

Alloa business lands global golf contract



ON THE TEE with the new Rocket Launcher are, from left, Glenn Kilby (divotEND), David Herd (Alloa Golf Club Professional), Graham Struthers (Federation of Small Businesses), David Haswell (Thredgards), Damian Kilby (divotEND); and right, showing off the Rocket Launcher, which could revolutionise winter golf.

AN ALLOA business has fought off worldwide competition to win a contract to manufacture a new device set to revolutionise the world of golf.

Thredgards Injection Molding, based in Alva since 1975 and then Alloa since 2008, won the contract to manufacture the Rocket Launcher – a new device that allows golfers to tee off in winter without creating divots.

Thredgards employs six people in Alloa and has plans to expand further when this product takes off.

The new device is the brainchild

of divotEnd Scotland Ltd, a Scottish company whose managing director Damian Kilby and co-director Glenn Kilby recently played a round at Alloa Golf Club to celebrate the launch of the product at the famous James Braid designed course.

Thredgards fought off competition from across the world including the Far East so that the new golf device will say 'Forged in Scotland' – a great result for a device that is now approved for use by the R&A on St Andrews Links courses.

Thredgards' general manager David Haswell said "We're absolute-

ly delighted with the contract win.

"It is great news for our business and we believe that it is the sign of things to come

"We're convinced that it shows that Scottish and UK manufacturing still has a strong reputation in the global economy and we can still compete on the global stage."

The Rocket Launcher contract could be worth millions to the business and their products could be exported all over the world.

The Rocket Launcher is designed to replace winter mats – a common sight on Scottish golf courses and

which are often manufactured outside the UK.

It is a small wallet-sized designed piece of plastic designed to ensure golf courses don't get damaged while providing the best possible experience for enthusiastic golfers.

divotEND's managing director Damian Kilby said, "We believe that golfers should be rewarded for protecting their courses and the environment so we set out to design a device that would resolve every weakness the mats exhibit.

"The challenge was to design our

product was originally inspired by our own disappointment and the grumblings of many a winter golfer who was required to play off various kinds of flat winter mats."

David Haswell is a member of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and said the organisation's support and advice helped him win the contract.

He added, "I've been a member of the FSB for four years – their help and support has been invaluable and I'd recommend membership to anyone with an interest in business."

GOLF

BRAEHEAD GOLF CLUB

Gents, Saturday 15 October, William Rodgers Cup: The winner, but only after a count back, was Gary Preston, with Willie Aitken a close runner-up. 1st Gary Preston (6) 68 (acb), 2nd William Aitken (16) 68, 3rd Gordon McEwan (7) 69 (acb), 4th Kris Storf (24) 69.

Sunday 16 October, Club Stableford: Division 1 – 1st William Park 38, 2nd Duncan Wright 38, 3rd Steven Beattie 38; Division 2 – 1st Peter Martin 37, 2nd Kevin Wilson 37, 3rd Henry Peddie 37, 4th Daryll McEwan 37; Division 3 – 1st Crawford Campbell 39, 2nd Alistair Masterton 38, 3rd Paul McCallum 37.

Saturday 22 October, Miller Medal Final: This was the final for this season's monthly medal winners. The winner was John Riggs who returned an excellent net 65. Division 1 – 1st Gavin Kerr (10) 67, 2nd James Muir (1) 68, 3rd David Craig (6) 69 (acb); Division 2 – 1st William Crews (12) 68, 2nd Jim Robertson (17) 69 (acb), 3rd James Jamieson (14) 69; Division 3 – 1st John Riggs (20) 65, 2nd Mark Brember (24) 71 (acb).

Sunday 23 October, Two Man Scramble: Some great scoring in this event with John Starkey and Andrew Peddie playing way below their handicap. 1st John Starkey / Andrew Peddie 69



DOLLAR GOLF CLUB Mixed Scramble winners, from left, Carol Hak, John McMillan and Ashley Leitch.

(12.8) 56.2, 2nd Colin Anderson / Brian Anderson 70 (10.8) 59.2, 3rd Douglas Weldon / David Dick 67 (7.6) 59.4.

Ladies, Saturday 15 October, Team of Three: Winners were the

very experienced team of Laura Bissett, Sarah Walker and Norma Kerr.

Sunday 23 October, 12 Hole Scramble: Winners – Izzy Gorman, Wanda Sharp and

Marjory Chalmers 40.7; Runners up – Lesley Percy, Doreen Skelton and Linda Fraser 42.7.

Summer Eclectic: This popular competition was concluded this week and it was match secretary

Mary Wallace who took the honours. 1st Mary Wallace, 2nd Jane Short, 3rd Linda Fraser. Best Gross – Christine Sikora.

The Ladies AGM and prizegiving dinner will be held

on Friday 4 November in the clubhouse.

Seniors: The Seniors AGM will take place today (Wednesday) at 1pm. All members are asked to attend. Members are reminded to order their new club sweater. The Winter Competition for the Ochil Shield will start on Wednesday 2 November. Winter Eclectic will start on Friday 4 November.

Club AGM: Members are reminded that this will take place in the clubhouse on Monday 5 December.

DOLLAR GOLF CLUB

Saturday 22 October, Mixed Texas Scramble: Dollar's popular winter season series of Mixed Texas Scrambles opened on Saturday with a good turnout of members in generally windy and testing conditions.

The golf was of a high standard, and particularly that of the winning team of Carol Hak, Ashley Leitch and John McMillan who – playing off a handicap of 6.1 – returned a net 59.9. In second place were Margaret Stephenson, Charles Murray and George Marshall (4.7) 60.3 and third were Di Dunning, Andy Ure and Terry Young (5.3) 61.7.

Dollar is offering new members 14 months golf for the price of 12, plus a 2012 special discount. Telephone 07703 572344 or visit www.dollargolfclub.com for further details.