

PERTH & KINROSS COUNTY GOLF UNION

JUNIOR ANNUAL REPORT 2018



There's only one place I can start, Perth & Kinross, Scottish Junior Area Team Winners 2018, that's the first time we've ever been able to say that!!!!

Fraser Matthews, Alex Simpson, Gregor Graham and Cormac Sharpe were selected to represent P&K in the Scottish Area Team Championships, which was played at Eastwood GC. Nobody could have predicted what was going to happen, especially with two 14-year olds in the side. We paired Alex & Fraser and Gregor & Cormac together for the foursomes, both pairs came back with very impressive 71s, the best of the morning play, with a 2 shot lead going into the singles, there was for the first time in many years, a genuine chance of having a strong finish, but with many other internationals in the field, it was going to be tough. Fraser shot a 76, Alex 75, Cormac a 71 and Gregor a 70 which in the end gave the boys a four-shot victory and be crowned Scottish Boys Area Team Winners, which was the first time P&K had won the event in over 40 years of trying. Well done Boys and of course the management dream team of Rodney Neil & Stuart Graham!!!!

We'll done to all players who played in our events, or who represented Perth & Kinross this year in the various team matches, we have, as always had various development matches throughout the year, we play against The North & North East, in an U18 & U21 match. The Garry Harvey Trophy is played against Fife, Clackmannan and Angus, where we regained the trophy, tying first this year with Angus, we have an Angus U14 & U16 match, we also play against The Lothians, in an U14 and U16 match, which we won at Haddington, where the boys played fantastic, first time I can ever remember winning this fixture against the Lothian's. The team also had a decent runner up finish in the US Invitational event, where they had 6 college sides over, the boys were just beaten, by a strong Scottish select side in the final.

Congratulations to Katy Alexander, Megan Ashley, Cormac Sharpe, Andrew Thornton, Jamie Roberts and Gregor Graham (Unfortunately Jamie, Andrew & Gregor couldn't make the match) for being selected for the Scottish Schools, Scotland v England international match, they didn't win, but are getting closer, next year guys!!!!

Congratulations also to Andrew Thornton for being selected to play for Scotland in the Boys Home Internationals, Cormac Sharpe for being selected to play for Scotland in the Quadrangular tournament and for Gregor Graham representing Scotland at The Junior Open this year at St Andrews.

Cormac & Gregor were also selected to travel with the U16s Scottish Squad for the Italian U16's Championships.

Andrew and Jamie Roberts represented P&K in the Men's Scottish Area Team Championships and Jamie, Andrew & Gregor for selection in the Men's Midlands Team Championships, which the team went onto win. Jamie & Alex Simpson were part of the Gents team that won the North/North East Triangular match. Well done to Andrew, Jamie, Gregor & Cormac for being selected to be part of next year's Scottish Boys Squad and Daniel Bullen and Alexander Ewen for being selected for the Scottish Golf Academy, brilliant season guys, keep up the hard work.

We also had some fantastic national results, with Gregor Graham winning The Barrie Douglas Scottish Masters, Andrew Thornton winning the Paul Lawrie Junior Jug, Cormac Sharpe winning the North of England U14s and the Dunhill Schools, Jamie Roberts winning the Scottish Junior Tour event at Southernness, Andrew Wilkie winning the Loretto Schools Championships, Josh Dolzanski, winning the Dunhill Senior Schools title and Connor Graham winning the Stephen Gallacher U12 Championships. Fraser Matthews did extremely well getting to the final of the St Andrews Boys, unfortunately getting pipped in the final. There have been many great achievements from many other players, too many to mention, well done all though for working hard and reducing your handicaps, sorry if I have missed anything. Please contact our secretary Alan Cargill on secretarypandk@gmail.com if you have any news of juniors competing or doing well in National events.

On a local note, well done to Cormac Sharpe for winning the Champion of Champions, Andrew Thornton for winning the Strokeplay, Alex Simpson for winning the Matchplay, beating Fraser Matthews in the final. Lewis Seath did well winning the handicap version, against Rory Hutchison. Alex Simpson also won the U18 Championships, Josh Dolzanski the U16s and Daniel Bullen winning the U14s. Connor Graham won the U14 Scratch Coaching medal, with Max Hammonds winning the handicap version. Fraser Matthews also had a very good and consistent season, winning our Order of Merit.

Well done to Auchterarder for winning the Team Championships, the team was represented by Harry Clark, Andrew Scott & Daniel Bullen.

Congratulations to Blairgowrie for winning the Scratch League, Gregor, Cormac and Connor (Probably the youngest combined winners of the event) won a very close final against the other Blairgowrie side (The first time two clubs from the one club have been in the final) Fraser, Katy and Declan, every game went up the last hole, a joy to watch, with some fantastic golf and sportsmanship on display.

Great result also to Taymouth Castle for winning the Bell Trophy, Josh Dolzanski, Ben Cowan, Duncan McBride, Cameron Shaw & Toby Rennie were part of the winning side, congratulation also for Milnathort for making the final.

Last Year's Bell Trophy Winners Muckhart travelled to Portlethen to represent P&K at the Scottish Club Team Champs. They finished 3rd overall with Douglas Young winning the individual title.

The Race to the Dukes and the Order or Merit, that was played throughout the year, was another great success. What a great competition this is, played over the year, with a superb venue The Dukes to hold our Finals day on. Well done to Gregor Graham for winning the overall scratch prize, Josh Dolzanski for winning the U15s scratch prize, Ramsay Scott for winning the overall handicap and Andrew Wilkie for winning the U15 handicap. Thanks, and well done for all the competitors for taking part throughout the year, especially to our winners, Josh Dolzanski as the overall scratch winner, Luke Volland U15 Scratch winner, Cameron Shaw, overall handicap winner and Lewis Seath U15 handicap winner.

Thank you to Stewart Roberts for all his work co-ordinating this competition and to Austin Carey and the Blue Group for sponsoring this event.

We are hoping that some clubs will be able to change their Junior Open Dates next year to enable even more players to take part and to avoid fixture clashes – which we know is nearly impossible – but we'll be in touch with clubs in due course.

Congratulations also to our girls, especially Kirsty Brodie for representing Scotland on a few occasions, including The Home Internationals, she also won the Stephen Gallacher Vase. Well done also to Megan Ashley who won the North of Scotland Girls Championships, Amy Mitchel and Katy Alexander for being selected to play for our Counties Ladies team and for also having fantastic seasons. Megan & Katy won the Scottish Schools for P&K at Murrayshall. Kirsty Brodie (Scratch) and Kirsten Miller (Handicap) both reached the semi-finals at Moray in the Scottish Girls.

We continued to invest into coaching and strength and conditioning sessions throughout the year, for our squad players, all of which is very beneficial for the development of our junior golfers. Please let us know if you can think of anyone, who is very keen on playing golf and would benefit from this coaching. This winter, we have already started our S&C session with Gil Stevenson, winter coaching will also be getting carried out with Niall McGill and Spencer Henderson.

A big thank you to all golf clubs who have hosted our competitions and matches, also a massive thank you to everyone who helps to run the junior section, Adrian, Rodney and Callum who put in a lot of their time helping run all the events, to Alan our Secretary, Scott our President, all in the Executive, all our sponsors and now The

Barrie Douglas Foundation for really supporting our junior section, to the parents and grandparents for bringing all the kids along, we are extremely grateful, so thank you all very much in helping us make our junior section such a success.

Thanks, and here's to hopefully another enjoyable and successful 2019 for our junior players.

Stuart Graham
P&K Junior Convenor