



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

Newsletter 61 for October 2019



**John Perkins,
Club Chairman**

I am happy with progress at the Club however, I am also aware that we still have a long way to go. With the continued support of the

Members and staff I am positive we have a bright future.



**Glenn Ross,
Club Captain**

With the long nights and warm summer days fading into memory we enter the autumn and winter of golf with the Buchanan Cup well underway.

This weekend ahead we have our final Club Match of the season away to Taunton & Pickeridge GC. I want to thank all the Members that have supported my teams throughout the season, especially some Members that have stepped in at late notice to replace some players who unexpectedly through illness and other issues became unavailable. Results have been mixed but every match has been played in great spirit and our relationships with neighbouring clubs re-enforced.

Entries are open for the variety of popular Turkey Trot events. Get your entries in to help fill your Christmas Table!

Last weekend I enjoyed playing the mixed scramble with the Lady Captain, it would be great to see more Members ply in future mixed events.

Off the course we had a lot of fun at the Club Bingo run beautifully by Keith Storey and Sarah Hill and look forward to the forthcoming "Allo Allo" evening. Get you tickets if you haven't already!

I feel the atmosphere around the club is very positive with work continuing to improve every area of the experience for both Members and Visitors.

My sincere thanks go to Ian Donnelly and his team of staff and the management committee for their hard work.



**Ros Chidgey,
Ladies' Captain**

The ladies are having a Coffee Morning with a bring and buy in aid of the Lady Captain's charity and if any member knows of any ladies

interested in finding out more about golf or ladies that are having lessons at the moment get them to come along. Starts at 10.30 on the 16th November. Also, a reminder that the Ladies Christmas Lunch is on Saturday 30th November.



**Neil Powles
Seniors' Captain**

As Neil is on holiday I will try and condense a very busy month for the Seniors Section. A

bowmaker on the 4th was won by Phil Watts, Tim Evans and Nigel Trevelyan. We lost an away match at Worlebury 5 -1. On the 9th we hosted the MET shield, teams of 16 from Minehead, Enmore and Tiverton, a very successful day apart from the result where we came 3rd. On the 11th Dave Oatridge won a stableford competition.

The Roy Bishop trophy was won by Nigel Moore on the 16th. A Texas scramble on 18th was won by Mark Ruttley, Malcolm Bruce and Peter Taylor. The bowmaker on the 25th was won by Neville Parsons, David Ball and Nigel Trevelyan. An enjoyable competition with the Ladies Section was held on 21st, a new idea of playing mixed pairs resulted in a win for Sandra Atkins and Nigel Trevelyan.

We also had the first 2 rounds of the Trafalgar trophy. current leaders being Pete Heddercott and Edward Frewin.

The month ended on a high note on 28th when we held our annual Inter Club Challenge. Teams of 8 from clubs all over Somerset, 80 players with a shotgun start. This has been held for 6 years and our A team won, beating Enmore by 9 points. A great score by team captain Dave Oatridge and Roger Green helped reach 167 points, the first time we had won this one. Many positive comments were made



by visiting teams on the quality of the greens, the catering and set up for the whole day was also first class so thanks to Phil Arbourne, Ian Donnelly and all the catering staff.

Malcolm Bruce . Vice Captain.



Denis Compton
Course Manager

Greens

All green surfaces have been aerated to a depth of 150mm at full kick with 8mm pencil tines. This helps surface drainage and encourages new rooting, enhancing plant health. As always in the autumn with shortening day length and moist surfaces we have some disease issues but are able to fend off most of these problems with a careful feeding program. Light sand topdressings have begun and will continue at opportune times through the coming season.

Surrounds and approaches are receiving a similar strategy of topdressing, aeration and feeding. Pots have been and will continue to be created to receive grass seed to improve sward composition. Some surrounds as planned are being enlarged (developed) to enhance the feel of links golf.

Fairways

Grass seed has been sown on selective fairways:- part 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, part 13, part 15, 16, 17, and part of 18. This has been carried out using a disc-seeder and golfers will have seen the resulting lines. Scarifying of fairways 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15 has left surface debris. The wet conditions have made collection impossible at this time and hopefully players will understand the necessity for this work to be undertaken. Light feeding of selective fairways has been carried out and as grass seed emerges, a second application is intended to help the new plants begin to establish. Topdressing of weak fairways has started with fairways 2, 3, 5, and 17, having received an estimated 15 tons of an 85% sand to 15% peat mix. This work will continue as material becomes available from the north westerly wind depositing sand on the dune and in the car park.

Rabbit numbers continue to be controlled with a further 21 accounted for over the last 6 weeks. The importance of this effort for the golf course quality

is essential and members' thanks should be targeted towards Adam Hewitt. Thanks also to volunteers Doug Hayhoe, Peter Bowden, Mike Nicholls and Mark Ogden for all of their efforts.



Ian Gover
Handicap & Competitions

Last month I said that some of us were going to a meeting about the new World Handicap System. Although the meeting was interesting there was nothing new with the introduction date being confirmed as the 2nd November 2020. There were one or two refinements and a lead given as to how the club should inform members of the changes. They suggested that May next year would be a good time to have an information meeting so this is what we will do. In the meantime, if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to ask me and predicting one question – we do not know the 'slope' of the course yet.

One thing was mentioned, which is also true of the CONGU system, if for some reason you return a card as a No Record card NR, the scores on the card can be used to alter your handicap and support the other players in the competition. This means that even if you NR on the 5th you should continue to record scores for all the other holes.

In preparing the calendar for next year there is always room for different formats to be played. I would be interested to know if any members have a format that they would think would encourage people to take play. Please let me know.

Last month's question was about a ball landing on the bridge over the ditch on the 9th. The bridge is in the penalty area marked by the red posts. Therefore, if you decide to lift the ball and play it from somewhere else then you should add a penalty shot.

This month's problem comes from an incident that happened as I had just teed off the 12th. A player playing into the 11th green hit his ball past the 12th tee but it remained just in bounds stopped in a large weed in an almost unplayable lie. What are the options?



Eddy Gosling, The Warreners

The Warreners have now completed all their matches for the year and come away with 2 gold medals and 10 silvers after losing to RAF Chivenor away at Saunton Sands on Wednesday 16th October. It was very satisfying that we beat their Captain on the day on his home course 5-2, well done Geof Fewings and partner. We are now working towards our final event of the year our Christmas Invitation, which is always great day out, were we have up to 40 golfers out on the course in mid-December, followed by a fantastic Christmas meal. As mentioned earlier in the year we are working towards building a stronger and more 21st Century team of Warreners by adding more titanium to our squad. Paul Beck is recovering from his 2nd knee replacement, Austin Baker has just had his hip replaced and Mike Bowater is due to have a new knee in the coming weeks, hope all goes well and we see you back playing very soon. At least with all the new and old replacement parts the Warreners now have we should be able to stand up, walk and bend our joints but playing golf could be a different matter. Good luck to them all and keep doing the exercises to strengthen your muscles ready for the golf in 2020. I intend to bulk buy tins of WD40 as prizes for our Christmas invitation in order to keep all the Warreners in peak working order throughout the Winter and Spring ready for our competitive matches and competitions of 2020.

Pro Shop News

If you've played this week we are sure you'll agree that winter is here! We have a fantastic range of winter goodies in stock including: Hats, Mittens, Snoods, Winter Gloves, Base Layers, Gilets, Mid Layers, Jumpers, Waterproofs, Wind Proofs and much more! Pop in and see us for more info. We have just had a delivery of DISCOUNTED Titleist goods, we have Vokey SM7 Wedges starting at £75, Scotty Cameron Putters starting at £220 (RRP £329), 917 Fairway Woods starting at £110, 917 Drivers starting at £149 (RRP of £399).

Happy Golfing!

For newsletter contributions/comments please contact:-



Friday 15th November
Moonstone Theatre Company
An Evening at Café René
Enjoy a 3 Course Meal and see what antics René and his friends are up to in this unique interactive dining experience.
£30 per person
Please book with FULL prepayment at the Bar. Limited seating so BOOK EARLY!



Kitchen & Bar Opening Hours

Until further the notice the daily opening hours of the Kitchen and Bar will be as follows:

Kitchen 09.00 - 16.00
Bar 09.00 - 17.00
(Thursdays 10.00 - 17.00)

Ian Donnelly, Newsletter Editor