

Holt Shield

Honorary Secretary's 2019 Report

The Holt Shield Committee met three times during 2019/20 and the following business was conducted.

- The resignation of Temple from the Holt Shield was reluctantly accepted.
- Ormeau were reinstated.
- Fortwilliam withdrew from the competition during the group stages.
- The Chairman's chosen charity for 2019 was the Children's Cancer Unit Charity.
- The team manager's WhatsApp group will be established during April 2020 when the current managers have been finalised.
- Massereene were reinstated leaving Fortwilliam first reserves should a team withdraw.
- Together with the 2020 entry details a questionnaire will be sent to all participating clubs seeking their opinions on Holt Shield matters.

During a very successful charity golfing event at Bangor, Ian McNaught (Chairman) on behalf of the Holt Shield committee presented a cheque for £410 to his chosen charity 'The Children's Cancer Unit Charity.'

Royal Belfast Golf Club hosted the 2019 George Stuart Memorial on Friday 2nd August. Our Chairman Ian McNaught (Bangor) won the silver medal with 36 points. It was a beautiful day and the course was presented in its usual manicured best which was fully appreciated and enjoyed by everyone. Unfortunately attendance by team managers continues to be disappointing at this event. However by establishing a team manager's WhatsApp group should help promote the event. The 2020 George Stuart Memorial competition will be hosted by Scrabo Golf Club on Friday 7th August, tee-off from 1.00pm. As usual details regarding entry can be accessed via the Holt Shield website. Team managers are automatically invited to attend this event which is not only an enjoyable day but it's a way for the committee to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of managers.

Congratulations to Ballymena for winning the Holt Shield for the fourth time. They defeated Donaghadee in an extremely tense match which was eventually decided, similar to last year on the second tie hole. Gerry Rafferty, Ballymena's team manager settled the matter by holing a 40 foot winning birdie putt. Both clubs should be proud for producing another memorable final played in the right spirit.

The Presentation Dinner hosted by Ballymena on Saturday 9th November was a most enjoyable and successful event. Ballymena were the perfect hosts making everyone feel welcome and providing an excellent meal and great company.

For his unbeaten performance in both legs of the final, Ballymena's team manager Gerry Rafferty won the 2019 Bobby Conroy Award. Recovering from being dormie 2 down, he made a birdie 2 on the second tie hole to win Ballymena the Holt Shield. The decision to award Gerry the Bobby Conroy Award was fully supported by both teams and Donaghadee's team manager Matthew McLain.

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 again 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 Brett and Colin for their assistance during both legs of the final and to Paddy who offered his usual support throughout the year and was a great host at the celebration dinner.

Ian McNaught has had a successful first year 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 year and I wish him well for 2020.

Finally on behalf of the Holt Shield committee may I wish all participating clubs a successful and enjoyable 2020 campaign.

Tony Campbell

(Hon. Secretary)