



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter



A message from the Club Chairman, Paul Fullbrook.

"As we approach the busy season at our Club, it is good to report that all seems well on the "Good Ship M&WSGC". There is a warm feel to the Clubhouse, as the refurbishment continues to gather pace. All our Teams have made impressive starts to their new campaigns.

The Club has been afforded the privilege of hosting the 2016 County Championships, which proves that our Club, and every aspect of it, is being talked about at County level, for the right reasons. Happy Golfing..."

Phil Bowden, Club Captain

Well what can I say, my year of captaincy did not start too well, with the Shotgun Bowmaker which is the first competition of the captains year, having to be postponed due to strong winds and pouring rain. We will try to look and see if we can fit it in later in the year. Later in the day though, the weather did ease a little bit and quite a few turned up to see the Captains drive in, where I was also joined by the other Club captains, Kay, Stephen and Jordan. I think we all put in



a creditable performance, with most of the drives going somewhere close to the middle. But we are still looking for one of the balls that Jordan hit and cleared the first green.

My first Club match of the year was against our good friends from Tiverton, where we achieved a great result of 7 matches to 3, with

the Captain and his partner, Gareth Morgan managing to beat the Tiverton Captain and his partner 4 & 3.

The first Tuesday Swindle of April saw 52 members enjoy some great April sunshine, with the best score of the day (118) by Brian McCafferey, Andre Gurrier, Colin Corlett and Richard Daniels. Plonkers with 98 were, Trevor John, Paul Beck, Nigel May and Robin Jones.

The following Sunday in April saw us renew our friendship with Wells Stragglers, and after a nice brunch served up by James and his staff, we managed to go on and achieve a win, this time 3 – 2, with the Captain and his partner losing on the 17th. Hoping for better luck when we go to Wells in September.



I missed the second swindle of the month as unfortunately I was playing in the Seniors Open at Long Ashton (enough said), but 55 members played and it resulted in a good win for Dan Day, Dave

Shambrook and Jeff Bird with 85 points. Plonkers this time were Alan Bissell, Robin Miles and D Mansfield with 60 points.

On Thursday 16th April 41 members of the swindle travelled to Oake Manor for one of our away days. Fine weather but not quite such good golf from most players, saw the winning group of Jamie Anderson, Pete Scott, Bob Cody-Boucher and Dorrien Bickerstaff take the plaudits. Plonkers of the day were Dave Shambrook, Dan Day and our President Alan Ridgeway. The day was finished off with a quite nice 2 course meal.

The third swindle of the month was won by Ray Milton, Bill Baker and Mark Vickers with 82 points. For plonkers of the day with 62 points we welcomed

back Ken Tomlinson with playing partners John Duckworth and Frank Phillipson.

Saturday 18th April saw us entertain 20 members from Enmore, and for the 3rd time this month we managed to achieve a victory, this time by 6½ to 3½. Once again though the captain was one of the losers, but 2 of his brothers, Tony and Peter, kept him company by losing their matches as well.

The final swindle of the month was won by Mike Bowater, Nigel Morgan and Bob Fossey with 78 points. This time the plonkers were Andre Gurrier, Mark Johnson and Steve Archer, who came in with 61 points.

The Minehead and West Somerset Mens Open takes place on the 23rd May, please support it if you can.

Kay Lockett, Lady Captain.

April has been a very busy month for the Ladies Section with regard to the number of matches having to be played.

The Met & Quantock Salvagers have all been played with Minehead finishing in the bronze position in both, let's hope for better luck next year.





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The first match in the Wessex was played at Minehead against Burnham & Berrow with an excellent result for the home team, 5 matches won, 1 halved & 1 lost giving us a score of 13pts to 3pts, well done ladies.

Minehead entertained Weston-super-Mare on Sunday 24th April in a mixed match, nine pairs a side played with the result of honours even 4 matches each and two halved, thanks must go to Ros Mcguire for organising the day, I understand an enjoyable time was had by all.

The Somerset County Ladies Championship was played at Minehead on 1st, 2nd & 3rd May. I must say some excellent golf was played in difficult weather conditions. Three ladies from Minehead played, Linda Vasey, Sue Dennis & Linda Trump, a special mention must be given to Linda Trump who in the match play on Saturday took her opponent to the 19th hole.

Don't forget the Returners Afternoon on Sunday 10th May and Beginners to Golf on Sunday 7th June, if you have friends interested

in taking up golf do encourage them to come along.

Looks from the diary as though we have a busy May ahead as we now start our Interleague matches.

Enjoy your Golf.



Stephen Kaye, Seniors Captain

My official Captaincy started with the club's Captain's Drive-in.

The Seniors decided to align their Captaincy with the main club in order to promote the club. Thanks go to Phil Bowden for facilitating this and also for Dave Williams for his Seniors Captaincy during the interim

period. We hope that future Captain Drive-ins will be a success and a feature fun day for the whole club.

The seniors have played five matches during April, four away from home and one at home.

Although we came close to winning our home match

unfortunately the Seniors have been defeated in all matches. There have been some great individual

performances; there are still plenty of matches to come and lots of time for us to improve our record.

It is with great sadness that we lost, very suddenly, one of our Seniors at the end of April. Richard Webber will be greatly missed by us all.

As I write this the morning after the Seniors Open I am once again impressed and grateful to the volunteers who work so hard to make events like this a success, regardless of the conditions. I will include a report about this event in next month's newsletter. In the meantime for the rest of May, we are looking forward to the final of our knock-out, match-play event, 'The Porlock Cup,' between Graham Troman and Graham Stone, the battle of the Grahams. We also will be competing for the Seniors Metcalf Cup, the Stewards Cup, one Stableford, one Medal and five matches. It's going to be a busy month for the Seniors.

Graham Walsh – Bar Social and Opens organiser.



May 1st music quiz night was a very good success, 13 teams entered, congratulations to Malcolm Bruce's team on winning with a very good

31 out of 40 correct answers, just goes to show not all seniors brains die off

after 55. Second was Dave Dennis's team, which proves my point (another senior). Well done to the kitchen and bar for keeping us fed and watered so efficiently.

The next club night will be held on Friday 19th May, live music with the Warreners very own and excellent Mike Cashley, with a selection of 60/70/80s music and covers from Queen / Eagles to name just a few. Please check the board in the bar regarding food/price.

Please note that the Club Open is on Sat 23rd May, we have a good entry but still times available. The sign-up sheet is on the club notice board. Two things I would like to ask about this event is; Would anyone not playing or going out later be willing to act as starters on the first tee, spotters at various points and also helpers at the halfway house. Secondly as proceeds are going back into the club we would gratefully accept prizes for the raffle table. Thank you in advance.

The Course, Graham J Wells



April has seen work on the course primarily dedicated to routine maintenance with Rob Barrett having been on vacation for most of the first 3 weeks. In that time the 2 remaining greenkeepers Sean and Adam



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have worked really hard to keep the course in very good playable condition with part time mowing assistance from Andy Atkins. We know the course remains a little rough around the edges but that will continue as long as we are limited by the financial and human resources available!

The newly sanded bunkers have been greatly improved reaching a peak of condition for the Ladies County competition on 1st May. However, we appreciate the depth of soft new sand has caused initial problems in a few instances with difficult lies. This condition will improve in time especially if members give special attention to treading down and carefully raking any such areas they come across.

We have now started work on reinstating the areas around the practice greens by excavating topsoil from the reed beds (this excavation and extension of the reed beds being a necessary job required within planning approval for the landfill program.) We also anticipate further landfill deliveries to begin again to allow work to start in the area of the 5th tee during May. Meanwhile we would like to lay practice mats on the area reserved for the new practice bay to be used until such time as we hear about our grant application for the latter's construction.

Finally, in May we will need volunteer working parties to help with some aspects of course maintenance such as the pressure of work on the greenkeepers. Accordingly we ask all of you with the available time and good health to give your support when the call to arms comes!



Graham Wright –The Warreners

Since the last Warrens newsletter we have played a few matches.

Following our win against Enmore in February the Warreners played the Minehead Seniors in March with the Warreners winning 4½ to 1½ to the Warreners. The match and the meal afterwards was enjoyed by all. We are all Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club members and familiarity breeds lots of friendly banter between the groups. (Note from Editor; Not only has Graham rubbed this in but has even expected me (the Seniors Captain) to type this report out for him!)

On Monday 13th April the Warreners played a triangular match with The Colonials from Exeter and Chivenor Golf Society (former RAF Chivenor). The format is individual stableford with one player from each team of 10 in a three ball. All team stableford points are

added together to obtain the total of each team. This resulted with the Colonials score 269, Chivenor 311 and Warreners 322, so a win for the Warreners for only second time in the competition which has been played over many years. This important fixture in the Warreners diary included an excellent three course meal appreciated even more by the newly decorated Club house that met with our guests notice and approval.

Two days after the Triangular fixture the Warreners travelled to Yeovil on 15th April to play the Royal Naval Air Station, Yeovilton. This resulted in a loss by the 'Warreners 4 -2. the Warreners winners being Graham /Wright with Graham Wells and Mike Cashley with Les Fox. To complete the fixtures in April the Warreners played the Colonials at Exeter Golf Club which resulted in a 3 -3 draw. I was on holiday so Graham Wells Captained the team but forgot to take the trophy and was saved by achieving a draw. I have to admit to forgetting to take the trophy last year when luckily we also earned a draw.

We have matches and competitions scheduled in May with results for the next newsletter.

Finally we Warreners would like to thank the green staff for a course in excellent condition and for the Club

house staff for looking after us so well before and after matches.

Juniors Captain Jordan Arnold



Remember the Juniors, just give Jordon a shout if you know of any juniors that would be interested in

taking up golf.