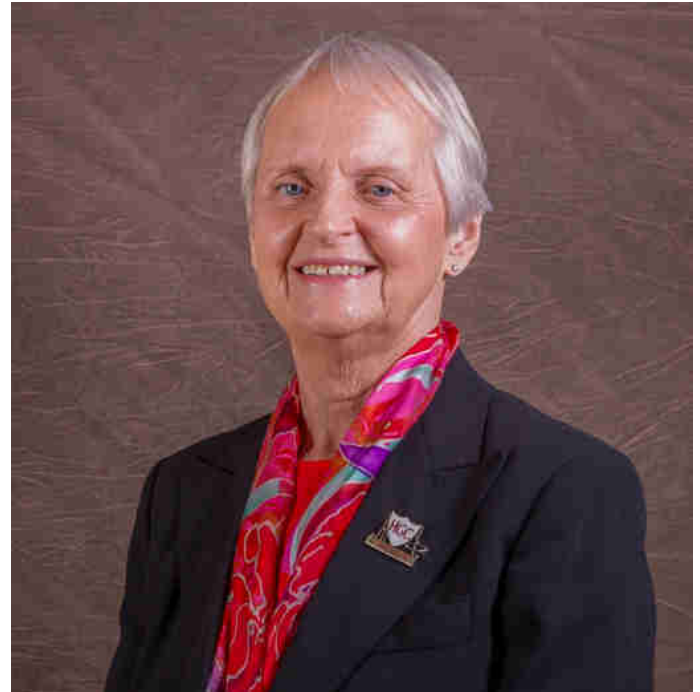




Helsby Golf Club News

Issue no. 21

Spring 2019



Captain

Welcome to the Spring newsletter and my first as Captain of Helsby Golf Club. It is a privilege to represent Helsby Golf Club as your Captain and I hope I live up to the high standards set by my predecessors.

The weather is now picking up nicely and the course is looking in very good shape, which bodes well for a good golfing season, and I would like to wish all an enjoyable and successful golfing year.

A great effort by our Head Green Keeper, Danny Bennett, and his team over the winter period made Captain's Drive In a great event. As you know, I took the decision early on to move the date from February to April in the hope of better course conditions and weather, and

thankfully it paid off with around 100 members playing. I was joined on the 1st Tee by the immediate past Captain, Graham Poland, the President, Peter Duffy and the past President, Jim Potter. The Lady Captain, Liz Fudge, was joined by the past Lady Captain, Barbara Prince, and all had successful tee shots. Before I drove off it gave me great pleasure to present this year's Junior Captain, Michael Stamper, with his club sweater, and I wish Michael every success in his year as Junior Captain, and also in his football capacity at Chester FC. The Drive In presentation took place shortly after the event, and the winners were - for the gents, Brian McNamara and Steve O'Brien, and for the ladies, Debbie Briscoe and Gill Smith – well done all! In the evening we had the Drive In Dinner, which was well attended, and all

Continued over...

Lady Captain

Joining Helsby Golf Club 10 years ago provided me with interest, new friends, a good social life and helps to keep me fit. For these reasons I was willing to take on the role of Lady Captain because I wanted to give something back to the club. In addition, having served as a Director on the Board for a year, I've become engaged with the business and committed to helping it plan for the future.

My objectives for the year are to

- raise funds for Halton Haven, the hospice in Runcorn which provides care and support for people with a terminal illness and their families from Halton and part of Frodsham
- enable some modernisation to the Ladies' locker room
- try out some different

ideas for Lady Captain's Day, and

- get my handicap down!

The decision to defer the Captain's Drive-in until April this year meant that I had been in my new role for two months before that ordeal. I had rehearsed that first drive, imagining a gallery behind me, several times a week since February. As we had all hoped, the day brought sunny Spring weather and much drier course conditions than we have experienced on previous Drive-in days. And as I stood on the tee it was a relief to see my ball in flight to the fairway. My four-ball comprised Vice Captain Barbara Prince, nursing a back injury but typically determined to play, Lady Captain Elect, Christine Marsden and our new Ladies' Secretary, Gin Ewing. The course looked wonderful and

Continued over...



had a good night, with a great meal followed by a disco, and my thanks go to House for organising the evening.

I have made the decision to have two presentation evenings this year, as opposed to after every competition. I hope it will allow more people to attend to collect their Trophy and feel free to bring family and friends. I have also made the dress code optional, so you may wear jacket and tie or smart casual if you prefer. The first presentation evening will be Sunday, 2nd June 2019, with the second presentation evening being Saturday, 26th October 2019.

As with all Captains before me, we raise funds for our chosen charities, and this year I will be supporting Claire House Children's Hospice and the Powered Wheelchair Appeal. The

PWA are looking to present their 400th wheelchair this year, and your continued support would be greatly appreciated. I am holding a Captain's Charity Golf Day on Saturday, 3rd August 2019, with food and entertainment in the evening, as well as an auction to help raise as much money as we can for these worthwhile charities.

I hope to play with as many of you as possible throughout the year, and look forward to some enjoyable golf. I wish everyone an enjoyable season and hope the weather is similar to last year.

Roddy Snedden
Captain

we had a very enjoyable round in increasingly warm temperatures. Gill Smith and Debbie Briscoe came first for the Ladies, with Angela Hearn and Yvonne Salisbury in second place. Winners for the gents were Brian McNamara and Steve O'Brien so well done to all.

The traditional Ladies' coffee evening held after our Annual meeting in February raised £358 for our Section. The evening is an opportunity for ladies to fix up for games in the new season and to join in various fund-raising activities including the tombola, a carpet putting game, and guessing the weight of a cake (this year baked and donated by Barbara Prince). We also tried a new game, which involved pitching flight balls into a biscuit tin and was supervised by the Captain and the President. In a marathon sudden-death play-off, Heather Faulkner won the bottle of Prosecco donated by the Captain, and she also won the putting game. Bearing in mind she had to manoeuvre a crutch as well as a golf club this was no mean feat!

Last year we decided to play our Winter League as foursomes to speed up the matches which frequently can be affected by miserable weather. The final was played in March between Lesley McCluskey/Julie Grey and Kathleen Wilkinson/Gill Sheppard, and I was very pleased to follow it from the 10th hole. In an exciting finish Lesley and Julie won 1 up on the 18th green. Congratulations to all four ladies for playing in such good spirit.

We have a full fixture list to look forward to, and our Exchange day in July is with Houldsworth Golf Club in Reddish. I am also planning to hold a charity golf day in support of Halton Haven in October, and hope that it will be supported by both gents and ladies from Helsby Golf Club as well as visitors.

Here's to happy golfing in 2019!

Liz Fudge
Lady Captain

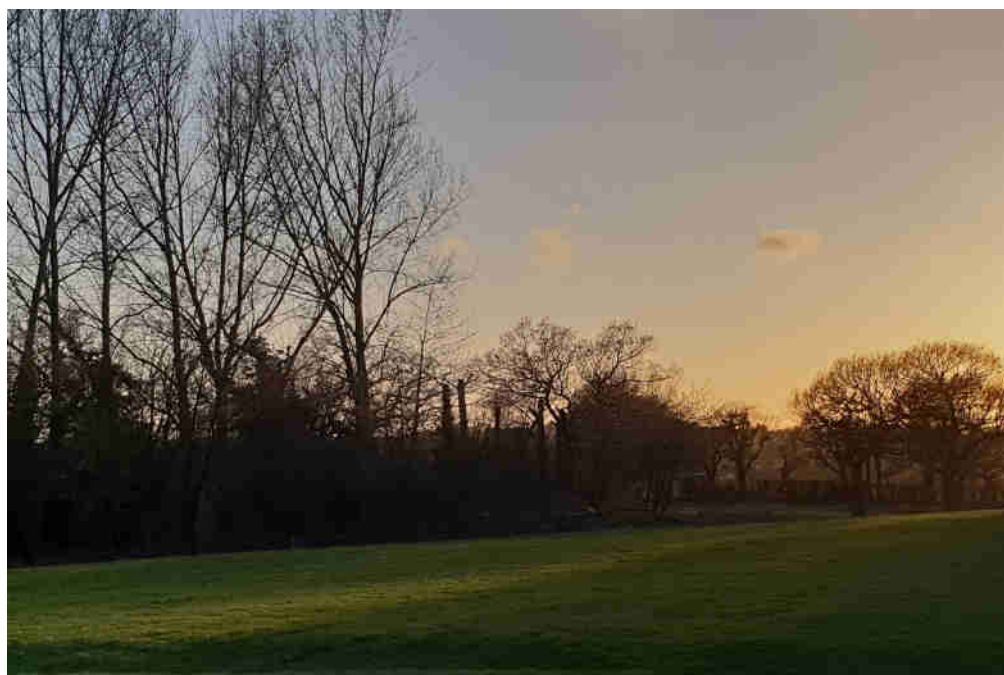


Contents			
Captain / Lady Captain	1/2	Membership and marketing update	9
Course photos	3	Natalie's lemon sponge recipe	9
Helsby as a function venue	3	Outing to sale GC	9
Dates for the diary	3	Powered wheelchair appeal	10
Catering	4	Powered wheelchair appeal	11
Divot party	4	President	11
Helsby Golf Club Captains Drive into Office	4	Pro shop	12
Golf rule changes 2019	5	Roundabout in bloom	12
Club gardens	5	Feedback from new members	13
Juniors	5	Yoga in the club-house	13
Green updates	6	Seniors	14
Trees and root and branch survey	6	Website	15
House report	7	Secretary's office	16
2018 Lady Captain fundraising	8	Board Update	16
2019 - a big year of celebrations	8		



Course photos

It will be great to see some of your photos of our course so feel free to email them to secretary@helsbygolfclub.org and here are a few to start with



Dates for the diary	
The Majors (Gents)	
US Masters. Augusta National. Georgia, USA	Tiger Woods won!!
USPGA Championship. Bethpage Black. New York, USA	16-19 May 2019
U.S. Open. Pebble Beach Golf Links. California, USA	13-16 June 2019
The Open. Royal Portrush. Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland	19-22 July 2019
The Majors (Ladies)	
U.S. Open. Country Club of Charleston, Charleston, S.C.	30 May – 2 June 2019
Women's British Open. Woburn Golf Club, Milton Keynes, England	1 – 4 August 2019
KPMG Women's PGA. Hazeltine National Golf Club, Chaska, Minn.	20 – 23 June 2019
Evian Championship. Evian Resort Golf Club, Evian-les-Bains, France	25 – 28 July 2019

Helsby as a Function Venue

Following the refurbishment of the clubhouse lounge and spike bar last year, we continue to receive positive comments from members and visitors alike.

Over the last few months, there have been a number of very successful events held at the club including birthday/ anniversary parties,

christenings, funerals and even weddings. We have had great feedback on the venue, food and service and the bar and catering team have done a fantastic job in dressing the room – see photos opposite.

If you or anyone you know are looking for a venue for an event, why not consider the clubhouse? – please check availability with the secretary.



Divot parties

We have a great course here at Helsby and are rightly proud of it. We hold regular divot parties to maintain the quality and the first one this year was held at the end of April.

Organised by Greens, willing volunteers helped during 2 hour shifts in the morning, afternoon and early evening and replaced numerous divots with a sand and seed mixture.

Many thanks to Greens for

organising and the many volunteers who gave up their time to help with this necessary task – many hands make light work!



Helsby Golf Club Captains Drive into office!

The new officials at Helsby Golf Club took part in the annual Club Drive In competition recently.

Captain Roddy Snedden from Frodsham, Lady Captain Liz Fudge from Frodsham President Peter Duffy from Helsby and Junior Captain Michael Stamper, aged 15 from Chester were delighted to hit drives more or less down the middle of the fairway in the traditional start to their year in office!

The chosen charities for the year are - for the Captain, Helsby Golf Club Powered Wheelchair Appeal and Claire House Hospice and for the Lady Captain, Halton Haven Hospice in Runcorn. Both Roddy and Liz will be raising money for these very worthwhile charities with a variety of events planned throughout the year.

Photos by Phil R Barker ARPS. CPAGB



Catering

It's been busy for the catering and bar team this year, thanks to all the social functions that have taken place. It also looks to be another busy 12 months. Thank you all for your support.

If you have any ideas on how we can help, please speak to Kieren, Natalie or Julie or contact the house committee.

Many thanks from the catering team

FOOD &
DRINK





Club gardens

Brian Prince and Brian Stott are enjoying their new roles as club gardeners with responsibility for the areas around the clubhouse, the Joan Edwards garden (on the approach to the first tee) and the areas near the halfway house.

They areas are vastly improved and there are many plans for further work and ongoing maintenance. So far you will notice that the area around the flagpole on the putting green has been

replanted. Brian Prince did this and it is currently planted up with yellow rhododendrons (which are unusual) azaleas and other shrubs and Brian plans to introduce some spring bulbs later in the year to provide a great show next Spring. As well as winter and summer bedding plants around the proshop and clubhouse entrance, some new standard roses have been planted near the halfway house.

Many thanks to both Brians for making the gardens look great!

Golf rule changes 2019

The Rules of Golf have undergone a significant overhaul with many new regulations coming into effect from January 1, 2019.

Several of the new rules have been implemented to improve the general pace of play at all levels of the game, and here is an overview of the standout changes...

THE 20 MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF 2019

1. SEARCH TIME - REDUCED FROM 5 MINUTES TO 3 MINUTES
2. BALL MOVED DURING SEARCH - REPLACE NO PENALTY
3. EMBEDDED BALL - FREE RELIEF ANYWHERE THROUGH THE COURSE
4. MEASURING A DROP - USE LONGEST CLUB (EXCEPT PUTTER)
5. DROPPING - DROP FROM KNEE HEIGHT RATHER THAN SHOULDER
6. TAKING STANCE ON WRONG GREEN IS NOT PERMITTED
7. BALL UNINTENTIONALLY HITS PLAYER OR EQUIPMENT - NO PENALTY
8. DOUBLE HIT - NO PENALTY. NOW ONLY COUNTS AS THE 1 STROKE
9. TOUCHING SAND IN THE BUNKER INCIDENTALLY IS PERMITTED
10. LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS CAN BE REMOVED ANYWHERE INCLUDING HAZARDS
11. DROPPING A BALL OUT OF BUNKER - 2 PENALTY STROKES
12. WATER HAZARDS - NOW CALLED PENALTY AREAS
13. TOUCHING GROUND IN PENALTY AREA - NO PENALTY
14. BALL MOVES ON GREEN AFTER BEING MARKED - REPLACE WITHOUT PENALTY
15. BALL ACCIDENTALLY MOVED ON PUTTING GREEN - REPLACE NO PENALTY
16. ALL DAMAGE TO GREEN CAN NOW BE REPAIRED
17. POSITIONING A CLUB FOR ALIGNMENT IS NOT PERMITTED
18. CADDIE ASSISTING WITH ALIGNMENT IS NOW NOT PERMITTED
19. PUTTING WITH FLAGSTICK IN THE HOLE IS NOW PERMITTED
20. BALL WEDGED AGAINST FLAG STICK AND SIDE OF HOLE IS DEEMED AS HOLED

Juniors

Helsby GC - Girls Golf Rocks - FREE Taster Session - Sat 4th May 3-5pm

Girls Golf Rocks is an England Golf backed initiative to get more girls aged 5-18 involved in the sport. We'll be running a FREE taster session at Helsby Golf Club on Sat 4th May, 3-5pm. The taster session is open to all girls age 5-18; there is no equipment, dress code or prior experience required, just turn up and give it a go!!! For

more information please get in touch with the Pro Shop at Helsby GC on 01928 722 021 (opt 2) or e-mail us at

info@chrisousinsgolf.com

Booking for the taster session is via the link below:

<http://www.girlsgolfrocks.org/cheshire>

After the taster session there will be a follow up 6 week course available at a subsidised cost of £35pp, the dates/times of the

follow up 6 week course are below:

Sat 11th May 3-4pm
Sun 19th May 3-4pm
Sat 25th May 3-4pm
Sun 2nd Jun 3-4pm
Sat 8th Jun 3-4pm
Sat 15th Jun 3-4pm

Booking for these sessions can be done via the same link as above.

Chris Cousins



Greens update

1. Greens, Hollow tined and top dressed, treated ready for the new season. A reminder to everyone to repair pitch marks please

2. Tees, All tees have been top dressed and scarified. New yellow markers have now been placed. The new 4th tee is to come into use on the 27th April. 5th tee new irrigation system has been commissioned

3. Fairways, All fairways to be cut to 14mm and adjusted accordingly with the weather. Divoting parties commenced in April. Reminder to replace your divots please

4. Bunkers, A new daily deep raking policy of bunkers now in place. The new 7th fairway bunker is being designed and will be in place in the Autumn

5. Trees and ponds, Course tree management now complete. More light is now available on the putting green. All ponds have been opened up. The new wet area on the 4th is currently under construction and once the water levels have been established landscaping will commence

6. Paths, Various path extensions are in progress and will be made over the following months

Please remember to replace divots & repair pitch marks and rake bunkers

As you can see from the above, there has been lots of work going on around the course – see photos

Have a great season!

Greens



“Trees and Root and Branch Inquiry”

In the recent magazine “YOUR COURSE” which is produced by BIGGA (British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association) there was a very interesting article on page 46, titled “A ROOT AND BRANCH INQUIRY”. This article looked at trees on a golf course from the greenkeeping perspective rather than an arborists perspective.

The article has been added to the club website (under Members/Green news) and also hard copies are available in the club house and locker rooms for members to read. I would be

grateful if members read them at the club rather than remove them so they are available for other members.

As most members are aware, some of the recent work we have carried out on trees at the club have not met with some members approval, however over the past 10-20 years the club has carried out little tree management for various reasons. I have asked the greens committee to compile a plan of work regarding tree management and it's cost, and present it to board of directors for consideration.

Trees are a very emotive issue with members as mentioned in the article, however as a club we

have a responsibility to provide the best possible playing conditions for our members. The article will be used by the greens committee when considering if trees have an adverse impact on any part of our course, with particular attention being placed around the greens and tees.

Members will be informed of any future tree management work in advance of the work, with the reasons for this work, unless the work needs to be carried out as an emergency, i.e. storm damage.

Chris Stubbs

Director



House Report

Once again, we see a new face on House Committee. We said good-bye to Marjorie Trow and welcomed Margaret Morris to the team. Marjorie has been a stalwart on House Committee for many years and we were pleased to have her on board. We have a very hardworking and enthusiastic House Committee. Carolyn is working her socks off – she looks after the social advertising and with help from husband George has arranged film nights throughout the winter season in the Clubhouse.



Why go to the Vue when you can see a film at the Golf Club with ice cream and popcorn all for £1.00!! They have been a huge success and well done to George and Carolyn.

We started our 2019 social year with an Italian Evening on 23rd February which Margaret Morris organised. Margaret had put a great deal of time and effort into making it a



success and her attention to detail was second to none.

Our first 9 hole mixed took place on 15th March when we all enjoyed a carvery followed by Natalie's home-made puddings which were delicious and enjoyed by all.

Our next event was a trip down memory lane with a Cheese and Wine Evening and a showing of the Centenary Video on 22nd March. It was good to see Ian and Dorothy Smith (you will remember both Ian and Linda Barton were the Centenary Captains) joining us. Well it was the Ian Smith show after all!! Ian was in his element and it was a jolly evening and our thanks went to Rob who choose the wine and the accompaniments beautifully presented by Keiren and Natalie.

Our Captains' Drive-in was held later this year on Saturday 6th April. The Dinner was well supported and there was a good atmosphere with the Captain cutting a dashing figure on the dance floor!

This was followed on Friday 12th



April with a 9 hole mixed competition. It was a cold evening but the Clubhouse atmosphere was great.

Nat and Keiren put on a Mothers' Day lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

This year House organised a Dinner on Easter Saturday – the food was good but we could have catered for more but those of us who went thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we held a raffle with the proceeds going to Halton Haven Hospice (our Lady Captain's Charity for the year).

We have listened to feedback from members and put on more casual events.

See below for a list of other social events.

Agreement was given at the Annual Meeting to refurbishing the hall, stairs and landing. Work will commence late May but members will be notified.

There may be some inconvenience whilst work is being carried out but it will be well worth it in the end!!!

We have our own Monty Don (Brian Prince) at Helsby Golf Club looking after our garden beds and flowers. We have already seen a vast improvement and the rockery around the flagpole looks splendid. Thanks Brian for what we know will be a brilliant display of colour throughout the summer.

We still need to make more use of our Clubhouse and would like to hold more events. Any ideas would be welcome and of course if you or anyone you know is looking for a great venue for parties, weddings, or celebrations, do contact the secretary to check availability.

Thank you all for supporting our events throughout the year.

Barbara Leigh

Social Events

Friday 17th May	Mixed 9 hole
Friday 14th June	Mixed 9 hole
Friday 24th May	Steak Night
Saturday 15th June	President's Dinner
Saturday 22nd June	Family Barbecue
Friday 26th July	Captain's 9 hole competition
Saturday 27th July	Captain's Dinner
Friday 9th August	Lady Captain's 9 hole competition
Saturday 10th August	Lady Captain's Night
Friday 23rd August	Mixed 9 hole
Friday 13th September	Mixed 9 hole
Saturday 28th September	Buble Reborn Night
Friday 4th October	Mixed 9 hole
Friday 19th October	Mexican Evening
Friday 25th October	Mixed 9 hole
Friday 8th November	Mixed 9 hole
Saturday 14th December	Christmas Party

All above events are shown on the Club's social website and full details on the social noticeboard near the time of the event.



2018 Lady Captain Fundraising – St Luke's Hospice

During her year in office as Lady Captain 2018, Barbara Prince chose St Luke's Hospice, Winsford as her charity.

St Luke's offers a wide range of services to support people living with life limiting illnesses, including symptom control, complementary therapies, and end of life care.

During the year funds were raised for the charity from the ladies Whitfield Salver competition, the May bank holiday mixed Open, a Bubbles and Bingo

evening, a Christmas raffle, and also the Ladies donations in lieu of sending Christmas Cards.

Angela Slack, the fundraising manager, from St Luke's visited the club and gave a short talk to the Ladies after the Whitfield Salver competition, explaining the work of the Hospice and how donations to this essential service make a difference to both patients and their families.

£1,480 was raised during Barbara's year and she and her sister Viv Nagle had the pleasure of presenting a cheque to the hospice so many thanks to all those who supported her charity.



2019 – a big year for celebrations for Audrey and Norman Littler!

Longstanding club members, Audrey and Norman Littler are enjoying a busy year of celebrations as 2019 includes their Diamond wedding (60th) anniversary and also Norman's 90th birthday!

They were married at All Saints Church, Runcorn on 7 March 1959 and their wedding was followed by a reception at Wilson Hotel in Runcorn. They even have the bill for the reception which cost £39!

To celebrate their special anniversary, the couple hosted a lunch for 38 at the clubhouse in March and they were delighted to be joined by family and friends including their son Geoffrey who lives in Runcorn and their daughter

Pauline who lives in St Lucia and also their 4 grandchildren. For the lunch celebration, Audrey's wedding dress and the photo album were on display for everyone to see. See photos below.

They are both stalwarts of our club and have held the following positions over the years –

- Norman was Captain in 1964 (so in 2014, it was 50 years since his captaincy!)
- He has also been Club President and is a life member and spent 25 years as Junior Organiser
- Audrey was Lady Captain in 2003

Additionally, there is more cause for celebration in May as it will be Norman's 90th birthday.

From everyone at the club, we would like to congratulate them both and hope they enjoy their year of celebrations!



Membership and Marketing update

We thought you may appreciate an update on what your Membership and Marketing committee have been working on recently, so here is a short summary -

- Regular social media posts on Facebook and Twitter to cover events, competitions, greens work on course etc
- Selling of tee sponsor packages to cover cost of new course signage
- Our Pro continues to liaise with local schools re activity to encourage youngsters to take up golf
- Plans to provide monitors for use around clubhouse to promote events, and communicate news to members and visitors
- Liaise with office re delivery of club flyers to new local housing developments

- Our Pro organises the "Girls Golf Rocks" in association with England Golf
- Our local advertising campaign continues to
 - target new members
 - publicise our junior activities
 - promote the clubhouse as a function venue
- We continue to get regular press coverage in Golfer's Local, Helsby to Hand, Helsby News, Frodsham Life, Chronicle – this covers news articles about the club and our charity work for the Powered Wheelchair Appeal
- Production of the Club newsletters – editions at the start and the finish of the golfing season

We welcome any feedback or suggestions so if you have any, please contact the committee via the secretary's office.



NATALIE'S LEMON SPONGE RECIPE

Natalie's lemon sponge has been on the dessert menu in the clubhouse recently and has received great reviews. So, if you want to try it yourself at home, the recipe is below –

Preparation time – 15 minutes

Cooking time – 1 hour

Ready in – 1 hour and 15 minutes

Ingredients (serves 10)

- 140g (5 oz) self raising flour
- 110g (4 oz) caster sugar
- 110g (4 oz) butter or margarine softened
- 2 eggs beaten
- 2 heaped tablespoons of lemon curd
- for topping – 2 tablespoons granulated sugar, zest of 1 lemon and 2 tablespoons of lemon juice

Method

- 1) Preheat the oven to 170c or Gas 3
- 2) Put flour, caster sugar, butter, eggs and lemon curd into a mixing bowl or processor and mix well together
- 3) Put mixture into a greased or lined 2lb loaf tin or traybake tin – whichever you prefer
- 4) Place in centre of the oven and bake for 1 hour – 1 hour 30 minutes
- 5) While the cake is baking, make the topping: blend together the granulated sugar, lemon juice and lemon rind
- 6) Once the cake is cooked, remove from oven and leave to cool in the tin for about 3 minutes. Then while the cake is still warm, pour over the topping so that it soaks into the cake. Leave to cool for about 30 minutes and then turn out of the tin
- 7) As an alternative to making the topping (step 5), spread some lemon curd onto the cake when slightly cooled (step 6)

Delicious served with cream, custard or ice cream – ENJOY!



Outing to Sale GC

Our 'Tuesday / Thursday' lads recently held their Spring Trophy day out at Sale Golf Club. It was a great day out with 24 attending and they enjoyed fantastic weather and a warm welcome at Sale.

Honours on the day went to Captain elect, Chris Stubbs who won with 36 points, Tony Williams 2nd with 35 points and John Dewsbury 3rd with 34 points.

The photo above shows Chris receiving the trophy from Brian Prince.



Powered Wheelchair Appeal

The Appeal had another successful year in 2018 raising over £38,000 and presenting 12 wheelchairs to local children with special needs bringing the grand total over the last 35 years to 382.

In 2019, we are trying to raise sufficient funds to present our 400th powered wheelchair to a deserving child in November and set ourselves a target of £55,000 to get there. We have already raised £12,500 and presented our 384th wheelchair at the Race Night in March.

As well as our usual major fundraising events, we are being helped by some of our supporters who have offered to raise funds for us

- The Captain, Roddy Snedden, is holding a Captain's Charity Golf Day at Helsby on 3rd August
- Alex Walters is taking part in the National 3 Peaks Challenge on 6th/7th June
- Kathryn Hoather & Keith Trenell are taking part in the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge on 22nd June

Your support for them will be gratefully received. Donations for the 2 Challenges can be made on Virgin Money Giving or given to a member of the Appeal Committee.

Race Night – 2nd March 2019



Our first Race Night was a great success with everyone enjoying cheering their horses past the winning post (or not!)

We started the evening with the presentation of a wheelchair to Jack Morris, a young lad from Liverpool, who is a great Everton fan. His new chair is going to make a tremendous difference to his and his family's lives.

About 100 supporters joined us for the racing, a hot supper and a raffle and raised a fantastic £1,900 towards the next wheelchair.

Thank you to everyone who supported us. Special thanks to FDL Group for sponsoring the event and the following who sponsored races: - Frodsham Computers, MPM Special Projects, FJ Plumbing, Electrod UK, Ellesmere Port Lions, Leading Schools Ltd and RA Prince Builders Ltd.

13th Annual General Meeting – Thursday 7th March 2019

30 supporters, including the Captain and Lady Captain, attended the presentation of the report and accounts for 2018/19 by Chairman Steve Cunliffe. The audited accounts were unanimously approved by the members. (A copy is available on the website.) The members appointed Alex Walters and Howard Pay as trustees for a further 3 years.

Included in the report was a message from Peter Alliss: "This is just to wish you all well. Over the years your Club has been the most amazing supporter of the Wheelchair Crusade. I can't thank you enough on behalf of all the young people you've helped. Once again, all the best for the rest of the year, you're a very special group of people. Jackie joins me in sending all good wishes,

Peter"

There were also a number of 'thank you's' from the children: "I am writing this as a thank you to Helsby Golf Club members for their fantastic work with helping children gain their independence, by providing funds for their power wheelchairs. Kay". "Thank you very much for your support and donation towards my new wheels. You have made me very happy and I shall always remember your kindness, Carys" "Thank you so much for helping us achieve our goal and providing Tom with his independence."

The evening was completed by a report on the Peter Alliss Masters by Ray Feldwick, their treasurer.

The Captain, Roddy Snedden, thanked everyone for their support and the committee for all their hard work over the last year and looked forward to a very successful 2019.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 13th June 2019 – 37th Wheelchair Classic

The Classic is a charity golf day held at Helsby and is our main fundraising event of the year. There is a golf competition during the day with a trophy and prizes for the winners, including a putting competition and nearest the pin & line. All members are welcome to play in the competition; please contact Viv Nagle on 01606 853859, Penny Ainsworth on

Continued over...



on poweredwheelchairappeal@gmail.com or print a copy of the entry form on the website.

In the evening, there will be a presentation of wheelchairs to 5 local children with special needs followed by the presentation of prizes, an auction and the raffle. During the day 4 balls at clubs in the North West region are on sale and there is a bottle tombola. A carvery meal is available between 4pm and 7.30pm.

All are welcome to join us at any time during the day or evening, especially at the wheelchair presentation, as

these children are the reason why Helsby Golf Club puts so much effort into raising funds for powered wheelchairs.

As usual, the committee will be very grateful for any donations of prizes for the raffle & auction and bottles for the tombola which can be left in the Pro shop or given to a committee member.

Wednesday 7th August 2019 – 18th MEGA Day

This is a very popular event when the entertainers from Merseyside join



us for golf during the day and then provide us with excellent entertainment in the evening. All members,

family and friends are welcome to join us for the golf, a meal or just for the entertainment in the evening. Full details will be available on the notice board at the end of June.

I would like to thank everyone for your continued generosity. It is your support that helps us give so many children the freedom and independence that they deserve.

Steve Cuniffe
Chairman

President

The start of another year for golf at Helsby Golf Club and the weather has already been kind, in the main. The decision to move the Captains Drive In to April proved to be a good one and I'm sure the state of the weather was at least partly responsible for such a good turnout. The drinks at the first seem to go down very well.

Although very early in the season the course already looks to be getting back to its best. The greens have been hollow tined and top dressed and starting to look as good as they were last year.

Quite a bit of work has been done and none more noticeable than on the fourth tee and the seventeenth course boundary. The fourth tee is all but ready for the start of the new season and looks like a really good addition.

The work on the seventeenth has been talked about for a number of

years and was long overdue to take place. Finally the finances and the weather came together and the trees along the boundary have been subject to pollard. In removing the tops of the trees, which you can imagine, was a very onerous task, which meant careful consideration to the staff and the road furniture and electric cables in Towers Lane, some of our Cherry Trees were lost. I spoke to the tree fellers for some time and they explained that although it would have been possible to take a much slower approach to removing the tops of the trees and thereby causing less collateral damage to the Cherry Trees it would have taken 10 times longer and cost 10 times more. I know the Greens Committee are already discussing which trees will be replaced. The sun is now free to shine down on the seventeenth green and it looks better for it. The boundary trees will now branch out and provide a canopy to protect Towers Lane and our neighbours from wayward shots.



We had an exceptional year in 2017/18 for some of the achievements for our members on their home course but also regionally and nationally. I hope that continues this season but it will be hard to follow.

I hope to get out and meet and play with as many members as possible and meet and greet the visitors and societies that love to play our course. I think the number of repeat booking we have show the esteem in which the course is held.

The hard work of the staff and volunteers continues to impress me and I only hope they can show the same commitment this year as they did last year.

Finally I wish all the members the very best for the new season - hopefully the weather will be as good as last year – and although we can't all win the competitions – we can play with a smile on our face and enjoy the fun of playing golf!

Peter Duffy



Pro shop

Please see below for the latest pro shop battery offer and also details of the upcoming bank holiday competitions

Exclusive Foremost Battery Trade-in Promotion £25 OFF

From now until Sun 12th May 2019, we will be offering £25 OFF any Motocaddy/LitePower Lithium Battery when you trade in your old battery, irrespective of age or condition.

Motocaddy S/M Series standard lithium battery & charger - £219.99 - £25.00 = £194.99

Motocaddy S/M Series extended lithium battery & charger - £259.99 - £25.00 = £234.99

LitePower standard lithium battery & charger - £199.99 - £25.00 = £174.99

LitePower extended lithium battery & charger - £239.99 - £25.00 = £214.99

All Motocaddy S & M series batteries come with a full 5 year warranty, LitePower batteries come with a 3 year warranty and also fit Powakaddy T-Bar model trolleys. Delivery is around 2-3 working days. The promotion is redeemable against any new LitePower or Motocaddy Lithium battery, but not against a new Motocaddy trolley with a Lithium battery.



For any more info or to place an order e-mail us at info@chrisousinsgolf.com

Upcoming Bank Holiday Opens

We have the following Bank Holiday Opens coming up in May, to enter please contact the Pro Shop:

Mon 6th May 2019

Team of 3 Stableford Open

Any combination of ladies and gents

£15.00 per player (visitors)

£5.00 per player (members)

Holes 1-6 best score, holes 7-12 best 2 scores, holes 13-18 all 3 scores to count

3/4 Handicap allowance

Gents white tees

Ladies red tees

Hcp limit gents 28, ladies 36

Separate prizes for gents and mixed/ladies teams

Mon 27th May 2019

Helsby James Braid Open

Any combination of ladies and gents

4BBB Stableford

£15.00 per player (visitors)

£5.00 per player (members)

4BBB Stableford

90% handicap allowance

Gents white tees

Ladies red tees

Hcp limit gents 28, ladies 36

Separate prizes for gents and mixed/ladies teams

Chris Cousins



Roundabout in bloom!

We regularly report on the roundabout raised bed on the first tee which was remodelled a few years ago by Rachel and Hugo Steven and fellow golfers. Many bulbs and plants are now established and it looks better each season.

Rachel however suffered an arm injury whilst skiing early in 2019 and this curtailed her exercise routine but she still adapted and managed to continue gardening one handed – nothing stops Rachel!

Below are some photos of Rachel and the fantastic spring colours.



Feedback from new members at Helsby

We have welcomed many new members to Helsby recently and thought it may be interesting to learn what attracted them to our club and how they have found it since joining. Please find below their feedback –

Steve O' Brien – joined from Heswall GC

As a new member to Helsby GC, I am very pleased to have settled in so quickly.

Having being a member at Heswall for over 25 enjoyable years but not played seriously for 4 years, it is good to be back in action.

From day one, everyone at the club has made me feel so welcome, helped by the fun, relaxed atmosphere in the clubhouse.

It is very rewarding and I have appreciated seeing the amount of hard work and passion there is in

the maintenance and improvements that have been made to the course and the facilities.

I am looking forward to embracing the culture of the club and being an active member both socially and challenging in the club competitions.



June Ryder, Janice Burton and Maureen Burns – joined from Runcorn GC

June

The main thing that attracted me to Helsby is that ladies are full an equal members and as a working lady, it is good to be able to play in the main competitions all together and not on an evening feeling isolated from the rest of the ladies section.

I have found the ladies section very welcoming and competitive and I have become an active member playing in all the competitions and representing the club in the A team league matches.

I really enjoy the social side of the club and have attended lots of functions.

Maureen

After 32 years as a Runcorn member, it was time for a change and I was attracted to Helsby as they have a strong ladies section and the club had dropped their joining fee.

I enjoy being able to play golf any day of the week with midweek and weekend competitions and I find the course easy walking but still a challenge.

I joined on a taster membership and then became a full member on 1 April. I have been made to feel very welcome from day one and

am thoroughly enjoying my golf and making new friends – I am very optimistic for the future.

Janice

Following a change in my circumstances, the time was right to change golf clubs.

I was attracted to Helsby as it is close to my home and enjoys a good reputation locally. I joined at the same time as my friend June and have been made to feel very welcome by all at the club and the ladies section in particular.

I enjoy representing the club in the Shield league competition and also enjoy the social side having attended many varied events.

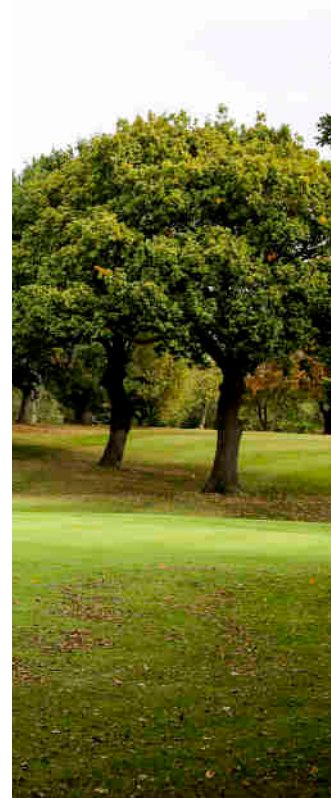


Yoga in the clubhouse!

It has been good to see the weekly yoga sessions in the clubhouse during the quieter winter months but as the

golf season is now with us, the yoga classes will take a break. The plan is for the weekly Thursday morning class to resume in the Autumn and further details will be communicated on the website and social media accounts at that time.

Many thanks to Callie Meakin (callieyoga.com) for running the classes and we look forward to seeing her again later in the year. The photo below is of some of the class showing off their "warrior" poses!



Helsby GC - Seniors



With the advent (that seems the wrong word for this time of year?!?!?) of the new golfing season the seniors of Helsby GC will once again be coming out of hibernation, or for some, returning from warm weather training in time for the start of their own fixtures (see list below).

For the first time some of us can remember (not that many of us can recall that much really!) we won't be led in 2019 by Howard Jones who has this year decided to hang up his calendar and step down after a decade at the helm. We should of course thank him for his sterling efforts

on our behalf over that time, sorting fixture dates, liaising with the club re tee times, looking after our funds and making sure we had match day organisers in place for each fixture. So on behalf of all the seniors who have benefitted from your efforts Howard, many, many thanks. For the time being, we haven't had anyone step into the Seniors Organiser role though Dave Mulholland has agreed to look after the money. Each fixture will be overseen by a different Match Day Organiser who will liaise with the club, kitchen, opposition and generally make sure everything works on the day.

For anyone new to the club or who has recently become eligible via reaching the age of 55 and who might have an interest in playing with the Seniors, a word on what it's all about! We have fixtures against nine 'fairly' local clubs whom we play on a home and away basis. Teams usually of 16 or 20 play a 4 Ball Better ball format. Games are competitive though friendly and the day always starts with tea/coffee and biscuits and ends with a

lunch and drinks. Cost this year will be £22 per fixture. So for that you get two games (one here and one at a good local course), plus refreshments and two 2 course lunches. What's not to like! By convention the host team buys drinks with lunch. We also have '2s' at all home games and most of the away ones too so you could even leave with more balls than you arrived with! Most home games are on Monday mornings.

So how do you get involved? Easy, any male over 55 can play. Four weeks before each game a sheet is pinned to the Seniors Notice Board (on the other side of opening in the locker room from the main notice board) just put your name down on the list (there is no selection it's purely first come first served). The only thing we ask is that you sign up to play both home and away games of the fixture and if for some reason you do have to pull out you take responsibility for finding a replacement (usually from the reserve list). So if you've not played before, we look forward to seeing you (you will enjoy it, promise) or if you're a

regular or returner it will be great to see you back.

Any questions? Ask any of the Match Organisers:

Keith Trenell - Bromborough
Tony Williams - Runcorn
Jeff Mulholland - Portal
Howard Jones - Wrexham
Ken Bewley - Upton
Chris Stubbs - Vicars Cross
Alan Gardiner - Childwall
Brian Prince- Lymm
Dave Mulholland - Llangollen

Our forthcoming fixtures are;

Wednesday April 24
Bromborough Away
(narrowly lost 5 - 3 but confident of turning round on return leg!)

Monday June 17 Runcorn Home

Thursday 9 May Portal Home

Monday 20 May Wrexham Home

Remaining matches are displayed on the notice board and in the club fixture booklet.

Keith Trenell

Many thanks to our sponsors below - we appreciate your ongoing support

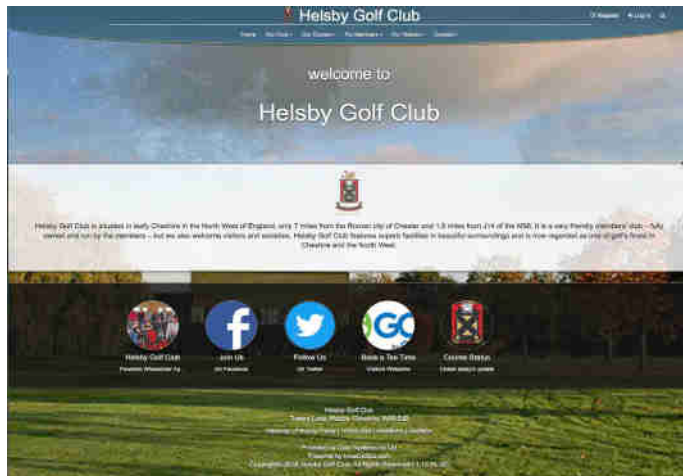


Many thanks to our sponsors - we really appreciate your ongoing support!



Your club's
website: [www.
helsbygolfclub.org](http://www.helsbygolfclub.org)

handy over winter months
when extreme weather can
force a temporary closure
of the course – and the
information is updated



You probably already know
that the club has its own
website but, if you have not
yet used it, you are missing
out on a great source of
information.

Did you know?

- You can use the website
to check if the course is
open. This is especially

each morning

- You can 'play' the course
from the comfort of your
own armchair by watching
a hole-by-hole flyover of
our course. Handy for
polishing up your course
management tactics
without actually being on
the course!

- You can use the website
to check your balance
and details of recent bar
transactions on your
Membership Card. For
this you need to log in
with your personal email
address and password

These are just three
examples of what is on
the website but there is
so much more available.
Visitors and potential
members use the website
to find out all about our
club and our course.
Members have access to a
wealth more information
- available only to those
who have registered and
over 280 members already
have.

If you haven't yet
registered to use the
Members area of the
website, details of how to
do so can be found under
'For Members' and 'How
to Login'. You can also see
from the drop down menu
what other facilities are

available.

If you would like to help
with the running of the
website, please email Phil
Davies at [PJDsolutions@
aol.com](mailto:PJDsolutions@aol.com)

Don't forget Social
Media - We are on
Twitter and Facebook



Updated Course info,
interests, updates, bulletins
from the club and what's
going on. If you are
registered give us a follow,
if not, why not?
Twitter - @HelsbyGC
Facebook - Helsby Golf
Club - Official



Board update

As a board we are now into our second year.

Throughout the first year we were establishing ourselves and determining a strategy, mission and vision.

This all sounds fine, but the most important task is managing our Golf Club in the best and most stable way, for our members. So, let us give you an update on our progress to date.

The deadline for subscription has now passed and its good to report there have only been eighteen members who have left the club this year. We wish them well with their new clubs and are pleased to welcome the new twelve members who have joined since the beginning of March. If last year is anything to go by there will be many more. Subscription income has held firm, which will enable the board to carry on with the improvements to the course and clubhouse in the coming year.

Let me tell you about the board. It is made up currently by six members, who all come from different backgrounds. We had two of our previous directors step down to take up officer roles within the Golf Club, namely the Gents captain and the Lady Captain. This leaving at least two vacancies to fill. It was very disappointing, that we only had one member put his name forward (Dave Bourne) and he was duly appointed at MAM meeting. We have since appointed a further director (Eric Finnie) to bring the board up to a position, where we

can carry out our duties and responsibilities more effectively.

The golf is what we are all members for and it is important to mention and congratulate, The Winter league winners for men were Charlie Fletcher and Jeff Hughes and for the Ladies, Julie Grey and Lesley McCluskey – well done all!

Competitions: We have a full schedule of fixtures for the summer including the annual gent's knockout for singles, doubles and mixed foursomes for the Reg Bell.

Rule changes: the new rules are now in place. A handicap review took place in January and every member was contacted.

The Slope system comes into effect in 2020 and our course will be measured this year

Although the day to day managing of our Golf Club is key to our success, we do have to look forward to the planning for the future. We do have a document that has a mission to deliver and provide a good quality golf experience for both members and visitors. It also has a vision to achieve continuous and measurable improvements. We have values, by treating everyone fairly and equally. Our goals are to deliver financial stability and improve to our offer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff, volunteers and members who have contributed to a very successful year.

Jim Potter
Chair

Secretary's office

Well it's nearly a year since Viv Garner left the Club and Gillian Maher has settled in really well. She has enjoyed working with and getting to know the members and staff especially during this time of year when everyone is paying their subscriptions. Speaking of which, the response has been the best for many years and the collaboration with Orchard Funding has worked very well.

The refurbishment of the hall, stairs and landing is due to start in early May so there will be limited

access for around ten days. Notices will be posted advising members and visitors of alternative access.

Cheshire Union Cards are now available giving discounted green fees on many of the courses in Cheshire and beyond. They are free of charge and can be obtained from the office.

We hope you have a wonderful golfing summer and remember Gill and I are here to help in any way we can.

Steve Collins

