stewards Trophy): David McClure, Raymond Paul, Anne McClure & Angus MacDonald.
- **2nd** Johnnie Simpson, Robert Watt & Ronnie Shanks.
- **3rd** Ian Shanks, Gary Tully, Alex Clyne & Andy Griffiths.
- **4th** Alan Reid, Kenny Campbell, Maureen Shanks & David Beglin.
- **5th** Rab Paterson, Jim Rodgers & Julia Grant.

Thanks go to Joyce Clelland, Linda Clyne & Maureen Shanks for organising the event. To Alan Gibson & the green-keeping staff for ensuring the competition was able to go ahead and to the bar & catering staff who do a great job & whose stovies went down a treat!

The next Texas Scramble will be held on Sunday 8th January and the entry list is posted on the main notice board for all members interested in taking part. Alternatively e-mail ladies@westlothiangc.com stating that you wish to play.

Caption Competition



We were underwhelmed by the response to our quest for suitable (or unsuitable) captions for the photograph of Alan Gibson and Alan Reid from the prizegiving night.

The following was selected from an entry of three but the sender wishes to remain anonymous! (Fear of retribution perhaps?) **“Alan Reid conducts the disco music while Alan Gibson sings ‘What kind of fool am I’. Fortunately someone has pinched his microphone”**. Alan Gibson wishes to point out he was sober that night, while Alan Reid just wishes he could remember it! The Newsletter team emphasis that the above is in fun and that we all have great respect for our Club Manager and Golf Professional and for the work they do.

Greens Report December 2011

The poor weather of recent weeks has seen the Kinglass course occasionally being played with a reduced course of 11 holes, but it has also been closed when the weather has been either too wet or windy for safe play. The hurricane that we experienced on 8th December caused surprisingly little damage to the trees on the course, notwithstanding there was a little natural pruning. The full course was available for play on Friday 9th December and the greens were in good condition and remarkably dry – must have been a drying wind!! Whilst the golf course is undeniably wet in many places, the staff has done wonders with the intricate drainage system. Seeing the amount of water now flowing in the ditches along both sides of the fairway and in front of the green at the 4th makes you realise just how much drier the bottom side of the course must be now, compared to 20 years ago.



An addition to the 8th green not included in the Greens Report!

Work on the new 10th Tee has progressed

steadily and is now being turfed and beginning to take on the required look. I'm sure the slight change of angle and the length of the tee will give the hole a new challenge in the 2012 season as some members are tempted to try to drive the ditch in front of the green. Similarly the removal of the ponds traversing the 13th fairway to be replaced by a ditch should significantly enhance the look of the hole and prove a fresh challenge. Whilst the initial concept of the ponds was interesting, I think everybody agrees that the dirty stagnant water in them was not desirable. Although there always seemed to a steady stream of water through the system, the outlets were perhaps set a little too high. Work is now planned on the medal tee of

the 3rd hole, extending it into the eastern hillside, not only to give a larger teeing area and also provide a subtle change to the angle of play to help speed up play by encouraging drives away from the deep rough on the right. **Seasonal intruder above on one of the greens!**



The weather this year has been variable to say the least and the Greens Staff have worked particularly hard to provide the best possible playing conditions at all times for both members and visitors. Like all inland courses we are very much dependent on the weather but we have received many favourable plaudits, particularly from visiting professionals during the Pro - Am and the Young Professionals Championship.

Volunteer to develop the Junior section at WLGC

Willie White is endeavouring to pass his stage 2 qualification in the clubgolf scheme with a view to him supporting the development of the junior section at WLGC. Willie is looking for 2 volunteers to help him develop his teaching skills. His pupils will be required to stay the pace for 6 lessons 4 of which will be linked to provide an improvement to one specific aspect of their game e.g. short game (pitching, chipping or putting) although any part of their game can be the focal point dependent upon the volunteer. The lessons will take place from January to March. The results of Willie's coaching needs to be measurable and will be recorded in his golfing lessons log book. Willie's mentor for the above is our golf pro Alan Reid, who has to sign off the coaching evidence in Willie's logbook for the final assessment. The final assessment will be carried out by a fully qualified external coach. If you are interested in the above please e-mail Willie at williewhite@sky.com for further information.

Winners of Grand WLGC Meal Deal Draw

You will have seen the fantastic offer in previous

Newsletters whereby each time you dined in the main lounge, choosing from the Sunday menu, you were entered into a draw, the winner receiving a one year's free WLGC subscription and the runner-up 6 lessons from Alan Reid. The draw has now been made and the winner was Stuart Speirs, seen in the picture with Chelsea Brodie, who made the draw. Julia Grant won the Course of 6 Lessons



with Alan Reid. A new WLGC draw starts 8th January. Dine at the Club on any Sunday from January 8th to Feb 26th and be entered into the draw to win holiday vouchers to the value of £500, more details to follow.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year