



## Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

### Paul Fullbrook Chairman's Autumn Rant.....“.



This month it could actually be deemed a “rant”....

As the Management Committee continue in their quest to bring the Club into the 21st Century, I find it increasingly frustrating that the same “volunteers” tireless soldier on. These people desperately need the support of the membership, but receive little or no aid, in fact only negatives, whinges, and apathy seem to be the order of the day recently.

Nobody came forward to take on the Junior Section....and there was a poor turn out for helpers on the Arnold Palmer Day....a big thank you to the “Usual Suspects”, who managed to turn the day into a success.

I am now asking for members to come forward and assist Trevor John in taking our Training & Practice Facility bid forward. Any relevant skills in Grant Application form filling would be an advantage. Without your help this project will struggle to gain momentum.

Tony Bowden has once again come to assist the MC with Handicaps & Competitions, following the untimely resignation of Dave Dennis.

These are very difficult times at our Club and the moral of the Management Committee could do with a lift from the Membership showing a much more positive attitude.....

Rant over for another month....The Chairman”

### Dorrien Bickerstaff Handicaps and Competitions Secretary



For those that haven't heard, sadly Dave Dennis has had to resign from the committee for personal reasons. I

thank him for his input which has been helpful and forward thinking. His legacy is a new system that is now installed and will be up and fully running once we have ironed out a few teething problems, so please be patient with us.

Please, if anyone has problems trying to put their entry in for competitions or make alterations just contact myself or Phil

Arbourne. At time of going to press the Todd Cup will be reverting back to the Red Book in the Pro Shop.

We have a good group of new members who have completed their three supplementary cards and now have official handicaps. We welcome them to join us in the club competitions in the future. It would be great if more well established Minehead players made them welcome and offered them a game introducing them to the various games we have to offer.

I can be found most days at the club or on the end of the telephone. I don't do facebook or twitter. I just about do emails but I do like a pint. Cheers!

### Defibrillator Training Evening Nigel Humphries.

On Thursday 17th September at 7:00pm there will be an introduction to and the use of the newly acquired defibrillator for members and staff. Mark Hayden, one of our local paramedics, will show us how to use the defibrillator and the technique of giving CPR. Mark is a trainer and examiner within the Ambulance Service and I know he will provide a lot

information with good humour. It is not intended that at the end of the evening we will all end up as ready to go fully trained first responders, it is hoped that the evening will help to allay some of the fears of using the defib' and to answer any questions you may have about its use. The evening will last about 90mins and hopefully some of us will get a chance to use the training aids that Mark will be bringing along.

### Phil Bowden, Club Captain



Captains Day took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> August and special thanks must go to Sarah Fossey for manning

the reception table from 6.30 in the morning, I don't know what I would have done without her. Also thanks must go to Chris Bingham for his help with the raffle, Phil Arbourne and Dorrien for all their help throughout the day, all the green staff, and bar and catering staff, and to all the helpers at the halfway house, Jeanette, Deborah, Louis, Caroline and Carol. What an exhausting day, and I would like to congratulate Pete Scott on winning



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the Captains Trophy with 47 points, Terry Daley was second with 44 points and Gareth Morgan third with 43 points. Best lady was Maxine Wilkinson with 42 points and best guest was Mike Saunders with 42 points. The evening was finished off with some great music from Mike Cashley, which was enjoyed by the 60/80 people who turned up for the presentations. Thanks to you all.

The first Tuesday Swindle of August saw 45 members playing, and the only team to achieve par with a score of 86 points were Dan Day, Kevin Agnew and Dorrien Bickerstaff. Plonkers of the day with 72 points were Pete Murphy, Paul Truscott and Dougie Hayhoe.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August we had our annual match against Burnham and Berrow, and as part of their 125 year celebration we were asked by the home club to replicate the format of this fixture which first took place back in 1891 (making this the oldest club fixture in Somerset), on that day the two clubs played each other in the morning with the professionals playing after lunch. So this time we

were joined by Bix and Jordan who put in a good performance to beat their counterparts by 2 and 1. Unfortunately the amateurs couldn't match them and as a team we lost by 5 games to 4. After a very good meal, and a little wine, we were invited by the home captain to take part in a chipping competition from the upstairs balcony for a prize of a bottle of whisky. After much merriment this was won by a home member, but Dorrien came very close for Minehead.

The second swindle of the Month had 51 players, and the winning team with a score of 100 points, against a par of 90, consisted of Gary Green, Bill Baker and Nigel Humphries. Plonkers this time with a score of 76 points were John McGuire, Paul Truscott and Malcolm McNeill.

A record number of members played on the 18<sup>th</sup> August, where 62 players turned out, and the winning group of the day were Mark Vickers, Jamie Anderson, Phil Arbourne and Dorrien Bickerstaff with 97 points. Lowest score of the day came from Gary Green, Jack McClay and Chris Durman with 63 points.

The Club team had a home fixture on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August against Ilfracombe and with no pair losing a match we were victors by 5 games to 1.

The final swindle of August saw 30 members playing, due to the threat of a little rain, and the winning team with a score of 96 points, were Derek Stevens, Mark Johnson and Chris Kirkbride. The plonkers of the day with a score of 66 points were Terry Daley, John Griffin and Frank Phillipson. The Arnold Palmer Charity Day took place over the bank holiday weekend and I will post the results in the next newsletter.

### **Kay Luckett, Lady Captain**

August has been a successful month for the teams playing in the Wessex and Interleague matches, we won 5-2 against Yeovil in the Wessex and 4-3 against Mendip in the Interleague well done to all the ladies playing. Two of our friendly matches were cancelled, in both cases the weather would have been awful,



we have managed to rearrange the match at Oake in October.

My Lady Captain's Day was blessed with sunny if not breezy weather, 39 ladies played in a Stableford competition resulting in some very close scores. Best score of the Day 1st Jayne Webber 37pts on back nine. 2nd Anne Oglesby 37pts. 3rd Sarah Hill 36pts. Division 1 handicap 8-20. 1st Kym Francis Hill 34pts. 2nd Linda Vasey 33pts. Division 2 handicap 21-29. 1st Linda Trump 32pts. 2nd Marjorie Miles 30pts. Division 3 handicap 30-36. 1<sup>st</sup> Tina Beaver 33pts 2<sup>nd</sup>. Maggie Floyd 32pts. Longest Drive-Silver Sara Warren, Bronze-Marjorie Miles. Nearest the Pin-Silver Jayne Webber, Bronze-Val Anderson. Putting Competition-Sandra Atkins. Chipping Competition-Linda Trump. Two's-Sandra Atkins, Sarah Hill and Jayne Webber. A big thank you to Wendy Barker, John McGuire and Derek Trump for the help they gave me on the day, also Marie who took the photographs and the catering staff who provided us all with a nice meal to round off the day.

I said in my last newsletter how well two of our ladies had done in the



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Centenary Plate (a County competition), well they played at Clevedon in the semi-final and beat Taunton and Pickeridge 8 & 6 what a result. Jayne Webber & Linda Trump went to Mendip Spring yesterday to play in the final against a pair from Enmore, the match was very close with some excellent golf being played by both pairs, and the result was a win for Enmore with the match going to the 18th hole to decide the winners. We have never reached the final of this competition so well done to Jayne and Linda who are a great credit to our Ladies Section. Plenty more golf to play before the end of the season let's hope we have some good weather in September. Enjoy your golf.



### **Stephen Kaye, Seniors Captain**

During August The Minehead Seniors took part in Matches with Tiverton and Saunton away, Ilfracombe at home, a "Stag Trophy" team game at Enmore and finally, the pride of the Minehead Seniors, making it through to and competing in the

inaugural final of the Somerset Age UK golf team knockout.

In the Tiverton and Saunton games The Seniors were defeated 4-2 and 6.5-0.5 respectively. Wins being recorded by, Cliff day, Randle Foot, Graham Walsh and myself.

The Final of the Age UK Somerset Golf Knockout took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Aug. To qualify all competitors had to be over 65 years of age. Our team were up against a very tough competitive team from Farringdon Park Golf Club.

The first match with John Littlewood and Graham Walsh went into a commanding lead and eventually won 7 & 5. The next

game with Martin Edkins and Randle Foot was a much closer game eventually closing out the game 2 & 1. The following games both were lost which meant all was on the last game. Cliff Day & our Club Captain were well in front with 4 holes up and 4 to play. But the other team were not to be beaten and came back very strong to win the last 4 holes and halve their match. The total result sadly was 3.5 to Farringdon and 2.5 to The Minehead Seniors. It was still a great result as The Seniors were the runners-up making it through to the final of this inaugural event.



### **Graham Wright –The Warreners**

The Warreners have been busy playing matches and competitions recently despite the weather intervening.

The very first day of July saw the Warreners competing for the Gerry Saunders Trophy which was won by Jamie Anderson.

On the 8th July we entertained The Colonials from Exeter (a team consisting of members who have worked abroad, usually for many years).

The Warreners won 4 - 2 to retain the trophy which is a large carved wooden elephant known as Tusker Major. As some consolation the losers receive a smaller carved wooden elephant called Tusker Minor. On 24th July the Warreners were due to play Chivenor Golf Society at Saunton but the fixture was cancelled due to the forecast of heavy rain which turned out to be very accurate. The fixture has been rearranged for October. On 28th July the Warreners played against Willingcott Valley at home narrowly losing 3 1/2 - 2 1/2. This fixture sees



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a trophy of a Tee Caddy with a golf ball handle normally containing tea bags for the winning team to have a drink.

August began with a match against Worlebury Golf Club on 5th where we managed to obtain a hard fought half. On August 12th members of the Warreners competed for The Brian Rendall Trophy and was deservedly won by Eddy Gosling having knocked on the door many times in Trophy competitions. On 19th August we took on the North Devon Police at home who have some very good players and one or two random handicaps (always likely in those sort of societies) sour grapes maybe, we lost 4 1/2 - 1 1/2.

Warrener members played for the Geoff Barrett Tankards on 26th August, a four ball better ball format which was won by Paul Beck and Jamie Anderson with 45 points. Jamie has had a good run.

The Warreners have a few matches left before our season of matches and competitions ends. Sadly autumn will soon be upon us. Thanks for reading.



### **Graham Walsh.** **MIXED OPEN**

Sunday 27th  
September is the  
clubs last open of  
the year, this is a

mixed competition tee times from 10.30 through to 13.00, still plenty of places left. We need more teams to enter as not many from our own club have done so yet.

The cost is only £9.00 for members & £15.00 pp for visitors. The sign-up sheet is on the main notice board. Closing date for entries will be Sunday 20th Sept. Special menu will be available on the day and the half-way house will be open for hot/cold drinks



### **Graham J Wells** **Course management**

We may soon be in a position to resolve the issue limiting the volume of landfill we are allowed to bring in under the terms of our licence. Should we succeed then landfill deliveries should start again in September. The next areas being considered are the 5<sup>th</sup> tee or the 7<sup>th</sup> tees and either may cause some

disruption to play on the course. We will be considering the best course of action having regard to future events on the course and will inform members of our intentions as soon as they are finalized.

Practice mats are now in place on the temporary practice tees and work is continuing slowly to complete the practice greens. If landfill deliveries recommence we may eventually find ourselves in a position to start construction of the practice bays!

Ragwort has now been removed from all areas of the course with the exception of the area on the sand bank lining the 18<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks are due to Nick Bangs and Tony Bowden for their help in this work.

We still have to replace valve boxes on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> greens and until we are able to do this daytime watering with trailing hoses may be necessary – patience please!

I am now in contact with 4 individuals who are expert at rabbit control by shooting. When their activities begin we will inform you of the details. Additionally we have 2 individuals who are experienced in ferreting to control rabbits and it

is intended to use this method later in the year.

Finally, during September and October it will be necessary to undertake tining, top dressing and reseeding of the greens – no doubt precisely at the time they are playing to perfection! However, this work will be necessary to ensure they remain in best condition over the autumn, winter and into next spring so once again please don't get frustrated when this work makes the greens less than perfect to play on for a while.

Comments, entries and contributions please to Stephen Kaye.  
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