

Holt Shield

Honorary Secretary's 2017 Report

The Holt Shield Committee met twice during 2017/18 and the following business was conducted.

- The resignation of Helen's Bay from the Holt Shield was reluctantly accepted.
- Blackwood Golf Club was welcomed into the Holt Shield maintaining the status quo of 36 clubs.
- The Holt Shield website continues to evolve. During his speech at the presentation dinner at Fortwilliam, Bangor's captain Graham Yarr praised the Holt Shield website as user friendly with a comprehensive content that is continually updated. Thanks to Colin and Darryl who are mainly responsible for the website.
- It was agreed to present for approval at the 2018 AGM a proposed new rule stating that players can only play for one club during the season and a proposed amendment to rule 21.
- New GUI handicap eligibility for the Junior Cup and Jimmy Bruen was discussed and the possible impact, if any this may have on the Holt Shield.

Ormeau Golf Club hosted the 2017 George Stuart Memorial on Friday 28th July. Mark Surgenor, Ballymena won the silver medal. Massereene's Captain Alan Elliott was unable to attend as he was committed to the Max Hadden Captains competition at Royal Belfast. However his Vice-Captain John McCullough attended the dinner and was very attentive throughout the day. It was a successful day with good weather and the course was well presented. The 2018 George Stuart Memorial competition will be hosted by Rockmount Golf Club on Friday 17th August, tee-off from 2.00pm. Attendance continues to be disappointing at this event so I would encourage team captains and their guests to attend what is always an enjoyable day. As usual entry can be accessed via the Holt Shield website.

Congratulations to Fortwilliam for winning their eighth Holt Shield. They defeated Bangor who reached their third final but to date have yet to win the Holt Shield. The final was played in a good spirit and the standard of golf was impressive. Both clubs are to be congratulated for producing an enjoyable and competitive match.

The Presentation Dinner hosted by Fortwilliam on Friday 10th November was a most enjoyable and successful event. For his unbeaten performance in both legs of the final, Andrew Lane from Fortwilliam won the 2017 Bobby Conroy Award. Only recently joining Fortwilliam from Greenacres, Andrew quickly embraced team golf at Fortwilliam. His consistent play in the final and throughout the competition was the cornerstone of

Fortwilliam's victory. The decision to present Andrew with the award was agreed by both team managers.

Congratulations to Paul Maguire, Fortwilliam's playing manager who since 2003 has played in ten Holt Shield finals and winning five silver medals. This is a truly remarkable record.

My thanks to Darryl for accepting and posting all the match results throughout the year on the website and for all the work he carried out in his capacity as Hon. Treasurer.

Thanks to Colin who has kindly agreed to be the Holt Shield's official photographer. This responsibility will complement the important contribution he makes to the website.

Thanks also to Colin and Brett for their assistance during the presentation dinner at Fortwilliam. The support of committee members during this important event was greatly appreciated.

Paddy Kearney has had a successful year as Holt Shield Chairman. He has played an active and supportive role in his capacity as Chairman and I wish him continued success in 2018.

Finally on behalf of the Holt Shield committee may I wish all participating clubs a successful and enjoyable 2018 campaign.

Tony Campbell

(Hon. Secretary)