



## Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

### Newsletter 54 for March 2019



**John Perkins,  
Club Chairman**

I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to all concerned in the very successful Captains' Drive-in. Thanks to Ian Gover for the smooth running of the Bowmaker which preceded the main event.

A lot of people whose names are too numerous to list must be congratulated for their efforts on a successful Open Week: you did the Club proud. It was a pity about the slight Minehead breeze but you can't have everything. Also it is good to hear nice comments about our Bar and Kitchen staff: well done to all.

Let's hope we can continue with all the good work and keep moving forward. Last but not least, welcome to our new Captains Glen Ross, Ros Chidgey, Neil Powles and Archie Walsh: we wish you all the best and to Doug- you are now officially a 'Past-it' .



**Glenn Ross,  
Club Captain**

I want to start by saying how honoured and privileged I feel to be elected your Club Captain. It is extra special for my family as after my father was Captain in 1995 we become the first father a son to hold the office.

My first piece in the newsletter couldn't pass with paying respect to Doug for his successful year of Captaincy. Many of you will know he has battled various bouts of ill health throughout the year but has always been there for the Club undertaking many vital tasks in the background. Thanks for everything you have done Doug.

Thank you to everyone that supported the Prize Presentation evening and Captain's Drive In. It is fantastic



to see all sections of the club come together to celebrate the club. My Captain's Charity will support our club projects, our own junior section and the national children's charity,

The Golf Foundation. My fundraising got off to a great start with over £450 raised over the weekend. I thank everyone who donated and look forward to developing some much-needed funds to support the good causes throughout my year.

The winners of the Captain's Drive-In guesses were as follows:

- 124 Willie Court
- 153 Bill Hogg
- 223 Ian Gover
- 224 John Bickerton
- 284 Alan Ross
- 285 Paul Davies

Any uncollected prizes are available from the office.

My first Club Match is against Tiverton GC on Saturday 6th April and hope that as many Members will make themselves available to represent the club during my year. Simply sign up on the Captain's board.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions my ears are always available to listen. I may not always have the answer straight away or to be able to achieve what you want, but I will try to understand and resolve your concern. Just remember I am also trying to enjoy my golf, just like you!

Enjoy a great year of golf.



**Ros Chidgey,  
Ladies' Captain**

As I start my year as Ladies' Captain I would like to thank our out-going Captain Linda Trump for her commitment and hard work over the past twelve months. The first cup, the Phillips Cup, has already taken place and was played on a very windy day, so my congratulations go to Tricia Grinter/Ginnette Bowyer in their win with a nett score of 80 and the runners up Mary Beakes/ Sandra Atkins with a nett score of 84.5. March the 18th saw us at Taunton & Pickeridge taking part in the Quantock and Met Salvagers against Taunton & Pickeridge and Enmore. The matches were keenly contested and the Bronze Section finally won the Met Salver after a long break of 22 years. The golfing season is really getting going and I would like to wish all the members of Minehead and West Somerset a happy and successful season.



**Neil Powles  
Seniors' Captain**

March has seen the Section return to matches against other clubs along with the normal internal competitions in between.

Earlier in the month we managed to beat our fellow members' section, the Warreners, by 4½-1½. Our thanks



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to them and Captain Eddy for a very enjoyable day; very much appreciated. Next up once again Taunton & Pickeridge put out a strong side, all under 18 handicap, and we came away losing 4–2, with the loses by close margins. Finally, we entertained Oake Manor in the first leg of the “Jasper Trophy”, winning 4½–1½, with three wins and three halves. Having not won the trophy for some seven years we are up for it when we visit them later in the year. By the time you read this report we will have locked horns away at Burnham & Berrow. Normally we get a bit of a tanking, so I am hopeful we will push them all the way this year. (Shame the sliding scale does not come into effect till 2020!!!!!!)

Internally at the beginning of the month our white tee stableford was won by Martin Edkins from Nigel Trevelyan on count back, both with 37 points; third on 36 was Dave Oatridge. Next up saw the Senior Open Pairs of which a number of our Section entered, pleasing to report a healthy entry was recorded. Well done to Tony Bowden on winning with his partner Nigel Humphries and Derek Marshman and Jon Vickenstaff being among the prizes. Special mention to Phil Arbourne for all his work at the event and the Mixed Open.

The monthly Texas Scramble was won with a score of 65.5 by Phil Watts, David Lake & Randall Foot from the second trio of Malcolm Bruce, Martin Edkins & Neil Powles with 66.1. Our Japanese Greensomes!!, won by the pairing of Phil Watts & Nigel Trevelyan with a score of 58.4, second Mark Ruttley & Randall Foot score of 59.2, third John Austin & Martin Edkins on 61.4. Last competition of the month saw a Team Bogey, winners with a plus 7 coming from Trevor Stevens, David Williams & David Lake, second on plus three on countback were Derek Marshman, Peter Heddercott & Randall Foot from third place trio of Malcolm Bruce, Nigel Trevelyan & Phil Watts.

Next month will see the start of our trophy competitions and with matches away to Ilfracombe, Enmore & B&B and home to Royal North Devon & Vivary Park. Our thanks to new Club Captain Glen Ross, Phil Arbourne Ian Gover and anyone I've missed for the organising of Presentation Evening & Captain's Drive-in and to Dave Oatridge for his timely lean on the blower machine as Glenn was just about to start his downward swing – priceless!!

Good golfing to you all.



**Denis Compton**  
**Course Manager**

### Scalpings received

You would have seen an amount of scalpings that have arrived on the course running alongside the pathway from the ladies' fourth tee to the fifth hole. This is permitted under our 'U1 waste exemption' licence. This is the remains of the seafront excavation that we will use to repair and make good pathways/tracks on the course. This has been received at no cost so a significant saving on future material cost in the future.

### Landfill planning

#### Minehead Golf Club planning application Ref 3/21/16/14/Cond 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15

We have finally had a response sent to Adam Robbins (managing on our behalf) from the Somerset planners who have stated they expect to determine the conditions by the end of March/Start of April. We shall see.

Despite their delays, they have refused to provide additional time to the application and advised that if more time is needed, we should submit a Section 73 application. (the initial planning was for a three-year window, a year has passed awaiting a decision). We have advised them that as it is they who have caused the delay, we would expect the fee for a Section 73 to be waived. I shall be making a direct appeal for information from the council in the second week of April if we have not progressed. I cannot do any more, one of the most frustrating episodes I have encountered.

### Robert's Report / General Information

The greens have a touch of Fusarium patch disease. That's probably where I got it!! They have been treated with a small amount of sulphate iron to fend off as much of it as possible.

The troublesome fairways have been over-seeded with rescue rye grass mix and scarified. Tees have been mown slightly closer with spring arriving, fertiliser will follow when rainfall becomes imminent. Over-seeding and top dressing to both should see an early summer improvement. However, we will require significant rainfall to see this all coming to fruition. Mother nature is required to turn up. In the meantime the seed will sit there and as long as we do not have significant gales all should be well. Winter rules may therefore be in force for a little longer than usual. After playing Saunton recently they have the exact same condition and all their fairways have been slit with seed awaiting rain also. The downside to hot dry summers!



The rough is under control for now (although the usual spurt of growth will follow and as always peak at the Club Championship's weekend). This has resulted in fewer lost balls apparently, bearing in mind the new three-minute rule, this has played a significant factor for the current control.

Scrub clearance behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole has been completed. One of the trees on the 8<sup>th</sup> has been removed as the brambles entangling it exposed the diseased trunk, effectively killing the tree. One tree has been saved and trimmed back. Tidying up that area has improved visibility for both when teeing off the 8<sup>th</sup> and when on the 12<sup>th</sup> fairway. Further making good of that area will follow.

The new buggy is getting well used by the greenkeepers and volunteers. Special thanks to Mark Ruttley, Mike Nichols and Mark Ogden from the Proshop who have spent time doing jobs around the course relieving the greenkeepers to concentrate on their core activities.

Mondays and Wednesdays have increased to the high teens, which is great to see. We have also welcomed non-Warreners to join us and it has been a delight to play golf with other Minehead and visiting golfers. The golf course is in fantastic condition with the greens running true which is a real credit to all staff involved. We had our first match of the season on March 6<sup>th</sup> against our friends in the club, Minehead Seniors, and it was a delight to take the Silver Medal prize, "*you can beat or teach experience, well done Seniors*" We look forward to welcoming our first visiting team of Sedgemoor Police on the 10<sup>th</sup> April where there will be lots of friendly banter and some good golf.



**Mike Shortland & Barry Chaffey  
Premises**

Just a short note that the refurbishment of the ladies' showers and toilets will be starting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.



**Dorrien Bickerstaff  
Bar & Catering**

The Annual Dinner was a great evening. The tables were beautifully presented and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

There have been a few problems with bar and catering which I am aware of and am in the process of addressing. Unfortunately due to a pre-booked golf break I was away for the Captain's Shotgun and drive-in. All issues that arose over that weekend have been noted and we will strive to improve on the service we are providing. However, this does highlight the fact that, at this time of change, this is in fact a two-person job offering enough hours to address all the requirements of the club's bar and catering. If you feel you could be of help, please make yourself known.

On a positive note, the bar is getting busier, the catering team is getting stronger, creating a good clubhouse atmosphere for members and visitors. We are looking to revive the club nights- any suggestions of themes please let me know.

Our best wishes go to Glenn Ross and his family as he starts his year of captaincy.



**Eddy Gosling  
The Warreners**

The Warreners, like most golfers, are slowly coming out of hibernation after the cold, wet and windy days of January and February. (Looking at some of the Warreners you wouldn't know that they are even awake yet?) With the warmer and sunny days of Spring our playing numbers on