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Dear Fellow Merchistonians,

Welcome to the 2017 season. There has been a full report of the Club's activities in 2016 from Robert Forman in the Merchistonian Magazine and I look forward to the year ahead and to fulfilling my responsibilities.

There will be some changes, as we find that certain events have lost popularity.

Among those is the Spring Meeting held in early March, which has been associated with "unspring like" weather attracting only five entrants in 2016. We therefore propose to introduce a "hole in hole" competition which the Secretary will set out in his beginning of season letter. I would encourage you all to take part in this handicap competition run over the 2017 season.

There has already been a meeting of our talented golfers over Gullane on the 14 January with the purpose of selecting Halford Hewitt and other representative teams. At the time of writing, the team for the Halford Hewitt has not been formalised, so I will bring you details in due course. The dates for that competition are from 6-9 April. We play Harrow in the first round at Deal (Royal Cinque Ports GC) on the 6th, support from any Merchistonians would be appreciated by our team.

There are, of course, opportunities for the handicap golfers amongst us to participate in friendly matches and I would encourage you to take part.

The membership subscription remains at £40 as a suggested contribution, giving access to premier golf clubs when you play in a match.

We have had two successful autumn meetings at Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society and have arranged a return this year. The Secretary will give details of this and all other events in his letter.

I conclude by wishing you all a successful golfing season, and look forward to meeting many of you over the year.

Yours sincerely

Bill Hannay

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[hannay39@virginmedia.com](mailto:hannay39@virginmedia.com)