



## 2018 Perth & Kinross Masters *Finals Weekend*

Our annual Perth & Kinross Masters Finals Weekend was held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October. The semi-final matches were played on the magnificent Gullane No.2 on Saturday and the final matches played over the very impressive Renaissance.



The draw was made following a coffee and roll provided by our old friend John Greer at Gullane Golf Club. The 1<sup>st</sup> Semi-final would be between Brian Martin & Mark McDowell (of Craigie Hill) playing against Neil Wilkie & Iain Ross (of Blairgowrie).



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi-final would be played between Scott Cook & Craig Hynd (of Kinross) and Craig Brown (Blairgowrie) & George Brown (Craigie Hill).

All 8 players managed to warm up enough in the bracing wind and hit good first drives to calm the nerves – watched by our President Scott Michie and Secretary Alan Cargill.

Honours were even in the first Semi down the 1<sup>st</sup> – but Scott Cook of Kinross managed an excellent “birdie” on the 1<sup>st</sup> to sneak into the lead. Both games were pretty even with all the players finding the enormous greens difficult to read both up wind and down wind. Neil and Iain made the most of their chances and took advantage with their shots to edge 2 up at the turn – with Brian & Mark frustrated at the number of putts that shaved the hole. George & Craig and Scott & Craig were trading holes back and forth with the match all square at the turn.

The golf on display was almost as good as the scenery (!), but there can be no better place in the world to play golf when the weather is this good. Our P&K Masters Finalists were enjoying the very best that Scotland had to offer.



In the 1<sup>st</sup> semi-final Brian and Mark were trying hard to peg back Neil & Iain – but the Blairgowrie pairing were dovetailing very well which meant that the Hill duo could not get any momentum and pull holes back. Neil really nailed his tee shot at 15<sup>th</sup> to about 2 feet and tapped in for birdie and “dormy”. Neil & Iain managed to seal the victory on the 16<sup>th</sup> (3&2) when Brian and Mark could only match them.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> semi-final was a little closer with both teams trying to capitalise on any mistakes but Craig and Scott managed to sneak into the lead through 15 and 16 and held on to win 2&1.

The games were played in the right spirit – which is the hallmark of this P&K Masters competition – and everyone of the players enjoyed testing themselves on such a fantastic course.

We all then headed to ***The Renaissance Club*** where we were staying overnight in the fabulous accommodation prior to the finals on Sunday. There was a quiet evening meal with nothing to report – other than the Secretary’s disappointment that there were 2 glasses of “rose” wine ordered during the evening meal and that the snooker room bar had their Red wine stored in the Fridge (!)..... enough said!

The fantastic Renaissance Club and the practice range on Sunday morning – where our players were keen to “loosen off” following their extra hour in bed.....!



## Finals Day

Our 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Place Play Off Match was going to be a “tough school” with the banter flowing early and the bar set high for a thrilling match. The “forecaddie” for this game is normally on the bag for Connor Syme – so lord only knows what he was going to make of this fourball!



Our final was going to be a much more serious game – with 2 very evenly matched pairings with the P&K Masters title on the line.

Brian & Mark had managed to sneak out to a 3 hole lead at the turn – and BM made it 4 when he had an excellent birdie at the 10<sup>th</sup> (the best looking golf hole on the course – see below). The guys piled into the “halfway house” where soup & pies were the order of the day. It clearly helped George & Craig because they managed to get their game back on track – and were only 1 down playing the tough 18<sup>th</sup>.

George & Craig were just a little erratic up the last – so Brian & Mark held on for 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a 1 up victory. All 4 really enjoyed the course and the company. A really good advert for entering this competition.



The final was ticking over very nicely with neither team able to make a breakthrough. Halved holes were very much the order of the day with the match All Square at the turn. This tight battle continued following the customary “halfway house” stop. Craig stepped up to the mark at 14 with a really good birdie following an excellent puttchip or chiputt to “gimme” distance. He followed this up with a really good up & down at 15 so the Kinross boys were now 2 up with 3 to play. The tricky 16<sup>th</sup> is a long up-hill slog – with the Kinross pair trying hard to undo all their hard work. Neil had a putt to cut the deficit – but just shaved the hole so the Kinross guys were “dormy”.

4 very different tee shots were how you would describe the efforts on the short par 3 - 17<sup>th</sup> – and it came down to nerves with chips & putts (or putts & putts!) with the Blairgowrie guys sneaking another one back. So – 18<sup>th</sup> tee, 1 hole in the match – all to play for. Some good drives, then some “not so good” 2<sup>nd</sup> shots proved that winning this title is a “big deal”. Nerves and fatigue were kicking in. The play in and around the final green provided a really exciting climax for the spectators – but perhaps not the players. With no chance of bettering the Kinross score the match was conceded by Neil & Iain to make this year’s P&K Masters champions Scott Cook and Craig Hynd from Kinross.

The final was played in excellent spirit and huge credit to all of the players for making it so enjoyable, and competitive.

President Scott Michie made the presentation in the clubhouse immediately after the final and commented on how enjoyable it had been to walk 36 holes without playing! He congratulated Scott and Craig on their victory and thanked the other 3 teams for making it such an enjoyable weekend.



***Perth & Kinross CGU want to say thank you to all of the following people for making our “P&K Masters Event” another success throughout the 2018 Season.***

**Russell Smith (The Renaissance Club)** – this is such an incredible experience to be able to host our finals weekend at this venue. The Clubhouse is immaculate, the accommodation superb and the course is simply awesome. Thank you to everyone on the team – it really is “rare indeed”!

**Angela Neison & June Lawther (Gullane Golf Club)** – thank you so much for providing No.2 for our semi-finals. It is such an iconic links course that is such a challenge for our players.

**John Greer (Gullane Clubhouse Steward)** – for all his support once again. We are sorry that your journey up to Forfar was wasted!

***Finally - to all the players from Clubs throughout Perth & Kinross for entering this competition and making it such an easy event to run and administer. Let’s hope we have even more entries in 2019!***