



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter



Newsletter No 29 Jan 2017.



Stephen Kaye Club Chairman.

For those members that are not aware we had a large VAT refund paid into our bank account.

This was as a result of

HMRC collecting VAT on green fees which was incorrect according to an EU ruling. This refund was first reported in our Management minutes in November and referred to as a "significant figure". The reason for this vague term was that at the time we did not know the final figure. Below is the calculation although please be aware that there might still be some other tax implications which could impact on the final amount we will have available.

VAT claim repaid by HMRC for various periods since 1991 = £123,994.00
Plus Simple interest = £46,040.79
Total refund = £170,034.79
Less KPMG fees = £35,729.27

**Net amount received to our club
£134,305.52**

Just in case you're wondering why the fees are so high, I agree they are high, but without KPMG acting on our behalf we would not have received **any** refund. We are still pursuing a further claim with KPMG's help for compound interest. This is with the high court. For the moment the outcome is uncertain. **We are grateful for the diligence of our previous committee members** that

had the foresight to apply for this refund. Not all clubs did and many have lost out. These needed funds will enable us to carry out some much needed work and repairs and help to improve the clubs facilities. We will be extremely careful how we use these funds.

We want to share more information with members. From now on a monthly financial summary will be posted on the members section of our website next to the clubs monthly minutes. Please be aware this information is confidential and is restricted to members only.

As we come closer to our AGM there are a number of voluntary positions available. If you can give something back to your club and have a strong constitution please let me or any other MC member know soon. Our club is run by the good graces of our volunteers without which club organisation would quickly deteriorate.

Finally, a word about our fees. These have now been posted on our notice board. Unfortunately it has been necessary to increase the fees across all categories of membership. This is because our fees must cover our club expenses. The marketing team are very active in bringing in more income and the management team are in reducing costs. Particularly impressive this year is the work that the Pro-shop have been doing in increasing green fee income. Other sources of income include opens and functions which all help to lower our

membership fees. We are aware of and are trying to address the perennial problem of our catering finances but more on that later. All in all the increase to the standard full membership is just over £1 per week which still represents great value. I hope you will accept it as a necessary requirement for our club.



Dorrien Bickerstaff Club Captain.

I believe I ended the last newsletter looking forward to the Captains Winter 4BBB where John and I would be

playing against as many of you as possible making hopefully a memorable start to 2017. Well, it certainly was a memorable end to 2016 for me; cracked ribs in November and as soon as I sneaked back onto the course while Caroline was away I sustained damage to my knee while teeing off on the 2nd so then once again I couldn't play but now I couldn't drive either!

The end of 2016 was also memorable for Messrs Oatridge and Green winning the final of the Buchanan Cup against Messrs



Adams and Sidley-Adams.

After the enforced rest over December and a change of stance I have managed to turn up to play alongside John Bickerton at unholy Sunday morning hours (love his company but not his hours) since the start of the year, an



experience I am thoroughly enjoying as are, I hope our opponents. Thanks to Jordan for turning out at a more sociable hour! The Captains Winter 4BB is going well and my thanks to the kitchen for



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ensuring they are ready for business early each Sunday. This makes a huge difference when turning out on these cold mornings.

Unfortunately due to lack of numbers the annual Celts v Sassenachs did not go ahead and therefore there was no Burns night celebration. My apologies to members and to the kitchen for late cancellation.

I was very honoured to play (as Club Captain) with John Bickerton and Dave Dixon (Golfing Tour Professional) last weekend. John's 7 birdies came well short of Dave's 13 birdies and a 61 off the whites was recorded by Dave. Amazing golf!

May I draw your attention to some important dates coming up next month in case you have missed them?

- The Annual Club Dinner on Saturday March 11th. This is one of the highlights of the club's social calendar – not least seeing me “Dad dance” but celebrating all the good stuff we have achieved in the last 12 months here at Minehead Golf Club. I really would love to share a drink with you all thanking you all for your support during my captaincy year. Further details will be published in the next week with menu choices and entertainment. Bookings being taken at the bar already.
- AGM Sat 25th March when we will be electing our new committee members
- 2017 Captains Shot-Gun followed by the Drive-In Sunday 26th March

Hopefully I have kept your attention this far as this bit is very important. **May I extend my grateful thanks** to Charlie Griffiths for offering much needed help with the Competitions and Handicaps and to Phil Arbourne for chairing the newly reformed Captains Committee and being so positive, pro-active and a font of (almost) all knowledge. Without volunteers this club cannot function successfully.

Enjoy the competitions, the swindles, each other's company and above all, your golf!

I am always available on the end of a phone or in the clubhouse for a chat and a beer.



Dave Chidgey, Seniors Captain.

Fairly quiet time of late just to say that the Captain's challenge which runs through the winter is progressing well for all apart from the captain and his partner I'm not taking all the blame. WE'VE had two friendly matches both at home the first against Enmore 8pairs per side which we won 5/3 the second against T& P we also won 51/2 to 1/2 well done to the team I'm proud of you. As this is my last report I would like to thank the club captain Dorrien for his support The Chairman for the hard work he is putting in to put the club on the map and I wish the committee good luck and success in everything they are trying to

achieve on behalf of us all. Finally thank you to all the seniors for their fantastic support this past year happy golfing to you all.



Janet Handley Juniors Organiser

Thanks to Jordan the juniors practices continued through November and the early part of

December. Lessons restarted on Saturday 21st January at the slightly earlier time of 2pm finishing at 3.15pm.

Jordan would like to start lessons promptly at 2pm so if Juniors arrive at 1.45pm it then allows him to organise groups and make full use of the time. At present the juniors are meeting at the pro-shop.

Well done to those who have braved the elements. It was pleasing to see so many girls in attendance.

We have become associate members of the Development League which involves five other golf clubs. The matches are on Sunday afternoons starting in April and will involve the juniors who have gained a handicap. It would be great if we could put Minehead Juniors back where they belong but it will need those Juniors to make commitments if we are to succeed. Dates are on the junior board and will soon be posted on the junior section of the website. Dates for this year's cup matches are on the junior

board already and they too, will be on the website very soon.

My thanks again to Jordan for all his hard work over the past months and George for stepping in when required.



The Course, Graham J Wells

It is with regret that health and personal reasons give rise to my having to resign the position of Course Manager with effect from the AGM in March. I will continue to manage the rabbit and mole control measures recently agreed together with day to day liaison with Rob Barrett and his team. However, Phil Arbourne is coordinating working parties in February and we also urgently need someone who can volunteer to follow up the final detailed activities required by the Waste Management Board to secure their approval for us to recommence landfill work. Finally, a permanent replacement as Course Manager needs to come forward prior to the AGM to whom I am willing to offer as much background detail as possible.

My thanks for all your support, encouragement and critical advice freely given to me over the past 3 years. My very special thanks also to the greens staff who have worked so tremendously hard during the times of financial constraint prevailing throughout my time in the job.



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Jayne Fulwell, Premises.

A big thank you to all those who have raised money for the fund to upgrade the men's changing area.

So far we have £4,786 in the pot. This includes £1,000 from the Swindle, £500 from the seniors, £1,000+ raised from the golf day and £1,000 from the Captains Fund. There will be other fund raising events in the spring, including the Marcus Trescothick evening and the Somerset CC Golf Day (entry sheet on the board)

Both outdoor "sheds" have now been renovated to a good standard, but unfortunately there is some bits of rubbish etc that are starting to appear in the trolley/locker shed. Please try to keep this area clean and tidy. If there is a member who has 20 minutes each week to spare and would be prepared to take responsibility for keeping this area tidy I would love to hear from you.

Work will be undertaken on the heating and water system from Monday March 6th and will continue for a week. A reminder notice will be put out nearer the date.



Eddy Gosling The Warreners

The Warreners finished 2016 on a high with their Christmas invitation in which we had 46 players of Warreners and guests on Wednesday 14th December. It was a fantastic day with the weather being very kind to us which was accompanied by a great day of golf. The game was followed by an excellent meal of festive fayre and the odd glass of wine and beer (well some of us had an odd number others had even numbers!) All guests and Warreners played well and my playing partner Brian Levey was a great supporting act to our game. When it came to the final winners on the day I had to consult the Minehead Golf official, Alan Ridgway, as we were unable to have an outright winning pair. It was a complete tie, count back on the back 9 back 6 back 3, front 9 etc, etc. I tried to use the neatness of the marked card but as this was good on both cards we declared a draw. The joint winners were Robin Miles and Jordan Arnold and Peter Clements and Gareth Latham, well done to them. The "plonkers" are never mentioned but their initials are JA and JG, I'll leave you to ponder on who they are. Thank you to all the Warreners, ground staff, catering staff and the "lady helpers" who made this day and evening a total success. A very special thank you to Jamie Anderson for

compering the evening, (he played with John Griffin.)



Graham Walsh member of Captains Committee.

As you know the club is holding an open week from 13th - 18th March. Hopefully you will have

seen the posters and sign-up sheets on the main notice board in the stud entrance.

The seniors 4BBB on the 13th and the mixed on the 15th are filling up nicely but still times available for more entries. The gents individual on the 17th and the gents 4BBB on Saturday 18th have lots of spaces available, if you are a Friday or Saturday golfer then this is an ideal opportunity to play. If you know anyone who plays at any other club then why not send them an invite to partner you.

For the ladies on Thursday 16th your full details are in the ladies changing room. There is a sign-up sheet on the notice board for non-players to volunteer as starters/spotters or to help out at the half way house.

Please help to support your club and to make this week a great success.

Check out the various notice boards and the club's website for further information, sign-up for opens, enter competitions and updates!