



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

Newsletter No 17 Feb 2016.

Club News

Members may have noticed some new faces in the kitchen recently. We have 2 new chefs, Ashley Jackson and Susan Sly. Ashley will be taking charge of the golfing side of catering and Susan will be dealing with the events. Susan worked with us last year when she covered James' holiday and more recently when she has cooked for functions.

Their immediate goals are to improve the quality of the food and service, where possible replacing bought in items with house made versions. The aim is that all items that leave the kitchen are of a consistently high quality. They will be working very hard towards the club regaining our 5 star hygiene status. The MC asks all members to use and support the clubs catering. The team will welcome member feedback, either directly to the kitchen or through Steve Archer, who will be working hard to promote Functions and Sunday Lunch at The Club



Ashley Jackson

Ashley is from the Minehead area, where he has lived, trained and worked all his life. He has lots of links with M&WSGC as he is the person behind the turntable when we have a disco. Most recently he held his wedding reception at the club, with Susan doing the catering. He has numerous qualifications in cookery, hygiene and hospitality, in fact he has so many that he says he would like a Michelin Star to make the collection complete! Before coming to us he was working at the Hairy Dog, and before that Millers in Porlock.

Susan Sly

Susan comes from San Francisco and did her training in restaurants there, including Fandango (French), Raffaello (Italian) and Postrio. Since moving to England in 2004 she has worked with award winning chefs - Dean Heselden (Rendezvous Casino - Brighton) and Justin Reeves (Reeves of Dunster) as well as 3 years of Relief



Chef Work in and around Brighton in the role of Chef, Chef de Partie and Head Chef. In 2012 began working locally as a private chef.



Phil Bowden, Club Captain

I hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and a very happy new year, and are now looking forward to some drier weather to get on the course and use some of your Christmas goodies.

The first Tuesday Swindle of December saw 48 members playing, and with a score of 106 points, which was 7 points better than any other team, the winning quartet were Geoff Fewings, Dougie Hayhoe, Robin Miles and Jamie Anderson. Lowest score of the day came from Kevin Agnew, Alan Bissell, Nigel Humphries and Gary Green with 80 points. The swindle played on the 8th December with a format of 2 to count and 3 on the last (par 74) was won with a score of 77 points by Phil Arbourne, Mark Johnson and Colin Mower. The plonkers of the day with a score of 46 points (28 over) were,

Frank Phillipson, Jack McClay and Paul Handisyde.

For the 3rd swindle of December only 18 members played in very wet and blustery conditions. Best score of the day with 73 points were John Griffin, Dorrien Bickerstaff and Mark Johnson who beat Jamie Anderson, Dave Singleton and Malcolm McNeill over the back 9. Lowest score of the day came from Ray Milton, Terry Daley and Dave Hawkes with 64 points.

Once again the conditions were not favourable but 20 hardy souls went out and the team with the best score of the day with 91 points were, Brian Levey, Dave Singleton, Dave Eborall and Malcolm McNeill. Just reward for Dave S and Malcolm who lost out on countback the previous week. Lowest score of the day of 78 points were the team of Dan Day, Paul Beck, Maurice Holding and Gary Green.

With Christmas over and the elements a little kinder 44 members turned up for the last swindle of 2015. With a format of 3 to count all the way (par score 108) the best score came in from the final group who ended up playing the last hole in fading light. Winning team were Chris



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Kirkbride, Mike Bowater, Paul Rees and Barry Chaffey who came in with a score of 107 points. Highlight of this round was a hole in one on the 10th by Chris Kirkbride. Plonkers of the day with a score of 84 points were the second team out which consisted of Nigel Humphries, Chris Peters, Peter Bowden and Paul Beck. Finally I would like to wish all the members and their families a very happy new year.

Jenny Holland, Lady Captain.

In December we played our turkey trots, prizes presented at the Xmas lunch. Silver division 14 hole Stableford, 1st Corinne Rees 25pts, 2nd Kay Lockett 24pts, 3rd Anne Oglesby 23pts. Bronze division. 1st Sue Prentice 20pts. 2nd Jenny Holland 19pts. 3rd Tina Beaver 18pts. Team Turkey Trot Bowmaker. 1st Sue Prentice, Tina Beaver, Liz Walsh. 2nd Jayne Webber, Corinne Rees, Julia Holroyd 3rd Gill Hurley, Maggie Floyd, Jill Daniels. We had a great Christmas Lunch, very well organised, thank you Kay. We had music playing as we came in and throughout our lunch, many thanks to Dave McQuater it was excellent. In January we had our newly arranged

A.G.M from October, to be able come in line with the Club next year in March 2017. I took over from Kay Lockett on the 7th January, many thanks go to Kay for all her hard work over the last 15 Months, she was a great Captain.

We now have a new committee in place which consist of :-

Kay Lockett Past Captain & senior delegate, Ros Chidgey comps/handicaps & County delegate, Ginnette Bowyer, treasurer, Sandra Atkins Secretary & Assistant Comps, Jane Fulwell League Captain, Anne Oglesby and Mary Beakes.



Stephen Kaye, Seniors Captain.

The Seniors played a number of games to conclude our year including the fun Seniors Turkey Trot. All had a great time and good wishes were exchanged for Christmas and the New Year. During the winter The Seniors play a number of winter matches bringing in activity and revenue to the club. We have played two matches so far this year at home. We were very

fortunate with the weather and the course, despite inclement conditions, was excellent, giving a very good impression to our guests and allowing us an opportunity to promote winter golf at our club.

The first match was with Enmore which resulted in a win for The Seniors. Winning their matches were Les Hayes, Dave Chidgey, Malcolm Bruce, Tim Evans, Graham Stone, Sandy Lyons, Mark Ruttley and Nigel Moore. All teams winning apart from yours truly who did what any Captain should do, falling on his sword for the team (only Joking)!

The Second match was with Taunton and Pickeridge. This was a closer game with T&P fielding a low handicap team with 4 single figure players. Again The Seniors came through winning 4 games and losing only 2.

Winners were, Sandy Lyons, Mark Ruttley, Graham Walsh and Neville Parsons. This time I managed a win for the team with my partner Neil Powles.

So, this has been a great start to the year for The Seniors and we hope that our good form continues.

Graham Wright – The Warreners

The Warreners Firstly a belated Happy New Year to all newsletter readers.



December for the Warreners consists mostly of internal competitions but on December the 16th the Warreners Christmas Invitation was held. Every Warreners invites a guest to play in a four ball better ball off the Yellow tees. Players play off their full handicap except for John Bickerton who had won the previous two years with John A'Court. John Bickerton was asked to play off plus four and still managed to finish well up the order. As usual it was a Wednesday and unusually we had a fine dry day so breathed a sigh of relief being December. There was a field of fifty which meant two players had to play on their own on trust who were first to partake of the Port provided on the tenth tee. John Bickerton, (playing off plus four remember), carded a gross two, net three on the first hole that became a great talking point in the club house.



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The competition was followed by a tradition Christmas, three course meal in the evening with everyone receiving a prize. The winners of the competition were Mike Lee and his guest Mark Vickers.

In the evening we were honored to have several Honorary Warreners present who play little or no golf these days but have been stalwarts of the Warreners and Minehead Golf Club in the past. It is great to see them and to have their company, especially at this traditional seasonal event.

The Warreners always enjoy the Xmas invitation and we would like to thank our guests for playing and for the company at the festivities afterwards.

January is a quiet month for the Warreners with no matches or competitions until our first match on February 24th which will be a fourteen a side match against Enmore.

Finally the Warreners along with all members hope for some better weather soon. It seems like we have been battling wind and rain constantly.

I would like to thank fellow Warrener Steve Archer for his assistance during 2015 and to Ian, John and Jordan in the Pro shop. Their help is much appreciated.

Wishing all members a great golfing 2016.



The Course, Graham J Wells

Adopting the policy that we will attempt to keep the whole course open during the recent wet weather Rob Barrett and his greenkeepers have done a magnificent job throughout the last two months. The temporary tees aren't ideal but have helped players avoid the worst of the boggy areas. To help further I would ask you all to keep any wheeled vehicle as far away from the greens as possible even if it involves some temporary inconveniences! In particular don't venture between greens and the bunkers around them. Additionally avoid the fringes of greens such as to the right of the seventh green and take wheels through deeper rough even if it's a little boggy. Thanks in anticipation of your extra care!

We've brought most of the new banking around the greenkeepers area into play and you may now only obtain free relief (at the nearest playable point) from embedded surface stones and muddy chunks! We will be mowing these banks in early spring. Meanwhile balls are findable and playable much more so than prior to the banking being reconstructed.

Meanwhile the landfill saga continues. John A'Court is extending the club's initial 3 year planning approval beyond March for a further 3 years. However, in seeking a Permit to bring in the volume of material required Lynch have come up against a recent new court judgement passed in

2015 which requires us to answer a further series of Environment Agency questions in order to satisfy the administrative jobsworths in the Agency to cover their backsides! I

guess you can sense my frustration! More anon.

Rabbit control has supposed to have been continuing with the intention of reducing numbers and damage. I am not satisfied that this has been pursued with the right intensity and will be following it up. Once this shows success we will be attending to

rabbit fencing repairs along the coast path.

Finally, in recent weeks rooks have been pecking for grubs around the fringes of greens (our European jobsworths have banned the chemical we used to control the grubs!) We will mark these areas as GUR and if new areas of damage are not so

marked suggest you use the opinions of your playing group to take relief. Please keep looking on notice boards for comments on any new course issues arising.



"Remember Dave, it's not the winning that's important... Well actually it is, I'm just trying to make you feel better..."