



Gents Section - Mike Seath, Gents Captain

2023 started off with winter taking its toll right up until the end of March with the course being closed due to snow or very wet weather on several occasions. It's winter in Scotland so it's to be expected, I guess. Still, the usual hardy souls didn't let that deter them and played when they could.

In April our season got off to its usual busy start, with qualifying competitions commencing early May. The new fixture list and Championship week proved to be a great success. I hope to see the same in 2024.

Congratulations to all our competition winners and runners up. The main ones are listed below. Prizegiving will be February 9th, 2024.

Club Championships

	Champion	Runner-up
Tullihasset Cup	James Barrett	Dave McGinigal
Kidd Rosebowl	James Barrett	David McGinigal

Matchplay Competitions

	Champion(s)	Runner-up
Hart Trophy	Graeme McBride	Iain McKenzie
Henderson Trophy	Scott & Ros Marshall	Colin Melville & Maura Goldie
Ian Brooks Trophy	Gareth Gardiner & David Smith	Richard Paterson & Kevin Murray
McLaren Trophy	Graeme Gardiner	Darren Hammond
Naemoor Trophy	Chris Alexander	Ian Black
Rabbits Foot	Scott Millar	Stuart Provan
Thistle Cup	Alan Johnson	Iain Gwynne

On 15th July Alan Bruce had a hole in one on the medal 10th in the Tullihasset/Brown Cup rd. 1, which was then repeated by Scott Marshall on the 5th of August in Izat Medal 5.

I'd like to express my appreciation for all the Gents that turned out throughout the season for the various teams we have and even bigger thanks to the captains of those teams. Reports below. I would like to say a massive thank you to Colorado Construction and Scott Marshall Joinery for their donations towards the Footjoy polo shirts and sweaters the team members wore during



the various team competitions. On many occasions it was mentioned by our opposition how smart we looked.

Teams

Caledonian League – Jason Merritt, team captain

This is my first year running the league and I found it a really enjoyable experience. Both players and club have been very supportive. We discussed at start of the season the possibility of a uniform or team identity and with the help of both the club and donations from a few members secured a really good deal for the players for a polo and quarter zip.

It was commented more than once by opposition teams how impressive it looked having the same apparel.

I had and will continue to have Iain Gwynne as vice-captain and between the two of us have run an effective campaign, clear communication with very little requirement to chase players to field a full team.

Catering has been superb. Food and delivery were excellent and judging by some of the clubs we went to I would go so far as to say both in terms of welcome and facilities we were streets ahead of most.

We finished 5th overall and that means that we will change league standings to incorporate different teams next year which is exciting.

We also ran a get together at Ladybank with a few prizes as a way of thanking the team and would hope to do something similar next year.

After Christmas I will send out invitations to ensure we have sufficient numbers for a team next year and will liaise with the club re spare uniforms and interest from any new members.

Ochil League – Jack Wallace, team captain

Thanks to all of our players for their efforts this year. The League seems to be much more competitive these days and average handicaps are dropping. It takes me two shots to reach some of these younger guys. My player selection may need to be reviewed – I might go back to drawing names out of a hat! Seriously though it is not easy to be competitive all the time and make sure everyone gets a similar number games. At the end of the day it is a game of golf amongst friends and while winning is nice it is not always possible. The winners every year are the Charities we support. Charities that received donations from this year's subs include; Strathearn Cares, Dementia Dunblane, Seamab School, Kinross-shire Rural Volunteer Group, Social Flock Perth, S.A.N.D.S., Children's Hospice Kinross (CHAS). We look forward to enjoying our matches in 2024.

Bell Trophy – Peter Martin, team captain

Our Bell Trophy campaign got off to a positive start as we received a bye into round 2. Sadly that's where the competition ended for us as we were beaten by Taymouth Castle. Thank you to our team on the day!

Scratch; P&K Scratch League, Coronation Trophy, Stroyan Trophy – Ian Dryden, team captain
Looking back on the 2023, we were again able to call upon a blend of youth and those not so young for our scratch league campaign.



May saw the county Scratch League commence and this year the team again successfully negotiated our league group by winning all our matches and progressing over the summer to the semi-final stage only to narrowly lose out again to Pitlochry having taken a slender first leg lead with a home win at Muckhart - third time lucky next year hopefully!

In early July, as defending champions we were represented at the Perth & Kinross Gents Team Championships (Strokeplay) at Strathmore by James Barrett, Alex Turlik and Luke Volland. We were unable to retain the trophy and finished fourth although only one shot separated second, third & fourth - fine margins!

The traditional season ending Coronation Trophy (Foursomes) saw our gents' team lose at home to Crieff in the opening round.

Thanks to everyone for making yourself available to represent Muckhart in our scratch team events and roll on next season!

Summary

It's great to see new members continuing to join throughout the year and also to now have Stirling University using Muckhart as their home course.

The club was represented at county level by Lewis Seath, who featured several times for the P&K Gents Team.

A particular thank you to Chris Turlik, Chris Higgo, Joe Watts, Steve McIvor, Paul Wilkie (and his amazing team) for all their hard work throughout the year and also to the many volunteers who give up their free time to carry out a variety of tasks.

I'd like to finish off my report by saying thank you to all the other board members and the Gents section as a whole for their support.