



## Minehead and West Somerset Newsletter No 5 Nov 2014.

### Club news & forthcoming events.

#### Phil Arbourne Club Captain.

The month of November saw my last Club match for 2014 against the Ladies on the 15th. In very good playing conditions the ladies were kind enough to allow the gentlemen to come away with a win 5½-½. I suspect that next year the competition rules may be slightly different!! There was no dining duty or car park duty this month so my only other obligation was the presentation evening on the 22nd. My thanks go to Dorrien Bickerstaff, Caroline Ellis and Tony Bowden for organising the evening, and making sure that all the cups and trophies were duly engraved. My congratulations go to all the winners of the various competitions and I hope that members will be equally enthusiastic to enter those of 2015.



The first Swindle of November was a 4-ball bowmaker and was won by Mike Smith, Dan Day, Mike Bowater and Nigel Humphries with a score of 104 (par was 108).

Plonkers were Pete Scott, Harry Higlett, Dave Kedge and Gerry Mason with 90. On the following Tuesday the weather was dreadful so no competition took place, although 4 brave souls did go out. The next Tuesday was a normal 3-ball bowmaker with a format of 2-2-3 (par 84). The winners were Tony Bowden, Nick Bangs and Dave Shambrook with 87, whilst the plonkers, with 62, were Dennis Whitham, John McGuire and Bob Fossey. Then the last competition for November was again played in poor conditions, but 28 members decided to brave the conditions. This time the format was a 4-ball better ball competition, which was won by Gary Green and Brian McCaffrey with 43 points. The plonkers on this occasion were Bill Oldfield and Colin Corlett with 32 points.

#### Graham Wells, Course Manager

Activities on the course in December.

Apart from the ongoing priorities of routinely maintaining greens, fairways bunkers and rough and maintaining and repairing equipment a number of other items will be attended to this month.

- 1) A pipe is being laid in the ditch at the far end of the 9th fairway enabling the laying of a 2 metre wide path over it for members ride-on buggies and 2 seater buggies.
- 2) The new sponsored tee signs will be erected on or near to all tees having sought members advice as to their best positioning (often a compromise!).
- 3) As landfill arrives we will continue with landscaping for the new target practice green at the end of the bank surrounding the greenkeepers compound.
- 4) We will be seeking grant funding from the Sports Council and the Local Council for the new practice bay being built some 20 yards behind the existing practice tee. The grants must be applied for before starting work on the bay so don't be alarmed if you don't see work starting immediately. It will continue apace in due course!
- 5) Notices allocating individual holes for special care to all members individually by initial letter of surname have been placed on notice boards in the clubhouse. Please refer to them for a full explanation – we need your help!

- 6) 2 large clumps of brambles on the wall between the 5th and 6th fairways (near the 5th green) will be removed to improve line of sight (and hence safety) for teeing off the 6th.
- 7) Members will be asked to give opinion on the proposed removal of the partially cut down clump of trees on the corner of the course immediately in front of the men's 8th tee. The trees are infected with honey fungus and interfere with line of sight along the left side of the 8th fairway and towards players on the 12th standing near the depression between the 12th and 8th fairways.
- 8) We've asked for help with raking of the bank surrounding the greenkeepers' compound and several members have volunteered. We now await a dry period and the availability of Lynch's digger for this work to be activated whereupon the helpers will be summoned!
- 9) The demise of the Taunton Vale club has enabled us to acquire a much needed second hand mower at a very favourable price.
- 10) Dead trees and scrub are being cleared to the right of the 10th tee. Some trimming of existing trees is also taking place there to tidy up the area and improve sight lines.



#### Dave Williams, Seniors Captain.

November has been quite a busy time for the Seniors Section, Monday the 3rd was our Interclub Challenge where we had 11 visiting teams of 8 plus our own making a total of 96 players on a day of wonderful weather.

The teams came from as far away as the Midlands and South Wales, the winners being Drayton Park from Staffordshire. The competition was followed by dinner and a very good speech by John Bickerton, a very successful day all round.



The Winning Team from Drayton Park Staffordshire.

The following day a few of us played a Bowmaker with the Drayton Park members who had stayed overnight. Friday the 21st saw us at Enmore for the first round of our winter match unfortunately only 9 holes were played because on the weather, we lost 6.5 – 1.5 not a fair reflection as we may well have done better on the back 9 had it been played. In addition to this we had our usual monthly medal and stableford off the white tees.

## Survey Report

Last month it was promised that a report would be included with the results of the recent survey. There was a very good response from the members with over 100 replies received. Thanks go to Neil Bowyer for his diligence and hard work completing this task.

Detailed results are available to those requesting them but some items are worthy of comment:

82% of respondents are full members

95% play at least at least once per week

About 70% of respondents believe that visitor green fees are about right

As can be seen in the analysis the condition of the course received mixed opinions but most thought the greens were good or excellent.

Nearly 80% of the men said the changing rooms were poor or fair while 92% of ladies said their changing rooms were good or excellent

The pro shop generally received good or excellent ratings.

General comments and suggestions

The largest numbers of general comments were about the clubhouse - how it needed redecorating or refurbishing with new tables and chairs purchased.

The next largest number of general comments were about the quality of course maintenance which some believed was getting worse. In particular the tees and bunkers received criticism, the fairways were considered fair and there was a feeling that the greens, while good, were not as good as in previous years. These comments are somewhat at variance with the statistical results as, with the exception of the bunkers, the course was marked as mostly fair to good with the green being mostly good to excellent.

The men's changing rooms were heavily criticised by a large number of the members, stating that they were in urgent need of refurbishment. Running out of hot water was a particular issue as was the constant unpleasant smell and general untidiness. Many members wanted "a proper driving range" and better practice facilities.

Other noted comments were:

Lower visitor fees and/or more green fee deals especially in slack times

Lower fees for new members in their first year

A more flexible membership scheme to encourage new members.

Provision of an air hose for shoe and trolley cleaning

The poor state of the trolley shed

Opinions were divided on whether there should be more or less competitions and what type of competitions should be provided and on what days of the week.

Opinions also differed on the dress code with some saying it should be relaxed a little, some saying it is OK and some saying it should be tightened up further and enforced. However in general the consensus was to maintain a level of smart casual in the clubhouse.

Many comments were given regarding entertainment events, club nights, discos, etc. There was a difference of views on what has been good and what less good and what should be done in the future.

Much more detail has been recorded, the above is included as a 'snap shot' of the results. The winner of the prize draw has been notified and will receive £100 off next year's fees.

## The Ladies Section.

The Ladies Section of the club held their annual Dinner on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

The Ladies 2014 Trophy winners



## Warrener's Newsletter. Graham Wright

During October the Warreners completed their fixtures for the season by playing a four ball better ball with Minehead Ladies enjoyed by all who played. A match against Enmore resulted in cancellation due to a whole day of persistent and continuous rain.

On 29th October the Warreners played a Greensome competition with a twist. Each pair playing two shots before taking alternate shots after choosing which ball to play and requiring each player to have their tee and second shots used at least six times.

The Greensome was followed by the Warreners annual AGM which was well attended and Officers for the year were elected. Two Warreners have been lost due to moving out of the area but two new players may be joining.

During the winter months the Warreners will be playing on Wednesday as usual and dining twice a month after their round.

## The Club Website.

The club's website has been completely redesigned with new graphics descriptions and photos. You will find pictures of the recent presentation



night within the members section, also pictures of the Seniors Interclub Challenge and the Seniors Ladies Night amongst others. We hope you like the new look and that you will use the website facility.

No newsletter will be produced for December as traditionally it is a quieter month for golf and competitions (and anyway I need a rest too). I am sure all the members wish everyone a great Christmas and a very happy golfing new year.

