



Helsby Golf Club News

Issue no. 19

Spring 2018

Captain



Fellow Members As I write this, the weather seems to be getting warmer, but with winter dragging on, there is still more rain in the forecast. I can't remember a year when we have had as much rain as this!

I am looking forward to playing golf with as many members as possible; this includes the Captain Pro matches which will start soon. The golf course will hopefully be transformed in a few weeks when we are due to have some warm, dry weather. I would like to wish the new Directors of the club the very best and also the new committee

members and the Chair of Greens, Matchand Handicap, House, Membership and Marketing and Juniors all very best for the next year. I had the pleasure of accompanying last year's captain Neil Johnson when he visited Claire House Hospice to present them with a cheque for all the money raised last year. It was an excellent achievement for a wonderful cause and I would like to offer my personal congratulations to him and his team for this. I am sure that the people at Claire House will use this money wisely.

My chosen charity for this year will also be Claire House and I hope you will support me during the year with some planned fundraising events for this very worthy cause.

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Lady Captain



The Drive-In day arrived at last and I can't tell you how nervous I felt standing on the tee with so many people there to support Captain and myself. However, after downing a Baileys liqueur in one, I felt a little more relaxed and after a couple of practice swings, managed to get that little white ball off the tee and up in the air.

The day just got better and better and Gill Smith, myself, Linda Barton and Liz Fudge had a lovely game of golf. We think the alcohol dotted around the course was a great help, and the weather was kind,

although very wet underfoot. Gill and I missed out on the prizes but came 3rd in the competition. Congratulations to Yvonne Salisbury and Belinda Harris-Grave, who were the winners and Debbie Briscoe and Gill Pay who came 2nd.

I was very touched by the number of cards and good wishes I received during the day and in the evening and would like to thank you all for your kindness and support.

The Drive-In Dinner Dance was a great success, with almost 100 people attending. The table decorations were themed on Valentines Day and I would like to thank Barbara Leigh for her hard work in making the evening so enjoyable. Rob, Kieren, Natalie and their teams looked after us very well which was not an easy task with so many people to cater for.

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Captain, continued

The new chairs, ceiling and drop-down screen are all now completed along with our new sound system in the lounge. The spike bar seating and carpet is due to be completed in the next few weeks. A big thank you is in order to Brian Prince and the House committee for an excellent job refurbishing our club house. Lastly, I hope all members of the club have a very enjoyable, happy and successful golfing year.

Graham Poland
Captain



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Lady Captain, continued

The entertainment was brought to us by the Flaxmere Ceilidh Band, and those who took part in the dancing had great fun, whether they mastered the dances or not, it didn't really matter. The following Wednesday we held the Ladies Annual Meeting and Coffee Evening and raised £400 to help the year get off to a good start. The Captain and President joined us for the evening and helped the fundraising by providing a bottle of bubbly as a prize for the lady who rolled a £1 coin nearest to the bottle. This was won by Enid Forster despite the new shaped coins proving to be a bit of a challenge this year!! It has been quite a busy time since then and fortunately none of our competitions have had to be cancelled due to the appalling weather we have had since the New Year. Although the 4BBB competition on 17th March was played in the coldest weather I can remember since I've been a member at Helsby Golf Club!! Well done to all the ladies who braved the weather on that day. Two of our ladies, Theresa Mann and Carolyn Clothier, who won the Daily Mail Foursomes last year went on to win the first round of the knockout competitions against Frodsham, at Frodsham in dreadful conditions. Well done Ladies and good luck in the next round. On Friday, 9th March, Kitrina Douglas hosted a motivational and mental skills workshop at Helsby and this was attended by 33 ladies, including 3 from High Legh Park Golf Club and 1 from Woolton Golf Club. Kitrina is an ex-professional golfer who played for GB & Ireland in the Curtis cup in 1982 and went on to play in the Ladies European Tour, and the Solheim Cup. She

was very interesting and gave us lots of hints and tips to help us enjoy and hopefully play better golf in the future. So we are all hoping to see our handicaps dropping this year!! The Ladies Committee cleaned the trophies on Sunday, 18th March – I hope everyone has noticed how they sparkle and gleam now. On 21st March, the Ladies Section held a Gin Tasting & Mocktails Event, followed by a Rules talk by our Professional, Chris. We all had a great time, although, as Chris said perhaps we should have had the rules talk before we tasted the gin!! My thanks go to Linda & Gill who were instrumental in getting this off the ground and hopefully later on in the year we will hold a mixed event. The new season is full of promise and I hope we have good weather, play good golf and enjoy lots of social occasions during the year. I am looking forward to playing with as many ladies as I can during the year and hope the weather is kind to us for all our competitions. Our exchange day this year is at Wrexham Golf Club on Wednesday, 25th July so I hope we have lots of ladies playing in the competition.

The A, B and Friendly Team Matches started in April with quite a few new lady members playing, so good luck Ladies and thank you to Pam Thompson, Gill Sheppard and Chris Marsden who are the team secretaries. The Ladies Section have lots of competitions and social golf planned for this year and we have a few competitions where we are joining in with the gents, although playing our own competitions. Also we have the mixed social competitions such as the Spring Meeting, Ladies v Seniors, Reg Bell knockout and the Autumn Meeting, not forgetting the monthly 9 hole mixed competitions on Friday Evenings, followed by supper. And last, but not least, Chris, our Professional organises mixed open competitions on bank holiday Mondays, so there is something for everyone at Helsby Golf Club – do come and join in. All it leaves me to say is that I am looking forward to my year and am extremely proud to be Lady Captain of such a warm and friendly club. Best Wishes to you all.

Barbara Prince
Lady Captain



From the Secretary's Office

Well, here we are with spring upon us although the weather still seems to resemble winter mode.

You will all probably know by now that Viv Garner left us at the end of April. Viv has given 28 wonderful years of service to the members of Helsby Golf Club and has assisted nine Secretaries during this time. We'll all miss her and wish a long and happy retirement with Gary and the rest of their family. The photo below shows Viv with Club Secretaries – Norman Littler, Derek Leigh, Len Norbury, Chris Stubbs and myself.

I'm pleased to announce that Gillian Maher has been training with Viv over the last month and I'm sure the transition will be seamless. Gillian has experience working with people during her time at the Ambulance Service so will be well suited to working at the Club.

Please take time to pop into the office to say hello when your passing, I know you'll make her welcome.

For the first time this year we sent the subscription renewals by email and have had a good response. For those of you who paid directly into the bank please don't forget to collect your 2018 sticker.

Wishing you all a successful golfing year!

Steve Collins



Message from The Directors

It is approximately 2 months since the membership voted and approved the major change to our constitution and rules for running the Club. Since then the Management Board has been formed and is now operating.

As will be appreciated, we are all on a very steep learning curve, not only getting to grips with the Club but also getting to know one another. We have a good balance of gender and experience which will help in moving the Club forward. This is supported by our Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.

Back in March we held a forum to register interest from members regarding the Chairpersons and members involvement on committees. The event was well attended by interested members and we were able to create the much needed working committees, from both those who attended the meeting and those who

were unable to make the event itself but expressed an interest. The hard work of the committees begins and we are sure the members will give them their full support.

The Management Board will now move to other areas of the Club to review current practices, this will be an on-going process and over time will evolve to make improvements within the club and how it operates.

We look forward to communicating with you all at the next appropriate opportunity.

*Helsby Golf Club
Directors -*

*Paul Trow (Chairman),
Penny Ainsworth, Pauline Branigan, Liz Fudge,
Christian Lindley, Jim Potter,
Roddy Snedden and Chris Stubbs*

Catering Update

Hello all and firstly -



just to let everyone know, Kayleigh, my sister, who you have all seen at the busy functions has had a little baby girl on the 3rd of April. Ivy Rose weighing 5lb 11oz and both baby and mum are doing well.

We are trying to put functions on to cater for everyone's tastes, but if anyone has any ideas please feel free to come and speak to me or Kieren. It has been a tough few months but hopefully Spring and some better weather is on its way! Bring on the busy!

For now here is a cake recipe for the summer:

Dandelion and Burdock cake

You will need -

- 250g butter
- 250g self raising flour
- Pinch of bicarbonate of soda
- 250ml of dandelion and burdock
- 4 tbsps of cocoa powder
- 2 eggs
- 50ml milk
- 300g golden caster sugar

Method -

Cream the butter and sugar
Sift the flour into the butter with the bicarbonate
Whisk the eggs, then whisk into the flour mixture
Mix the cocoa powder into the milk then add the dandelion and burdock and stir this into the flour mixture.
Bake at 180C for about 40 mins or until skewers come out of the cake clean



Back left to right - Penny Ainsworth, Chris Stubbs, Jim Potter and Liz Fudge. Front left to right - Christian Lindley, Paul Trow, Pauline Branigan. Missing from photo is Roddy Snedden who was on holiday

Enjoy!

*-Natalie and
Keiren*



News from the Seniors

As the geese, ducks, waders and other wetland birds eventually migrate away from our beautiful parkland course, thoughts naturally turn to the prospect of using the acreage for its intended purpose.

Certainly, after an exceptional few months there is eager anticipation of 'Preferred Lies' being lifted following nearly 7 months of imposition. Not many of the long-serving Seniors can recall a worse winter over the past 2 or 3 decades. Whilst certain members may feel aggrieved over the state of the course, enquiries of colleagues at nearby clubs all report the same – course closures; wetness and generally unpleasant conditions.

And as a pertinent reminder, the Seniors Spring Meeting at Chester Golf Club had to be postponed twice because of that course being closed.

One of the well-known clichés of football is that 'you have to earn the shirt'. But as Helsby is now deemed to be an equal opportunity club, it was decided that members should be given the opportunity to buy their own shirt. Many thanks to Tony Williams for sourcing the garments and for getting them embroidered – all at a very competitive price. If he wasn't of retirement age there could be a successful new career ahead of him.

For the Seniors (those over 55), the interclub matches start in mid-April and continue through to September with a full programme.

For those not too familiar with the Helsby way, the entry lists are posted about 4 weeks prior on the Seniors Notice Board. Players are expected to play in both the Home and Away matches and for some venues, competition for spaces is keen and an early commitment is required. However, as a note of caution, can members show due consideration as on some occasions eagerness has prevailed with alterations and deletions being necessary such that the graphics and amendments make the lists look as though Banksy would have been proud to be the artist.



Optimism abounds at this time of year so with the Masters 2018 now having been consigned to history, we all look forward to a good golfing season with, hopefully, more clement weather in the ensuing months.

Membership and Marketing

Here is an update on what your Membership and Marketing committee have been working on recently:

- Reciprocal arrangements with Woolton GC and Chester GC have now been completed and have been published on the members section of our website
- New course signage will shortly be ordered and sponsorship packages promoted
- We will be supporting Jamie Hodgkinson in his work to promote and encourage new Junior members
- Our local advertising campaign continues to target new members including Juniors and publicise our Bank Holiday Opens and no joining fee strategy

- We continue to get regular press coverage in Golfers Local, Helsby to Hand, Helsby News, Frodsham Life, Chronicle - this covers articles about the club and our charity work for the powered Wheelchair Appeal
- Overview of activity regularly communicated to members
- Production of Club newsletters - Summer and Winter editions. We welcome any feedback or suggestions so if you have any please contact the committee via the secretary's office
- Bumblebee Digital continue with the proactive social media campaign and recently posted a club video on facebook promoting the club - see pictures to the right.



Gin Tasting at The Club!

The ladies organised a fun evening in the clubhouse recently – firstly there was a gin tasting evening followed by a rules session by our pro Chris Cousins.

The gin event was organized by Rob behind the bar and proved to be a great

success and he also provided mocktails for those driving on the night!

The photo below shows two of our Club Directors, Penny Ainsworth and Pauline Branigan enjoying multiple gins!

The rules session followed with some great information and discussion with our Pro Chris...

...although maybe it would have been better to have the rules session before the gin!

Many thanks to Linda Barton and Gill Smith for organising and Rob and Chris for a great night!



Spring Cleaning in the Clubhouse!

When it is a cold wintery day outside, a good use of time is to spring clean the trophy cabinet in the clubhouse! At least that is what the Ladies committee thought so in March they spent a few hours polishing all the silverware in the cabinet and it now looks fantastic!

The photo below shows from left to right back – Lady Captain, Viv Nagle, Rachel Steven, Carolyn Clothier, Debbie Briscoe, Gillian Pay and Liz Fudge and on the bottom row – 2017 Lady Captain, Gill Smith and Hugo Steven.

Well done to all the ladies and also Hugo Steven who helped out on the day – thanks for all your hard work on behalf of all the members.

The Unplayable Lie!

Have you ever had one of those golf days when you know things are not going your way??

Well Marjorie Trow did in a recent stableford competition on the 10th hole - the ball went up the trunk and then

landed inside on a ledge of bark Understandably, she declared it unplayable!

That's golf for you!



Helsby invite to Widnes Golf Club Annual Ball

Our Captain, Graham Poland, represented Helsby GC recently at the annual Widnes GC annual Ball held at their club. This is an annual tradition and Graham was amongst several other local Captains to attend and the photo on the right shows them all looking resplendent in their official jackets.



House News

A new year with a new Committee – I am pleased to welcome the following new members on to House – Carolyn Clothier and Theresa Mann and thanks go to Marjorie Trow for joining us once again.

The Captain's Drive-in Dinner was a huge success – a full turn out with a Ceilidh Band for entertainment – great fun and it was good to see new faces at this event.

The Clubhouse refurbishment is now complete and we are all delighted that it looks so good. The photographs below show the new furniture and you will notice our Lady Captain, Barbara Prince and Rebecca Don (who has just rejoined the Club). The spike bar refurbishment is due to be completed by the end of April. Thanks to Brian Prince for all the time and effort he has put into these projects. Our aim is to improve other areas of the Clubhouse and Professional's Shop but these things don't happen overnight. They take careful planning and budgeting.

The Annual Ball is to be held at Cheshire View on Saturday, 5th May. It promises to be

another great evening so why not join us and support your Captain, President and Lady Captain.

Our social events are listed to the right.

We will also try to include a Race Night or Murder Mystery into the social calendar.

It would please us to see old and new faces at our functions.

It is important to make more use of our Clubhouse and if you, or a friend, would like to hold a social event at the Club please contact Keiren or Natalie.

We welcome any comments from members.

Barbara Leigh
Chair

Social Event Calendar

- **Saturday 5th May** - Annual Ball
- **Friday 18th May** - 9 hole mixed
- **Saturday 9th June** - Steak & Wine Evening
- **Friday 15th June** - 9 hole mixed
- **Saturday 16th June** - President's Night
- **Friday 6th July** - 9 hole mixed
- **Friday 27th July** - Captain's 9 hole mixed
- **Saturday 28th July** - Captain's Night
- **Friday 10th August** - Lady Captain's 9 hole mixed
- **Saturday 11th August** - Lady Captain's Night
- **Friday 17th August** - Kings & Queens 9 hole mixed
- **Friday 14th September** - 9 hole mixed
- **Saturday 29th September** - Theme Night
- **Friday 8th October** - 9 hole mixed
- **Saturday 20th October** - Awards' Evening
- **Friday 26th** - Art Exhibition
- **Sunday 28th October** - Art Exhibition
- **Friday 9th November** - Sportsmen's Dinner
- **Saturday 17th November** - Allo Allo Evening
- **Saturday 15th December** - Christmas Party

We are on Twitter and Facebook

Updated Course info, interests, updates and what's going on. If you are registered give us a follow, if not, why not?



Twitter -
@HelsbyGC



Facebook -
Helsby Golf Club -
Official



Kitrina Douglas Workshop

In March the Ladies section enjoyed a motivational and mental skills workshop run by Dr Kitrina Douglas.

Kitrina is a former professional golfer who had 8 wins on the European tour and played for GB and Ireland in the Curtis Cup and for Europe in the winning Solheim Cup squad in 1992. After retiring from golf, she studied at Bristol University where she obtained a PHD in Psychology.

The workshop was attended by 33 ladies from Helsby, High Legh and Woolton Golf Clubs and Kitrina provided much thought provoking information around motivation, attitude and belief. The session was very interactive and much enjoyed by everyone. We are all looking forward to putting the new skills into practice!

Thanks go to Linda Barton, Gill Smith and Lesley McCluskey for organising the day.



2017 Lady Captain charity fundraising

During her year of office as Lady Captain 2017, Gill Smith chose as her charity Dogs for Good. This worthwhile charity supports people of all ages who are either disabled, autistic or who have dementia by providing Assistance Dogs whose input is truly inspirational.

During the year, funds were raised for the charity from the ladies Whitfield Salver competition, the May bank holiday mixed Open and also through the Ladies Christmas card donations. We were also privileged to see one of the recipients, Linda and one of

the Assistance Dogs, Obi in action when they visited the club and we could see at first hand the difference it makes. Gill was delighted to be able to hand over £1,502 to the charity and received a lovely letter of thanks and certificate of fundraising.

Many thanks to all who supported Gill and the charity during the year.



Helsby Golf Club Captain's Charity 2017

During 2017, his year as Captain of Helsby Golf, Neil Johnson chose Claire House Children's Hospice as his charity.

Claire House is located near to Clatterbridge Hospital on the Wirral and serves the North West of England and North Wales. It helps seriously and terminally ill children live life to the full by creating wonderful experiences and bringing back a sense of normality to family life. They also create lasting memories for all the family.

It costs £6,500 a day to run Claire House and this is funded by the supporters of this worthy charity. Helsby Golf Club held a Captain's Charity golf event on the 8th

September last year ably organised by club member Christian Lindley. It included a dinner where local

comedian and television personality Vince Earl entertained everyone and also conducted a charity auction.

A total of £13,788 was raised during the year. Neil and Christian presented a cheque for this amount to Angela Rawsthorne at Claire House on the 23rd March.

A big thank you to the members of Helsby Golf Club and their supporters who raised sufficient money to run Claire House for two days.

The photo below shows 2017 Captain Neil Johnson, Christian Lindley and Angela Rawsthorne at the cheque presentation.



Match and Handicap

It's that time again - The Masters done and dusted, we are all raring to go, we've feasted on four days watching the worlds best and we are going to go out and smash it this year.

Well we can all hope but as reality sets in, let us hope we have a good golf year at Helsby.

Competitions

We have a full schedule of fixtures for the summer and we are also looking to continue running more weekday competitions including seniors competitions (over 55's). We have our Annual Gents Knockout Competitions - Singles and Doubles and also Mixed Foursomes for the Reg Bell Cup.

As members of the Manchester and District Golf Association (which covers pretty much all North West England with over 140 affiliated clubs) we enter four Club Knockout Competitions as follows -

- Dunham Forest Trophy - Gents 6 Handicap and under, Team of 7 including Professional
- City Glass Trophy - Gents Foursomes Team of 14 (7 Pairs)
- Seniors Trophy Gents - over 55 years, Fourball Team of 10 (5 pairs)
- Archie Preston Trophy - Mixed Team of 7 Gents and 7 Ladies (7 pairs)

Update on Rule Changes

Members will be aware of recent articles regarding proposed changes to rules, effective from 1st January 2019, and we will be trying to communicate via the M and H blog how these will come into place. The common

theme seems to be around pace of play and reducing the delays in play we currently experience.

World Golf Handicapping System

There are currently around seven different systems covering how handicaps are governed worldwide. The plan over the next two years is to create one unified system based on all courses being assessed and given a rating. This means that your club handicap can be adjusted when playing another course in the UK or abroad based on the rating of the course being played.

The knock on from this is that all courses can expect to be remeasured over the next couple of years so we will have to work with Greens to ensure we have everything in place.

Brian Stott
Chairman
Match and Handicap



Social Media at Helsby Golf Club

Given that so many people use social media nowadays it's important that we keep up with modern communication methods and use these as a way of reaching potential members and visitors to our club.

How can you help the club? Social media means just that, being social, so if you use Facebook then please support the club firstly:
- by "liking" the club page www.facebook.com/HelsbyGolfClub or just search

Helsby Golf Club on Facebook - and then please interact with our posts by liking, commenting or sharing the posts.

Your interaction makes such a difference to the way that Facebook works, particularly sharing posts to help us reach potential new members.

If you use Twitter then please follow the club account www.twitter.com/HelsbyGC or @HelsbyGC then retweet or favourite the club posts.

If you have any questions or ideas please email jamie@bumblebeedigital.co.uk

Ode to an Old Golfer!

(With apologies to Alan Bennett)

Never first off the tee,
Never had to shout "FORE".
Never needed a Caddy
To help me keep score.

It's the clubhouse for me now,
Not the T double E,
But the one in a glass
With a rather large "G".

I remember those rounds,
On the green, and in the bar.
Happy days, most of the time
(With the occasional Faux Pas).

Those favourite clubs,
Now sadly long gone
And those lucky old socks.
With the hole in one!

- Sean Kennedy

Many thanks to Bert Dyson for providing this poem



Greens Committee Update

As you all are well aware there have been some changes in the past few months @HGC. Amongst all these changes is a completely fresh Greens Committee, along with Chris Stubbs, our Director who will represent the interests of the Greens Committee at Board meetings.

Committee Members are:
Kath Wilkinson
George Randles
Paul Collins
Brian Stott
Danny Bennett- Head Greenkeeper
Alan Rigby - Chairman of Greens

Our team comprises of 5 members who have been selected to represent all sections of the club and along with their own set of skills whether they are their own professional skills and experience or have acquired a time served understanding of requirements of various sections of the club.

Combining these elements will hopefully create a more approachable, communicative and "can do" attitude that with the backing of both Members and Directors alike can only bode well for the future.

I would like to thank everyone who has congratulated me in the last few weeks on my appointment, especially the Directors, Past Captains and many more members.

We will endeavour to represent your opinions and ideas on how to take the course forward and will always be more than happy to discuss any course related topics and with the best will give answers and reasons in a prompt and informed manner.



Helsby Golf Club Captains Drive into office!

On a crisp wintery February day, our new officials took part in the traditional annual Club Drive In competition.

Captain Graham Poland, Lady Captain Barbara Prince, President Peter Duffy and Junior Captain Harry Tilston were delighted to hit drives (more or less) down the middle of the fairway in the usual start to their year in office!

The chosen charities for the year are - for the Captain, Claire House Hospice and for the Lady Captain, St Luke's Hospice in Winsford. Both

Graham and Barbara will be raising money for these very worthwhile charities with a variety of events planned throughout the year so please support them.

The winners on the day were for the Gents, Denver Brazier and Jeff Hughes and for the ladies, Belinda Harris – Grave and Yvonne Salisbury.



Golf Majors - Dates for Your Diary

GENTS

June 14-17, 2018, US OPEN at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, Southampton, New York

July 19-22, 2018, THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP at Carnoustie Golf Links, Carnoustie, Scotland

August 9-12, 2018, PGA CHAMPIONSHIP at Bellerive Country Club, Town and Country, Missouri

September 28 – 30, 2018, 42nd RYDER CUP at Le Golf National in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, a suburb southwest of Paris

LADIES

May 31 – 3 June, 2018, US Women's OPEN at Shoal Creek Golf Course, Missouri

June 26 – July 1, 2018, KPMG Women's PGA at Kemper Lakes Golf Club, Illinois

August 2 – 5, 2018, Ricoh Women's British Open at Royal Lytham and St Annes

Yoga in the Clubhouse!

One of the suggestions put forward at the recent Ladies Forum was to have some yoga sessions in the clubhouse and Linda Barton and Gill Smith duly got on with promptly organising that!

The sessions started on Thursday mornings in the clubhouse in February and are run by Callie Meakin who teaches classes and yoga workshops locally. They have proved extremely popular with both Ladies and Gents – the photo below shows one of the poses!

Yoga can be practiced by anybody of any age or ability. It offers many benefits and can be really helpful for golfers. Yoga keeps the joints healthy by improving their range of motion and strengthening the muscles that support the joints. It reduces tightness from the muscles improving your overall posture and flexibility. It can help establish core strength and can also eradicate lower back

conditions. Yoga is practiced with an awareness of the breath. This helps to steady the mind which strengthens concentration and improves overall focus

Callie also teaches classes and yoga workshops in Frodsham and also hosts yoga retreats in North Wales and Cumbria. She also teaches small group classes and 1-2-1 classes that can be tailored to your needs. Her classes are held in a friendly, non-competitive environment and she welcomes everyone along.

For more information visit her site www.callieyoga.com or contact her on 07917891944.

Why not come and join us to try it? – the sessions are held on Thursday mornings at 10am to 11am in the clubhouse and cost £5.



Powered Wheelchair Appeal

The Appeal had another successful year in 2017 raising over £33,000 and presenting 16 wheelchairs to local children with special needs, bringing the grand total over the last 34 years to 370.

12th Annual General Meeting
– Thursday 8th March 2018

Chairman, Steve Cunniffe welcomed the Captain of Helsby Golf Club, Graham Poland, the President, Peter Duffy, the Lady Captain, Barbara Prince and the supporters of the Appeal.

There were a number of apologies including one from Peter Alliss and his wife Jackie who were unable to attend. They sent the following message “Please thank everyone for their wonderful support and we hope to see some of you at Old Thorns in September”

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed. Steve then gave a presentation on the fundraising events that were held throughout 2017.

Steve thanked everyone for their support throughout the year, highlighting that every little bit helps from the £16,000 raised at the Classic down to the £25 donation

from Alan and Joan Dunwell. Alan has supported the charity for a number of years but sadly passed away in 2017. All the money raised goes to providing wheelchairs for the children with costs being kept to a bare minimum, £350. Steve read out the thanks from some of the parents:

‘Thank you for giving Leo his independence’ - Emma Bailey Heath.

‘We really want to thank you for Lily’s wheelchair and for last evening. Lily is absolutely thrilled (we are too!). This means so much to her as it will give her so much more independence and will give her an opportunity to meet up with friends independently. She is already planning where she can go this weekend! Thank you.’ - Martin and Sue Wakeling.

The audited annual accounts for the period ended 31st January 2018 were reviewed and unanimously approved. A copy is available on the website.

The following Officers and Trustees of the charity were re-elected for a period of 3 years
Mrs Penny Ainsworth – Secretary
Mrs Karen Fozard – Trustee

Mrs Kathryn Hoather – Trustee

Mr Howard Pay was elected as a new Trustee for a period of 1 year.

Ray Feldwick gave a short presentation on the work of the Peter Alliss Masters. He also thanked Helsby for all their hard work as the largest contributor of wheelchairs in the Peter Alliss Crusade.

The Captain rounded off the evening with his thanks to the committee for making such a difference to the lives of the children and their families.

Spring Dance – 17th March 2018

The Appeal’s first fundraiser of the year was the Spring Dance. The new President, Captain and Lady Captain presented a wheelchair to Carys Johnson from Chester who attended with her mum, Jan and Claire Graham the SENCO from her school. The chair was fitted with special E Powered Wheels to help Carys self propel when she needs them. Carys is a very lively youngster who will have a go at anything, enjoying horse riding and swimming and in her quieter moments, reading and history. Her new chair is going to give her the independence to achieve even more. Carys presented a card

thanking Helsby Golf Club for their “support and donation towards my new wheels. You have made me very happy and I will always remember your kindness”



During the evening, everyone enjoyed a 2 course supper and the entertainment provided by the fantastic Group, Soulvation which included a well known face on the drums, Billy Grey a member at Helsby GC.

Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity. It is your support that helps us give so many children the independence that they deserve.

Steve Cunniffe
Chairman

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 7th June 2018 – 36th 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 followed by a presentation of wheelchairs to local youngsters with special needs. We hold an auction, a bottle tombola and raffles.

All members are welcome

to play in the competition; please contact Viv Nagle on 01606 853859 or print a copy of the entry form on the website. 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 8th August 2018 – 17th MEGA Day
The entertainers from Merseyside will join us for golf during the day and then provide us with excellent entertainment in the evening.

This is an event that is enjoyed by all who have taken part over the years and we look forward to another great day.

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

Saturday 1st December 2018 – Black & White Evening



Your Club's Website: www.helsbygolfclub.org

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?

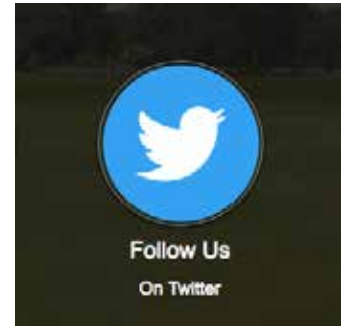
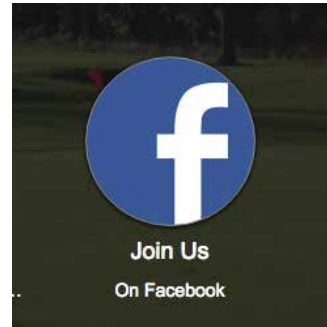
- You can use the website to check if the course is open. This is especially handy over winter months when extreme weather can force a temporary closure of the course – and the information is updated each morning
- You can 'play' the course from the comfort of your own armchair by watching a hole-by-hole 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.

Finally, the club has its own



Facebook page at 'Helsby Golf Club – Official' and Twitter account at @HelsbyGC – the latter being another useful way of keeping up with the latest news bulletins from the club.

If you have any queries relating to the website or any ideas for how to improve it further, please forward these to Phil Davies at PJDsolutions@aol.com

Junior News

New Junior Organiser

My name is Jamie Hodgkinson and I am the new Junior Organiser for Helsby Golf Club. I am looking forward to my new role and I am excited for the challenges ahead. I am looking forward to engaging with all the juniors we have within Helsby as well as attracting new juniors to the club.

England Golf Driving Juniors Workshop

On Monday 9th April we attended an England Golf Workshop at Vicars Cross Golf Club to identify how the club can drive new juniors in to golf and to Helsby golf Club. This workshop was very interesting and we came away from this workshop with plenty of ideas how we can drive juniors in to golf.

Level One Golf Coaches

I am pleased to announce that we have renewed the licences of 4 level one golf coaches. These volunteer coaches will help the coaching structure within Helsby by helping the head professional in delivering coaching sessions to current and new juniors. The coaches are – Jamie Hodgkinson, Antonie Lightfoot, Linda Barton and John Spruce

Junior Golf Passport

Helsby Golf Club Junior Section has become accredited to deliver the Junior Golf Passport.

The Junior Golf Passport is a progressive learning scheme designed to support children to learn how to play golf. It creates a learning pathway to guide learners through the early stages from picking up a club for the first time to becoming a junior ready for regular play. All the key golf skills (on and off the course) have been broken down so juniors learn about key skills at their own pace. There is no pressure to achieve a certain skill level, the learning is all about the process of the skill and NOT asking them to use a skill and achieve a tested outcome.

Many thanks to our sponsors below - we appreciate your on-going support



Sessions will be posted in the next coming weeks. However if anyone is interested at this stage please either contact Jamie Hodgkinson or Chris Cousins for further details



News from the Pro Shop

Titleist Loyalty Promotion

Titleist Pro V1/ProV1x – Buy 3 Dozen get 1 FREE + FREE Personalisation

Once again we will be running the Titleist Loyalty Reward Promotion in 2018. Up until Mon 30th April, buy 3 dozen Titleist ProV1/ProV1x and receive 1 dozen FREE along with free personalisation on all balls.

Normal price £42.99 per dozen, offer = 4 dozen for £128 (works out at £32 per dozen)

To place an order or for more information, pop into the shop or e-mail us at info@chrisousinsgolf.com.

Motocaddy Battery Promotion

Exclusive Foremost Battery Trade-in Promotion

From now until Sun 13th May 2018, 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 - £209.99 - £25.00 = £184.99

Motocaddy S/M Series extended lithium battery & charger - £249.99 - £25.00 = £224.99

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 information 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 7th May 2018

- Team of 3 Stableford Open
- Any combination of ladies & gents
- Team of 3 Stableford
- £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, handicap limit gents 28, ladies 36

Mon 28th May

- Helsby James Braid Open
- Any combination of ladies & gents
- 4BBB Stableford
- £15.00 per player (visitors)
- £5.00 per player (members)
- 90% handicap allowance, gents white tees, ladies red tees, handicap limit gents 28, ladies 36

