



## Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter



### The Chairman Paul Fullbrook, Summer Rant.

Two steps forward, one step back, goes the saying. This seemed to happen quite frequently in the first two years of my Chairmanship. But we kept going, trying to achieve our targets, striving to get our Club functioning more professionally.

The Office is a step forward, and with a smooth hand-over implemented by both Faye & Margaret, all is well at the business end of the Club.

The Course is a step forward, working parties joining in when asked. The Green Staff continually presenting the Course as the "Jewel in our Crown". New machinery in place.

Catering has taken a step back; Sunday lunch trade has diminished, and there are other issues that are currently in hand with the Management Committee.

The Clubhouse redecoration is a step forward. Improved lighting and seating add to the comfort of our revamped lounge, dining room and bar areas. Next on the agenda is the exterior!!

The Open Days are a step forward, including the successful "Taster Day", when new members were signed up....congratulations to the Marketing Group.

Now that summer is upon us , I am taking a step back, because its busy in the world of thatching.....

Happy Days."

### Phil Bowden, Club Captain



The month started off with the Somerset Ladies County Golf Association (SLCGA) playing their County Championship over the

bank holiday weekend, and with very tricky conditions, congratulations go to Jade Cope from Weston GC who beat Gill Brown 3 & 2.

On Bank Holiday Monday the Artisans trophy was played for which is a 36 hole medal competition, and this was won by Dave Dennis with a nett score of 139, beating Chris Yeates by 1 shot. Beau Nicholls won the Centenary Trophy and Tankard played on the 17th May with a score of 65 and a handicap cut from 17 to 14.

The Minehead and West Somerset Men's Open took place on the 23rd May and was won by my Nick Bangs with 40 points, on count-back from our chairman Paul Fulbrook. Thanks for this event must go to Graham Walsh for all his efforts prior to this event and also his help on the day. Also thanks to Dave Williams for helping out in the foyer, issuing scorecards etc, and also to all

the ladies who served bacon baps at the halfway house and helped out at the start.

On the 27th May a team from Minehead travelled to Burnham & Berrow to play in the Seniors Somerset Bowl and after a very hard fought match were on the wrong side of a 3 – 2 result against Clevedon. This was a creditable performance as Clevedon have won this competition twice in the last 6 years. The whole team played well and the winning pairs for Minehead were Tony Hardick and Mike Nichols, and Graham Wells and Captain Phil.

After playing 3 club matches at home during April, on May 16th we played our first away fixture, against Enmore Park, and we came away with a great win by 5½ to 4½. This was a fantastic result and credit must go to all the team, but I must thank our new team members Andy Hodgson and Jared Greig for their performance and also Shaun Harris and Bill Hogg for turning up at short notice and gaining a point for the team.

The first Tuesday Swindle of May saw just 24 members playing, with a par score of 74, there was only one team to beat par and that was John Duckworth, Mark Johnson and Nigel Humphries with a score of 79. Plonkers were Doug Wilson, Brian Levey and Frank Phillipson with 57 points.

The second swindle of the Month had 51 players and with a format of 3–2–2 and 3 on the last, par score of 86 , the winning team, again the only ones to beat par, consisted of Derek Stevens, Alan Bissell and the Captain with a score of 89 points. Plonkers this time were Doug Wilson, Barry Gahame and Robin Miles with a score of 65 points.

The swindle played on the 19th May saw 24 members play a 4 ball better ball competition which resulted in a win for Mike Smith and Jack McClay with 37 points. Lowest score of the day came from Jamie Anderson and Malcolm McNeill with 25 points.

For the final swindle of May, 43 members played a format of 2-2-3, par of 84, and the winners were Bob Fossey, Mark Johnson and Dave Singleton with a score of 85 points. Plonkers of the day were Doug Wilson, Colin Corlett and Brian McCaffrey with 56 points.

The captains swindle on a Wednesday evening is proving very popular, but due to competitions this coming month there will only be 2 swindles this month, which will be on the 10th and the 24th.

The Avalon League season has started, and the "A" team have acquitted themselves very well so far, and are currently top of Division 3. Well played. The "B" team have only just started and



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at the moment have collected 16 points from 2 games.

Next month, over the weekend of 11th/12th July we have the Club Championship.

### **Kay Lockett, Lady Captain.**

May has been another very busy month for the Ladies Section.



THE Open Greensomes played on the 7th May saw a field of 44 compete, resulting in a win for home pair Anne Oglesby and Sandra Atkins with 38pts, 2nd were Sara Warren and Eve Bolton (Enmore) 36pts, 3rd Sue Hockley and Janet Waplinton (both Enmore) 32pts on count-back, 4th Kay Lockett and Ingrid Swinburn 32pts. Visitors prize went to Karen Potter (Oake) and Gill Shire (T & P) 38pts. Thanks for a successful day must be given to Ros Chidgey and her organisation and to Wendy Barker for manning the registration table.

Our first Interleague match was played at Wells with some very close games resulting in a win for Wells I am sure we will reverse the result when they come to Minehead.

Another Skylark Competition – American Greensomes was played on Sunday 26th May, the winners Dave & Sue Dennis

coming in with a great score of 47pts, 2nd Robin & Kim Francis Hill 44pts, 3rd Chris & Paula Parkin 42pts, an enjoyable day was had by everyone.

The Ladies Section held an EGM to decide whether to move their AGM to March, this is to bring the Ladies' Captain's year in line with the Club Captain and Seniors Captain, it was a unanimous decision to do this.

I have just returned from the Meet & Greet for "New Golfers" organised at the Club, it really was a success & many of them have signed up for group lessons and hopefully some will become new members, well done to Jayne Fulwell and her team for all their hard work.

Another Inter-league match tomorrow, best of luck ladies, happy golfing.

### **Stephen Kaye, Seniors Captain**



The highlight for the Seniors this month was The Seniors Open. The event although held in challenging conditions was a great success. Teams came from as far away as Staffordshire and Hertfordshire. Opens are like our shop window and put our club in front of many golfers which will in turn increase our green fee revenue. Well done to all who contributed and

especially to Graham Walsh the hard working organiser.

The Seniors have played a number of matches during May, home and away. Last month I reported that we had been defeated a number of times but this month I am delighted to report the team had 2 great wins against Vivary and Saunton. Whilst we all like to win Seniors golf is much more about the love of the game played in the best of company.

As I write this I am looking forward to our next match, tomorrow. We even have some new members joining in with the team. At the risk of sounding like a football supporter I say "Come on you Seniors".

### **Graham Walsh – Bar Social and Opens organiser.**

There was a great turnout for this year's seniors open, 104 members & visitors. The weather was a bit blustery and wet but a good response from lots of players saying how much they enjoyed the day. Congratulations go to Neil Powles with a very good 39 pts, 2nd was John Coomber on 37 pts. Well done to Dave Williams for doing the start table all day. Thanks also go to Mrs Holland and Mrs Swinburn at the half way house and the starter Mrs Chidgey.



Finally a big thank you to our own twin chefettes Norman Sawyer & Graham Stone for also helping to feed the players in the afternoon.

During the month we also held the Club open. There was a very good field for the clubs first open for many years, a field of 102 playing! Thank you again for all who helped out on the day you are much appreciated.

Congratulations to Nick Bangs scoring a very good 40 pts, 2nd was Paul Fullbrook and 3rd Stuart Bailey.

Watch this space for further details of the mixed open on Sunday 27th September.

The next club night is on Friday 19th June, live music by club member & Warrenner Mike Cashley, performing covers such as rock legends Queen & The Eagles + other 60's/70's/80's bands. The cost will be £10.00 per person to include choice of pie's with mash and onion gravy + a dessert of your choice. The members draw is a roll-over of £150.00. Special bar promotions on the night.

It would be appreciated if you can purchase your tickets in advance, available from the bar.

The date of the July club night is Friday 17th which will be a BBQ following the cross country golf.

August date, to be confirmed.



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### **The Course, Graham J Wells**



Sadly, getting started on constructing the new practice bays has been delayed by the fact that we won't hear of the success or otherwise of our grant application until at least July. Meanwhile 2 new practice mats will be laid on the area reserved for the bays and the new target greens finished off. We held 2 very successful working parties to fill divots on fairways 2, 3, 5, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 18. We've also tried to fill in bare patches on the 13th tee and leading up from the 1st green to the 2nd tee. Thanks to all who helped! My personal apologies to all who turned up for a non-existent 3rd working party. There was an error in the email announcement which will not occur again! Landfill arrivals have been suspended for April and May but we expect it to recommence in June with work starting to raise the 5th yellow and red tee area and improve the 5th white tee. We have had to replace a completely defunct irrigation system control unit which together with several greenside sprinkler valve boxes in need of replacement has meant we have had to water at less than ideal times in the recent past with hoses trailing

around! This situation will now improve although it will take time to work through the labour intensive program of valve box renewal. We ask for your patience! Right now it's rough growing time! Fortunately we've just taken delivery of a new Toro rough mower which will improve the speed and efficiency with which we can control the rough. Inevitably this will not solve all our problems but I am determined that we should keep the course in a pleasantly playable condition for all standards of golfer whilst stiffening it up a bit for the club championship. Please tackle me if you come across any particularly annoying issues!!



*"You always tell me it's only a game."*

### **Graham Wright –The Warreners**

During May the Warreners have played some matches and roll ups on Wednesdays.



Several club members have joined us in playing a variety of formats.

On 6th May the Warreners visited Brean Golf Club for our annual match and lost 4.5 – 1.5 in testing windy conditions. We hope to reverse the result in the return match at Minehead. A week later the Warreners visited Worlebury golf club to play a match in perfect conditions on a fine sunny and warm day. Worlebury golf club must be congratulated on the condition of their

course.. However the Warreners lost the match 4.5 – 1.5 with most results being very close. Again we hope to reverse the result when they visit Minehead later in the year.

On 20th May the Warreners played for the Ron Lawrence Trophy, a stableford competition which was won by David Kedge. Ron Lawrence is a past Warrener and a well known club member of some years ago.

We now look forward to matches and competitions in the coming months when hopefully the blasted wind will decrease on Minehead golf course.

Comments Contributions to Stephen  
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