

# The Renaissance Club Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 4

April 2009

## Renaissance Club Lodge Ready for Members & Guests



We have finally completed the exterior work and applied the asphalt to the car park. No more dust! What a relief. We would now like to encourage our members to utilize The Lodge as much as possible. We have set up the Lounge on the first floor to accommodate up to 20 individuals for a small business meeting. Even better make it an overnight affair, stay in the Lodge and play golf the next day. How can you tell an interested party how comfortable our

Lodge is unless you have personally stayed in the facility? Hopefully we have a decent summer and we have a substantial number of open nights. What a better way to spend an evening than in East Lothian!

It seems there has been some confusion with regard to “guest” play. It is perfectly acceptable to bring up to 40 individuals to play The Renaissance Club at one time. As everyone knows we have the capability to start four players on several holes so a party of this size will not interfere with other members play. At the present time we need the exposure and the extra revenue also helps to pay the bills. So please let’s use our course and our facilities as much as possible. In order to coordinate the requirements of your function please contact David or Carol.

On another related subject the Club would sincerely appreciate

any references to potential members. Even though we are experiencing difficult times there are people who would consider joining providing they “nudged” along. Now that the tarmac is down and the landscaping complete the presentation of the Club is significantly improved! We have several international members and guests coming to the Club this summer. The more local participation we have the better, so if you encounter someone who shows an interest please bring them out to the Club and introduce them to Simon Holt, my brother Mike or me if I am at the Club.

And finally in a few short weeks The Club’s annual Member/Member is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. If you haven’t signed up and you want to participate please contact David Armitage. We would love to have everyone participate!

**“The Lounge on the first floor can accommodate up to 20 individuals for a small business meeting.”**

## Pro Shop Update — David Armitage

### Pro Shop

There are still some sale items left so please hurry to take advantage of these final reductions on the remainder of 2008 stock! New stock has started to arrive and there has been many positive comments, so far the 2009 Galvin Green, Golfino and Under Armour have all arrived as well as our new accessory range and club towel. I am always open to suggestions in the shop so please let me know your thoughts or ideas.

I hope you will all welcome my new assistant Ross Dixon who will be working some weekends through April then full time from May. At present his handicap is + 3 so I wouldn’t offer him a game for money!! He intends on turning professional in early May and will be a great asset to our team. He joins us from the custom fit centre in St Andrews where he has gained great knowledge into the technology involved in golf club design and fitting.

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# The Renaissance Club Newsletter

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## Welcome to the New TRCAA Website



Aerial Shot of 12th Hole

The new TRCAA website is up and running. Please take some time to check it out and make note of any thoughts or suggestions you may have and send them along to me at [jim@trcaa.com](mailto:jim@trcaa.com)

Our monthly newsletter will be part of the website on an ongoing basis. We also have plenty of photo galleries on the site which will be updated regularly as more photos from the course are made available.

The member's only side of the website is still under construction

and will take a bit more time and thought before we launch it.

In other news, as many of you have already seen, the paving of the parking lot in front of the Lodge is complete. This should significantly improve the ease of access to the club as well as cut down on the dust and dirt coming into the main entryway.

With the new Member's Lounge nearly complete and the guest rooms all ready and waiting for you, it's time to take advantage of this wonderful part of the Renaissance Club experience.

Contact David or Carol to make reservations at the Lodge for you and your guests. It's a great way to make a positive impression.

The annual Member/Member is fast approaching as well and if you haven't already done so, it would be good to let David or Simon know of your plans to participate. It was a great event last year and I am sure it will be even better this year.

I look forward to seeing many of you later this season.

*Jim Sarvadi*

**"WE ARE HERE  
TO CATER FOR  
YOU AND IN  
THAT REGARD  
YOUR DAY  
SHOULD RUN  
SMOOTHLY  
FROM START TO  
FINISH "**  
**SIMON HOLT**

## Renaissance Team Defeats Old Amplefordian

Well, my first month is the job has flown by and I have been very pleased to see that the course and the friendly members have more than lived up to Jerry's description. The weather has been kind giving us one of the driest April's on record and the amount of play on the course has been encouraging. That added to the warm welcome I have received from both staff and members alike builds on the belief that I have in the undoubted potential our club has.

The April Member/Guest day saw a large amount of play and I am keen to make this one of the highlights of each month. Members are entitled to bring 3 guests free of charge on these days to make up a four-ball so please bring guests along to experience our wonderful course. To compliment the golf we now have top quality accommodation open for use. The rooms are fantastic and stand head and shoulders above anything on offer in the area so why not stay the night before or

after the round? There are stunning views of both the golf course and the Firth of Forth and as ever the bar is well stocked!

In terms of requests David welcomes all of a golfing nature and I am here for anything else you might need. Between us and the rest of the team I am sure we can provide a great day for your guests. If any of you have any special requests or suggestions for these days please don't hesitate to email or call the club in advance. We are here to cater for you and in that regard your day should run smoothly from start to finish.

I will be present at the club virtually every day so please come and talk to me about any friends or associates you believe would be interested in joining. On the member/guest days I am of the mind that the member is the host so do not like to intrude. However, this does not mean that I am not there to answer questions concerning membership or

come and play golf if you would like me to make up a group. Membership packs can be provided for guests who are genuinely interested and all members of staff will be able to provide you with these on my behalf if I am out on the course.

On a final note I would like to say congratulations to the Renaissance team that defeated Old Amplefordian Golfing Society on April 18<sup>th</sup>. This was the clubs first match so a great way to start and I believe a great day was had by all. A special mention goes to Mike Wood who notched up the first ever point for TRC. The 'stand-in' Old Amplefordian player who he defeated 4&3 has already had a word with the handicap powers that be! Well done.

*Simon Holt*

### Course Management—It Helps to Have a Plan

#### Tips from Head Pro David Armitage

Even before you have decided what club your going to use and type of shot your going to hit, you must know where you want to hit the ball and equally as important, where you don't want to hit the ball. If you are going to miss your intended target miss it in a good spot. If there is trouble short then favour a shot that could go long if there is trouble long then favour a shorter club etc. Simple tactics that could make all the difference to your overall result. So you need to figure out where you want to go and in turn where you don't want to go.

You then need to assess:

- *Distance to the hole*
- *The lie (rough, fairway, divot etc)*
- *Shot type (high, low etc)*

- *Wind (direction & strength)*
- *Topography of the course (uphill, downhill etc)*

Based on all that information and knowing where you don't want to go your club selection should be simple.

It's only human to hit bad shots, what separates you from the next player is how good your bad shots can be and the key to hitting better bad shots, is knowing where not to miss.

It's not a negative approach but realising the dangers is a clever way to play the game!

#### Teaching & Fitting

Many of you have already started visiting me for your early season MOT, some have had a

little more attention through the winter! It's a great time to come for a lesson giving you some fresh positive thoughts to take you into the season! Also checking things like grips, shafts and lie angles is very important and even if everything is okay it can rest your mind.

Putter fitting is a crucial part to lowering your scores making sure your putter is the correct length, head design and weight can give you confidence and improve your stroke. The Renaissance Club is one of very few places that offer Balance Certified this is a counter weight system that takes 15 minutes and will personalise your putter to your stroke! It's used by over 60% of Tour professionals and is designed to enhance your feel.

**Don't wait be pro active!**

### Ringing Endorsement from STRI's Richard Windows B.Sc.(Hons), MBPR, RIPTA

I do hope this message finds you well and hope you don't mind me emailing you directly, but I needed to let you know how fantastic the course was yesterday!

As you know, I visit all the top venues in Scotland including St Andrews, Carnoustie, Royal Aberdeen, Kingsbarns, Muirfield, Loch Lomond, Dundonald etc and there is no doubt what I saw yesterday at Renaissance is the new benchmark for links course conditioning, presentation and playing qualities. It was absolutely fabulous and visually stunning. My jaw was on the floor for most of the course walk! The work and maturation over the past 12 months or so have turned a potentially excellent facility and concept into an absolute

reality. It is, in my opinion, that good. It should, and will be, a real jewel in the crown of Scottish golf. I applaud your vision and the hard work of the green-keeping team to turn the vision into reality.

While it was not the original intention of the facility, I can't help but feel, opening the gates for limited visitor play (at a high end green fee of 100 pounds plus) will only help raise the profile of the course and increase its prominence within Scottish and UK golf. Maybe its worth a thought?

Finally, I encourage you to contact The R&A Championship Committee (if you haven't done so already) with a view to hosting any event they may feel appropri-

ate. With the Open likely to be at Muirfield in 2013 certainly put your hat in the ring for Local Final Qualifying. From this, bigger things may come in the future.

I do you hope don't mind me sending you this message. As you know, I am really passionate about Renaissance and I just want to see it doing the best for you and everyone involved.

Best regards and hope to see you sometime through the summer.

Richard

**Richard Windows, B.Sc. (Hons), MBPR, RIPTA  
Turfgrass Agronomist, Scotland**

**“What I saw at Renaissance is the new benchmark for links course conditioning, presentation and playing qualities.”**



## THE RENAISSANCE CLUB—MAIN ENTRANCE

### 2009 Renaissance Club Calendar

Cowden Hill Drive  
Dirleton, North Berwick  
Scotland  
EH39 5HS

Phone: 1620 850 901  
US Phone: 904-223-2140  
E-mail: member@trcaa.com

**MEMBER/MEMBER TOURNAMENT** – Fri – Sun 15/16/17th MAY 2009

**MEMBER/GUEST TOURNAMENT** – Fri – Sun 7/8/9th AUGUST 2009

**CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP** – Sat – Sun 5/6th SEPTEMBER 2009

**Member/Guest Wednesday – 3rd Wednesday of every month**

April 15th, May 20th, June 17th, July 15th, Aug 19th, Sept 16th, Oct 21st

**Member Monthly Medal Saturday – 2nd Saturday of every month**

April 11th, May 9th, June 13th, July 11th, Aug 8th, Sept 12th

### Update From Paul Seago—Head Greenskeeper

The weather as always has played a significant role in determining just what we have been able to achieve since February. Our reduced spring programme has been achieved with aeration, topdressing and early feeding all completed on schedule. The exceptionally dry conditions for the first quarter of the year have resulted in the early use of the irrigation system and as good as it is it will never replace rain. The rainfall figure for the year to date is 58.7mm which for this quarter is one of the lowest recordings over the past twenty years. Both of our irrigation boreholes are regularly registering low water status which further backs up what we are experiencing. Still we had similar conditions last year so here's looking forward to the summer!!!! This said I'm prepared to say on record I think we are in for a dry year based on the fact we were seeing seed heads on the grasses at the end of February, I rest my case and await my fate.

You will have noticed the improvements to the first tee area which we hope you will agree help to improve the overall first impression as you arrive. We have one area to finish and hopefully by the time the Member / Member competition is played this will have been completed, perhaps not green but at least giving the right impression. For those interested in figures, we lifted and laid approximately 3500 m<sup>2</sup> of turf which equates to

7000 rolls of turf, all laid in 2.5 weeks by our not so happy but now very fit band of greenkeepers.

Our bunker work programme was much reduced this winter due to more important work associated with the Lodge landscaping and tree removal. For this reason and for this year, I am asking for your patience and understanding as to their condition. The bunkers will be our main focus of attention this coming autumn / winter.

I explained at length in the last newsletter the thinking behind the tree removal etc. The condition of the turf where trees were removed has improved greatly and for me personally has helped to justify their removal. This will be ongoing over the coming years but will always be undertaken sympathetically to the local environment. The removal of a few trees is preferable to using chemicals to control disease / moss or worse still the loss of turf completely.

The drainage work mentioned in the last newsletter has just been completed. Thanks go to David Miller and his team for a job well done and assisted by our own greenstaff on the turf reinstatement. All we need now is rain to test their effectiveness!!!!

We have just received a very good report from the Sports Turf Research Institute. They focus mainly on course condition and although we know we have plenty of areas to

improve their praise of the agronomic conditions could not have been higher. It is important to note that the turf we are trying to establish and maintain is that associated with true links conditions, namely, firm, fast, true and above all else sustainable. The one area that I get most jumpy about is speed. Speed will come with age and is linked with weather conditions. Long term speed and overall turf health will never be achieved by reducing heights and mowing too close. It may produce short term results but has always proved detrimental in the long term, again I ask for your patience in regard to this subject.

Lastly just a few pointers where you as Members can assist the greenstaff in our endeavours for perfection and at the same time assist in presenting the course as best we can for those golfers behind us:

Please repair your pitchmarks  
Please replace divots  
Please rake out footprints and leave the rake in the bunker

And lastly, if you are using a buggy please keep to the edge of the fairway or semi rough and never go near greens, on tees or through the long rough.

Thanking you in advance and here's hoping you all have a thoroughly enjoyable season.

Yours in golf, Paul Seago