

Holt Shield

Honorary Secretary's 2018 Report

The Holt Shield Committee met three times during 2018/19 and the following business was conducted.

- The resignation of Castlereagh Hills and Mahee Island from the Holt Shield was reluctantly accepted.
- Massereene and Ormeau withdrew from the competition during the group stages.
- The Chairman's chosen charity for 2018 was the premature baby charity Tiny Life.
- Rule 16, re. arranging matches, was amended to include ...'offer reasonable and legitimate dates'....
- It was suggested that a WhatsApp group for team managers be set up for convenient communication.
- The number of teams progressing from the groups to the match play stages was debated.
- Reducing the handicap limit from 6 to 5 was debated.
- It was decided to distribute a questionnaire to all participating clubs for their opinions on Holt Shield matters.

During a very successful charity golfing event at Carrick on the 6th July, Michael Addley on behalf of the Tiny Life Charity accepted a cheque for £360 from the Holt Shield.

Rockmount Golf Club hosted the 2018 George Stuart Memorial on Friday 17th August. Lewis Darragh, Lisburn won the silver medal with a creditable 34 points given the adverse weather conditions. Rockmount's Captain Frank McWilliams was unable to attend because of a previous charity day commitment. However Rockmount's proprietor Robert Patterson played golf and attended the dinner. Although the weather was poor it was generally a successful day. The 2019 George Stuart Memorial competition will be hosted by Royal Belfast Golf Club on Friday 2nd August, tee-off 12 noon. Attendance by team managers continues to be disappointing and the merits of establishing a team managers WhatsApp group to help improve communication amongst managers will be considered. As usual details regarding entry to the 2019 George Stuart Memorial can be accessed via the Holt Shield website.

Congratulations to Cairndhu for winning the Holt Shield for the second time. They defeated Dunmurry who reached their second final in three years. The final was extremely tense eventually being decided on the second tie hole at Dunmurry. Considering the tension and pressure of the occasion both teams are to be congratulated for the good spirit and

sportsmanship portrayed throughout the final. The standard of golf was impressive and the comradeship between the two clubs reflected perfectly the Holt Shield motto 'friendly but competitive.' Both clubs should be proud for producing one of the most enjoyable and closest finals in recent years.

The Presentation Dinner hosted by Cairndhu on Saturday 17th November was a most enjoyable and successful event. It was one of the best celebrated nights in recent years and the respect shown between the two clubs was evident and was a credit to all the players and officials from both clubs.

For his unbeaten performance in both legs of the final, Andrew Beatty from Cairndhu won the 2018 Bobby Conroy Award. He holed crucial putts both at Cairndhu and Dunmurry to keep his matches alive. Following a suburb 15 foot putt on the 17th at Dunmurry and under immense pressure Andrew pared the next three holes eventually winning the Holt Shield for Cairndhu on the second tie hole. The decision to present Andrew with the Bobby Conroy Award was agreed by both team managers.

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 did a great job as the Holt Shield's official photographer and for continuing to improve and update information on the website.

Thanks also to Colin and Brett for their assistance during the presentation dinner at Cairndhu. Unfortunately Paddy Kearney was unable to attend the dinner so the support of the committee was most welcome and appreciated.

Paddy Kearney has had a successful term as Chairman of the Holt Shield. He has played an active and supportive role in his capacity as Chairman and on behalf of the Holt Shield committee I thank him for all his contribution and support over the past two years.

May I congratulate and wish Ian McNaught (Bangor GC) a successful term of office as the 2019/20 Holt Shield Chairman.

Finally on behalf of the Holt Shield committee may I wish all participating clubs a successful and enjoyable 2019 campaign.

Tony Campbell
(Hon. Secretary)