



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

Newsletter 55 for April 2019



**John Perkins,
Club Chairman**

A lot of positive work has gone on behind the scenes, and again I will say your committees are doing a fine job. As I have mentioned before if any member would like to be involved in the club in any way please come and

see me.

The Kitchen and Bar Staff are to be congratulated on their efforts to make members and visitors feel most welcome. Not forgetting our Office Staff who do a great job in organising the running and important admin of the Club. With the help of all our members let's keep moving in the right way to create a successful Club.



**Glenn Ross,
Club Captain**

The first month of my captaincy has skipped by, helped by a great holiday. We have had two excellent home victories in Club Matches against both Tiverton and Enmore (the latter in my absence; thanks for keeping the 100% record Doug!). In the coming weeks we have away fixtures against Enmore and a match against the Swindlers. I trust as many Members as possible will put their names up to participate in Club Matches; it is always great to see new faces represent the Club. I hear many comments about the positive atmosphere at the Club, which is very heartening. Much of this is down to the hard work of all the Club Staff and Management Committee, led by John Perkins, for whom I am constantly grateful.

The recent weather has mostly been kind and the course is looking great, especially after some work on the fairways. Robert and his team have been helped by a number of volunteers who have been helping in many ways on the course. I am sure all members will join in my thanks to those members who have given up their time to support the great work of our greenkeeping team. On May 4th we have our first New Members Day to welcome a number of our recently-joined Members. We are renowned as a friendly club and this will help new Members meet people and integrate into the Club's available competitions, playing groups etc. Thanks to Ian Gover for organising the day. This is followed by our first Club Night of my Captaincy including the ever-popular Bingo and a chance to win the Club draw of £250. Remember you have to be present to win it! The Captain's Roll-up is taking place each Wednesday (when Club Competitions are not taking place) with groups playing from 4pm and 5.15pm for those working! If you wish to play (and perhaps meet someone new) contact the Bar or Proshop to get your name in the book

before 4pm on the day of play. My thanks go to Richard Stevens for continuing to help organise this event. Finally I was desperately sad to hear of the recent passing of Past Captain Peter Jones. He will be remembered as a popular character who did a huge amount for the Club, in particular his long-term involvement with the Arnold Palmer Charity Day that has raised many thousands of pounds for good causes. He will be missed by all of us and the whole Club's thoughts are with his family at this most difficult time.



**Ros Chidgey,
Ladies' Captain**

The Ladies' competitions are now in full swing with Sandra Atkins winning the Wimbush Bowl for the Silver Division with a nett 75 and Linda Trump winning the Junior Bowl for the Bronze Division with a nett 73. Minehead Ladies then played against a team from Kingsdown in the nationwide Annodata Competition and although they put up a very good fight Minehead lost 3-2.

The following week's Stableford was won by Pat Lucas with 37 points, with Sarah Hill coming second with 34 points. Well done to Sandra Atkins again: this time she won the Poyntz Cup with a nett 70. The last competition of April was the Dickenson/Barlow Qualifier: Jenny Elliott winning the Dickenson and qualifying to represent the Club at Wheathill. Well done again to all the winners.

The 29th of April saw a friendly Bowmaker match played at Minehead with Ilfracombe, in calm conditions, with Tricia (Grinter) and Jennifer (James) from Minehead, and Lorraine and Anne from Ilfracombe winning with 79 points.



**Neil Powles
Seniors' Captain**

The second year of my captaincy has continued with a busy month inter-club wise and with internal competitions.

First up was a tough away match at Burnham & Berrow, where we have had some serious drubbings over the years. We pushed them all the way this time before losing 3½-2½. Good wins for Terry Walker/Malcolm Bruce & David Ball /Peter Taylor and a half from Tony Bowden /Derek Marshman.

Next up another away fixture at near neighbours Enmore, losing 5-2: excellent wins from Mark Ruttley/Dorrien Bickerstaff and Tim Tennant/Mike Shortland. Our home matches of the month saw a 3½-2½ score against Vivary Park, with wins for the pairings of David Lake/Nigel Trevelyan, Bill Hogg/Edward Frewin and Will Elston /Andy Dahl with the half from Richard Austwick/Neville Parsons, the other two pairings losing by one. The final match of



the month against Royal North Devon was a tight affair, with spoils being shared 3½–3½; wins from Andy Atkins/Randall Foot, Neil Powles /Edward Frewin and Tony Bowden/ Barry Chaffey; with the important half from the final pairing of Nigel Trevelyan /Tim Tennant. This month we travel to Vivary Park and entertain Saunton and Burnham & Berrow at Minehead.

On the internal front our Monthly White Medal resulted in a surprise and welcome win for Peter Coombes, with a score of 41, followed by Graham Troman 39 and Mark Ruttley 37. The Monthly Texas Scramble saw a win with a score of 64.9 from Dave Oatridge/Malcolm Bruce/Alan Jarrett; second on 65.6 came the trio of Trevor Stephens/David Lake/Nigel Trevelyan. The First Trophy up for contesting was Dixey's Bogey and this saw the competition go to a three-way tie; the play off over 18 holes concluded in a tight win for Edward Frewin on 0, Malcolm Bruce -1 and Neil Powles -2.

This year's Senior Metcalfe Cup goes to David Ball and Randall Foot with a score of 43 points winning on countback from David Lake and Richard Austwick and finally the first round of five for the Marshalls Cup saw Mark Ruttley come in with an excellent 66 followed by Tim Evans 68 and Randall Foot 69.

Finally, it is pleasing and welcoming to receive an email from a top golf club, Royal North Devon, which shows the efforts of everyone to do with the club paying dividends and the hard work from each department and section. It reads:- "What a great day we had out at Minehead GC recently, it comes out tops regarding inter-club matches: the atmosphere, food, camaraderie, just spot and thank you for making us feel so welcome". Personally, thank you to all connected with the club for helping to put Minehead Golf Club back on the map.



Denis Compton
Course Manager

I am pleased to report that finally, albeit with a delay of 12 months, the conditions we had to meet on the original planning application (with a three-year window) to be granted planning permissions for landfill to enhance course development and maintenance have been approved. We will be applying for an extension of 12 months to maximise the potential opportunity this brings. Details of how this will impact on general play on the golf course and the potential benefit for the Club's overall position will be made known after a series of meetings that will be taking place to make this happen as smoothly as possible.

Some technical stuff from Robert:

Greens - desirable fine-leaved species continue to increase providing an ever-improving putting surface. With soil and air temperature high enough for seed

germination, some holes will appear on the weakest areas of the greens. These provide pots and soil contact for the seed. Topdressing will be light and such work not very noticeable for players.

Surrounds/approaches - these areas are being managed in a similar way to the green, and grass seed will be sown in the same way. The ongoing intention is to provide similar surfaces just at a higher height of cut.

Irrigation lines on the 10th and 14th approaches will soon be rolled to correct levels removing the need for GUR.

Fairways - recent scarifying and over-seeding has improved our very thin fairways. However, this will need to be carried out on an annual basis where finance will allow.

Voluntary divotting and tee dressing is ongoing with Past Captain Dougie Hayhoe, Mark Ruttley, Mike Nichols and Mark Ogden all contributing. Their efforts are making a huge difference to the enhancement of appearance and playability of the course. Well done to them.

The welcome spring warmth with welcome rain is increasingly encouraging natural grass growth across the site especially in the semi-rough. The importance of mowing semi-rough at this time of year cannot be overstated. Lost golf balls will reduce player enjoyment and historically this has been a problem for the majority of members' and visitors' playing standards. We will endeavour to control the semi-rough and try not to allow it to get out of hand. However, the area of unspoiled grassland (rough – not deemed in general play areas) will be left in its natural state and the advice is to stay out!!! With the three-minute rule upon us it is advisable to play a provisional ball if you think you may be in trouble, anywhere on the course. Please also be aware of the ground-nesting skylarks. These areas are marked, so be aware of the possibility of eggs or chicks underfoot. If you think someone is looking at you through lenses, think again - it's the birds they are viewing!

Although winter rules may be lifted soon, some of the areas that are still weak or undergoing continued repair work may be marked with GUR signs.

Late addition

As of **Wednesday May 1st** the 16th hole off the Yellow Tees is now a Par 5 from the back tees!



Dorrien Bickerstaff
Bar & Catering

Let me start with a recent quote from Mike Stacey (Royal North Devon Seniors Captain) 'Minehead comes tops for me....the atmosphere, the food, the camaraderie just spot on'. Many thanks to our Seniors and all the staff for making our course such a great place to visit. We know we are by



no means there yet but month on month with everyone's support we see marked improvements.

Thank you to those who have offered to help arrange social events and publicise them. The first Club Night of the year will be a Curry and Bingo Night on Saturday 4th May 7.00pm, following the Hayman Rabbit and New Members' afternoon. All are welcome but only members can win the draw and only if they are present! Please book your place with the bar staff- £12 per head to include 2 bingo cards (further cards can be purchased on the night).

With the longer nights the bar opening hours have been adjusted. Please see hours on notice board. Staffing will be back to full strength with Marie's return from Australia. May looks busy with lots of matches in the diary, so we are looking forward to another good month.

Avalon Seniors, A & B

Seniors - Tony Bowden

Having re-joined the Avalon Seniors League, we made an excellent start winning our first 2 games 4-1 against Taunton and Pickeridge and Cricket St Thomas; however, we came back to earth with a 3-2 loss to Long Sutton. All these matches were at home, and we now have 5 matches away before returning to the Club for our final 2 matches in August and September. All the visiting teams have said how well the course is playing, with a special mention on the quality of the greens. I have had fantastic support from the members who have played so far, but if there is anyone over 55 who would like to play, there is a list in the foyer so just add your name. I am trying to get everyone a game so that everyone can feel part of the team.



Eddy Gosling
The Warreners

The Warreners are now well into their match season. Our annual triangular game was played at Exeter Golf and Country club against the Colonials and Chivenor Golf Societies. A great game and venue, followed by a fantastic 3 course meal. The Warreners did themselves proud coming in 2nd on this warm and sunny day.

To liven things up the Warreners have come up with a new concept of playing golf, we call it "Torrential Golf." It's played over approximately 9 holes with a 3-hour window of torrential rain at Brean Golf club. The aim is to tee off and get to the greens without hitting ducks, geese or swans that are swimming down the fairways; you can collect as much water as you wish in your golf bags or jacket pockets. If any player gets to the club house with any dry objects in their possession then they can claim a win, no golfer did. We visited Brean on the worst day of the year and walked in after 9 holes. It took most of us 3 days to dry out our kit. The shot of the day goes to one intrepid Warrener who teed off on the dogleg par 4. He

hits a great shot down the fairway to the corner leaving himself an easy 7 iron to the green. His follow-through from the drive sends his driver flying off to the left, over the stream and wire fence, into the farmer's field of growing wheat. Undeterred, off he goes down the bank through the water, up the other side and over the fence. His very concerned playing partners give assistance in looking for the missing club by standing on the tee, umbrellas up, sheltering from the driving rain, shouting, "left a bit, over to the right, over there etc." After about 5 minutes a right hand is held aloft holding the driver in "Excalibur pose"; they hear the words, "**found it**". While returning to the tee a debate ensues as to whether the new 3-minute rule applies. "Can he use his driver on the next hole?" "Is he out of time?" "Does he have a provisional driver in his bag or does he have to take a 2-shot penalty?" On his return, over the fence and across a bridge, that he hasn't seen before looking for his club, the 4 golfers shake hands, call the game a half and have a soggy walk in to a welcome hot shower and a cold beer. *(Due to the Data Protection act of 1.4.2019 names cannot be given as to who it was, see me in the bar or ask a Warrener.)*



Ian Gover
Handicap & Competitions

With the weather improving and with more people playing we should all start to think about the speed at which we play or what the R&A – the 'prompt pace of play'. Within rule 5.6b there are several pieces of advice which include taking 40 seconds once you can take your shot (Count to 40 now and see how long that is). In fact, the rule states that you should be able to do it 'quicker than that' indicating that you should prepare for each shot ahead of time. My pet gripes include those people that mark cards on the green, those that leave equipment in a place that interferes with the group behind, the time it take some people to putt and groups that when searching for a ball do not wave on the group behind. I am sure you have your pet gripes as well. Along the same lines is if you do not record a score or NR. Avoid this by playing a provisional ball if there is any doubt as to where the ball is. I would encourage not to NR at all, accept your fate with a smile as NRs affect the scratch score of the competition and your handicap especially with the oncoming World Handicap System. For instance, if you blast three tee shots into Butlin's off the 7th tee and decide enough is enough it will only count as a double bogie as far as the handicapping system is concerned. The scores you then get on the other holes may be good enough to count as the best 8 out of 20 scores. So even if you NR you should continue to play the course and record all the scores you can. This month's problem centres around rule 15.3a which states that:



'If you and another player **agree** to leave a ball in place to help one of you, and that player then makes a stroke with the helping ball left in place, each player who made the agreement gets the **general penalty (two penalty strokes)**.'

So, you putt up to the hole and another player from off the green plays and hits your ball and ends up in the hole who should be penalised?

The last puzzle was: What should happen if a player putts up to the flag and then in trying to hole out quickly hits it against the flag pole, bounces back onto his putter and then rebounds into the hole? The answer, and we consulted several people about this, is that the ball is holed as it counts as an accidental double hit!



**Pro Shop
Bix &
Jordan**

The season is here! We both agree that the golf course is in fantastic condition at the moment, well done to Rob, Adam & Sean and also a well done and a big thank you to Mark Ogden, Mark Ruttley, Charlie Griffiths & Mike Nichols for giving up their time to help improve the condition of our course!!

We have great deals in store at the moment, Callaway Hyper Dry Waterproof Cart Bags reduced from £229 to £159, Ladies Footjoy Casual Collection Spikeless Shoes reduced from £89.99 to £32.49, Taylormade Litetech Tour Caps reduced from £24.99 to £10.99.

We have a fantastic range of shoes in from Footjoy, PUMA & Under Armour. Our best seller for the year Bridgestone Tour B Balls remain at the super low price of £29.75 per dozen.

Custom fitting available with Cobra, Ping, Callaway, Taylormade, Srixon and Benross equipment.

Jordan & Phil Arbourne have been out to set our New Golf Access course which is designed for Juniors & Beginners. On Monday evening Jordan & Archie Walsh took 9 of our Juniors out to play 3 holes from the new Golf Access tees which was great fun and a super way to get all enjoying our course.