



Helsby Golf Club News

Issue no. 17

Spring 2017

Captain

As this is my first News Letter I would like to start by saying what a great honour it is to be the Captain of Helsby Golf Club and one that I am currently really enjoying.

We are now recovering from a really wet period when our course, together with most others in the area, suffered and even had to be closed for a short period of time. Hopefully the recent improvement in the weather will assist our Head Greenkeeper Danny Bennett and his team in producing a great golf course that we can all be proud of. A new apprentice Scott Mee has just joined Danny, Peter and the two Matts to complete our green staff.

We are now entering the summer playing season and I wish all members a wonderful and successful golfing year.

My Captain's year started with the traditional drive in for myself, the Lady Captain Gill Smith and the Junior Captain Imogen Lightfoot. We all hit reasonable drives on or just off the fairway. I have seen many Captains drive in over the years; some very well and others not quite so well. Until I was actually in the position of doing it myself I did not realise what a nerve racking experience it is. The relief on seeing the ball airborne and going forward towards the green is beyond belief. The competition was followed

with a Prize Presentation, when the Captain and the Immediate Past Captain Steve Cunniffe took the honours in the men's competition. A Social event was held in the evening which everyone seemed to enjoy despite having to listen to my third speech of the day, Thank you to everyone who gave me their good wishes and I was amazed at the number of cards I received. I also wish the Lady Captain and the Junior Captain the very best for the year.

This year sees the introduction of a Course Support Group on a 12 month trial basis where some members will assist the Green Staff in the presentation of the course. I am sure this will make a considerable difference as they will be able to concentrate on areas that the green staff do not have time to deal with.

I had the pleasure of representing the golf club at the Annual Ball held by Runcorn and Widnes Golf Clubs where my wife Anne and I had very enjoyable evenings and the hospitality extended to us was superb.

We were able to reciprocate at Helsby Golf Club's Annual Ball, which was held at the Forest Hills Hotel in Frodsham during March. Which was attended by 100 or so members and guests. We thoroughly enjoyed the evening as did our guests and everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion.

As I sit doing this news letter I can reflect on last



weekend when one of our low handicap golfers Paul Saxon won the men's first major of the year the Partridge Cup. I then played in the Spring Meeting enjoying the company of the ladies on a lovely spring day. The day was hosted by the Ladies and we played a friendly Texas Scramble. The winners were Jarmila Lee, Kathleen Wilkinson, Mike Branigan and Tommy Briscoe. It was nice to see the club house full afterwards for the meal and presentation and I think everyone enjoyed the day.

This year as my failing body is unable to replicate the amount of golf that the normal Captain's Challenge requires I have decided to try and raise some funds for an exceptionally worthwhile charity, Claire

House Children's Hospice. The cost of running this hospice, which covers our area, is £6,500 a day and it relies primarily on fund raising and charitable donations from supporters. I have recently visited the hospice and seen at first hand the tremendous work that they do to create memorable experiences for the children and lasting memories for their families. To achieve this I am holding a Captain's Charity Day on the 8th September this year. I hope that 25 teams will take part in a team event that will have a shot gun start followed by a meal, entertainment and an auction. By the time this newsletter is published all members will have been notified of the details of the event. I hope as many members as possible will

Continued over..



be able to support this worthwhile cause.

The Management Team have now settled in to their roles. They are working hard and giving up their free time to manage the club for the benefit of all members. It is always good to receive feedback on projects and the general running of the club, particularly positive ones! They should be addressed to the Secretary who will then ensure that they are dealt with by the appropriate parties.

We are fortunate to have two superb PGA professionals at our club lead by Chris Cousins who is ably supported by Anthony Dempsey. They are always prepared to go the extra mile and ensure that all the members are dealt with in a friendly and positive way. I am looking forward to playing in the Captain Pro matches throughout the summer.

In conclusion enjoy your year ladies and gentlemen and please try and treat others as you would expect them to treat you and we should all have a fun time.

Neil Johnson
Captain

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?



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Lady Captain

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter - my first as Lady Captain. I am very proud to have been elected this year with Neil Johnson as Captain, Jim Potter as President and Imogen Lightfoot as Junior Captain.

I came across the following quote from Bobby Jones which sums up golf for me: 'No one will ever have golf under his thumb, No one will ever be so good it could not have been better, perhaps this is why golf is the greatest of games'

I was very fortunate to start playing golf when I was 15 and I soon became hooked. I returned to the game when my children were young by joining Pryors Heyes and in 2000, I became a member at Helsby and have never looked back. Although my husband Andrew claims that he is the only one of us to play an 'active sport', I totally disagree. I find golf keeps my mind and body active. As I'm now retired, it's wonderful as I can play as much as I want!

My year began at the Captains' Drive In competition which was very cold but extremely good fun. Thank you to everyone who came to support this event. Although my tee shot wasn't my best, it went straight down the middle



of the fairway and it raised some money for charity. Congratulations to Howard Jones for correctly guessing the length of my drive.

Thanks to all the ladies who have agreed to join the Ladies Sub- Committee and those who are happy to run the Shield teams and the Friendly and Open competitions. I am very grateful to all of them for their help and support.

My chosen charity is "Dogs For Good" which supports people of all ages who are either disabled, autistic or who have dementia, by providing Assistance Dogs whose input is truly transformational. The Captain and I have agreed that we will split the

proceeds from our charity bunkers between our chosen charities. Please put your contributions either into the bottle on the bar or into the pink pig in the Ladies Office. There will be a mixed Open on the first Bank Holiday in May in aid of my charity so I hope you will play in this competition and support a good cause.

Spring is definitely on its way and the new golfing season is upon us. I would like to wish you all a happy and successful season with plenty of fun. Enjoy your golf on our lovely course as well as the hospitality in the clubhouse afterwards.

Gill Smith
Lady Captain

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Captain
Neil Johnson



Lady Captain
Gill Smith



Jim Potter
President



Junior Captain
Imogen Lightfoot

Photos by Phil Barker ARPS. CPAGB

Helsby Golf Club Captains Drive into office!

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

Captain Neil Johnson from Frodsham, Lady Captain

Gill Smith from Delamere, President Jim Potter from Helsby and Junior Captain Imogen Lightfoot from Kingsley were delighted to hit drives 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 - Claire House Hospice, for the Lady Captain - Dogs for Good who provide assistance

dogs for those with disabilities and children with autism. Both Neil and Gill will be raising money for these very worthwhile charities with a variety of events throughout the year and welcome your support.

Membership & Marketing

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 of the main items:

- To date we have had approximately 86 new members and many of those have joined from local clubs and were attracted by the dropping of the joining fee. There were 24 that didn't renew last April. It was agreed at the club AGM to continue with no joining fee for a further period
- Reciprocal arrangements with Woolton GC and Chester GC are nearing completion - it will be similar to those already in place with Brookfield and Sale Golf Clubs
- A course flyover has been done (at

no cost) and the video will shortly be uploaded to the club website and used as marketing material

- Options explored for new course signage including sponsors
- Course scorecards reprint ordered - cost covered by advertising
- Pro liaison with North West Golf Foundation and local schools re activity to encourage youngsters to take up golf
- Local advertising campaign to target new members
- Regular press coverage in Golfers Local, Helsby to Hand, Helsby News, Frodsham Life, Chronicle
- 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



Spring clean for Helsby trophies!

Now is the traditional time for a spring clean and here at the golf club, that is no different!

Led by Lady Captain, she and her committee members gave up some time one Sunday recently to clean all the silver and glassware in the trophy cabinet in the lounge.

All the trophies are now sparkling and will no

doubt be admired by our members and visitors this season so thanks very much ladies!

Photo above of the cleaners - from left to right - Liz Fudge, Lady Vice Captain Penny Ainsworth, Rachel Steven, Debbie Briscoe, Lady Captain Gill Smith, Lady Captain Elect Barbara Prince and Gill Pay.



News from the Seniors

As the Spring equinox passes and the daffodils come into bloom, the Senior members of Helsby are reminded that there are actually two 8 o'clocks in the same day. It is now time to regret not practising or having lessons over the winter in readiness for the new season?! Inevitably, the perennial anticipation of playing the 'best golf ever' will, once again, be frustrated and shortly to disappear with divots, hazards or just into the ether.

We welcome the new Captain, who this year is properly qualified to play in the Seniors matches. Last year there was a sense of guilt and a little apprehension that Captain Steve had not quite reached the qualifying age. No matter. As the issue was not raised or queried by any of our opponents, the assumption had to be made that he must have looked at least 55 (if not more).

This year, the Captain has no worries on that front. He is well qualified and indeed is getting ever

closer to his own 'pie-party' having played for 'The Young Old Farts' for a number of years. Welcome to retirement, Captain, and have a good year.

The fixture list for the inter-club matches is similar to last year and the price is the same. However, the subtle changes are that 2's will be rewarded and that after the meal there will be a basket for staff gratuities - so remember to bring some loose change and not too small. To move with the times, new pound coins will be accepted.

The not so subtle change for this year is the introduction of a Seniors Exchange Day with Sale Golf Club in October. Full details will be posted later but in the meantime, do make a note of Tuesday 10 October in your diary.

One other change. Tony Insley has decided to stand down as Matchday Organiser for the Lymm matches and we thank him for his efforts over past seasons. Brian Prince has offered to take on the duties and we are sure that he will enjoy the events.

Helsby used to be well



renowned for its Roll-ups, particularly on Tuesday & Thursdays. The earlier T&T groups have seen numbers decline recently and the newer members would be made welcome, so check with Chris/Ant for starting times etc.

Finally, we have a slightly later start to our programme this year with the opener of the campaign being at Bromborough. As is usual, the notice for availability for both the home and away matches should be posted about 4 weeks before the first event, although, by the time this Newsletter goes to print that date will surely have passed. So all you over 55's, get your reading glasses out for the Seniors Notice Board.



Roundabout on the 1st tee

Over the last couple of years, led by Hugo and Rachel Steven, a group of volunteers replanted the roundabout on the first tee. It is looking established now and it is great to see it blossom in the various seasons of the year.

The photo above was taken in early April and the roundabout provides much needed spring colour after the winter!

Many thanks once again to all involved!

Helsby as a Function Venue

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 a couple of 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 below. 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.



From the Secretary's Office

Spring is in the air and a new season is about to begin. It's at this time of year when we welcome new members to the Club. There have been 12 since 1st March and we hope they will enjoy their experience at Helsby as much as we all do.

Also joining the Club in April is our new apprentice green keeper, Scott Mee. We wish Scott all the very best, please take time to stop and say hello when you see him on the course.

Sadly, Laura Hunt left the Club at the end of March. It's hard to believe that Laura was at the Club for eight years, working in the kitchen, the bar and then the office. Viv, Karen and I will miss her involvement in the office and wish her all the very best for the future and know she'll be successful in whatever career she chooses.

The Cheshire Union of Golf Club cards will be available from the first week in April. Once again they are free of charge and give members a chance to play some wonderful courses for a discounted green fee.

Steve Collins
Honorary Secretary

Graham scores an ACE!!



Graham Cheesbrough produced a hole in one at the 160 yard Par three 8th leading to a double celebration as he and his son John went on to win the recent Winter Fourball Competition.

In a unique set of scores, out of 56 pairs playing, in second place were father and son Roger and Lee Horton. Father and son Graham and Mark Poland beat unrelated Billy and Phil Jones on count back to third place.

Match and Handicap

The Summer season is almost upon us and thoughts of warm sunny days, and plenty of daylight for evening golf. Hopefully a great year awaits us.

1. PACE OF PLAY
One recurring issue blighting our game is the pace of play. We can all play our part in addressing this problem using the theme adopted by UK Cycling and the concept of marginal gains. We are not talking walking quicker necessarily but just simple steps which added together over 18 holes can reduce the round by 18 plus minutes.

One example is the ready to play concept rather than players waiting to decide who plays - if you are ready to play, then play. You can waste seconds just deciding who goes even before any shot is hit! For more details see the Pace of Play document produced by England Golf copies in Clubhouse or on the EGU website.

2. GENTS PRIZE PRESENTATIONS
We are seeing an increasing number of members unable to attend to receive their prize at the

end of competitions. We are trying an idea to do a monthly presentation on medal comp day starting with the May Medal plus doing a two tee start. We will decide whether to continue with this idea after feedback.

3. MATCH AND HANDICAP BLOG

Just a reminder you can keep up to date with competition updates, results, and general articles by going to,

helsbymatchandhandicap.wordpress.com

It will allow you to register and get regular emails on posts plus access to archive articles.

4. UPDATED HOWDIDIDO
If you do not have already, get details from Pro Shop on registering to get onto HOWDIDIDO.

This is our link to provide you with all related to your handicap, your results and how you can book for competitions online.

Have a great golf year and remember do not be afraid to email or check through the Pro shop if you need any help on issues or queries.

Brian Stott
Chairman
Match and Handicap

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



Powered Wheelchair Appeal

The highlights of last year are shown in the recent Powered Wheelchair Appeal newsletter, published in March. Copies are available in the Clubhouse and on the website under Helsby Golf Club, PWA.

The 11th AGM of the PWA was held on Tuesday 7th March 2017 - notes below:

Chairman, Steve Cunniffe welcomed the Captain of Helsby Golf Club, Neil Johnson, his wife Anne and the supporters of the Appeal.

The minutes of the last

meeting were approved and signed. Steve then gave a presentation on the fundraising events that were held throughout 2016.

A grand total of £57,611 was raised, which made it the best ever year for fundraising for the Appeal. 13 powered wheelchairs were presented bringing the grand total to 354 over the last 33 years.

Steve thanked all the supporters for raising over £16,000 at the Classic and also all those who had raised funds for the Appeal in many different ways including Claudia Dickens and Keith O'Neil who organised a new event in our calendar the "Glitz and Glamour" ball which raised £7,066, Sue Kibberd who organised a fundraising

day at work raising £3,154 and Gavin Conery who raised sponsorship monies of £2,974 by doing the Great North Run. Steve was also thanked for his fantastic "Golf in 6 English Counties in One Day" Captain's Challenge which raised a massive £9,600.

The audited annual accounts for the period ended 31st January 2017 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
 Mr Steve Cunniffe - Chairman
 Mrs Barbara Prince - Treasurer
 Mr Bert Dyson MBE - Trustee



Mrs Sheila Fenwick - Trustee
 Mrs Viv Nagle - Trustee
 Mr Roddy Snedden - Trustee

The Captain kindly donated a 'Golfer' soft toy, made by a local lady which we raffled at the Spring Dance and guess who the winner was?? - CAPTAIN!!!

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 22nd April 2017 - Spring Dance Pete Lawson, vocalist and guitarist will be providing the entertainment with music to listen and dance to.

Thursday 8th June 2017 - 35th 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 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 2nd August 2017 - MEGA Day. This will be the 16th year that 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 9th September - Glitz and Glamour Autumn Ball. Following the success of last year's Ball in November, we have been asked by a number of supporters when we are holding the next one. Claudia Dickens (ably helped by Keith O'Neil) has again kindly offered to help us organise another event in the autumn at Chester Racecourse. Full details will be published later this month.



If you would like to reserve tickets, please contact a member of the committee.

Saturday 2nd December 2017 - Black & White Evening. Last year, the Ball replaced the Black & White Evening, which is usually held in December, as the dates would have been too close together. This year, we are holding our usual Black & White celebration at the Golf Club on 2nd December 2017. Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity which made 2016 such a fantastic year for the Appeal and we

look forward to another successful year in 2017. It is your support that helps us give so many children the independence that they deserve.

As Laura Hunt's mum said "My daughter is overwhelmed, you are such an amazing bunch that do so much fantastic things for disabled wheelchair users. YOU ARE AWESOME !"

Steve Cunniffe
 Chairman



Adult & Junior Competition - Tue 11th Apr

On Tuesday 11th April we held an adult/junior competition during the Easter school holidays, adult members were invited to bring along a junior golfer (member or non-member) to play in the competition. Teams were made up of 1 adult member and 1 junior, the format was Foursomes, played over 9 holes; results were:

- 1st - Chris Cousins & Harry Tilston
- 2nd - Angela Hearn & Liam Hearn
- 3rd - Brian West & Oliver Jones

For future competition adult/junior competitions, juniors don't have to be junior members and don't have to have a handicap or golf club (these can be arranged on the day - just let us know in advance), they will be run during the school holidays, details will be emailed out nearer the time.

Tri-golf Schools Competition

This year Helsby Golf Club will again be hosting the Tri-golf competition for the local primary schools on our practise ground on the following dates:

- Thu 22 Jun - 12:30 - 15:00
- Fri 23 Jun - 9:15 - 12:00

Any members who are able to help out in any way on the day are welcome to contact the Pro Shop.

Pro Shop News

Upcoming Open Competitions. The following Opens are coming up over the next few weeks, members and visitors can enter via the Pro Shop:

Easter Bank Holiday Open
Mon 17th Apr. Any combination of gents & ladies

Texas Scramble
10% combined allowance
4 drives each to count
£15.00 per player (visitors)
£5.00 per player (members)

4BBB Stableford Open
Mon 1st May. Any combination of gents & ladies

4BBB Stableford
90% combined allowance
£15.00 per player (visitors)
£5.00 per player (members)

SkyCaddie Trade-In Promotion

TRADE UP TO A BETTER GAME. UP TO **£80 OFF** WHEN YOU TRADE UP TO A SKYCADDIE LINX GT OR TOUCH!

Offer valid March 24, 2017 through June 30, 2017

Trade in your old rangefinder any brand, any condition.

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Come and see us in store to trade-in your old Rangefinder for a New SkyCaddie Linx Game Tracking watch or SkyCaddie Touch. Come and see us in store to trade-in ANY rangefinder, ANY model, ANY brand, DEAD or ALIVE. You receive £50 off any NEW SkyCaddie LINX GT and £80 off a NEW SkyCaddie TOUCH:

1. Hand your old Rangefinder into us and we give you a straight discount off your new SkyCaddie.
2. Your new SkyCaddie is pre-loaded and ready to play so you can go straight out and enjoy it.
3. If you have a SkyCaddie account already we will register your new SkyCaddie for you. We just need your account username/password.

Motocaddy Lithium Battery Trade-In Promotion

Foremost GOOD FOR GOLF

TRADE IN TRADE UP

Battery trade in **£25 off**
a new Lithium battery when you trade in your old electric trolley battery

MOTOCADDY LITHIUM

LITEPOWER Lithium

Between 31st March and 14th May we are offering a £25.00 trade-in for their old battery, irrespective of age or condition. The promotion is redeemable against any new LitePower or Motocaddy Lithium battery, but not against a new Motocaddy trolley with a Lithium battery. Please pop into the Pro Shop for more information.



House News

Happy New Golfing season! The new House committee wishes you all a successful and fun year, why not come and join us at some social functions to get the most out of your membership? The dates of the major functions are in the fixture list but there will be some additional functions and we'll post information about those in the clubhouse and by email. We'd love to know what sort of evenings you would like to attend and the sort of entertainment you would prefer so please let us know if you have any ideas. If you see any good entertainers outside of the club it would be great if you could get their details as we are always looking for recommendations for entertainment.

If you are new to the club and would like to attend any functions we'd love to see you. It's a great way to meet other members and to discover the social side of the Club. Paul Saxon's daughter Katy entertained us as Karen Carpenter last Autumn and then arranged for a tribute night with 'Elvis' providing great entertainment. Both evenings were well attended by members and visitors from outside the club. If you would like to arrange any evenings

please speak to one of the House Committee or to the Secretary.

Thanks to all who came to support our new Captains and President at the Drive in Dinner and the Ball. Thanks to Barbara Leigh for arranging the Ball. Barbara does this every year and it is always perfectly organised.

As you will be aware the proposal to refurbish the Lounge and Dining room was agreed by members at the AGM and plans for this work is progressing. As and when dates for the work are agreed with contractors we will give good notice to members about the schedule of work. We are continuing to look at the maintenance and development of the clubhouse and so if you have any suggestions or concerns please let us know. If you notice anything that needs to be reported to us you can put this in the maintenance book which is behind the bar.

The House Committee continues to organise the Fish and Chip games on Friday nights throughout the season. Marjorie Trow has kindly agreed to arrange these again this year; by the time you are reading this a couple will have taken place. Marjorie posts the start sheets in

the clubhouse a few weeks before each one. They are very popular evenings; please make sure that you put your choice of meal on the sheet when you sign up so that Kieran can plan accordingly.

We hope that you will want to join in with our social calendar again this year. Kieran needs to have your food choices at least 72 hours before each function so that he can order the food. If at that point you think you are not going to be able to attend please cross off the list or let Kieran or one of the House committee know. We understand that there is always an occasion when illness makes it impossible for someone to attend. However as the food is ordered a couple of days before an event if members are unable to attend it makes planning very difficult and wastes food and resources.

The club house is a great venue for private parties and meals. We have already agreed on a number of private parties for the coming year including a member's wedding and some birthday parties. If you or your friends are planning



"Elvis was in the House!"

something please consider the club as a venue. You can either speak to Natalie, Kieran or to the Secretary to enquire about available dates. There's a social diary in the office and so it's easy to check on when you might be able to have your party.

So once again we hope you have an enjoyable year. Thanks to Rob, Natalie and Kieran and all the staff for looking after us so well in the clubhouse, they work hard and do a great job and we look forward to supporting them again this year. Please give us your feedback about functions and facilities so that we can continue to make improvements through the year.

News from the kitchen

Spring has finally arrived and hopefully we will get a lovely summer. I will be putting the 'Specials Board on the bar, hopefully encouraging members and visitors to try some of our tempting salads, home made cakes and biscuits. Please let us know what you think!

Don't forget also that you can phone and order any of the following on the 9th tee and

we will have it ready for you at the halfway house!

Sausage toasties or Bacon toasties at £3.50

Tea, coffee and Bovril at £1.00

Thank you for your support and enjoy your summer season of golf.

Many thanks

Kieren, Natalie and the team





Greens

The weather in late March/early April helped the course recover and work is now very much focused on “summer orientated” activities. Just reflecting on the last few months; the bulk of the work on the winter programme activities is now complete. Some finishing off is required e.g. seeding around edges of re-laid turf. The newly re-laid tees on the 6th & 18th rooted well and needed a little extra time to ‘firm-up’, but hopefully you’ll agree that they are an improvement. The re-laid turf on the 2nd green settled well & is already quite firm – aided by its ironing. The disease spots have been treated and further improvement will be effected following top dressing and ironing.

Impact on the course from Storm Doris was quite significant and long lasting. Many trees were damaged, they have been made safe - but due to the ground conditions affecting use of machinery, clearing the resultant debris took some time.

Some planned work was not carried out during the winter, primarily due to the time required for the unforeseen additional drainage that needed to be carried out around the 2nd green. These and other observations from the wet weather in March, have contributed to a list of tasks being drafted for consideration during Winter 2017/18.

By the time that you read this, we will be in possession of (and using) the new machinery approved by the members at the AGM – with the aim of providing improved putting surfaces over the summer playing period.

We realise that closure of the course is a sensitive issue and any decision to do so, is not taken lightly. The mechanism to close the course is within the Greens Policy; it is considered that the current approach is fit for purpose, however it is our intention to review the whole document over the forthcoming year.

Also, thanks to those who supported the use of winter/hedgehog wheels on their trolleys during the winter period.

Scott Mee joined the Green Keeping team on 3rd April. As you come across Scott on/around the course over the next few months, please welcome him to the golf club. Scott will commence his formal green keeping qualifications later this year.

The February ‘Members Update’ made reference to the impact that worm casts have on golf courses. The following is an extract from an article from an informed source.

Worm casts make playing ball sports a lottery and take the skill element out of a game. If you’ve ever tried putting a golf ball across fine turf where



Scott Mee joined the Green Team on 3rd April

worm casts are present you’ll know exactly what I mean. There’s also the potential to damage mowing equipment. Most professional users and domestic lawn enthusiasts will almost certainly use mowing equipment, which is fitted with a roller. A roller on a mower achieves two things. First it lightly rolls the surface of the turf ensuring any small bumps loose soil and grass is honed down and keeps the surface true so that balls roll properly and without deviation. A roller also creates stripes. This is generally an aesthetic process. The light and dark stripes are created when a roller passes over the surface causing the grass leaf blades to lean in the direction that the roller is moving. When an operator returns on an adjacent strip the grass is forced to lean in the other direction.

An appearance of light stripe will always be when the grass leans away from you, the dark strip leans toward you. Basically the light and dark stripes are created when the grass reflects or captures light.

Worm casts stick to moving parts of grass machinery causing wear which quickly leads to grass cylinders, rotary and bottom blades to become dull. This in turn leads to bruising of the grass leaf blade rather than a clean cut.

Carbendazim is typically used to control worm casts, it will cease to be available this year – alternatives are being sought.

Best wishes for an enjoyable golfing season.



Annual Ball

The Helsby Golf club annual ball was held in March at the Forest Hills Hotel in Frodsham. A great night was had by all and on arrival, guests were welcomed by the Captain Neil Johnson and wife Anne, Lady Captain Gill Smith and husband Andrew and President Jim Potter and wife Gloria.

On the top table the guests included; the Captain of Runcorn Golf Club - Richard Hayter and his wife Barbara, the Captain of Widnes Golf Club - Brad Bradshaw and his wife Val, the President of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs - Sean Ritchie and his wife Wanda, and Immediate Past Captain Steve Cunniffe and his wife Hazel.

The meal was followed by live music and dancing and thanks go to everyone who attended and supported Captain and Lady Captain in their year of office and also the team at Forest Hills. A big thank you especially to Barbara Leigh for once again organizing the evening.



Captain Neil Johnson, his wife Anne and Past Captain Martin Mann



Captain Neil Johnson, Lady Captain Gill Smith and President Jim Potter welcome guests



Lady Captain Elect Barbara Prince, Past Lady Captain Viv Nagle, Immediate Past Captain Steve Cunniffe



2016 Captain and Lady Captain fundraising presentations

During their year of office, each Captain and Lady Captain at Helsby nominates a charity and they fundraise during the year for their chosen charity. Last year's Captain Steve Cunniffe and Lady Captain Penny Ainsworth recently had the pleasure of presenting their donations and their details are below.

Captain 2016 - Charity presentation to the Stroke Association

In addition to the 6 counties challenge which raised almost £10,000 for the Powered Wheelchair Appeal, I also completed a number of other challenges during the year as well as splitting the captains charity bunker fund with Lady Captain Penny. This meant that I raised £1,000 for the stroke association and I presented a cheque to Rebecca Owen at the club in January.

I would like to thank all of the members and visitors who contributed to my fundraising in my year of office.

Many thanks

Steve Cunniffe
Immediate Past Captain

Lady Captain 2016 - Charity presentation to Childhood Eye Cancer Trust

I would like to thank you all for your support of my charity during my year as Lady Captain. Between us, we raised £2,050 for the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT).

CHECT is a small UK wide charity which provides support to children and their families affected by retinoblastoma, a rare form of eye cancer in babies and young children. They also raise money to fund clinical and scientific research projects specifically related to retinoblastoma.

In March, I visited the offices of CHECT in London with my niece Helen, who was diagnosed with retinoblastoma at birth, to present your cheque to some members of the small team led by CEO, Patrick Tonks. Eve Holdsworth, Fundraising Manager said "Your support will help us save the sight - and the lives - of poorly children. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks."

Penny Ainsworth
Lady Vice Captain



presenting a cheque to Rebecca Owen at the club in January



Presenting your cheque to some members of the small team led by CEO, Patrick Tonks

Helsby Golf Club Website

Are you using the 'Members area' of the club website? To do so, you just need to log in with your Username (membership number) and personal Password.

If you have recently joined the club, these details should

have been given to you by the Secretary's Office.

If anyone is having any difficulty logging in, email Phil Davies - at PJDsolutions@aol.com - and he will sort it out for you.

You can also email Phil with any suggestions as to what else you would like to see included on the website. A copy of the members news page from the website is shown opposite.



Annual Awards Evening

At the end of the 2016 season, the annual Awards evening was held in the clubhouse to recognize the major golfing achievements at the club during the year.

Thanks go to the organisers of this popular evening - Tom Briscoe, our pro Chris Cousins, Jamie Hodgkinson and Brian Stott. Once again everyone enjoyed a super meal provided by Kieren's team in the kitchen and we were well looked after by Rob and the bar team.

Unfortunately not all the winners were able to attend but below are some photos of those who were there on the night and the prizes were presented by Captain Steve Cunniffe and Past Lady Captain Janet Richards.

Congratulations to everyone who enjoyed success last year and good luck for this season!



Challenge Cup winner - Charlie Fletcher

Challenge Cup runner up - John Cheesbrough

Challenge Plate winners - Dean Letford and Nathan Kennedy

Challenge plate 2nd - Brian McNamara



Ladies Challenge winner - Pauline Branigan

Isobel Shaw Cup - Gill Smith



Order of Merit - Simon Pay

EJ Harding - Andrew Matu

EJ Harding 3rd - Charlie Fletcher



Reg Bell winners - Kathryn Hoather and Peter Jackson

Reg Bell runners up - Janet Richards and Neil Johnson

Reg Bell Semi finalists - Colin and Pauline Ford and Jon Sharpe

