



## Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

### Newsletter 52 for Jan 2019



**John Perkins,  
Club Chairman**

Well, on taking on this post, this will teach me to read the small print beforehand. My first month has flown by and a lot has happened. With the help of our current club Captain and our new Bar and Social Manager and,

of course, the whole of the MC team, we are getting things done.

We will have to make decisions in the near future to determine which way is best for the club and members to move forward.



**Doug Hayhoe,  
Club Captain**

Firstly I would like to thank all of the staff, be it greens, office, kitchen, bar and or pro shop, for all the help and support in my Captain's year. The club is going through an exciting time in its

vision and you will see many changes; I know you will continue to support all the work that goes on in front and behind the scenes.

Notes for your diary: Club match home to Taunton & Pickering, Sat 23rd February, sign-up sheet on board; Annual dinner Saturday 2nd Match (details to follow).



**Linda Trump,  
Ladies' Captain**

The super weather has allowed some good golf with the winter series being very well supported. We are now into our 6th event of 7, playing a different format each time. This series of competitions started in November and will end with a final in the middle of February. It has provided some very interesting competitions right through the winter.

Two match-play competitions have also been running. The Luttrell Greensomes (max handicap 30) started in October with the final match resulting in the very worthy winners of Jayne Fulwell and Pat Lucas beating Sarah Hill and Gill Hurley finally on the 19th. Well done to all finalists and Jayne and Pat for the win. Jayne Fulwell also had a great run in the Coronation Cup (individual match play). This also started in October and Jayne prevailed over Jenny Elliott in the final to achieve a very creditable double! In fact, Jayne's having a great run of form, also winning the Winter Greensomes Cup partnered by me! So fantastic play Jayne, it's the treble!

Hopefully we'll continue to experience good weather and playing conditions in February.



**Neil Powles  
Seniors' Captain**

January has seen a full month of competitions along with two matches at home to near neighbours Enmore

and Taunton & Pickering. Minehead Seniors battled hard to secure a 3-3 draw against a strong Enmore side, wins came from the pairings of Sandy Lyons & Nigel Trevelyn, Tim Tennant & David Ball, Graham Stone & Richard Austwick. Taunton & Pickering sent an even stronger team, none of their handicaps over 18, we only went down 2½ to 3½; wins came from Tim Evans & Neil Powles, Peter Taylor & Nigel Trevelyn, with a half from Terry Walker & Malcolm Bruce.

Internal competitions started with a Texas Scramble, won by Derek Marshman, Edwin Frewin & Richard Austwick with a score of 66.1.

Two more rounds of the Trafalgar Cup took place with the pairing of Peter Taylor & Derek Marshman leading by some 8 points going into the last round to be completed in February.

Monthly Medal won by David Lake with a 69, followed by Tim Evans & Malcolm Bruce 71 and new boy Dave Oatridge with a 72.

Seniors Stableford off the White Tees won by Malcolm Bruce in some cruel weather conditions with 36 points, Sandy Lyons & Graham Stone came in second on 34 points.

Our last competition of the month, a Texas Scramble, resulted in a win with a return score of 64 for Martin Edkins, Ray Holland & Neil Powles, a close second on 65.7 came the trio of Malcolm Tate, David Lake & Dave Oatridge.

In February we have no matches scheduled but another full diary of competitions.

Our thanks to Rob and the greenkeepers for the quality of the course and to Emma & Ashley in the Clubhouse and Kitchen - you fed us well for both matches and the hospitality you showed to our visitors did not go unnoticed by them.

If you want to find out more about the Senior Section please do not hesitate to contact me on 01984 641662 or at the club.



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### **Denis Compton Course Manager**

The dry winter so far has led to us seeing less wear and tear in certain areas with fewer rounds of golf being played in poor weather conditions. What has helped to drain the property is the work Butlins were instructed to carry out by the Government to dredge their moat system surrounding the holiday camp.

Our greens remain relatively strong, however, disease is thinning some low-lying damp areas. Less desirable grass species are prone to infection which could be argued is no bad thing. Deep pencil (8mm) tining is scheduled throughout February, which improves the soil structure and aids drainage. Hopefully this will not impact on general play too much, unfortunately it is a necessary evil that must be carried out. The recent sand blown across the 18th and putting greens has been brushed and picked up to ensure no future layering in the soil profile which would create a root break. So Robert tells me!

We are aware that some tees do not look as good as they could be. The club policy is to play year-round on them whatever the weather. As such we have a number that have become thinly grassed. A recommendation from the Greens Committee that sat on January 30<sup>th</sup> will be to evaluate and suggest the installation of good quality artificial surfaces to be used on those tees badly effected prior to autumn renovation, for general play only. Much like the ones on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, but with holes for tee pegs. This will provide an improved main playing season teeing ground area especially on holes with smaller teeing areas

Following the 2018 extreme summer, fairways 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 16, 17 (which are our weakest) require resources to improve playability for this coming summer and onwards. Over-seeding work is targeted for March following aeration (verti-draining), which will fracture and improve soil structure. This will help new seed to root strongly and thus establishment will be increased. Regular divoting is intended to be carried out with the help of volunteers using a golf buggy carry/all. This will have an immediate but, more importantly, long-term effect on fairway quality. Please keep an eye out for a request for volunteers when the conditions are suitable.

Bunkers are, in the main, fairly well sanded. However, there are a number that will receive some extra sand. Please bear this in mind if, when entering a bunker, the sand feels soft, as it will settle in time with weather conditions and play. All bunkers are under observation with improvement necessary for some.

Marker posts for water hazards are now all marked as lateral water hazards. Please read the latest Rules of Golf to understand their interpretation. Out-of-bounds white

marker posts are in the process of renewal and hammered into a depth that cannot be easily removed without force. These posts are a permanent fixture and must not be removed by players (apart from when playing the 6<sup>th</sup> hole).

The Greens Committee recommendation for bridges on 4, 5, 9, 11 is to seek professional advice to ensure that renewal or replacement work is carried out to the necessary safety standards.

Enjoy your golf, the continued winter work and infrastructure programme may interrupt members' and visitors' enjoyment; it is regrettable but necessary and if it does we apologise in advance.



### **Dorrien Bickerstaff Bar & Catering**

Many thanks for all the support given to me personally by members, resulting in a positive buzz around the clubhouse this month. Yes, it hasn't been plain sailing, but we now have Paul Jones (replacing Gary Archer), starting as interim bar manager giving the Committee breathing space to make further decisions. All our staff are willing and eager to make your visit to your clubhouse a pleasurable time and my thanks must go this month to Emma and Ashley and all those members who helped keep the clubhouse open and on track during my January golf tour - the Steak Night and Quiz night was a fantastic evening, well supported with tremendous feedback, well done .

January Sunday lunches have been very successful resulting in good bar takings. There is a cap now of 30 per sitting giving us plenty of bar space for players to come in pre-match and post-match. Breakfasts on Sundays are 8.30 - 11.00.

Everyone will have seen the big telly in the bar area (how can you miss it!) - this will be tuned into the 6 Nations live games, starting this Saturday (2nd) with Scotland v Italy kick off 2:15 followed by Ireland v England 4.45. Discounted beers, lagers and ciders at 20% off , Guinness 25% off during these matches. Keep an eye on the food-boards for 6 Nations specials and spot prizes on the day. Why not come down your club have a round of golf and enjoy the matches with your friends!

The Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 2nd March. This is one of the big highlights of a golf club's year, so please get together a table with your friends. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible supporting the club by attending. Menus and prices will be following shortly with booking instructions.

If you have any concerns there are 6 days when you can contact me (07971044871 /



[dbinbossington@gmail.com](mailto:dbinbossington@gmail.com)) or catch me in the club house; however I will be resting on the 7th (a Thursday) and enjoying my golf uninterrupted.  
Cheers and positive times ahead



**Ian Gover**  
**Handicap & Competitions**

### **New rules: Local Rules**

Having played the new rules a few times the world does not seem to have collapsed. Leaving the flag in causes its own discussions and people are learning to find out where their knees are – the contortions that people complete are quite funny – the idea is knee height so bending at the waist and dropping in front of you will be okay when taking relief.

The area for taking relief also is slightly different and has caused some questions. Mark a reference point at the nearest point of relief and then drop within a one club length semi-circle. The ball must stay in this semi-circle and cannot roll out of this area.

There is an issue with identifying a ball in the rough. Although now you do not have to have ask another player's permission the rules now state that you must mark the ball before you do this. Many people are not marking the spot first (Rule 7.3).

Last month's problem was when could you take relief closer to the hole and despite Dave Hawke's great efforts no-one gave me a complete answer. If on the putting green you knock the ball Out of Bounds or into a penalty area and if on the tee your ball ends up behind you mean that under penalty you can take the next shot closer to the hole. This month's puzzle is:

What are your options if your ball lands in a dog's paw print in a bunker?

Remember the rules can be found at <https://www.randa.org/en/rog/2019/pages/the-rules-of-golf> and keep on asking questions.