



**Minehead and
West Somerset
Newsletter No 6
February 2015.**

General Club News

Please Note the practice area is closed for the present in order to work on new target greens. More general Club news below..

Graham Walsh - Opens organiser

This year we are putting on 2 extra opens which we have not had for a few years, A CLUB OPEN to be held on Saturday 23rd May this will be an individual qualifier off the white tee's, full handicap

On Sunday 27th September we are holding a mixed open, 4 BBB MAX Hcp Men 24, Ladies 30 3/4 combined, White /red tee's, If any of you gents would like to play around!!! with the ladies now is your chance

Our Seniors Open this year will be held on Wednesday 6th May, individual, full hcp but on the shortened white tee qualifier. Lots of visitors have already entered, lots of prizes entry fee only £9.00 pp optional 2s

For any further details please go to the club web site and click on the scrolling banner,

Start times / entry forms will be posted on the changing room/ ladies & club notice boards

To make these events a success and to make money your entries would be greatly appreciated.

Reports from the Captains.

Phil Arbourne- Club Captain

As expected December and January have been relatively quiet for me, except for a few social functions and the awarding of the Buchanan Cup, which this year was won by two members from away – Alan Atkinson and Kevin Hooper from Enmore.



They have been supporting this competition for many years and have contested many finals, but this was their first win. Home players, Dean Bradwell and Paul Skinner, had to settle for runners-up. The Plate this year was won by Connor Sidley-Adams and father Peter Adams, beating Simon Autton and Brian Hamblin.



I was invited to play in the Warreners' Christmas Invitation and this was very enjoyable and a good time was had by all. The food and company were excellent and there was certainly lots of liquid consumed. I was also invited to attend the Seniors' Invitation Dinner at the beginning of December and this was a very jovial evening and I am sure all the ladies who attended (including our Lady Captain) thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The NYE dinner was very well attended and thanks go to Marie for making the dining area such an attractive scene. I am not sure where the time went but before I could turn round my wife and I were leaving at 1.40am.

The Captain's 4BBB has been going now for 4 weeks and has been very well supported, even though one of the Sunday's was very windy indeed – even for Minehead!! It was a real privilege to see our Pro, John Bickerton, hit straight balls even in the most demanding conditions!

The Tuesday Swindle has seen good numbers attending in spite of the cold weather. January started with a win for the team of Dave Kedge, Graham Wells, Nigel Humphries and Jamie Anderson with a score of 113 (par 110), and a plonker score of 94 for Geoff Fewings, Dave Shambrook, Bill Baker and Terry Daley. The following Tuesday, in very cold and windy conditions, 27 members braved the weather, and the winning team of Jeff Bird, Tony Bowden and Gary Green scored 74 pts (par 72), whilst the plonkers (John Griffin, Dan Day, Maurice Holding) managed to score 74. On Tuesday, 20th January,

the winners were Robin Miles, Ray Milton, Paul Handisyde and Dave Shambrook with a score of 113 (par 108), and the plonkers were Martin Gilbertson, Graham Wells, Maurice Holding and Bill Oldfield with 94. The final Tuesday in January was won by Gerry Mason, Jared Greig, Pete Scott and myself, also with a score of 113 9par 108), and plonkers were Trevor John, John Duckworth, Malcolm McNeil and Paul Handisyde with a score of 91.

I am now looking forward to Valentine's on the 14th and then, of course, our Annual Dinner on the 28th. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to support me at this event. There are only 70 spaces so don't delay in ordering your tickets.

Kay Luckett - Lady Captain

Here in the Ladies section at Minehead we have the pleasure in welcoming Karen Davis, Jenny Elliot and Maxine Wilkinson as full members. Completely new to golf is Janet Handley, joining at present on a trial membership, of which I am sure in no time at all we will have her playing in the competitions!

We have three Ladies Opens planned for the forth coming year of which I hope will be well supported. Information for these can be found on the Club Website, Ladies Section.

We are hoping to organise a Meet and Greet afternoon on Saturday May 16th for Ladies to come and visit the Golf Club, to show what a great game golf is. This will be a fun and informative afternoon which will hopefully result in us having some new members.

I would like to wish all the Ladies happy golfing in 2015!

Dave Williams - Seniors Captain

Friday 5th December saw 28 members and their partners including Phil Arbourne Club Captain and his wife and Ross Chidgey Ladies Captain together with 8 widows to our very successful Ladies Night Dinner.

Another successful event was the Turkey Trott where 27 members competed for all sorts of prizes including meat vouchers.

The monthly medal in December was won by Bill Black from a field of only 9. The December Stapleford was won by Allan Burton this time there were 21 entrants.

January's medal was won by Stephen Kaye with 24 playing and the stapleford by Dermot Hurley with 22 playing.

On Monday 12th January there was a home match against Enmore scheduled, unfortunately this was postponed the evening before due to a very bad weather forecast that turned out to be completely wrong with the sun shining at what would have been the start time. This has since been played more about it in the next newsletter.

Graham Wright –The Warreners

In December the Warreners held their Christmas Invitation event where each Warrener can invite a guest to play in a four ball better ball competition followed by a traditional Xmas meal. The competition took place on 17th and was won by Warrener John A'Court and his guest the popular Pro John Bickerton. The event was I believe enjoyed by all participants.

January is a quiet time for the Warreners who meet on Wednesdays

for friendly roll ups. Fortnightly the golf is followed by a meal at the golf club.

February 25th sees the first of the Warreners matches with a fixture against Enmore at Minehead. This is followed by a match in March against Minehead Seniors (a match which involves much friendly banter) as you would expect. April sees an increase in the amount of matches which then carry on through to October ending with the Warreners AGM.

We would like to thank several people at Minehead golf club for their work at the club during 2014. Firstly Margaret Stone who has always been a great help especially when I forget tee times or dates regarding Warreners matches. We will sorely miss her but wish her a happy retirement. Many Warreners have praised the condition of our course, particularly this winter, so thanks to Robert and his staff. It is obvious that the Warreners are a hungry lot and we would like to thank the catering staff for many excellent meals. James is certainly an accomplished chef and latterly Susan has provided us with some superb fare Thank you.

The Course, Graham J Wells

We have made a bid for a grant from The Council Leisure Fund to help with costs for the new practice and training bays to be erected some 30 yards back from the existing exposed practice tee. We expect to hear of the outcome for this bid at the end of March whereupon we will start construction knowing the balance of costs we will be bearing. Meanwhile the greenkeepers are continuing to landscape the target

greens area using soil much of which is currently coming from the Ellicombe construction site. We apologise for the messy roads and steps are being taken to minimize this. Eventually the length of shot possible from bay to furthest green will be about 230 yards. Sadly (but to the delight of some) we have had to lose 2 of the recently installed bunkers on the 5th to accommodate extension of the bank from the greenkeepers area to protect the practice greens but the shot from the new rough slope may be as hard as that from a bunker. The 3rd bunker will remain!

All new tee signs are now in place with the exception of a final exit sign just off the 18th green. We seek a sponsor for this and any ideas or contacts would be appreciated.

The monthly "Course Information for Members" has been favourably commented upon and the allocation of individual holes for special care to members listed alphabetically has also been enthusiastically welcomed by many. However, many pitch marks still remain unrepaired and lots of spike scuff marks are appearing on greens at this time of year. So please continue to be diligent and tread with care on any green but especially "your own"!

Removal of the group of partially cut down trees in front of the 8th men's tee has been approved by the committee and by allowing a better view of where mis-directed drives land will improve safety and

speed of play. However, this task is not a priority and it will be undertaken when resources permit.

In February in preparation for clearing the practice range we will be removing the old hut near the 14th green and breaking up the concrete base for hardcore.

You will also see the greenkeepers preparing to lay drainage (and a pathway alongside) at the foot of the greenkeepers bank to the left of the 5th fairway from the 5th tee. Any runoff from the bank will thereby be directed into the rhyme and not across the area in front of the 4th green.



"You're suffering from insomnia. So I'm prescribing three of my husband's golf stories. If that don't put you to sleep, then nothing will."