



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

Mark Swallow, Club Chairman



There's not much to say from me this month. I am still waiting to find a member willing to take on the vacant role of the Bar and Social but perhaps you are all waiting for the AGM in June before you put your names forward. There will be some additional posts that need filling this year including Course and Premises and as I am only Interim Chairman it could be that this position also needs filling! Remember it's YOUR CLUB so if you want to make a difference please put your names forward; notices will be going up soon.

Doug Hayhoe, Club Captain



Friday 6th April 8pm, last player roped in for club match Home to Tiverton – 20 aside. Saturday 7th April, score cards, handicaps, players paired up, after speech prepared – All looking good! Then on the morning of the fixture, Robert Head Green Keeper thought – 'I

know, it's 7am in the morning, I will give Doug a ring re condition of the course!' So down I go, during the night it had rained not only hard, but very persistently!

Met with a duck on the 1st Tee! A pair of ducks on the 18th green, went on a course inspection, Robert's words: 'I have never seen so many puddles in so many different places.' Needless to say holes 4, 6, 7 and 8 unplayable.

Discussions with Course Manager, no choice - close the course.

Good start to my Captain's Year!!!

Thankfully now drying out, course and greens now playable, match results since first postponement, two home wins verses Enmore and Wells Stragglers.

As a thought for future course incidents I have visited the local opticians and the do not sell hindsight glasses! (niche in the market!)

Linda Trump, Ladies' Captain



The odd days of good weather have fortunately coincided with some early matches. Two well supported mixed matches, one at home against T and P and one away at W-S-M resulted in wins for Minehead in very enjoyable games. At last (after the first two were snowed off) the ladies were

able to play the final of three triangle matches against Enmore and T and P at Enmore. Hotly contested matches left us all square with Enmore in both bronze and silver but T and P took the honours in both divisions. The county team match (the Rogers Cup) was played at Clevedon against Saltford who fielded a strong team and beat us 5-2. But again an enjoyable event and played on the hottest day of the year so far!

We are looking forward to our second Open on the 8th May. Quite a small field so far (probably because it follows on very closely to the March Open), but more than enough entries to make it a worthwhile day.

We are very pleased to welcome a few new lady members and now the weather is improving hope to ensure there is plenty of golf to enjoy. The course is beginning to look very special again. Well done to Rob and his team after a pretty rough winter!

Neil Powles Seniors' Captain

It is now nearly a month into the new committee's running of the Senior Section. I think you will all agree we needed a shakeup, fresh outlook and different attitude; hopefully you will see we are making a good start. Currently we have attracted 8 new members with

more to follow. Having lost some to pastures new for whatever reason, at the end of March we have already doubled are numbers of those we have lost. I hope the club and its different groups are seeing a much more open, friendly and positive attitude that we have not seen for a long time. So much so that in the four matches we have played this month I have used 24 different players.

The results have been disappointing with 4 loses (3 away) from 4. Although disappointing the winner for all of us playing has been how well we all get on, friendships forged with these clubs, hospitality and all the clubs admitting that Minehead is the first on their list to play against. Losses have been away to Burnham & Berrow, Ilfracombe and Vivary Park, with a home defeat to Royal North Devon. At last we will be able to field some lower handicaps than we are used to. Although how some opposing players get their high handicaps is a bit of a mystery, just ask Vice Captain Malcolm Bruce and my team pairing with Sandy Lyons, every time you got a par they responded with I get a shot here or chip in a handful of times off the green – not sour grapes just glad we at Minehead use the system to give a true handicap.

Internal competitions have started with the Captain's Shield won by Neville Parsons, Ray Holland & Dave Chidgey and the Metcalfe Cup won by Richard Austwick & David Lake.



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The weather has meant cancelling a couple of other competitions.

Our thanks along with the team from RND to Robert and his greenkeepers for turning out a top draw course – well done lads. Also to Eddie Gosling and Warreners for helping us out at Enmore early March, unfortunately the match was called off there due to a waterlogged course.

Anyone wanting to join or require further details of our section please do not hesitate to contact us. For an annual fee of £6 you can take part in all our comps and matches or at your leisure enter which one you want to; we are pretty laid back. Please give yourselves a bit of time to check out our noticeboard and the diary sheet there to view our full timetable for the year.



Eddy Gosling
The Warreners

During a very cold, wet and windy April the Warreners have had two matches. The first against Sedgemoor Police, a new fixture, they brought 14 players. We lost 6 – 1 which could be a reflection on the Warreners golf on our home course or “Society Handicaps”; either way we had a great game played against an extremely strong westerly wind even for Minehead. We finished with a few beers and a good meal afterwards to round off the day. We have now arranged a return match at

Wedmore on 26th June so hopefully we can avenge our loss.

On 25th April we travelled away to Brean. Although the weather started poor it improved into a very nice day. Their course is coming on in leaps and bounds with the grass growing at 90mph due to the rain and their inability to get on the course and cut it. Again we lost but only by 5 – 1 with Les Fox and Mark Randle winning their game. For 10 years I have played at Brean and have been told that Brean’s Club house will be “Built Next Year”; well it is now almost complete and what a place it will be when it is finally fitted out by the end of November 2018, a multi-level 360 degree view of the whole course with state of the art facilities, so I am looking forward to our visit next year. Let’s hope their greens are a little faster and shorter. It does, when playing other golf courses, put into perspective the quality of our Minehead course that we can play a full round of golf 12 months of the year on full greens and tees, well done to our green staff.



Denis Compton,
Course Manager

Planning permissions are expected to be granted in the month of May. Further updates and actual

working processes of the land infill and its impact on the course will be detailed as soon as possible thereafter.

The coast works around the 18th green and up to the 17th fairway have been completed. Very minor works on the 12th tee have also taken place. These works are very much short-term solutions to a continuing problem. There is no further government or local council/Environment agency funding to continue further repairs or prevention. Shoring up of the course coastal boundary will be very much a reaction to an incident. The trolley/buggy path in front of the 10th green and 11th tees have been ready to be in permanent use, further fencing of the coast boundary around the 11th tee will be required to prevent public use and early erosion of them. A busy time for the green staff now more time will be spent on the upkeep of the playing surfaces, with growing conditions rife. If you see them please give them a thumbs up for all their hard work especially keeping the course playable in unprecedented conditions this late winter and spring.



Avalon A and B
teams

Following the loss of some of its players, the **A team** bounced back with an early 3-2 victory over our closest fixture Oake Manor A on Saturday April 21. Current and former club champions

Warren and Pete set out at a blistering pace to win the early points, with Dean Bradwell, Paul Skinner, Mike Nichols and Paul Denston bringing it home. All winning pairs were behind at some point, well played guys!

The **B team** have started with 2 wins and 1 loss. At the end of March at home against Worlebury the team won 3-2 and again at home against Long Sutton Stags there was a win 4-1. However, last Saturday at home against Long Sutton Levellers there was a loss 1½-3½.



Bar & Catering
Steve Archer

As we approach the new golfing season I would like to welcome back Ashley Jackson as head chef along with Donna Archer, John Hallam and Sean Mosquera who join the bar team on a part time basis.

My main aim as Clubhouse Manager is to improve the standard of service within the Clubhouse operation and making sure all food is produced and delivered to spec so that every meal served is as it should be each time.

I would like to thank Kay Luckett who has been a great help since I have taken on this new role since February and the members of the Ladies section



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who continue to work very hard when helping with functions.

We have three Club Nights in May, Thursday 17th Greek night with Claire's Kitchens £25pp, Cash Bingo in support of the Minehead Pool Project Friday 18th and Real Ale Live Music BBQ Festival on Friday 25th.

We have two private parties taking place at the club. The first is Saturday 5th May bar closing at 6:30pm and the next is Saturday 12th May also the bar closing at 6:30pm.

Having discussed with Ashley we would like to build up a good Sunday lunch trade and to make a start we are offering 2 course Sunday Lunch and Coffee on Sunday 13th May for £10 per person. Table wine £10 a bottle. All those that attend the lunch on Sunday 13th will be entered into a draw to receive complimentary lunch and a bottle of wine for 4 people to be used any time during 2018.

I would like to finish by wishing you all the best for the 2018/19 golfing season. I look forward to seeing you around the clubhouse after golf, at Sunday lunch or supporting one of our Club events.

Juniors

There has been a very positive start to our Junior sessions for this year, even the weather was kind.

The newly-published Progress Booklets arrived in time for them to be given out and used. Many thanks to Tony Bowden for these.

Limiting the number in the group made a big difference to the interaction between Jordan and the Juniors. The first session linked the Progress Booklet very closely to the progression through the lesson and at the close of the session each Junior was provided with feedback and given a specific task to work on to help improve their game.

Jordan organised a Junior Golf Session for Friday 6th April. They were able to play the 17th and 18th holes as a Texas Scramble which pinpointed a weakness with their putting. The second half of the session Jordan concentrated on improving their putting skills and provided them with practice exercises that they can use.

The session ended with pizza/sausage and chips provided by Emma in the kitchen. A big thank you to her.

In the afternoon Archie Walsh and James Dibble competed for the Peter Jarman. Congratulations to Archie, the winner this year.

Towards the end of May it is hoped to offer a second session offering another ten places.

All the feedback received from parents and juniors has been very positive.

The Progress Booklets have been particularly well received.

Pro Shop

We have lots of new demo equipment in, Callaway Rogue Driver, Taylormade M4 Driver, Cobra F8 Full Range, Titleist SM7 Wedges, Yonex Ezone Type GT, Srixon Irons, Ping Irons all available for you to try. Trade-ins always welcome, come and have a look. Please look out for posters about the NEW Friday afternoon Swindle, it promises to be a great event! For more info come and see us in the shop!

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To all Members from the team and staff