

## Holt Shield

### Honorary Secretary 2021 Annual Report

Although 2021 continued to be an extremely difficult year with the continued effects of Covid-19 the Holt Shield committee felt it was safe to proceed with the competition with some temporary adjustments to the format. Matches were played three matches at home and three away up to the semi-finals. A no caddy policy was implemented and the handicap limit was reduced from 5.5 to 4.5. The final was contested under the normal five matches home and away. These temporary measures will be reviewed during the 2022 AGM.

The final was contested between Cairndhu, the 2018 champions and Bangor who were waiting for their maiden win. It was a closely contested final with Cairndhu eventually winning their third Holt Shield 5.5/4.5. The big swing came in the first leg at Cairndhu when two matches went down the eighteenth all square and Cairndhu won both of them.

As usual the final was played in a good but competitive spirit and both teams are to be congratulated for their standard of play and sportsmanship.

The Bobby Conroy Award was won by Jonathon Anderson, Cairndhu who was unbeaten throughout the competition and vitally won both his matches in the final.

The George Stuart Memorial was played at Scrabo who kindly offered their course again after last year's event had to be cancelled. With fine weather conditions Robert Brown used his local knowledge to win the George Stuart silver medal with a commendable 36 points beating Brett Borkowski and our chairman Ian McNaught on a better back nine. Scrabo Golf Club were the perfect hosts providing a well maintained course, a lovely meal and good company making it a very enjoyable day.

The 2022 George Stuart Memorial is scheduled to be played at Shandon Park. Confirmation and details will be announced on the Holt Shield website. This event is a most enjoyable occasion we hope to welcome more Holt Shield Team Captains to Shandon.

Things were far from normal last year but without the hard work and dedication of the Holt Shield committee the 2021 competition would not have

taken place. My thanks to all the committee members who by their efforts provided an event that must had been welcomed by many golfers who were emerging from a long lockdown.

My thanks to Ian McNaught who agreed to do an extra year as chairman which turned out to be an extremely busy and emotional year for him as he was a playing member of the Bangor team. Through his leadership skills he successfully guided the competition through a difficult year. The 2022/3 Holt Shield committee officers and members will remain unchanged.

May I wish Robert Brown, Chairman elect a successful term of office. Robert who is currently Scrabo's Team Captain has been a supporter of The Holt Shield for many years and I wish him well in his new role.

May I wish all participating clubs and players a successful 2022 campaign and thank them for their continued support of the Holt Shield.

Tony Campbell

(Hon. Secretary)