The TEE Times

Issue 2
JULY 2026

FOREword

It feels like an eternity since Sonia, our Lady Captain, and I had the honour of accepting the award for the Best 9-Hole Golf Course in Scotland at the Scottish Golf Tourism Week awards. A huge thank you to everyone involved – your support has been invaluable, and our club is eternally grateful for your contributions.

Thanks to your efforts, we are enjoying a surge in membership, an increase in visiting parties, and green fees. These are encouraging signs of our community's growth and are integral to our club's future.

I'm also thrilled to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our team: Archie from the Greenkeeping team, and Amy in the Catering Team. We are excited to have you with us and look forward to your contributions.

While we're making great strides, we are still facing challenges in recruiting a part-time cook for the catering team. We appreciate your understanding during this time, as it can be challenging to provide full catering services despite Angela working tirelessly. The management team is diligently working to address this issue, and we appreciate your patience and support.

As we look forward to a fabulous summer, let's hope the sun keeps shining so we can all enjoy the many benefits our wonderful club offers.

Drew Smith - Captain

UNSUNG heroes

SPOTLIGHT ON DREW SMITH & MICK GRAHAM WHO LEAD THE CHARGE IN POLICY UPDATES

At our golf club, the heart and soul of our community are often found in the tireless efforts of volunteers who work behind the scenes. We shine the spotlight on two such unsung heroes: Drew Smith (Club Captain) and Mick Graham (Senior Vice Captain). Over the past few months, these dedicated members have taken on the crucial challenge of updating our club policies to ensure we align with legal requirements and best practices in golf club management.

Why updating policies matters

The smooth operation of any golf club needs to have clear, well-defined policies. Not only do these policies protect our members and staff, but they also foster an environment of transparency and fairness. Drew and Mick's commitment to this task showcases their passion for maintaining the integrity and excellence of our club.

Mick Graham: *"Prior to retirement, my working background was in Health & Safety Management. Since retirement, Milnathort Golf Club has given me an immense amount of pleasure, not just from the golf, but the friendliness of the members and staff has given me a purpose since giving up work. When I was asked to review/audit the club's Health and Safety policies, I was more than happy to give up my time to give something back to the club, which would benefit them not just financially but from a legal perspective as well."*

The updated policies can be found on the website

JUNIORsixes

A HUGE THANK YOU TO RS Window Cleaners for their generous sponsorship of the Junior polo shirts.

CELEBRATING *Donald Stirling*

A LEGACY OF DEDICATION

As we reflect on our club's rich history, we owe a significant debt of gratitude to Donald Stirling, who dedicated over 20 years of his life as Greenkeeper at our 'Wee Club'. Now at 92 years young, Donald's legacy continues to thrive in every corner of our course.

In 1982, after leaving his life in farming, Donald was offered the position of Greenkeeper for a modest wage of £60 a week. Having been a member of the club prior, he was already familiar with the land, but he quickly adapted to the challenges of maintaining the course single-handedly.

While technology has evolved, Donald faced early challenges with a Nuffield tractor from Morris Motors that was notoriously difficult to start. Eventually, with the management team's support, a new tractor was acquired, a change that significantly eased the workload and helped keep the course in impeccable condition. Greens were cut with a hand mower – a very time-consuming process.

In those early days, the course often experienced puddling due to inclement weather. Undeterred, Donald took the initiative to lay a herringbone drainage system and create soakaway areas behind the 8th green, effectively resolving these waterlogging problems. His practical wisdom and hands-on approach transformed the course into a playable oasis.

To support his efforts, local representative Mike Denise generously provided guidance on top dressing, fertilizers, and hollow coring. Together, they nurtured the greens and fairways, ensuring that they were not just playable but stunningly beautiful.

Donald's commitment to excellence didn't just stop with the course. His son, Richard, trained alongside him and eventually became the club champion in 1992. Richard's journey was a blend of tradition and innovation, as he supplemented his on-the-job training with classes at Elmwood College, earning £29.50 a week through the YTS scheme. Together, they revetted all the bunkers by hand, tirelessly working to enhance the course's challenges and aesthetics.

One of Donald's most lasting contributions was his commitment to the environment. Over the years, he planted more than 100 trees, which have grown into a picturesque backdrop that enhances the beauty of our course today. He also constructed the present Gents' 7th Tee, a testament to his vision and dedication to improving our facilities.

Donald Stirling's story is not just about maintaining greens and fairways; it's about a passion for the game, a dedication to the community, and a legacy that nurtures the spirit of our club. As we continue to enjoy the fruits of his labour, let us celebrate his remarkable journey and the golf course we are privileged to enjoy.

Thank you, Donald, for your unwavering dedication and love for the game.

CROSSWORD *puzzle*

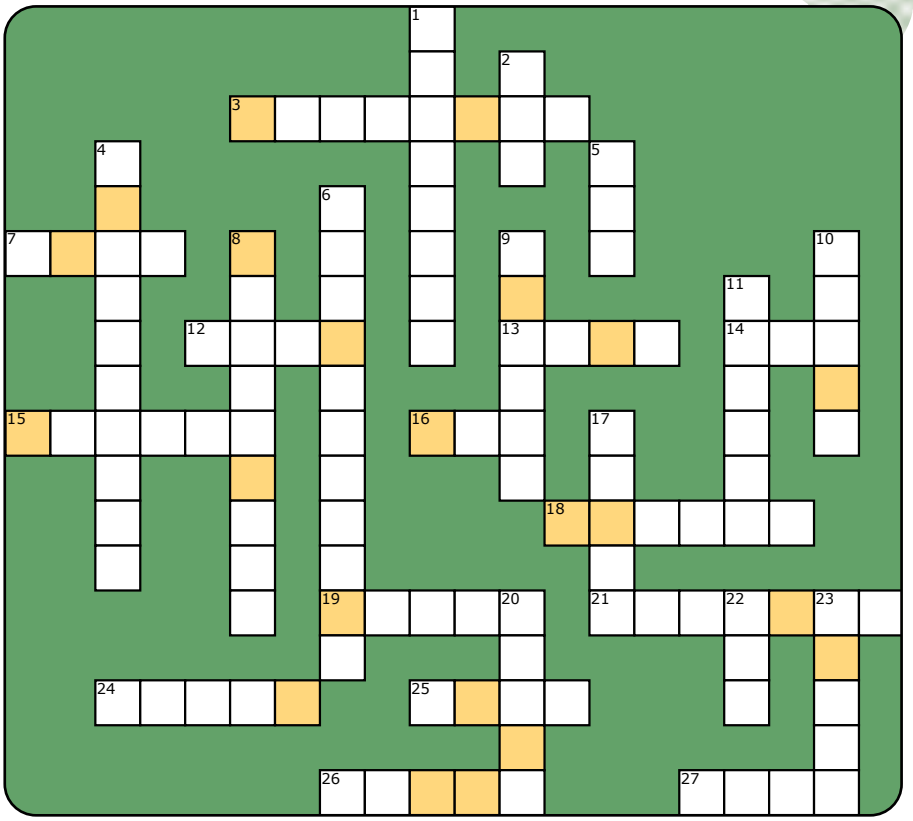
Win a £25 Milnathort Golf Club voucher to spend in the Club House or against your golf membership.

Use the letters from the (yellow) coloured boxes to complete this saying, which is relevant to our 'Wee Golf Club'.

Send your answer by email to Elizabeth

Competition draw is on Sunday 19th July.

GOOD LUCK!



Across

3. Second chance.
7. Cup cut into the green.
12. A warning shouted to alert other players that you have hit a ball that is headed toward them.
13. How you place your hands and hold a club.
14. A peg put in the ground to hold up the golf ball.
15. When you swing at the ball and try to hit it, you have made a ...
16. The spot where the ball is sitting.
18. A hollow area on the golf course that is filled with sand.
19. A place where golfers can practice hitting balls.
21. Places on the golf course that create challenges for golfers.
24. A long shot played from the tee.
25. Not the R&A.
26. Concession.
27. A shot played on the green.

Down

1. A short low shot that you want to land on the green and roll toward the hole.
2. Target to score on a hole.
4. A small round disk used to replace a ball on the green.
5. Professionals try to miss.
6. A body of water marked by red stakes.
8. A card provided by the golf course for players to keep their strokes.
9. A hole where the fairway bends around a corner.
10. The area of the course where a hole ends and the grass is cut the shortest.
11. Feet position when you are getting ready to hit the ball.
17. An area of long grass along the fairways
20. Two strokes under par.
22. Hole in One.
23. A chunk of grass and dirt taken out of the ground by a golf club during a swing.

Your answer

BILLY MCLEAN
senior gents captain

FROM HOCKEY FIELDS TO GOLF GREENS

As the Senior Gents Captain, William "Billy" McLean has not only carved a niche in the golfing community but also brought a wealth of experience from his illustrious hockey career.

A former international star, Billy represented both Scotland and Great Britain, leaving an indelible mark on the sport before transitioning to golf.

Billy's journey began at Kirkcaldy High School, where his passion for sports took root. He made waves in the hockey scene in August 1971 when he was selected for the Scottish national team pool, kick-starting a remarkable career. Over the years, he showcased his talents with club teams, notably enjoying a successful stint at Edinburgh Civil Service, where he helped clinch the Scottish title five times between 1975 and 1980.

On the international stage, Billy celebrated numerous achievements, including a bronze medal with the Great Britain team at the inaugural 1978 Men's Hockey Champions Trophy held in Lahore, Pakistan. He made his debut for Great Britain on March 13, 1976, showcasing his skills and strategic acumen. Though he was selected for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, political circumstances led to the boycott, marking a bittersweet chapter in his sporting story.

After his Olympic aspirations, Billy took on leadership roles within the sport, captaining both the Scotland and Great Britain teams. His final whistle blew in 1985, after which he seamlessly transitioned to golf, applying the same dedication and competitive spirit that defined his hockey career.

Now, as the Senior Gents Captain, Billy embraces the challenge of leading his fellow golfers, bringing a wealth of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and a shared love for the game. His remarkable journey from hockey fields to golf greens serves as an inspiring reminder of the resilience and adaptability found in sports.

GIFT *vouchers*

Birthday, anniversary and/or thank you gift – our gift vouchers are the perfect gift for that special person in your life.

Gift vouchers can be redeemed for FULL or PARTIAL payment towards the following:

- Golf club membership, including 'Get into Golf'
- Golf club catering & beverages
- Golf club merchandise

VOUCHERS ARE AVAILABLE FROM STUART IN THE OFFICE MONDAY-THURSDAY (8AM - 1PM)

MILNATHORT GOLF CLUB 1910

Club CHAMPIONS

Our Club Champions for 2026

Thomas White

Moira Campsie

Our Handicap Champions for 2026

Findlay Rush

Jennifer Walker

MILNATHORT GOLF CLUB 1910

OUT AND ABOUT *on the golf course*

As we embrace the summer months, there's a palpable buzz around the golf course, and we're excited to share some updates from our Greenkeeping Team!

First and foremost, we are delighted to welcome Archie, our new apprentice, to the team. He has hit the ground running and has already proved to be an invaluable addition. His enthusiasm and dedication are evident in the improvements being made across the course.

A special congratulations to Aaron, our Assistant Green Keeper, who has recently earned the prestigious Safe Use of Pesticides - Scotland Award, funded by Scottish Golf. This achievement reflects his commitment to maintaining the high standards of our course and ensuring the safety of all members and visitors.

Our irrigation system, part-funded by the 100 Club, has faced a few teething issues, but we are happy to report that we are getting on top of them. The improvements made to the system have significantly enhanced the watering of the greens, which is crucial for maintaining their health and playability during the warm weather.

CLUB*management*

Management Team

Captain: Drew Smith
Vice Captain: James Reid
Finance: Mel Doig
Governance: Martin Scott
Marketing: Elizabeth Hughes
Golf Operations Manager: Stuart McHardy
Golf Team Representative: Sonia Graham
Volunteer Co-ordinator/Members Rep: Ronnie Stein

Section Heads

Gents: Findlay Rush
Senior Gents: Billy Mclean
Ladies: Sonia Graham

For questions, concerns or suggestions regarding the club, please initially direct them to Stuart. He will forward them to the appropriate individuals.

Please note that several members of the management team are in full-time employment.

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wishes to thank all our partners for their support

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We thank Kieran Fowley Wealth Management for their support.

GIACOPAZZI'S

Established as an ice-cream parlour in 1910 by Giuseppe Giacopazzi, the business in Milnathort is now a 'Nisa store' owned and run by the founder's great-granddaughter Joanna Casonata.

The store also offers:
- Post Office services, including banking.
- A selection of local & national newspapers and magazines.
- A wide selection of cards for every occasion.

Contact
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We thank Giacopazzi's for their contribution to the printing of our score cards and entrance signage.

Click on the logo banners for more details on our partners

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Interested in being a partner?
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Editor: Elizabeth Hughes • elizabeth@milnathortgolfclub.co.uk.
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