



CBC NEWS

February & March 2018

Dear Member: Welcome to the latest edition of the CBC News.

Not a great deal of news to report on this month, so I have decided to combine February & March.

The main event of the last two months was the Annual General meeting on 7th February. Although some 80 members attended the meeting, I feel that it is important to communicate the main items to the other 100 members. After all, everyone should be interested in what is happening in the Club.

The Treasurer, Sandy Mackay, reported a net trading surplus of £20,451 up £6,895 on 2016. This is slightly more than anticipated and has been utilised by increasing the Bank balance by £4,959 (2017- £21,600 : 2016- £16,614) with the remainder being used to repay Members loans. You may remember that in 2012 & 2013 the Club was lent £45,000 by Members to pay for the extensions to our locker rooms. All 5 year loans were re-paid by the end of February. As a result of the increased cash surplus it is the Treasurer's intention to repay all the 10 year loans by the end of this financial year. Without the generosity of all those members the extension would not have been built.

Hire Purchase commitments were reduced by over £1,500 and there was a capital expenditure of £7,060 on the mono blocking around the Green which thanks to Bill Cumming came in at several thousand pounds less than the next cheapest quote. Indeed Bill has saved the Club £000s with his work around the Club and this was reflected in the small amount spent on Repairs and Renewals. Thanks were also due to **Gordon Munro** for the many hours spent on the Green and reducing expenditure by some £1,300.

Gordon then looked back at 2017 around the Green. It started off badly with the new Tining machine breaking down (it punches holes in the green to improve aeration, encourage growth and relieve compaction.). It was repaired by our local Dealers just in time to be used before the season started but immediately packed in again. There was so much smoke coming out of Gordon's ears you would have thought a new Pope had been elected! The machine was then returned to the factory in Northern Ireland where it was discovered that our Dealer had given us the wrong spikes to make the holes. It was fixed and returned to us but too late for the work to be done before the start of the season. However we did receive two years free maintenance by way of compensation. And then the weather decided to play its part. April was the driest month in Edinburgh since records began followed by June & July being the wettest since 1938. The red flag was up on a number of occasions but Member safety and the condition of the green have to be priorities. The whole Green was tined in November and again in February when the plugs of earth were removed. The recent bad weather has now delayed the Spring treatments as the soil is too cold. Hopefully it will warm up soon to enable all essential work to be completed before Opening Day (14th April). Crow damage continues to be a problem. Some research has revealed that the crows do not like garlic and a liquid garlic treatment will be applied to the Green. Any suggestions welcome. Also be on the lookout for 2 new hawks sitting around the Club house roof !!

Gordon also advised the membership that at the end of the upcoming season he will have completed 5 years as Green Ranger and he feels it is time to hand over to someone else who could bring fresh ideas to the job. He is more than happy to work with someone (or more than one person) to ensure a smooth handover. (**Editor's note:-** we have 180 Green Rangers during the season giving advice on how to manage the Green so surely someone will volunteer). Please talk to Gordon if you are interested.

Bill Cumming gave an insight into the running of the Club, confirming day to day maintenance and repairs continued throughout the year and was constant and varied. In the last year we made the decision to replace the well-worn Tarmac path which surrounded the green as well as removing the hedge on the south side and replacing it with a picket fence. Easier access on to the green was made by cutting permanent steps into the banking and erecting hand rails, all for member safety. Some of the more time consuming work which most members don't see is complying with all the electrical, fire and safety legislation required to run the Club and keeping those records up to date.

During the year we have had two attempted break-ins. Bill reminded us, we all have equal responsibility for club security. If you are last in the club secure the doors and windows. Several times last season the building was left with doors wide open. Scorers left out and the flag left up! Keep a watchful eye on who is coming and going and challenge strangers.

A five year programme of prospective work has been provided to the Treasurer and like all roles, successors are required. So please let Bill know if you are interested in knowing more around the Club. **Marcia Norton** reported that the Social Committee had organised 17 events and 8 Saturday Mixed hat Nights all bringing significant income to the club as already mentioned by Treasurer and Bar Convenor to the AGM. Thanks to all the Social Committee members for their assistance. Events had in the main been well supported by the members and overall a profit was passed to the Treasurer of £1510, which has been used to fund the new sound system which will in itself give additional opportunities for events, Karaoke has been mentioned. We need the success of last year to continue and as such more members are required to help with social functions.

I, as Bar Convener, reported to the AGM that the increase in bar profits was totally due to Marcia and the Social Committee for arranging so many profitable events. Takings on non-social nights are dropping all the time so much so that we would have to consider what sort of bar we want next close season. If we only open for 2 or 3 days, bar stock will have to be run down towards the end of August. If I don't buy in bulk because of this I can't get the discounts which results in increased prices. Talking of price increases, Brewers and Suppliers have already advised new prices of most items and the Bar Committee will meet in April to review prices. I also advised the members of the impact of the sugar tax on soft drinks being implemented from 6th April and also minimum unit pricing on alcoholic drinks from 1st May but more on this in next month's CBC News as I was told that I sounded like the Reverend I.M. Jolly reading the Epilogue such was the amount of bad news I was giving out to the AGM..

Looking Forward. One of the early signs that Opening Day will soon be upon us is that the Ladies Annual Coffee Morning is usually held just before the big day. This year it will be held in the Clubhouse on **Saturday 7th April from 10.00 till 12.00.** Tickets priced £2.50 are available in advance from Chris Bentley or can be bought at the door. Raffle prizes and items for the home baking stall will be gratefully received. These can be left behind the bar or brought along on the day. I said Ladies Coffee Morning because the Ladies do all the work. **It is open to all** so please come along and make this a successful fund raiser.(great baking – ed.)

Bill Cumming is at it again. A few weeks ago, one of the bottle coolers in the bar packed in. We had resigned ourselves to buying a new cooler as callout charges were half the cost of a new one. Bill stepped in and 24 hours later it was up and working again saving the Club £300. He's also gone Eco-friendly and an Air Dryer has been installed in the Gents reducing the amount of paper towels used.

You heard it here first. In the CBC News of June 2017, I mentioned that the days of plastic straws were numbered. The National Press has caught up in recent weeks with campaigns to have them banned because of the damage they do to the environment. We have replaced our own plastic straws in the bar with paper ones and although dearer and not as fancy, we are doing our little bit.

Significant birthdays: Many happy returns to Ian Pickard and Ian Mackay who had significant birthdays in February and to Ron Elliot and Bob Erskine who will be celebrating this month.

Dates for the diary:-

Saturday 24th March 7:30- Acoustic Songbook – Olivia Fleming on vocals and Ronnie Garrity on acoustic guitar will perform a selection of songs by artists including Carole King, Randy Crawford, Ed Sheeran, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin and Janis Joplin. It promises to be a very entertaining night. Still a few tickets left at £8.

Saturday 14th Apr 7:30- David John returns with his extensive repertoire from Mick Jagger to Deacon Blue. Tickets £8. If he is half as good as Robbie Carran was on 24th February we are in for another very good night.

Any News items? Please let me know.

Jim Connor, Interim Editor