

## **P&K County Juniors Annual Report 2017**

What another fantastic year it was for Perth & Kinross Junior Golf.

To start the year off we held our winter coaching sessions at Noah's Ark/North Inch and Gleneagles, the county also put together weekly strength and conditioning sessions over the winter from October to March for our squad players, all of which is very beneficial for the development of our junior golfers.

The first competition of the year was the **Strokeplay Championship** at Auchterarder. Well done to Andrew Thornton (Muckhart) for winning this event. Next up was the **Matchplay Championship** played at Blairgowrie, Harry Clark (Auchterarder) came out on top against Declan Gray (Blairgowrie) the match went to the third extra hole, credit to both players for a fantastic final.

Well done to Gregor Graham (Blairgowrie) for winning the Scratch **U14 Coaching Medal** at Blairgowrie and also to Daniel Bullen (Auchterarder) for winning the handicap competition, Daniel also went on to win the **U14 Scratch Championship** at Milnathort.

The **Junior Champion of Champions** was next, all club champions as well as P&K Matchplay and strokeplay champions are invited to take part. Well done to Alex Simpson from Strathmore for winning

The first junior match of the year was played against Renfrewshire, we had a mix of U14, U16 & U18 players, the guys played well but unfortunately got beat 4.5 – 3.5.

The second match of the year was for our U16 squad, where they played a very strong Lothian's team played at Strathmore, unfortunately coming 2<sup>nd</sup> on this occasion.

Congratulations to Aaron Campbell and Cooper Smith (both Blairgowrie) for winning the **Pinehurst/Greensome** competition at Dunning, with a fantastic net 57.

Our other order of merits events were well attended, well done to Rowan Carey for winning the Spring meeting at Milnathort, Jamie Roberts for winning the summer meeting/U16 Championship and autumn meeting/ U18 Championship at Craigie Hill and Alyth.

Our U14 team had a couple of matches this summer, the first one was played at Royal Burgess Golfing Society against The Lothian's. The boys played well

but they lost 9-3. The next match was held at Forfar where they took on Angus, unfortunately again they just got beat 5-4 this time, some fantastic golf was played and I'm sure all the boys enjoyed themselves.

Our U21 side played in the Invitational Trophy, we hosted this event at Blairgowrie playing against The North and North East, our very young side did exceptional, but unfortunately came 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Our U18 side played against the same sides in Tain, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row and won, winning by the narrowest of margins (1 shot) the boys then went on to play in the Garry Harvey Trophy against Fife, Clackmannan and Angus at Dunkeld where they played fantastic and also won.

The last competition of the year was the U15 Frank Thomson trophy, this is played against Fife and Clackmannan, the guys didn't pull this off and let Fife win this one this year.

Auchterarder were our 3 Man Team Champions this year, played at Blairgowrie, well done to Harry Clark, Daniel Bullen and Campbell Watt.

It was great to have both our main team finals back again at Gleneagles this year, well done to Muckhart for winning the Bell Trophy, just pipping Aberfeldy/Taymouth Castle 3-2. The Scratch League was also won by Muckhart Reds, just beating Blairgowrie Gold's 2-1. Well done to all teams taking part and a big thank you to Gleneagles for hosting the finals.

The Race to Kingsbarns finals day was held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, what a great competition this is played for throughout the year at our clubs Junior Opens and what a venue to finish the season off. Thank you to Stewart Roberts for all his work co-ordinating this competition, to Kingsbarns for hosting the event and to Austin Carey and to his Blue Group for sponsoring the event.

Well done to, Jamie Roberts, Alex Simpson, Andrew Thornton and Campbell Gibson for being selected to represent P&K in the Scottish Area Team Championships, played at Stranraer this year, the guys did well, finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in the end, but I'm sure they learned a lot from the weekend.

Congratulations to Jamie Roberts, Alex Simpson and Gregor Graham for being selected for the Scottish Schools, Scotland v England international match, played at Troon, very good effort, but unfortunately, they came 2<sup>nd</sup>, with 9 of the 12 single matches going up the last hole.

Congratulations also to Jamie Roberts, Andrew Thornton and Cormac Sharp for being selected to play for Scotland in U14 & U16 friendly matches against France this year. Well done to Campbell Gibson who was selected to play for Scotland in the Home International match. Campbell had a great season, playing well in national events, this is why the committee voted Campbell our **Junior player of the year** for 2018, well done!!!!

A big big thank you to all golf clubs who have hosted our competitions and matches, also a big thank you to our junior committee Adrian, Iain, Rodney and Callum who put in a lot of their time helping run all the events, Charlie Gallagher, David, Alan and the Executive for really supporting our junior section, its without doubt one of the best in Scotland, to all our sponsors of who we are extremely grateful.

Here's to a great 2018!!!!

Stuart Graham