



Knighton Golf Club

Update from the Chairman

Dear Member,

October 2023

Wow, where did that season go?. I can't believe we are now in the last knockings of this year's competition fixtures. I do hope you have had a good season and were able to make the most of the course and the club, the weather has certainly presented its own challenges both on and off the course.

I just thought I'd follow up on June's update as we (the club) have made some significant advances in several areas since my last ramblings.

After some lengthy negotiation with Sport Wales, I'm please to confirm we were successful with our grant application to complete some of the committee's identified initiatives. Massive thanks to Mathew Wyles for taking the practice net project by the horns and bringing it to fruition. I did obtain an estimate from an external golfing contractor who quoted in excess of £13K for the facility we now have – brilliant work Matt !. We also had grant monies approved from Wales Golf to provide New2Golf sessions for those considering taking up the game. Our focus was on the underrepresented sections of the club, namely: Ladies and Juniors. The sessions were delivered by the golf PGA team based in Aberdyfi - a fantastic response from the local female community with around 17 lady participants and 5 juniors. The grant application has also enabled us to obtain a computerised golf swing analyser which is in the throws of being trialled by your committee, It is hoped to make this available to the general membership for next season – watch this space!.

Your committee has also made some important capital expenditure this season with the purchase of a "new" fairway mower, new IT infrastructure (replacing the antiquated 2010 server) and a commercial brushing component to assist with the excessive worm cast issue we have.

One thing that gives me particular pleasure is the fact we increased our membership from last year. I find this remarkable given the current economic environment and the pressure on personal finances, rest assured our Treasurer, Mr Dave Hawkes, keeps a beady eye on expenditure at your club. Which brings me on to some personal disappointment, Dave will be hanging up his "Treasurers Boots" after many years guiding KGC through some very challenging times in various official capacities. One member recently said to me if you cut Dave in half he would have Knighton Golf Club written through his core – a true testament to

the service Dave has given the Club. The Committee will therefore be looking for a new Treasurer for next year, probably the most important job on the committee. In addition to this, the role of Club Chairman will also need to be filled as I will be standing down at the end of this year due to an unforeseen change in my personal golfing commitments. If you feel you can help on the committee, we'd love to hear from you.

During the season your committee authorised a significant increase in spend on materials for the greens (chemicals, seed, growing agents etc.), a tenfold increased financial investment over the previous years. Ironically 2023 has been an exceptional year for grass growth with all clubs across the country suffering with excessive grass growth to their greens - we can but try!. This is still a "work in progress" - the greens are certainly "greener", hopefully we will also see some consistent playing improvements to the greens next year. You may have recently noticed that greens maintenance works have commenced, notably: vertically slitting, scarifying and are now ready for "top dressing" – big thanks to the greens team. Personally, one area of the course which has had a significant improvement is the fairways presentation, it's been a real eye-opener, the introduction of well-placed semi-rough has made a vast improvement to the course appearance and general course play, well done guys you know who you are !.

Many of you will be aware there have been some difficulties this year in certain areas of the course management. Your committee have therefore discussed some potential governance changes to improve potential limitations to the existing management structure, the club will be taking a more in depth look over the next couple of months to identify any improvements we can make in the best interests of the securing ongoing sustainability of the club. This may require some changes to the club constitution; therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if members can spare an hour to attend the club AGM early in December – a club is only as strong as its members.

Finally, I couldn't finish this update without a mention of our fabulous captain Mr Greg Martin. The turnout for Captains Day, the attendance at the "Kings and Queens Competition" are just a couple of memorable events. What members may be less aware of is how much work Greg puts in behind the scenes and I can vouch for this commitment. What a great season and hopefully Greg will cap this off with victory in the Brecon and Radnor league for which we are strongly in contention, no small achievement for our exceptional members club.

Enjoy your golf !.

Kind regards,

*Russell Worton*

Chairman KGC