



Newsletter 60 for September 2019



**John Perkins,
Club Chairman**

I am sure most of our members have now met our new Secretary Manager Mr Ian Donnelly. I personally would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian for such a smooth and efficient start to his reign at Minehead Golf Club. His first day was extended to a Management meeting in the evening followed with the Pro Am which, may I say, was a great success. Thanks to all concerned especially our Pros John and Jordan. I am very great full for the way in which our staff have moved forward with the changes we have made. The Murder Mystery evening was well supported and a great evening was had by all, well done especially the bar and kitchen staff, not forgetting the hard work done by Dorrien and Caroline I thank you all and look forward to continued success at a rejuvenated Club.



**Glenn Ross,
Club Captain**

September has been a busy month of golf with the MET Shield and Club Matches against Wells Stragglers and Weston super Mare. In the MET Shield whilst the A and B team had rather mediocre performances, I was delighted to see a group of Juniors travel to Enmore Park under the watchful eye of parents and Phil Arbourne. All our young players performed well, some in their first away game. A special mention to Oliver Groves who comprehensively won both of his singles games against much lower handicap golfers. The future looks bright at the club. A big thanks to Jordan for his hard work with our juniors through his coaching programme. I was clearly inspired by our young golfers as it led to myself and the Vice-Captain gaining our

first point of the season the following day away at Wells!

Following that Jordan and I enjoyed a trip to Bowood in Wiltshire to represent the club in the Skycaddie Capt Pro Qualifier. Jordan was in excellent form and we finished a creditable 9th, just 5 strokes off the leaders.

Last weekend I was invited to play in the Past Captains' Autumn Meeting and was delighted to see Peter Clements have a hole in one at the 14th hole. Congratulations Peter!



Off the course I enjoyed the excellent Murder Mystery evening and look forward to the next social evening, Allô Allô, on Friday, November 15th. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Good luck to everyone competing in the Buchanan Cup in the coming weeks. Let's have another home winner!



**Ian Donnelly
Secretary Manager**

As I won't be a regular contributor (I will soon be Editor!), in terms of content, I wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to thank all the Members for the wonderful welcome and advice (!) I have received since joining the Club at the beginning of September. With any new job comes new challenges, new situations, new systems and new people and hopefully I am now beginning to adjust and settle in and get to know you all and the club a little better. As I keep getting asked, I thought I would tell you a little bit about myself. I have spent my last 20 years working at Golf Clubs; Reigate



Hill, Hazlemere, Oakland Park, Stoneham & Surrey Downs. Prior to golf clubs I spent the rest of my working life in hospitality working in various positions at Wembley Complex, aboard Cruise Ships and at Hotels in Jersey & Brighton – so quite a varied past.

September has been a busy month and Phil refers to it as my “baptism of fire” but it really is nice to see the golf club buzzing and long may it continue. I am really looking forward to being part of the future at MWSGC and optimistic that together we can move the club forward and sustain a bright future.



**Ros Chidgey,
Ladies' Captain**

All I can say is where did September go and what beautiful weather we had for the majority of it. The Ladies started September

with their last Wessex match of the season at Enmore without much success and this continued when we played a mixed friendly at Oake again losing, although much closer 3½ to 2½. Things got much better when several ladies took part in the Somerset Senior Ladies Individual Stableford which was held at Minehead with Kay Luckett overall winner with 38 points and Ros Chidgey runner up with 37 points. Janet Handley also took runner-up in the VV section and Corinne Rees taking the best back-nine prize. The ladies then travelled to Weston Super Mare for a friendly and drew the match 3 each. What a successful day we had on Thursday the 19th when we played the Skylark Trophy. The sun shone, there was no wind and 17 pairs took part, with Deano Carlin and Mark Vickers taking the Trophy. This was followed by a fabulous carvery provided by Ashley and gang in the kitchen. The weather then took a dive and seven brave or foolish ladies travelled to Wheathill to join in the celebrations of 25 years for the Inter Club League and although there were a few showers we had an enjoyable day. With just a few more friendlies during October we are looking forward to settling down to our Winter Golf.

Late addition: Congratulations to Jayne Fulwell for winning the Luttrell Cup against Rob Dibble. In a very close match Jayne won on the 19th hole (NOT in the Bar!!).



**Neil Powles
Seniors' Captain**

Three matches were played during the month with mixed results. First up was a good win at home to Enmore 4-2. Winning pairs came from Neville Parsons/Neil Powles, Alan Jones/Tim Tennant and Paul Rees/Nigel Trevelyan with Sandy Lyons/Dave Chidgey and Phil Watts /Roger Read all claiming halves. Next match saw us defeated 4-2 at Weston—super—Mare - Tim Tennant /Sandy Lyons with a win and halves from Bill Hogg/Barry Chaffey & Tim Evans/Nigel Trevelyan. Lastly away to Saunton on the west course: before we went there I informed the team I had yet to Captain a win away from home and taking a strong side had high hopes of maybe causing an upset – should have kept my mouth shut as we came back with our tails between our legs with a 6-1 thumping!!!. Our only win came from Andy Atkins & Charlie Griffiths.

On the internal front at Minehead the start of the month saw a Bowmaker take place with 2 points separating the first four teams with victors on countback the trio of Phil Watts/John Austin/Andy Dahl on 88 points from David Ball/Tony Bowden/Martin Edkins. Next up our Texas Scramble which again saw another tight affair with again four teams within 1.1 points between them: winners this time round were Paul Blackmore/Tim Evans/Peter Heddercott with 65.6. Second on 65.8 the trio of Phil Bowden/Dave Chidgey/John Austin. First medal of the month saw newcomer Roger Read win with a net score of 67 from Nigel Trevelyan with 69.

The Seniors' Burgess Tankard was won by Peter Coombes coming in with a net 65 from Malcolm Bruce net 66. Monthly Stableford was won by Sandy Lyons coming in with 41 points followed by Dave Oatridge 37 points. Also this



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month has seen the knockout competitions start eg. Porlock Cup & Trafalgar Cup. The end of the month saw Senior Stalwart & Treasurer David Williams celebrate his 80th birthday by putting together a competition for us all, with a format of playing red, white and blue tees alternatively. Unfortunately the weather would not play ball so a shortened game was played with prizes for the different age groups. Over 70s won by Paul Blackmore 26 points (best score of all three age groups); under 70s joint winners Mark Ruttley & Neil Powles with 21 points, with Randall Foot top scoring the over 80s group. Dave also provided a drink and bacon/sausage roll after. Our sincere thanks to Dave for his gesture.

Next month is a busy month with a trip to Worlebury, the M.E.T. Shield at home 48 players involved, the Inter Club Challenge 72 players from 9 clubs across the county and a mixed pairs with the Ladies section partners to be drawn. No doubt there will be some prizes and banter.

Take care.



Denis Compton
Course Manager

Autumn Winter Work Programme

1. Greens aeration overseeding.
2. Fringes/tees aeration overseeding.
3. Fairway scarification overseeding plus Surfactant.
4. Bunker sand addition. Bunkers on 4th enlargement/14th?
5. Soften edges of 7th and 8th greens to aid surface drainage/lack of run off issues.
6. Rabbit fence to finish on 11th. Addition of chain link and kick board.
7. Paths to 15th fairway/17th fairway priority.
8. Irrigation installation on 2nd and 16th fringes.
9. Develop surrounds run off to enhance the links.
10. Path on 1st tee and fence the length of car park to renew.
11. Practice net to repair or consider moving with addition of astroturf.

12. Drainage addition practice area landscaping.

Recommendations/Requirements

1. Planting rethinking.
2. Irrigation appraisal/report from an independent expert.
3. Agronomist employment.
4. Health and safety requirements.
5. Rabbit control.



Dorrien Bickerstaff & Paul Davies

Bar & Catering



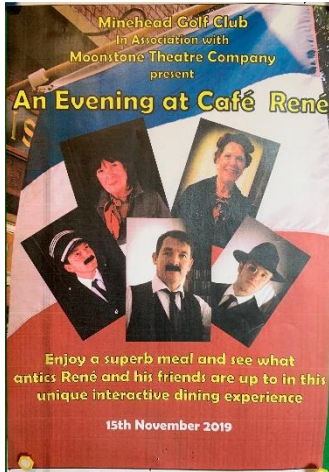
Since taking on joint responsibility with Dorrien for Bar, Catering and Social on behalf of the members of MWSGC, my first job is to give a big thank you and well done to Dorrien. He stepped in at the beginning of the year to get to grips with, and sort out, the bar and catering. Since taking over we have improved profitability, our staff seem a lot happier and standards are improving.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ian Donnelly to the Golf Club as our new clubhouse manager. He has hit the ground running, having to sort out diary and staffing problems. However, with the help of Faye and Phil in the office, numerous issues have been sorted. The diary is one of these with some bookings having previously been double-booked.

The time has now come where we need to start improving our standards and the quality of what we are giving our members and guests. Ian has already done a lot of hard work in setting up new systems so mistakes don't happen and we are more professional in how the golf club is run.



Recently we had a fantastic murder mystery evening which was well supported with 58 guests attending. Coming soon we have an evening of "Allô Allô", for which you will need to book early to avoid disappointment. This promises to be a great fun night. December is always a busy month with Christmas parties. If you are looking to book a function or already have one booked please can you go through the office with any queries.



I would like to thank all our staff and members for their patience and support while work to make improvements continues. It will take time but we are determined to make MWSGC a place all our members can be proud of.



Ian Gover Handicap & Competitions

The new World Handicap System it seems is not going to arrive in England until November 2nd 2020 due to issues developing the software required to make it work.

The World Handicap System key features are the use of a slope rating system – your handicap will change depending on the difficulty of the course and the competition conditions; a minimum of 54 holes will be required to gain a handicap but that can come from any combination of 9 or 18-hole scores; handicaps will be calculated using the best eight of the last 20 scores; the 0.1 increase will disappear; both competitive and recreational rounds will be able to count for handicap and CSS will be replaced by a new system known as the abnormal course and weather conditions adjustment. Three of us are going to a meeting in late October so we will know more then.

In the meantime we will continue to use the CONGU system and as always encourage you to play qualifying rounds to keep this up-to-date.

Last month's question was about a ball being hit into the reeds down the 7th and trying to play the ball but only going further into the reeds. Where the penalty drop should take place? The answer it seems is where the original ball entered the red marked area.

This month's question is further down the course on the 9th. The ball lands on the bridge over the ditch. You do not want to play off the path so what are your options?