



Minehead and West Somerset Newsletter No 4 October 2014.

Club news & forthcoming events.

First of all, a very big thank you to all the members who have "volunteered" in the last few months, either helping in the kitchen and clubhouse when we have had big events, or helping on the course when we had the divot filling groups. The help given is much appreciated, and it is brilliant to see Club Captain, Phil Arbourne and the Ladies Section, Kay Lockett, leading the way. (Phil's picture is shown here, wearing a very fetching yellow jacket while directing traffic in the club car park)



Green Fee gift Vouchers

These are now on sale in the pro-shop, £75 for 5 rounds or £140 for 10. Creative gifts? Would this make a good present for a friend? With possibly some lessons?

Club Survey

The results are now in from the clubs survey. Well over 100 completed surveys were collected and the results and comments have now been collated. Many thanks go to the marketing group and in particular Neil Bowyer for his and their hard work. The draw for the £100 has taken place and one lucky member has been informed of their windfall. We would like to thank everyone for their valuable input. The findings will be passed onto the management committee for their consideration and actions. A full report on the findings will be included in next month's newsletter.

Phil Arbourne, Club Captain

October has been a very interesting month for me. I have acted as car park attendant and waiter for some very successful events held here at the club and I have thoroughly enjoyed being on the other side of the entertaining. It has given me insight into how much there is to do and how well it has to be organised in order for things to run smoothly.

We have had one club match and that was away to Cannington. My thanks go to Nigel Moore for his first game with the club and especially to Pete Bowden for turning up when we were going to be one player short. The match was noteworthy for two things: Nigel Humphries and Andy Coward came from 5 down at the turn to win on the last, and this was my first AWAY win of the season. We have now won all but one of our home matches (we had a draw against Burnham & Berrow!!), but lost 3 out of 4 of the away matches. I now have one match left, against the ladies on November 15th, with a 10:00am start. Please sign up on my board if you would like to play.

On October 13th, the ladies of the South West Counties played at Minehead and VERY



kindly donated £554 towards my charity, the Tectona Trust. I am very grateful to Jayne Fulwell for getting the event to be played here and for organising the donation.

In the Tuesday Swindle, the first event was won by Dorian Bickerstaff, Graham Wells and Paul Handisyde with 89 pts (par 80), and the plonkers (surprisingly) were Dave Kedge, Jeff Bird and Jack McClay with 65 pts. On our second swindle on the 14th the winners were Dorrien Bickerstaff (again), Graham Wright and Pete Scott with 91 pts and the plonkers were Andre Guerrier, John Fulwell and Derek Stevens with 71. The day was remarkable, not for the results, but for the fact that there were TWO holes in one –



Phil Bowden on the 4th (his first) and Bill Baker on the 10th (he couldn't remember how many he had had!!). Well done to both! The competition on the 21st, in VERY windy conditions (there were only 21 brave entrants) was won by Colin Corlett, Geoff Fewings and Pete Scott

with 70 pts (par 80!), and plonkers were Phil Bowden, Chris Bingham and Jeff Bird with 56. Finally the swindle on the 28th was won by Tony Pendray, Ray Milton and our new bandit 'extraordinaire' Dom Bowden with 100 pts (par 86!), while plonkers were Nick Bangs (!), Ian Gover and Jon Griffin with 77.

Graham Wells, Some Comments on the Course.

Landfill. Our landfill programme, which will continue for the next few years, is bringing in a vital windfall income to the Club in these difficult financial times, thereby enabling us to plan and consolidate our finances in the meantime. Unfortunately, managing the distribution of landfill on the course, finishing off the new surfaces and dealing with consequential issues such as drainage constitutes a major additional burden for our greens staff who are already "stretched" by virtue of being one man short of last year's establishment and by having to manage the maintenance of machinery, much of which is overdue replacement. These latter issues are being addressed by your committee but meanwhile we ask for your understanding if from time to time the edges of the course look a little ragged! Having said that the recent efforts given by many members on behalf of the working parties we have set up have been very much appreciated.

The Greens. We have recently had a visit from the independent agronomist who regularly reviews the condition of the course and advises constructively and critically on the work of our greens staff. His report, which is substantial, is available from the office for all members to see.

However, it is important to say that he sees great progress in our work to replace the mixture of bent and meadow grass on the greens with a more consistent covering of fescue. This work will continue and will result in a considerable reduction in the level of maintenance needed on the greens (fertilising, killing weeds and fungus, watering, tining, dressing, etc) to the benefit of players and to the benefit of the Club by reducing costs.

Meanwhile there will remain times when maintenance work compromises the speed and consistency of our greens and we request your patience during periods in which this happens.

Fairways, Tees, Bunkers and the Rough
Managing landfill (for economic reasons) and producing the best quality greens are inevitably priorities for our greens staff.

Over the last couple of years we have kept much better control of the rough and this has been vital as we were in danger of losing forever many visitors who were finding its depth quite unmanageable in previous years. This

level of management will continue whilst appreciating that some better players in particular consider the conditions "too easy". If our greens staff were better equipped we would be better able to introduce different grades of semi-rough but this will not be possible in the short term.

The nature of the land on which the course is laid makes it difficult to keep on top of repairs to divots on tees and fairways. Recent members' working parties have helped with this and they will continue next year. In the immediate future we will also be producing a frame which will hold 2 or 3 dozen small bags of seed/soil mix. This frame will be situated on tees where the fairway to be played is in need of divot repair with the intention that members take a bag, attach it to their cart or buggy and empty the contents in divots on the way to the green. A box will be placed on the next tee for empty bags. Hopefully this will provide some help on our mission to improve the fairways.

If the Club can afford it we will also re-start the over-seeding programme for certain fairways (such as the 12th & 17th which were covered 3 or 4 years ago).

Finally, as we all know the condition of many bunkers is unsatisfactory. Members greater conscientiousness in keeping them properly raked will help but a longer term plan to improve all the bunkers is necessary and will be addressed in the context of cost constraints. It is to be noted that on our primarily links course pot bunkers from which sand is less likely to be blown are much preferable (and an essential defence) to fairway bunkers. Accordingly our plan will be to produce more bunkers matching in style those on the 13th and the more recently introduced ones on the 5th and 16th.

Some fairway style bunkers will be removed and those subject to flooding (because their bases are too low) will be improved. We also hope to add or reposition one or two bunkers in more critical positions as recommended in the course setup approved by the EGU. All this will take time.

Your patience would be appreciated but any critically constructive comments would be welcomed.



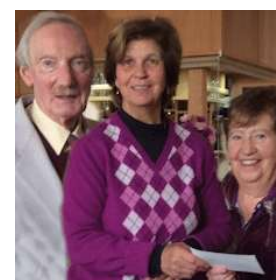
"I don't know what it is about it, but I love this course!"

Dave Williams, Captain Seniors Section

Other than our AGM October has been rather a quiet month for us. Competitions played were the Monthly Medal, Monthly Stapleford, The Captains Shield and one match away to Tiverton. I took over as Captain on the 1st of the month as an interim position so that in future the Seniors Captain can take over at the same time as the Club Captain. We are looking forward to our winter matches that start with our first game against Enmore on the 21st of November. On 5th December we will once again be holding one of our major events, our Ladies Night. Invitations as always go to all our members' partners and wives and also widows of our past members.

Ros Chidgey, Ladies Section.

The Ladies held their AGM on the 23rd October and the new Lady Captain has now taken over duties, Ros Chidgey wished Kay Luckett a successful year and hoped she would enjoy it. The final amount collected for the Lady Captain's Charity during the year was £600 and Ros was pleased to present this to Angela and Peter Veevers representatives of the Minehead Branch of Parkinsons UK.



Jordan Arnold, Juniors Section.

October is usually a quiet month for the juniors section with only one competition but this one was an exception, we gained two new members and had a competition which had 8 entrants (good way to finish the season). There was a gross score of 69 (-3) during this competition. Please members can you remember to bring any of your young members of family to the golf club just to give it a try, it is a long winter and golf is a great way to keep your Juniors in the family occupied and engaged.

Graham Wright, the Warreners.

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

**For newsletter contributions/comments please contact:-
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