

# RNUC – Golf Society

## Match – New Club – July 19 and 20, 2023

### Match Report



A strong team travelled south for the annual golf match against the New Club in Edinburgh held on July 19 and 20. The match was held over two days, and all the RNUC players had room reservations at the New Club premises on Princess Street. The New Club chose two excellent venues. Luffness traditional links and Royal Burgess a stunning parkland course.

#### Day 1 – Luffness - Foursomes

The team assembled at 12.00, which allowed 2 hours for pre-drinks and lunch. The lunch at Luffness was a wonderful experience, and there was plenty of wine to offset any pre-match nerves.

Gregor Dalrymple and Ian Booth were RNUC lead pairing in the day one foursomes. This format was chosen as it was quick as dinner was booked for 19.30 in the centre of Edinburgh. After a poor start, the RNUC duo edged ahead at the 12<sup>th</sup> hole, only to find themselves one down after the 15<sup>th</sup> hole. Some exceptional play saw the RNUC pairings win the next three holes to close the match 2&1.



- Captain for the match Gregor Dalrymple (left) with New Club opponents Alistair Parker (centre) and Sarinder Singh (right).

Hatten Atta paired with Rob Buchan, Graham Templeton, and Alex Cameron, where the RNUC next two pairings. Both these matches went to the 18<sup>th</sup>, but unfortunately, RNUC lost both games. Templeton and Cameron had a healthy lead, but that was eroded in the back nine by exceptional play by the New Club team. The decisive blow was a fantastic approach shot to the tricky 18<sup>th</sup> green, which sealed their fate. Atta was driving the ball superbly well, but despite his steady play and Buchan's short game, they lost out.

The anchor pairing of Peter Burnet and John Craig was engrossed in another close game, but they also came up short, losing on the 17<sup>th</sup> green. The New Club had one of their best players in the final grouping, an experienced golfer from Muirfield.

Dinner was in the library on the second floor of the New Club. A majestic and impressive room overlooking Edinburgh Castle was maintained by the New Club's librarian. The meal was exceptional, as was the port and wine served in generous quantities. Sarinder Singh, the Captain of the New Club, announced the day's result (3:1 to the New Club) and gave an entertaining speech focusing on University Challenge answers by pressurized students over the 30 years of Jeremy Paxton's tenure as quiz master. He did digress to comment specifically on Ian Booth's wonder shot on the 7<sup>th</sup> hole at Luffness that changed the course of the match. RNUC were hoping that the next day's format would be singles, but it was going to be a four-ball better ball format, making it difficult for RNUC to overturn the 3:1 deficit. Captain Dalrymple was hoping for singles.







## **Day 2 – Royal Burgess Golf Society**

**After a quality golfers' breakfast at the New Club's main dining room, the team drove the 45 minutes to Royal Burgess. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> oldest course in the world. Bacon rolls and coffee were available on arrival, and surprisingly there was plenty of interest. For day two, the RNUC pairings were strategically changed with the aim of winning all four matches and taking the trophy back north.**

**First out was the Royal Aberdeen pairing of Templeton and Burnet. They were an experienced pairing, but not experienced as the New Club's secret weapon a 91 year old Muirfield man paired with the New Club's captain. The new Club edged out the RNUC pairing on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole and took a 4:1 lead.**

**The second game saw Dalrymple paired with Atta. Atta's accuracy was to compensate for Dalrymple's inaccuracy. The formula worked well, and they managed to grind out a 2 and 1 win in a topsy-turvy match, with Atta being the leading player. Result 4:2 to the New Cub.**

**The third game saw Cameron and Booth play two solid players. Despite more wonder shots from difficult positions from Ian, they could not erode into a solid lead that the**

**New Club had established early in the game. Signed, sealed and delivered to the New Club at 5:2.**

**The final match saw RNUC anchor pairing Buchan and Craig restored some pride to the RNUC by winning matches 2 and 1. Final Score 5:3.**

**Lunch was another gastronomic delight in the main dining room of Royal Burgess. Gregor graciously awarded the trophy to Sarinder. Many kind words were spoken by both captains to the friendliness of the two of excellent golf played over two superb golf courses. The RNUC team headed back to Aberdeen, wondering if this really was a golf event or a gastronomic festival.**



**The next event is the away match against the Western Club of Glasgow, to be held at the beautiful Links of Scotsraig on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.**

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