



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

Newsletter 53 for Feb 2019



**John Perkins,
Club Chairman**

January and February have come and gone in a flash. We have all been blessed with some good golf weather and I must say the course, and greens in particular, are a credit to Minehead & West Somerset GC. Well done to

all our Greens Staff.

We have had several functions, all of which have been successful: again many thanks to our Bar and Kitchen Staff, not forgetting Claire's Kitchen, to whom we have to say 'thank you' and wish her every success in her new venture.

I am pleased to say we have Ashley, Emma and Paul, all stepping up and doing a great job under the steely eyes of our Bar and Catering Manager Dorrien, who has made a remarkable difference to the Club. I have heard that our team was referred to as 'amateurs'. Well, all I can say is look at our figures before January and since: make up your own minds.

Everything is moving forward with the Management Committee, all pulling together. The Minutes of our meetings are posted asap on our website so everyone can see what we are trying to do.

If anyone has spare time and would like to help in any way, please contact me. I am sure we can use your help. Let's continue our good start and have a great March of happy golfing.



**Doug Hayhoe,
Club Captain**

Firstly as my last newsletter as outgoing Captain may I give my thanks and appreciation to all of the background staff for their support and work in the previous year; without their endeavours

we would not manage. It also should be said without the constant support of our membership the club would not thrive.

The efforts of all our members have helped us get through what has been a challenging era which has got some developments to the down, and I know they will be resolved in the immediate future.

So please, as I know you will, support the incoming Ladies' Captain Ros Chidgey and Men's Captain Glenn Ross, Junior Captain Archie Walsh and on-going Senior Captain Neil Powles success in their roles.



**Linda Trump,
Ladies' Captain**

The winter series' competitions were a resounding success with lots of good golf played by a high number of lady members. All seven competitions were well supported and the series culminated with a finals day and meal. Plenty of prizes were shared around and good fun had by all. Well done to Pat Lucas as overall winner. Thanks again to Jayne Fulwell for organising the whole event and making a very successful winter of golf for the ladies.

As this is my last contribution to the newsletter as Lady Captain, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their support for the past year. I have thoroughly enjoyed being captain (most of the time!) and hope everyone enjoyed the season and the various events organised.

A successful season can only occur with a lot of help from many many people, but I would particularly like to thank the Ladies' committee. I wish Ros Chidgey, next year's Ladies Captain, all the other new captains the best of luck for next year and I'm sure the club will go from strength to strength.



**Neil Powles
Seniors' Captain**

With no matches against other clubs this month, the Senior Section concentrated on completing the final competitions in its calendar year. After six rounds of the Trafalgar Cup with the best four scores to count, winners by a fair distance were the pairing of Derek Marshman and Peter Taylor with a total of 174, second Malcolm Tate & Neil Powles 162 and third Randall Foot & Tim Evans 159.

The Monthly Medal was a close-run event with 9 handicappers Mark Ruttley and Dave Oatridge both recording 73, with Mark winning on countback.

The Reverse Bowmaker saw a thumping win for the trio of Willie Brown, Roger Green & Dave Oatridge with a score of 88, some 9 points behind in second place were Dave Williams, Sandy Lyons & Peter Taylor on 79.

The Porlock Cup Final resulted in a win 3&2 by Neil Powles over Mark Ruttley.

March will see us host two matches at home to Oake & the Warreners and an away fixture at Taunton & Pickeridge.

A Special Invitation Event was held by Edward Frewin to celebrate his 80th birthday with his goal of going round in less than 80, with a handicap of 26 he felt he might have a chance off the Blue Tees and to wet our appetites he



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would put up a prize of a painting done by his late wife who was a leading world artist. Unfortunately he did not manage to break 80. John Coomber won the event with a total of 42 followed by Graham Troman & Mark Ruttlely on 41. Our thanks to Edward for a good day appreciated by all.

PS. Edward sent in a photo of a quite emotional John Coomber recalling that his mother died on the 22nd February and to win the competition on that day 33 years later was very significant for him. His granddaughter Ivy, proudly presenting John with her Granny's painting and a copy of the book in which the painting appears. Interestingly, some months ago Edward told John that he had this silly idea that it would be fun to shoot 80 on his 80th birthday (only 16 shots below his handicap!) when he suggested he'd have a better chance off the blue tees. So, in a way it was quite appropriate that he was to win Sheila's painting. Congratulations should also go to Jordan Arnold for shooting 63 in the same event!!



The rabbit fence on the 11th will be extended, as far as the wartime pillbox at this stage and signs posted at the other end, pointing pedestrians to the coastal path.

Rabbit numbers are reducing with the introduction of the fence at the 9th, 10th, and 11th tee area. A special thanks to Adam Hewett, who has been regularly shooting/ferreting and is keeping the whole site under control. The damage on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th holes will be filled with soil/seed shortly, but it is expected some scraping will continue. The warren in front of the 11th tee will be collapsed in conjunction with reinstatement of the old path back to rough, which will allow us to monitor rabbit activity. The completion of the rabbit fence will also help control this warren.



Dorrien Bickerstaff Bar & Catering

Another positive month. Thank you to Claire Lynch and all her staff for helping out with Sunday lunches and a couple of functions. For those who

haven't read the minutes from the last committee meeting, we agreed unanimously to keep the catering in-house which happened in the middle of February. All our staff have many years' experience and are by no means amateurs. I believe we can make in-roads where in the past there was failure; however, this can only be achieved with the support of our members in continuing to promote a positive and good atmosphere.

We have taken on a second chef, John, to dovetail with Ashley. Marie has returned part-time to help in the bar and kitchen. Sunday lunches continue to be well supported. Mothers' Day (31st March) menus will be posted this week and pre-booking is essential. As we go to press we are looking forward to a Gala Annual Dinner on the 2nd followed a week later with the Open Week during which time there will be very reasonably priced club-house (extra) specials available.

We have taken onboard recent comments from members and are putting in place table order numbers to be given with food at time of order. This will stop the mix-up that has occasionally been happening.

I welcome all constructive input. Cheers and positive times ahead.



Denis Compton Course Manager

The 16th yellow tee is to become a par 5 on recommendation from the Comps Committee. Greens we will be adding a sign describing priority for 16th hole when playing 15th (such as 6/7)

Please keep your eyes peeled on the notice board as it will be used to inform members of any forthcoming disruptive works.

Volunteers will be using the newly purchased electric carryall buggy for divotting and rabbit-hole filling, tee repairing etc.

The 8mm pencil tining of the greens has been completed. Minor disruption has been rolled and has settled the surface satisfactorily.

A new trolley/buggy park and path sub-base for the 10th tee has been completed with final surface to be added once the sub-base has firmed sufficiently.

Irrigation pipes/addition for the 10th and 14th fringes have been installed. The turf, although high at the moment, will be rolled/tracked and it is anticipated to settle to the correct level in time. Grass cover on both these fringe areas will now improve, both helping players with sometimes extremely tight bare lies and enhancing course presentation.

Solid tining will continue on fairways with overseeding work scheduled for the week, starting on March 18th. 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 16 and 17 are the main targets for this operation.



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Ian Gover Handicap & Competitions

One of the glories of golf is that it has a handicap system - people of differing abilities can play each other in a fair system. Many people will argue about the word 'fair' as no system can truly

reflect the ability of a player on a day.

People have different ideas about handicaps with Wikipedia stating that: - 'A golf handicap is a numerical measure of a golfer's potential ability'. The keyword here is potential. A handicap is the value that if everything was going well you would achieve, not what you will play to every round.

I would always encourage players whether they are elite, improvers, steady or declining golfers to make sure that they play at least 4 qualifying rounds a year to make sure that their handicap is a reflection of their current potential especially as we approach 2020 when the new handicap system is going to be introduced.

Some situations suit players with a high handicap, others with a low handicap. In whatever game you are playing what you should be doing is enjoying it, having fun, relishing the good play of your opponent and only silently cursing their handicap under your breath.

As for the new rules, there have been several well publicised issues in the professional game with LI Haotong being penalised for his caddy standing behind him to line him up. This rule also applies to us, it could be a penalty if someone stands behind you when you take the stance for a shot. I would avoid standing behind any player even if you are trying to help by watching the ball into the sun. Stand to one side to avoid any issues.

Last month I asked for options if you were in a dog's paw print in a bunker. You are now allowed free relief for any animal impression, it no longer has to be a burrowing animal. You could of course take the ball out of the bunker and take 2 penalty shots!

This month – what should happen if a player putts up to the flag and then in trying to hole out quickly hits it against the flag pole, bounces back onto his putter and then rebounds into the hole?

under pressure to buy - except you Dave Oatridge who has worn out the new M5 3 wood.

New Bridgestone balls have been a big hit at just £29.75 a dozen-a cracking ball used by Tiger, Kuchar and Dechambeau.

Ladies have a new range of clothing in and is being replaced every 4 weeks; so please come in and keep a check.

The main season is fast approaching and you know we are available for lessons to suit you; so please make use and call us and get your game ready.

Well done Doug in your year of captaincy and you Linda, and we wish your successors Glenn and Ros a great year. Have a great season all.



John & Jordan ProShop

Firstly a big thanks to our Captain Doug for the kind invite to the Club's Annual Dinner on Saturday; a good night

was had by all.

As you all know Jordan and myself have joined forces and are now running the pro shop together and so far so good; it's all going smoothly.....touch wood.

We have some great new demo drivers and irons and please feel free to come and try the clubs without feeling