



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

Newsletter No 19 April 2016. Club News



Stephen Kaye Club Chairman.

The job as Club Chairman is not an easy one. Nobody said it was going to

be easy, on the contrary.

I would like to start by thanking the outgoing chairman, Paul Fulbrook and the outgoing finance controller, John Fulwell. Also deserving of thanks is Phil Arbourne who is no longer on the Management Committee but is now working with the Marketing Group and still doing various other office duties. We all owe these people our gratitude and thanks for their support and their hard work for the good of our club.

How I would like to make a difference is in some of the following areas. I would like to see an improvement in the communications between the Management Committee and the members, sometimes it seems as if there is an us and them approach, this could not be further from the truth. I would remind all members

that you can write in your suggestions anytime. The suggestion book is located in the foyer and all comments will be discussed and responded to in the MC minutes. Also the marketing group is an open forum and anyone is welcome to attend any meeting. Meeting times and dates are posted on the clubs website under "Diary and Fixtures"

A priority for our club is bringing in more income and controlling expenditure. Controlling expenditure and raising income means that we can keep our membership costs as low as possible. We will be working hard to keep down the cost of membership. We will also be looking at a number of projects and initiatives in the coming months. Keeping and increasing memberships is vital as is more green fee income and more income from events. Not an easy task and it requires a great deal of work.

Improving and raising standards is something that is very important and ongoing. This is the challenge that the MC face. These are not just nice thoughts but crucial to our long term

survival. This is a time when self-interest must come second to the best interests of the club. I sincerely hope that we can count on your full support and that you can be proud of being a member of this great club.

Phil Bowden, Club Captain

This is my last newsletter as your Captain and I can't let it go without saying a big thank you to all the staff and members who have helped me throughout the year, I really do not know what I would have done without your support. Thanks to all the members who participated in club matches, some at very short notice, and to the team who put in a good performance at Enmore in the MET Shield, where we came a close 2nd to Tiverton.

For the first swindle of March, 25 members braved the elements, and with a format of 2 to count all the way the best score came from Colin Corlett, Paul Denston and Tony Bowden with 69 points (3 over). Plonkers of the day with 48 points (24



over) were, Terry Daley, Frank Phillipson and John Griffin.

In the swindle that was played on the 8th March 41 members played, and with a format of 3 to count on the par 3's, there was only 1 team to break par. With a score of 81 points (1 better) the winning trio were Pete Scott, Paul Beck and Nigel Humphries. Lowest score of the day and the right to be called "plonkers" went to Jamie Anderson, Jeff Bird and Brian Levey with a score of 61 points (19 worse), 8 shots worse than the rest of the field.

The following week saw 42 members playing, and with a format of 3 scores to count on the par 3's and the par 5's (par 86) the winning team with a score 85 points (1 over), consisted of Gordon Cunningham, Paul Beck and one of the "plonkers" from the previous week, Jeff Bird. This weeks plonkers were Jack McClay, Vince Wheeler and John Duckworth with a score of 63 points (23 over).

The Tuesday swindle played on the 22nd March had 40 members playing a format of 3 scores to count all the way (par 108). This time the winning



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quartet were, Graham Wells, Pete Scott, Dave Shambrook and Colin Mower with a score of 117 points, winning on countback over the last 6 holes from Terry Daley, Mike Bowater, Richard Glenn and Ray Milton. The only team not to break 100 were Terry Watts, Chris Durman, Dave Kedge and Dougie Wilson. The final Tuesday swindle of the month saw 34 members playing. With a format of 3 to count on the par 3's the winning team were the first group out which consisted of Gary Green, Jamie Anderson and Kevin Agnew with a score of 84 points (4 under). This time there was only 1 team not to break 60 points, and the lowest score came in from Mike Bowater, Pete Scott and Dave Singleton with 58 points (22 over). Finally, it was with great pleasure that I presented Dorrien with his club ties, letter from the Somerset Golf Captains, and his Captains tankard on the evening of the Club AGM. This was followed the following day, after the Drive In with his Club jacket, and I would like to wish Dorrien all the

very best this year, as I am sure he will make an excellent Captain.



Dorrien Bickerstaff Club Captain 2016

Firstly, I would like to thank our outgoing committee members

Paul Fullbrook John Fulwell and my mentor and guru Phil Arbourne for all the time and hard work they have put in over the past years. Sometimes its a thankless job, however thanks to them the club is now going in the right direction.

Thank you also to Phil Bowden for the past years club captaincy, and please don't change your phone number yet, well at least not till next April!

Thankyou to the great number of members who managed to turn out for the AGM on a busy Easter weekend, much appreciated. At the AGM we welcomed in the new committee as well as reinstating the present ones. It was nice to welcome the new ladies captain Jenny Holland and the new seniors captain Dave Chidgey and we look forward to a very enjoyable year ahead.

Our new Chairman Stephen Kaye has very good ideas for promoting the club so we can maximise its income and hopefully safeguard our future during these demanding financial times. Ian, John and Jordan in the pro shop have been extremely helpful and are looking forward to the future by promoting lessons, new equipment and introducing golf buggies for a reasonable rate. A visit to the pro shop is always a cheery and welcoming experience, thankyou gentlemen! Our General Manager Steve Archer is constantly busy behind the scenes and always willing to help or be talked to.

Faye our club secretary is a godsend in the office. It was never going to be easy following in Margaret's footsteps with the wealth of club and golfing knowledge she had stored in her head however Faye is unflappable, learning fast the office routines and golfing terminology, and exceptional when dealing with timewasting cold callers!

Following the long standing tradition of Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club the annual drive-in and lunch to

celebrate the inauguration of the Club Captain was held on Easter Sunday. In a moment of bright sunshine Ladies' Captain Jenny Holland, the Seniors' Captain Dave Chidgey and myself drove as best we could when being supported and heckled by members, friends and family! This was followed in the clubhouse with the doning of the Green Jacket and a celebratory lunch so many thanks to all the staff that hung on well after all the other tables had finished.

Easter Saturday saw the Martell Cup played for in the most atrocious drenching and windy conditions with only one player of the 45 entries returning under par. Graham Gardner won with +2. Easter Day and overnight the clocks went forward so at least one entrant for the Shotgun Bowmaker 18 hole Stableford start of 8am overslept! 48 entrants (teams of 3) participated with the winning trio of Dom Bowden, Nick Virgin and Steve Waterman returning a score of 88. The first club match was played 6 days later against a much lower handicapped Tiverton team with the



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home side scoring an emphatic win 7-3. Winning pairs were D. Bickerstaff & Pe Bowden, P. Arbourne & M. Shortland, G. Wells & M. Swallow, N. Bangs & D. Hayhoe, P. Clements & A. Hodgson, I. Gover & P. Rees, P. Bowden & C. Kirkbride. Closing off Easter Week was the Spring Cup a white tees medal. Congratulations to new member Krzysztof Karpinski who won with 85 net 62.

Thank you for all your kind words on my taking office, which are very much appreciated. We have an exciting and challenging year ahead, one which I am very much looking forward to.

Remember -

I am always available on the end of a phone or in the clubhouse for a chat and a beer.



The Captains Drive In



**Jenny Holland,
Lady Captain.**

24 lady members went to Ashbury Manor for three days and it was a great success, everybody had a good time, although the weather was very cold. March medal winner was Gill Hurley net 78. Phillips Cup was won by Ros Cidgey & Corinne Rees with 78.5. Monthly Stableford was won by Jenny Elliott with 37pts. We had a drawn Bowmaker which was won by Gill Hurley, Ingrid Swinburn, Sandra Atkins with 62pts. Greensomes was won by Gill Hurley, Maggie Floyd with 34pts.

March saw the finals of the winter knockout, between Anne Oglesby & Sara Warren. Congratulations goes to Anne for her win. Thanks to Jayne Webber and Jayne Fulwell for this new winter knockout it was a great success.



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Dave Chidgey, Seniors Captain.

The first match of March was a victim of our well known Gale force winds and on this day it surpassed its self and play was suspended after six holes. Our match on Mar 16 against the Warreners was blessed with good weather and after a hard fought game honours were even. Taunton and Pickeridge an away match did not go well for us as we lost 1 game to 5. On March 30 we had a visit from Oak Manor and put in a stronger performance losing 4/3. The individual games lost were by only 1 or 2 holes. However we have a great team spirit and look forward to more matches, so bring em on!

Graham Wright – The Warreners

During March the Warreners played mainly roll ups on Wednesday and thankfully the weather at last improved somewhat.



We played one match in March against Minehead Seniors who made the journey despite being the away team. We enjoyed an extremely pleasant day golf wise and weather wise with teams of eight that resulted in a friendly 4-4 draw. The match was followed by a very nice meal provided by Susan and her team. Entering into April the Warreners have matches and internal trophy competitions to look forward to. On behalf of the Warreners I would like to thank Paul Fulbrook and John Fulwell for their time and great effort put into their respective roles as Chairman and Treasurer for Minehead Golf Club. We also give our best wishes to Stephen Kaye and Alan Bissel as their respective replacements. Whilst on the subject we would like to thank outgoing Captain Phil Bowden and send good wishes to Dorrien Bickerstaff our new Club Captain for a successful year.

The Course, Graham J Wells

With the grass beginning to grow members will now see Andy Atkins undertaking vital part time mowing duties throughout the growing season and he will be starting this during April.

The first members' working parties to repair fairway divots will take place on the evenings of April 12 and 15 following the Swindles on those days. Please help by participating or by publicising these events amongst fellow members.

Early in April the greenkeepers hope to remove sand from the car park and will use the best of it to top up some bunkers for which we'll be needing some help to compact and rake. This will be publicised at the time.

Work will be continuing to use soil excavated from the reed beds to finish off the banking around the greenkeepers area and also to finish the practice area target greens.

Regarding landfill, the Environment Agency have finally decided not to



grant a Permit to Lynch to deliver the volume of material required to fulfil the totality of the Plans approved by the Council. We will now be looking at alternative permissions which may be granted to fulfil individual parts of the Plans in a stepwise manner beginning with the 5th tee area. This is a frustrating exercise but one which we must now pursue in order to realise the vital income we need from this source. As a result of this delay we will be unable to pursue improvements to bunkers, paths and rabbit fencing as rapidly as we would have wished. Members' patience over this situation would be much appreciated.

Beginning sometime soon Butlins will start necessary work to dredge the moat round their premises and we will see machinery undertaking this around the 5th and 7th tees. It might be possible to use the cleaned up dredging to fulfil some of our landfill requirements to the mutual benefit of ourselves and Butlins provided the new approvals are in place. We'll be looking at this with Butlins.