



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

Newsletter No 20 May 2016.

**Stephen Kaye
Club Chairman.**



The question I am faced with this month is how do we promote pride in our club?

Having worked and played golf in many parts of the world I always wondered where I would end up in the autumn of my life. I had spent very many happy junior years living and going to school in Worlebury, Somerset. When I returned to the UK, Somerset was my first choice. I looked around for a golf club to join and I was delighted when, even though it was a 45 minute drive away, I joined the golf club at Minehead. What a great club, what a great course. I counted myself as very lucky to be able to join as a member.

Sadly, not all share my opinion. I am surprised by some, I hasten to add not too many, attitudes toward their club and membership. I don't want this to come across as a moan but I do want to highlight what a great club we have and how we all need to be extremely proud of being a member. How can we show this pride? There are a number of ways. Care is important. Here are just some examples. If you see some litter on the course or car park, pick it up.

Care, when bunkers need tidying, even if you are not in the bunker, give it a rake over, of course don't hold up play. Care about pitch marks on the green, repair your own and any you see, if we all repaired two, there would be no pitch marks left to repair. Care by respecting the no-go zones for trolleys, the green keepers put them there for a purpose. Finally and most importantly care about the language we use, this can have the most destructive effect on ourselves and those around us. Please be careful about whinging and moaning, or saying other clubs are better than ours at this or that. Complaints are one thing, unfounded constant negativity is another. I am not suggesting that we can't complain or ask questions, of course we need to know when something needs to be put right. We know there are problems that need addressing, there always are, whichever club you belong to. As I said in last month's newsletter we need to improve and raise standards I can assure you the management committee are dedicated to doing just that. We can only do this if all the membership buy into this principle. Fortunately there are many of whom I can say "I am preaching to the converted". Be proud, be very proud of this great club.



**Dorrien Bickerstaff
Club Captain.**

So here I am, one month in to my year as your Club Captain, and what do you know about me? I have been a member of Minehead and West Somerset for over 30 years. I currently play off 17 and my favourite hole is our 6th. Once I was on the golf course when I got the message to hot foot it back to Porlock because the Castle Hotel was alight (not only was I a fully retained leading firefighter and was needed, but I was a hotel manager and it was my hotel that was on fire!) But that's enough about me for this month.

John Perkins has been very helpful and lent me his copy of "Responsibilities of the Club Captain". As your Club Captain, and the club's Senior Officer, apparently I get the privilege of priority on the first tee at all times, a decent parking space and the chance to play other courses free of charge (it's a courtesy during your year of office) but above all it's the highest honour that a Club Golfer can receive and one that I find very humbling. I hope to serve you, our membership, in such a way that our club moves forward together, has a reputation for

creating a friendly and inclusive atmosphere. And promote a golf course which is a fair but challenging test.

This past month there has already been some strife to deal with. I ask the membership to be patient and remain positive as we try to resolve catering staffing problems and issues. Also there was the mindless vandalism of the golf buggies causing the Bank Holiday external Disabled competition to be cancelled. However the new patio area has now been completed by a small working party and the divot filling sessions are going well, the weather has been clement though the wind is biting cold at times and there have been some excellent cards returned. Our thanks go to the green keepers for all their hard work. Club matches have been going well. Building on last month's success against Tiverton we had a resounding win against our local rivals Enmore 7½ to 2½ followed by a much closer win against Wells Stragglers 3½ to 2½. My thanks to all those members that have shown interest in playing for our club at all levels and making themselves available.

I was honoured this month with being asked to play at Enmore for Somerset Captains and thank Rob



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Enjoy your golf and remember

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

Fear, the Club Captain for Enmore, for the invitation and a very pleasurable day.

Congratulations to Matthew Pennington for winning the first Junior trophy of the year. The Club is very lucky to have Janet Handley and Jordan Arnold making such positive inroads into rejuvenating this very important part of our club.

Next month I hope to publish a list of all the different regular groups that go out so our newer members (and maybe some of our more established members) get the most out of their membership.

Finally, please take time to check out what's happening this month here at Minehead and West Somerset and make a note in your diary.

Jenny Holland, Lady Captain.

Month started well with Jayne Webber & Ros Chidgey winning on the 19th hole at Bath against Wells, in the Centenary Plate (county knockout). Well done both of you.

We came second in both Salvagers this year, MET was won by Enmore 36 points, Minehead had 29, T & P 25. Quantocks was won by T & P 40 points, Minehead 29, Enmore 21. First League Match we lost away to Orchardleigh, friendly against Ilfracombe we also lost. Mixed friendly against T & P we won 6 games to 3, then we went to Weston and lost 4 1/2 to 5 1/2. Thank you to



Ros McGuire for Captain the matches

Bad luck Jayne Webber & Lesley Davis losing in the second round of the Daily Mail foursomes at T&P. We also lost in the first round of the Rogers Cup, county knockout which was played at Clevedon against Mendip Springs, really hard match to play, bad draw to have in the first round, thank you to our team.

Weekly comps, 1st Spring Meeting, Kym Francis-Hill winning Windbush Trophy Silver Div with 44 points Jenny Elliott winning Junior Bowl Bronze Div with 33 points. Texas scramble 14th April winners Jayne Webber, Lesley Davis, Margaret Gliddon. April 21st Poytnz Cup was won by Jayne Webber 38 points. 28th April Medal Qualifier, Dickinson was won by Sara Warren 72 and Barlow was won by Tina Beaver also 72, they will go on to play in the county Open to see if they can win the Dickinson/Barlow Trophies well done you two.

I will not be doing a newsletter for May as I will be away in L.A for my son's wedding, but I will be leaving the Committee to run the section while I am away, any problems I am sure they will be able to sort out, thanks to my Vice Captain and the Committee.



Dave Chidgey, Seniors Captain.

Since the last newsletter the Seniors have played three matches and whilst everyone enjoyed the event in general, we are not having any success on the course. We lost to B&B 51/2 to 1/2, Versus R.N.D at home we had a close match losing 4/3 and at Ilfracombe we lost 4/2. I pause for thought over some handicaps. On a lighter note my AWAY day at Long Sutton was attended by 20 players the weather was fine and I hope was enjoyed by all at least I did. See you next month.

Janet Handley – Juniors Section

The Junior section is growing and the participants are very keen. It is amazing to see how they have improved in such a short space of time. Well done to them (and Jordan and George of course). This Monday evening they all went out on the course to experience a Texas Scramble.

Many thanks to the parents, most of them golfers, who have come along to encourage and support. the next competition, another Stableford, is the Francis Adams Trophy on Tuesday the 31st May. It is hoped lots of our older Juniors



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who have been busy with exams, will find time to sign up to take part. There is to be a special evening for GIRLS ONLY on Tuesday 7th June 5.30 - 7pm. It's FREE!! It is hoped that we can interest a few more girls to join us. Hopefully, with warmer weather and less wind.

Graham Wright – The Warreners

The Warreners' matches during April were shortened by one match that had to be re-scheduled due to a mix with dates. This was a match at Yeovil against the Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton and has been moved from 13th April to June 29th. This enabled us to play for the Gerry Saunders trophy in extremely difficult conditions and was won by Donald Pettit with a score of 31 points reflecting the conditions.

On the 14th May a ten man Warreners team travelled to Exeter Golf Club to play in a triangular match with the Colonials from Exeter and Chivenor G.S. from Saunton. The scores from each of 10 are added together for the total. Chivenor won the trophy with a score of 309, second were the Warreners



(holders of the trophy) with 292 and third the colonials with 278. The match was followed by a superb meal in the dining hall of the impressive Exeter golf and country club.

The Warreners were fortunate to be able to repeat the visit to Exeter on 27th April to play the colonials in a match. The result was a 3-3 draw so the trophy of a huge wooden elephant named Tusker Major was retained by the Warreners.

There are two away matches and one trophy competition scheduled for the Warreners in May.

The Warreners hope for a successful summer for all members of Minehead Golf Club.



The Course, Graham J Wells

The landfill saga continues! The Environment Agency in Sheffield have confirmed that Lynch will not receive a Permit to import the totality of non-agricultural waste to fulfil all our plans. Lynch will accordingly apply for smaller scale "U1" Permits to bring in smaller amounts of landfill for each site on the plans as we handle them one by one! Needless to say this will be administratively tedious but at least it will get the job

done over the course of the next few years!

Lynch will proceed with this process once we have approval from the County Council for our application for a further 3 year extension to our Planning Permission. This ought to have been a routine application process but there have been 3 objections to our continuing with the plans (two from neighbours in the cottages and one from the Town Council Planning Committee). The County Council have had a backlog of applications which has further delayed the process. Meanwhile we are addressing these objections and the County Council will consider the application in June. Any member requiring further detail on all this will be welcome to talk to me.

In the continuing absence of landfill income we will address certain course maintenance issues as best we can. Accordingly we will continue the work to get the target practice greens finished. We will also be using sand from the bank on the 18th to refill bunkers. We have already removed the difficult overhangs on the faces of the bunkers on holes 9 and 10 although this a temporary fix and the added sand there needs to settle thereby reducing the tendency of balls to plug. We will also seek to

improve some of the paths as best we can.

Meanwhile, Andy Atkins is now helping out part-time with course mowing although the unseasonably cold April has limited grass growth. On the greens the lack of growth has made it inadvisable to start the sprinklers going which will have left them a little dryer than we would wish but your patience with this would be appreciated especially as the Spring season for members complaining about the condition of greens has started as usual!

Many thanks to the members who contributed to fairway divot repair working parties. We will need to keep having these working parties from time to time so any help you can give would be much appreciated.

What's on This Month?

Tuesday 17th May at 7pm - Presentation "Including Sportsmen/women living with Dementia" welcoming local sports clubs hosted by our Club Captain. All are welcome to attend.