



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

Newsletter No 24 August 2016.

Stephen Kaye Club Chairman.



It is pleasing that we are receiving praise from visitors for the quality of our course, the welcome they receive and the good catering. It is very encouraging. Of course the men's changing room still receives criticism and hopefully this issue will shortly be resolved with the goodwill, fundraising and hardworking by all. This will result in a great package for members and visitors alike. The management committee are all working hard to raise standards for the benefit of all and we owe them our gratitude for their selfless commitment to our club.

Dorrien Bickerstaff Club Captain.



Sadly Arnold Palmer "The King" passed away 25th Sept. Wikipedia attributes the change in perception of golf as an elite, upper-class pastime to a more populist sport accessible to middle and working classes to this great golfer. Looking around the room at the Past Captains dinner this month bore this out. It's a wonderful game we all play (or attempt to) and it doesn't matter

what our background or trade is, once we are there on the first tee looking down the course we are all sportsmen and women. To be the Club Captain here at Minehead is a privilege; hard work at times but something I am glad to be doing. The committee do a stalwart job and as we get to my mid-term I would like those of you who have been most vocal for the past six months to think about positive things you can do to help our club and maybe offer up some of your time to help out or even join the committee.

I was delighted to see Jamie Phippen win the Todd Cup, a huge trophy for a man whose golf is gaining in confidence this year as he widens his playing circle. The Past Captains Met Shield at Tiverton was strongly supported by Minehead who finished runner up to Tiverton with Enmore in third place. Past It Phil Bowden, in my stead, took a weakened club side to Wells and thanks to Paul Rees' final putt he gained a half to save a whitewash. The Skylark Trophy changed format this year to be a drawn competition which met with great resistance from some quarters, which was a shame. All members must appreciate competitions take time and effort to organise, and this years though different was a resounding success.

Mixed drawn golf is a game not all take to. It's a confidence thing again, not only to partner someone you may not know well, but someone of a different sex – you don't want to spend the whole round apologising or feeling intimidated. However, a fantastic day was had by all participants, new friendships were made and we all had a splendid meal at the end of the day. Winners on the day were Phil Arbourne and Jenny Holland.

Enjoy your golf and remember autumns on the way (the rains cools down!).



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

Cheers Dorrien



Jenny Holland, Lady Captain.

We started September with a match at Saunton, lost, but enjoyed playing the course.

The Wessex matches finished this month, we came forth, Burnham won over all, the scores were very close, thank you to Kay for organising these matches.

Lesley and myself had a salver meeting at Enmore, agreeing to have just one match next year, bronze and silver playing on the same day.

Skylarks mixed comp went very well, everybody enjoyed the new format. Ros came over from Mexico to present the prizes and the trophy in her mother's memory, Audrey Wilson. Very generous prizes as usual, plus the entry money made it a great comp to win. 1st Phil Arbourne & Jenny Holland 2nd Ray Holland & Kay Luckett

Also there was a 3rd and 4th prize. Ros decided to give the last pair a prize and that was Dorian & Sandra Atkins, as Ros said her mother would have enjoyed that as she quite



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often came last.

Big thanks to Phil and Dorian for sorting out the scores and prize money. We had 40 members stayed for a great carvery.

Next year we have put in 4 mixed friendly matches, two mens and two ladies invites.

I would like to thank all the ladies that attended my away day at Tiverton, I very much enjoyed the day and hope everybody else did also, great course to play, weather was kind to us, unfortunately the food was very poor, makes us realise how lucky we are to have Graham in our kitchen. The winning team was Kay Luckett, Sandra Atkins, Pat Grinter, and Ginnette Bowyer, with 77 points, well done. Jenny.



Dave Chidgey, Seniors Captain.

We've had 2 matches since my last report Libberton which we lost but made up for it with a great win at home to Weston. These were our last friendlies of the summer season. The important completion was the MET shield. This was a great day as we were the host this year we were blessed with great weather and. I can safely say that all 48 players involved had a really enjoyable day on the course which was in excellent condition

followed by a very good meal. The result was the closest it been with only 8 points separating the team's. ENMORE were the winners with Tiverton pipping us by 1 point for second spot We now look forward to the Inter club challenge which I am sure will be equally successful



Janet Handley, Juniors Section

For those Juniors who have not yet got a handicap it was thought some experience of playing in a match would help them understand the importance of practicing what they have been taught. With this in mind on Saturday 17th September there was a three hole "Girls Only" competition. The weather was dry and sunny but there was the usual strong wind.



Shona won by just one point from second place Ebony Plenty. Dianheart DeLuna and Lola Waddams finished just two points apart. The girls showed great sportsmanship as despite experiencing some difficult shots they were able to smile and congratulate the winner.

Shona was presented with a medal that she can keep and a trophy that has to be returned for the next competition.

On Saturday, 1st October the rain was so heavy that the "Boys Only" match was nearly postponed. However, there was a slight break in the clouds and the rain stopped, so it was decided to tee off. The pair that played first caught a very heavy downpour playing down the third fairway whilst the others played through it on the second fairway. Everyone got very wet!!

Harry Cornish and Rowan McGann were first equal with 20 points. As the weather was so dreadful a deciding hole was not played they were both declared winners. Both received a medal to keep and they will take it in turns with the trophy. Oliver Groves, Taylor Jordan and Sam Miles played really well and

finished with only a couple of points between them and the winners.

A really big thank you to the parents who came along to support their children and fill in the score cards. During the autumn/winter months the Juniors will be meeting on Saturday afternoons from 3 - 4.15pm



from the 8th October.

The cost remains the same £2 for members, £3 for non-members and £2 for the first two sessions

for those experiencing golf for the first time.

The Brian Wilson Cup, the last match of 2016, is to be played on Wednesday 26th October first tee 12.30 pm. The sheet is on the notice board for you to sign.



Graham Wright The Warreners

Apologies for missing last month's newsletter and I will now report on two months of Warreners events.

On August 3rd the Warreners played at home against Worlebury Golf Club at Minehead and lost 4-2 but



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nevertheless it was a very pleasant day's golf. The fixture goes back a long way, in fact to the days of Geoff Barrett who instigated the fixture with John Wood from Worlebury resulting in keenly fought matches for a trophy made by John Wood. Unfortunately Worlebury have won the trophy on more occasions than the Warreners.

On 17th August the Warreners played against the North Devon Police but due to pressure of work, holidays and unhelpful shifts the police could only field a team of eight so two Warreners played for the police. This ploy didn't work as the Police won 4 -2.

Members of the Warreners played for the Geoff Barrett tankards on the 24th August, a four ball better ball Stableford competition. The competition was won by Mike Lee and Robin Miles with 48 points.

On 31st August the Warreners played against Minehead Seniors and won 4 1/2 - 1 1/2 on a very nice day followed by a great meal served by Graham our chef who we feel is providing some excellent food. The Seniors and Warreners feel that these internal club competitions are very important by bringing extra revenue to the club via the kitchen and the bar

The Warreners were due to play the Royal Naval Air Station, Yeovilton at Minehead on 7th September but the Navy are struggling to find members for their society and couldn't raise a team so it appears they will probably cease to exist as a golf society. A long standing Warreners fixture that we are keen to replace.

On September 14th the Warreners played Brean Golf Club at Minehead where the Warreners won 4 1/2 - 1 1/2 against a strong team.

On Monday 26th September the Warreners were due to play Chivenor at Minehead but Chivenor cancelled due to their concerns about a horrendous weather forecast. The fixture is to be rearranged during November.

The Warreners were due to play Minehead Ladies on 28th September but there were problems with the date and the fixture has now been rearranged for 2nd November. The Warreners still have fixtures to fulfil throughout October and November so we hope the weather is kind to us.



The Course, Graham J Wells

I am still awaiting some answers from my questions of the Waste Planning Authorities concerning their

requirements for final approval of our plans for landfill. Landfill income cannot be expected until early next year as a result, but we'll get there eventually!

A member had suggested we may be able to bring in soil under the heading of "landscaping" which Sherborne had done without the need for planning approval. Unfortunately Sherborne's activities took place as part of major improvements to their 9 most recently renewed holes and did not require soil deliveries inconveniencing neighbours. In our case any large scale soil deliveries must pass close to the cottages at the entrance to the course and would require approval in any circumstance!

Night time rabbit shooting has begun and although the nuisance has been reduced at the far ends of the course this will have to be an ongoing activity until such time as we can afford to install more comprehensive fencing. In the interim the greenkeepers will be repairing some of the fencing at the clubhouse end as time permits.

Rob Barrett has identified that the subtly raised contours of the ground around some greens is preventing water from running off the greens in periods of very wet weather resulting

in pooling of water on these greens. To try to alleviate this we have decided to skim off some of the topsoil in limited areas as follows:

Front left of the fringe to the 4th green. Front left of the fringe to the 6th green. Short left of the 7th green Middle left of the 8th green.

These relatively small areas will be dealt with one at a time between now and Xmas so as to cause the minimum of disruption and each will be marked as GUR for a short time.

We plan to apply Winter Rules when BST ends on October 30th unless wet weather is anticipated between times in which case members will be notified of an earlier date.

Finally, as some of you are aware I have had some health issues which have prevented my playing and otherwise being at the club for the past 3 months. This situation is likely to continue until the spring but for now I can always be contacted if you need me on my mobile, by text or by email even if I'm around the club less frequently.

Check out the various notice boards and website for further comps and updates.