



Helsby Golf Club News

Issue no. 22

Autumn 2019

Captain

Well as quickly as it started, the golf season seems to be coming to an abrupt end, the weather has been something of a challenge this year and no more so than my Captains weekend. I would like to say a massive thank you to all who participated and stayed the course in what was abysmal wet weather, however, it did not seem to dampen everyone's spirits and the banter was first class! On that note, I would also like to thank Danny and his team for the preparation work put into the course for the weekend which I am sure made completing the 1st round achievable. Unfortunately we were unable to play the 2nd round due to the continuous barrage of rain, so the competition result was based on the Saturday scores. Congratulations go to Kel Hoose for his impressive score of Gross 81 off a handicap of 17 giving a net 64. Great scoring in those conditions and one of the funniest acceptance speeches that I have heard in a long time!

I would also like to thank all the members who have supported the various functions that I have organised to support charities. My golf day was a great success and raised £4,046 which will go towards the Powered Wheelchair Appeal, to assist in reaching their target of 400 chairs. On the 16th of November I have another function taking place which will be a sportsman's dinner featuring Darren Farley, who is a comedy impressionist and is most sought after on the after dinner circuit, for his take offs of famous sports people. Details

are on the notice board and all support would be greatly appreciated to support Claire House Children's charity, on what is sure to be a great night of entertainment.

I tried something different this year in regard to prize presentations. I switched from after each competition to a smaller number of presentation events in the year, which was mainly due to the numbers dropping for them on a weekly basis over the last few years. So try something new we did!! I would like to report that this made not one jot of a difference, so I am sure next year's Captain may try a different approach. I would like to say on that subject that the trophy presentation is part of the package of entering golf club competitions, and should at least be supported by the winner of the event along with their playing partners - that's what makes part of winning special (so I've been told), so going forward, I would encourage members to support their fellow golfers on these events and also support the club. I would like to thank the guys who have attended the presentation evenings as your support has been much appreciated.

If there is one thing constant in life, it is change and this month has seen Kieren and Natalie move on from their positions at the golf club kitchen. I would like to thank them for their efforts during their time at Helsby and wish them and their young family all the best for the future. I would also like to thank Chris our professional and Ant for all their support and assistance over the year, it made things run a lot more smoothly for me and again very much appreciated, as



was the support of Steve Collins, the Past Captains and President.

I would also like to thank all members who have supported me throughout the year as it made the job very enjoyable, which is more than can be said for my golf. I was invited to play with the seniors on some of their events and was made to feel very welcome and thoroughly enjoyed the experience and their

company. The mixed Friday night competitions that I was able to play in, were also good fun, and again thank you for the invitations. In general it has been a hectic but enjoyable golfing season and I wish next year's Captain Chris Stubbs all the very best for his forthcoming time in office, and I look forward to a more relaxed 2020!

Roddy Snedden



Lady Captain

As the season draws to a close, it is a good time to reflect on the last six months. It has been busy, and the first thought that occurs to me is that being Lady Captain is a team effort. I have many people to thank for their support. The role of Lady Captain brings responsibility for chairing the Ladies' Committee. I have included a paragraph about this year's Committee elsewhere but I would like to record my thanks to them here. In addition my thanks go to Viv Nagle and Gill Smith who have led the A and B Shield teams this year and to Helen Shepherd who has organised the Friendly team's matches. Viv and Gill have written separate reports about the Shield teams.

A key responsibility for the Lady Captain is to be visible and to support as many sport and social activities at the club as possible. I have played with most of our lady members and in most competitions as well as friendly matches at home and away. This has given me the opportunity to observe some very good players at close quarters, and I feel that my game has improved as a result but sadly this has not been reflected in my handicap (yet!). I decided to exempt myself from the Ladies' Challenge, some of the mid-week team events and most of the Fish and Chip evenings to give myself some down-time to keep up with domestic chores as well as non-golfing friends. I have also attended all formal dinners and some of

the informal socials.

Our exchange day this year was to Houldsworth Golf Club, near Stockport. It is in an urban setting, located behind two huge, former mills, one of which is being re-developed to provide apartments and which is causing a few issues at the entrance to the club as it has to be shared with the contractors. Our arrival with a coach caused some alarm amongst the Houldsworth reception committee, but happily the coach driver knew how to do his job. The course is mostly flat with several ponds and water channels and some challenging par 3 holes. We took 48 ladies and played in teams of four. After early rain during the journey there, the sun broke through and it turned out to be a very enjoyable day with a beautifully presented buffet to finish. The winners on the day were Debbie Briscoe, Sue Saunders, Linda Barton and Gillian Pay and some photos from the clubhouse are below.

Lady Captain's Day in August was preceded by a mixed team 9-hole competition over the back nine on Friday evening and 56 members took part despite the intermittent rain which plagued the weekend. The halfway house was decked out with bunting and Christmas lights, and G&Ts, fizz and nibbles were dispensed to the players before they took to the 10th tee. The planned evening barbecue had to be abandoned but we all enjoyed burgers, sausages and salads indoors instead. Thankfully, Saturday was mostly dry but conditions



on the course were difficult. Fifty-five ladies competed for the Lady Captain's trophy which was won by Lyn Stein – a very popular result. Lunch was provided at the halfway house accompanied by a choice of Pimms or soft drinks. Several Past Lady Captains came for lunch too and joined in the fun.

I must also say that Captain's Day for Ladies and President's Day for Ladies were very well supported and once again the halfway house was a welcome re-fuelling place. Thanks to both the Captain and the President for their hospitality. This year the halfway house has played an important part in my fundraising effort for Halton Haven Hospice, hosting bake sales to encourage donations from visitors playing in our Open competitions. The Seniors and Mixed Opens

were particularly lucrative as home-baking seems to be something of a rarity for many golfing men! The bake sales have raised over £400 for the Haven and I am grateful to all the bakers who contributed cakes and biscuits to the cause. We also held another second-time-around clothing sale followed by a Beetle Drive which proved to be hilarious, possibly helped by the flavoured gins and prosecco included in the ticket price. Now that autumn has arrived I am looking forward to a holiday somewhere warm, our winter and Christmas team events, and the end of my term of office. I wish Lady Captain Elect, Christine Marsden success and good golfing, and promise her my full support.

Liz Fudge



Directors Update

Communication to the members is an important part of the Board's role. During the summer, we have introduced a monthly update, including elements which contribute to our financial success, work that has been completed and our plans for the coming months. We hope that you have found these useful.

Income in the first 5 months of the financial year has improved, with 28 new members and increases in bar income and Society & Green Fee income over 2018.

We have had a full program of fixtures throughout the season, which despite the atrocious weather at times, we have managed to complete. Although the rain reduced the

Captain's Weekend to one day, we would like to congratulate Kel Hoose for battling the elements and winning the trophy. Congratulations also to Lynn Stein for winning the Lady Captain's Prize in August.

We would like to thank the Green Staff and the Artisans for keeping the course in such good condition throughout the season under these difficult conditions, especially overcoming the flooding of the brook onto the 4th fairway. We have had many compliments on the course from members and visitors.

The main aim of the Directors during this year is to complete the 'Planning for the Future' document. This will enable the Board to develop improved financial planning for future years and deliver a quality golf experience, on the course and in the clubhouse,

for the members and visitors.

As part of the initial planning, there has been a review and update of the roles and responsibilities of the Sub Committees. These committees have been tasked with completing a 3-year plan for the development of all aspects of the Club which will be incorporated into the overall plan.

One of the elements under discussion has been the state of the bunkers on the course and how these can be improved. Initial expenditure has been approved and work has commenced on the rebuilding of the bunkers on the 12th hole to a new specification. If the results of this trial prove to be successful, a plan can be put together for the rebuilding of bunkers throughout the course over a period of time.

Initial expenditure has also been approved to assess the requirements for upgrading the Pro Shop.

As the overall plan evolves, we will keep you up-to-date with progress.

We would like to congratulate Martin Edmunds who has been proposed as the Captain Elect for 2020.

We would like to thank Kieren and Natalie Cochlan who have decided to leave the Club and move onto pastures new. We wish them and their family all the best in the future.

Thanks also go to all members of staff, volunteers and members who have helped make the season a success.

Jim Potter
Chairman

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Win for Alan Rigby on the Amateur Senior Tour!

Our very own Alan Rigby enjoyed a fantastic win on the Amateur Senior Tour 2019 which is held over 11 events throughout the 2019 season. It is open to all golfers over 50 across the UK and the venues including Caldy, Windermere, Sandiway, Aberdovey, Burnham and Berrow, and the season end grand final was at The Wilmslow Golf Club.

After coming in with 2nd place at Aberdovey with a gross 72 in late June, he followed that with a 1st place (with a gross 65) at Sandiway and a runner up of 73 at Caldy. Those results were enough to put Alan (multiple Club Champion) into second place, 20 points behind the leader going into the Grand Final at The Wilmslow Golf Club in mid October.

At the Grand Final, players teed off in order of their position in the Order of



Merit table, and the scores were close after the first nine with Alan scoring back to back birdies to return a 20 point total. Going into the back nine, 3 players still had a chance to clinch the tour championship and with birdies on 16 and 18 he returned a winning score of 41 points for the day and this was enough to win the Championship!

Alan's prize is free entry with accommodation into a 4 day event to be held in Sandwich, Kent, taking in next years Open venue Royal St Georges, Royal Cinque Ports G.C and Princes.

Well done Alan – a brilliant win!

Captain's charity day raises £4,036!

Captain Roddy Snedden hosted a fundraising charity day in August in aid of the Powered Wheelchair Appeal. It was a golf competition with teams of 4 followed by a meal in the clubhouse and then great entertainment by a comedian.

The highlight of the day though was the presentation of a powered wheelchair to 18 year old Poppy Farrell from Middlewich.

This was the 390th wheelchair presented by the Appeal and the second for Poppy as she received her first one 4 years ago but since then has outgrown it. Poppy has just finished attending Sandbach High School and in September is going to study Accounting at York University. She is an animal lover with 6 cats and 3 dogs and is currently learning to drive.

She loved using her previous wheelchair and this enabled her to complete her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award recently, which she did with the help the Sunshine Club of Great Britain. In fact, she was so grateful for their support, that she donated her old wheelchair to them for someone else to use - Recycling at its best!

Poppy spoke on the night and told us that having a powered



wheelchair has changed dramatically both the lives of her and her mum and given her independence and freedom which she had never imagined.

Everyone wished Poppy all the best in the next stage of her life and the Powered Wheelchair Appeal expressed gratitude for support which has meant they have been able to give support to such a strong, determined individual - she will go far and we look forward to hearing about her progress!

The golf winners on the day were - Captain Roddy Snedden, Mal Aird, Tommy Farr and Graham Cheesebrough with 98 points but it was close as they won in a card playoff over Kieren McCabe, Dennis Dean, Jon Maddocks and Matt McCabe.

Many thanks go to Captain and all supporters who raised a fantastic amount of £4,036 for the Appeal.

Photo shows Captain Roddy Snedden, Poppy Farrell and her mum Karen.



Bill Cartwright Life Membership

At the 2019 Members Annual Meeting, the club were delighted to award a Life Membership to past Captain and President Bill Cartwright.

We asked Bill to reflect on his 57 years at Helsby and share some of his memories – so read on...

FIRST THE GOLF STORY

I joined the club way back on the 14th October 1963 following a stern interview by Mr Edward Harding. Having paid my £6 annual subscription (!) I became a full member. I was given an initial handicap of 16, and I dared to ask Mr Harding why it was so low, to which he replied “ You will learn son” and I did!

Spurred on by my sponsors, Herbert Bunnell and Fred Wood (who was Cheshire Seniors Champion) and following years of practice and a lot of hard work, I did achieve a playing handicap of 6. Now sadly the years have managed to push it out to 26.

Over the years I have managed to win a good number of the clubs major competitions: my first win being the Novices Bowl in 1965 and my last the Centenary Trophy. The win which I remember most was the E W Lloyd Cup with my son Stephen, when he was a member.

My final recollection / boast is of the time I was invited to play in the Dunhill British Masters Pro Am at Woburn in 1987. I was partnered with Jose Reviro, his caddy Fanny Sunnesson, and the celebrity Kenny Lynch. It was a fantastic experience and a great day was had by all.

THE COURSE AT HELSBY....

At the time of joining, the club consisted of the original James Braid designed 9 hole course and a very homely club house. Maintenance was carried out by a small complement of green staff but aided by some very good outside help - a number of cows were employed to keep the rough under control and a small flock of sheep to keep the fairways in good order. I still believe those sheep are the reason why we have such good fairways on the front nine! The only problem was making sure the electric fences were operating to protect the greens.

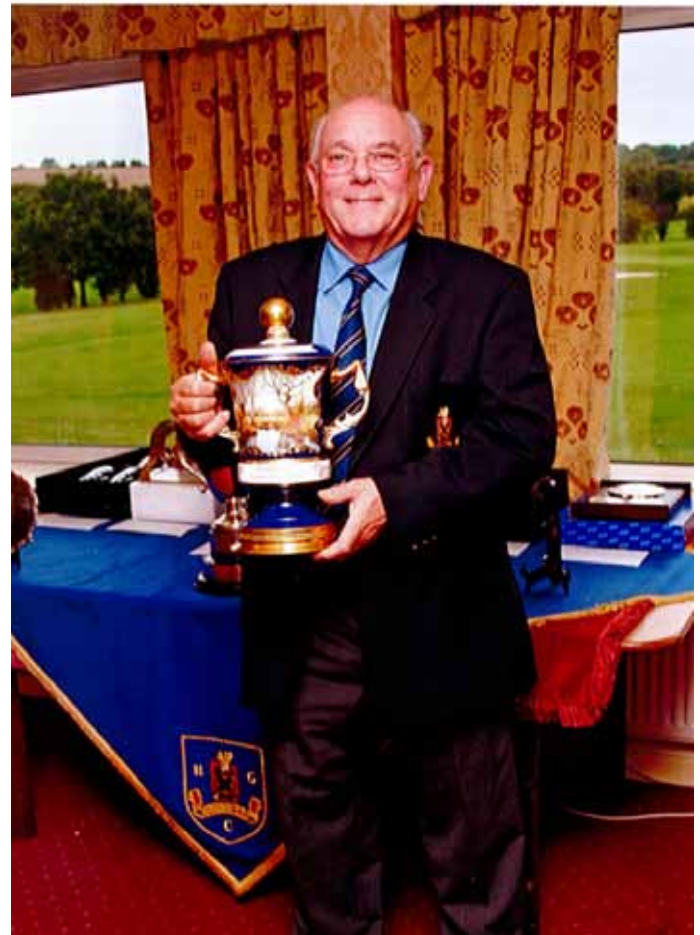
As Bert and I were work colleagues we spent our spare time playing a bit of golf and gardening on the course. Hollow tining of the greens was done by hand and on occasions we would assist the green keeper with this and other various tasks - sometimes even mowing the greens and fairways!

As the time passed on and with my own family and work commitment, my time priorities changed.

COMMITTEE YEARS

Moving the time frame forward, I was able to take early retirement in 1992 and start to enjoy my free time. However, after a short while, I was invited to join the management team by the Secretary of the day Mr Derek F Leigh, so started my sixteen years as a member of the management committee.

I was assigned to the green committee under the chairmanship of Alan Leicester. It was a very busy group with the green rebuild programme well underway and purchase of the new land for the practice area also in the programme. Towards 1995, the green and fairway equipment needed upgrading and the decision



was taken to purchase modern ride-on machines. That created a problem in that we required a new facility to house / service and repair all of our valuable equipment. Also required were upgraded hygiene facilities for the greenstaff. This was endorsed by the management committee, and a design produced. Planning approval was obtained and construction started early 1997.

The work was carried out in house with myself acting as project manager and team support from club / green and green staff members. The project was completed early spring, well within budget and handed over to the greenstaff. A first class facility for a first class golf club!

In 1999 I was invited by the past Captains to become Captain in the millennium year 2000, a position I was pleased to accept. So after an apprenticeship of some 37 years, I got the top job!

The year was a great success, both for myself and the club. Supported by members, many good friends and my family, it was a brilliant, unforgettable year.

On completion of my year as Captain, I joined the membership committee as chairman. It was an interesting time interviewing prospective new members. Noted - there were over one hundred applicants on the waiting list!

Then in 2006 I accepted the role of President. Again, it was a good year but a lot less stressful than being Captain! While in this role I was also given the option to chair the finance committee which I duly accepted.

Yes - the club has made fantastic progress over the years, and all brought about by the quality of its members!

Bill Cartwright



End of Season results 2019

Now that the golfing season is over, there have been some important major finals taking place and here are the results so far:

Mixed

Reg Beg Knockout	Winners	June Ryder and Jeff Hughes
	Runners up	Janice Burton and Geoff Maher

Gents

Challenge Plate Pairs	Winners	Jeff Hughes and Brian McNamara
	Runners up	Andy Don and Lawrie Holman
Challenge Cup	Winner	Dave Shaw
	Runner up	Mal Aird
Club Championship	Winner	Steve Roberts
	Runner up	Jeff Hughes
Summer Eclectic	Winner	Charlie Fletcher
Summer Order of Merit	Winner	Jeff Hughes

Ladies

Challenge Cup	Winner	Gill Smith
	Runner up	Rebecca Ablett
Isobel Shaw trophy	Winner	Carolyn Clothier
	Runner up	Hazel Jones
Birdie Tree (silver)	Winner	June Ryder
Birdie Tree (Bronze)	Winner	Pauline Branigan
Summer Eclectic (silver)	Winner	June Ryder
Summer Eclectic (bronze)	Winner	Christine Marsden
Summer Order of Merit	Winner	June Ryder
Bridgestone Trophy	Winner	Lynn Stein

The Ladies' Committee 2019

The Ladies' Committee oversees the running of ladies' golf at Helsby and organises events for the Ladies' Section. This has been my fourth year on the Committee, this time as Lady Captain, and the core membership has been relatively stable since I first joined, but with a healthy rate of churn to enable new members to get involved and bring fresh ideas. This year we were joined by Lady Captain Elect, Christine Marsden who is also Handicap Secretary having been mentored by our retiring HS, Rachel Steven. Debbie Briscoe and Carolyn Clothier have continued in their roles of Competition Secretary and Treasurer respectively and we are fortunate that two such competent officers have been willing to serve beyond the usual three-year term. Gin Ewing agreed to join us this year to shoulder the role of Secretary to the Committee and has provided excellent support to the team in general and to me in particular. Barbara Prince remained on the Committee as Vice Captain and has been a helpful reference point having served as Lady Captain Elect for two years prior to her year as Lady Captain 2018. Linda Barton and Gillian Pay have been our supplementary members with a wealth of knowledge about the history of the club and a keen interest in current golfing issues and have jointly managed the Birdie Tree.

Principal agenda items during the year include planning for the annual meeting and coffee evening, the exchange day, the Macmillan coffee morning, the fixture list, our financial position and competition prizes, Lady Captain's charity events and any day-to-day issues that need decisions or consultation with the membership.

Lady Captain. Liz Fudge

Helsby as a Function Venue

Following the refurbishment of the clubhouse lounge and spike bar last year, we continue to receive positive comments from members and visitors alike.

Over the last few months, there have been a number of very successful events held at the club including birthday/anniversary parties, christenings, funerals and even weddings. We even had a 60th Wild West themed celebration recently!

We have had great feedback on the venue, food and service and the bar and catering team have done a fantastic job in dressing the room – see photos.

If you or anyone you know are looking for a venue for an event, why not consider the clubhouse? – please check availability with the secretary.



Helsby Golf Club – Girls Golf Rocks 2019

Girls Golf Rocks is an England Golf backed initiative to get more girls aged 5-18 involved in the sport, this year Helsby GC was chosen as one of 6 clubs in Cheshire to run the programme. The programme started with a taster session which was held at Helsby on Sat 4th May 2019, in total 13 girls attended and gave golf a go in a 2 hour session. Following on from the taster session the girls were invited to sign up to a subsidised 6 week course of lessons with myself, each girl receiving a free US Kids Golf 9 iron and goodie bag; out of the 13 girls attending the taster 7 signed up for the 6 week course. The 6 week course was held on weekend afternoons from Sat 11th May through until Sun 30th Jun. The first 4 weeks focused on the skills of putting, chipping, pitching and full swing; the last 2 session being held on the course. Thanks must go the HGC ladies section who lent their support during each session.

Chris Cousins
PGA Professional



Joe Gleave Wins at Clitheroe

Joe Gleave won the James Braid Men's Singles Open at Clitheroe Golf Club on Saturday 6th July. The format was singles strokeplay, Joe's

score of 78-8=70 was enough to beat local member, Stephen Ackers, on card play-off for 1st place. The course played really tough on the day with a CSS of 74, with only 2 players from a field of 105 bettering their handicap.

Well done Joe!



Lady Captain's Charity Golf Day

Despite a series of deluges which brought about the cancellation of competitions over the previous weekend because of the wet condition of the course, the Lady Captain's Charity Golf Day in aid of Halton Haven Hospice went ahead on Thursday 3 October. Five teams of members and guests played in a Stableford competition which was won by a team led by Paul Saxon, and they generously donated their

prizes to the charity. In the clubhouse there was a raffle of bottles and a food and wine hamper, and a separate draw for a voucher for a four ball at Wrexham Golf Club which was won by Sue Saunders. The Lady Captain opened the halfway house for hot drinks and cakes donated by members of the Ladies' Section, and the competitors and several of the Thursday golfers' groups called in for refreshments and added donations to the collection. Altogether the day grossed £520 and the Lady Captain would like to thank everyone who contributed to the day.



Greens

1. The greens have remained in excellent condition throughout the summer season due mainly to the preparation by the green staff. This included spiking/top dressing/hollow tining and feeding the greens

2. All tees have been scarified twice this year and in the Autumn will be top dressed in preparation for the 2020 season

3. The fairways were scarified this year and were noticeably better than previous years. This operation will continue in 2020 along with the divoting parties – we will advise of the dates for these and all volunteers to help are most welcome!

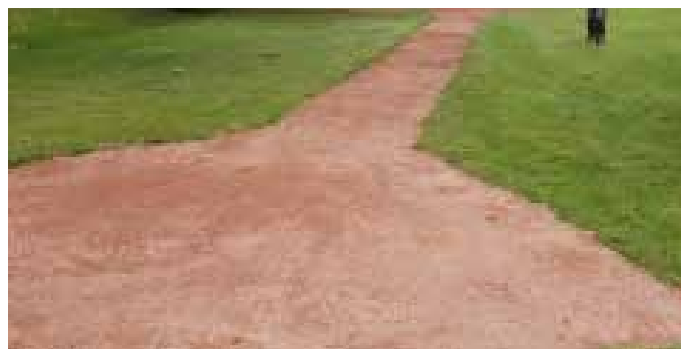
4. The bunker raking scheme introduced by the Greens Committee is a huge success and more than 80 members are participating. This scheme is ongoing

5. Work has started for the trial on the 12th green bunkers where a lining is being fitted to reduce contamination in the bunker drainage. New sand will be placed after advice from Whitemoss, the bunker experts

6. Trees: low hanging branches will be lopped during the winter break and the pollarding of the Poplars on the 17th has encouraged fairway grass growth

7. There have been several new paths made on the course to help keep the course in good shape during the winter months. Paths have also been replenished with red ash

8. A big thank you to the Artisans who have been worked tirelessly during the season to make sure the course is as good as it has ever been



Helsby's Hells Angel Falls to Earth

What happens on tour normally stays on tour – but the Seniors Tour to Llandudno in May was slightly different!!

Ever since Billy Jones acquired his 3-wheeler, it appears as though he may have been a bit of a closet Hells Angel, with an inner desire to join the Harley- Davison set but without the appendages of tattoos or earrings.

On the lovely North Wales links course he negotiated the majority without incident. But that was to change. On the 16th and 17th, the renowned short back-to-back Par 3's, locally named as 'Hello' and 'Oh Hell', Billy decided that the buggy track was not for him. His tee shot on 17 was short and in a dip, so he took the direct route which involved a steep bank with a severe gradient comparable



to the North Face of the Eiger. Inevitably, as the mock Harley 3 wheeler did not have the power to negotiate the incline, trouble loomed. The vehicle's velocity diminished and the instability increased with the inevitable result – 'Oh Hell' became 'Oh S**t'.

The prostrate Billy had hurt feelings not to mention his ribs, shoulder and collar bone. However, the only piece of good news was that the 3 wheeler was relatively unscathed.

In true Great War tradition, comrades in arms could not leave one of their injured behind on the battlefield, so Reuben repatriated Billy to Cheshire for convalescence, some necessary medical attention and a few therapeutic pints of remedial Guinness.

It can be reported that Billy has now recovered and has invested in a stable and stronger 4-wheeler having learnt his lesson the cruel way that buggy tracks on golf courses are there for a reason – Silly Billy.....!



House Report

As we approach our winter season, the House Committee is fully committed to providing varied social events throughout the year to attract more members and guests. We have an enthusiastic team but would welcome suggestions from members to improve our social programme.

Captain's Weekend, President's Night and Lady Captain's night were all very much enjoyed.

Our 9 hole Fish and Chip competitions, which prove popular, will continue through to November. Don't worry though you won't have to play in the dark we will just start earlier! – so look out for the sign up sheet on the notice board

Unfortunately our Annual Ball had to be cancelled earlier in the year, but it was agreed to hold an Annual Dinner in the Clubhouse in the hope of attracting more members. This was a first for us and took place on Friday, October 11th. It is always an occasion when

our Past Captains can wear their red jackets and ladies can glam up!!!

Our Buble Reborn Evening took place on 28th September – and what a great night it was – with good food, great entertainment and good atmosphere. We could have done with more support but that did not detract from the evening. The music certainly got the dancers on the floor.



Our film nights have again started for the season and there are some great films. If you haven't already been to one please come along and enjoy a good film with a tasty supper and if you are good, you might even get an ice cream in the interval!!!



Steak Nights continue to go well and we included one during the Art Exhibition in late October. This year, we held a Halloween Evening with fancy dress for those who wanted! The witches' kitchen created a Halloween themed supper. We are always looking to try different things!

We were sad that Keiren and Natalie left the Club. They will be missed and we all wish them well for the future.

As you will have seen from the Secretary's communication, Dave Brinkley will be joining us in April but he will be catering for our main events until then.

In the meantime, Julie will be looking after us on a day to day basis, with a limited menu, but we can all rely on

Julie – she is a stalwart. Rob continues to look after the bar and Clubhouse with his usual efficiency.

Work on the hall, stairs and landing is now complete and we apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.

Think this covers all from House. We all look forward to our Christmas Party which must be one of the highlights of the year and we hope to see many of you joining us for a fun night!



Once again we welcome feedback on how we can improve our social programme.

With very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Barbara Leigh & House Committee

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2019

Once again Helsby Golf Club joined in this annual national fund-raising effort for Macmillan Cancer Support. This year it was held on Friday 28 September, and the Ladies' Section organised coffee and biscuits and a tempting display of homemade cakes, jams and chutneys and garden produce for members and guests to buy. Mrs Audrey Littler baked a beautiful fruit cake for the 'Guess the Weight of the Cake' competition which was won by Jeff Owen (Pauline Ford's son-in-law). Jeff also contributed a lemon drizzle cake and a carrot cake to the sale. The Lady

Captain drew the raffle to round off proceedings. Some very generous donations were received this year and the final total collected on the day was £406.80. In addition donations of £156.50 were made to the Ladies' Special Wednesday four ball better ball competition held in August in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Thanks to everyone who participated.



West Cheshire Shield 2019 – reports from the Ladies A and B teams

A Team Report by Viv Nagle

Our first match of the season was played on 18th March at Royal Liverpool. A daunting task so early in the season. We were disappointed to be playing off mats at certain points on the fairway and all the bunkers were out of action, not necessarily a bonus as we were taking shots in drop zones from quite a way behind. We lost the match but congratulations to Yvonne Salisbury who won 6&4 and Angela Hearn who battled long and hard for a half! We did, however, get our revenge at the home match on 5th July when we won 5 matches to 2. A great win!

Heswall managed to beat us both home and

away. They field a very strong low handicap team. Congratulations to June Ryder who won 2 up at Helsby against a scratch player.

Two great matches against Warrington resulted in a loss 4&3 at Warrington and a win 4&3 at Helsby. We had the same result against Sandiway, another strong team, which resulted in a loss at Sandiway but a great win at Helsby.

The A team also took part in the Percival Trophy knockout competition and managed wins against Eastham Lodge & Vicars Cross, eventually losing to a chip in on the 18th – 2&1! Well done to the team – Kath Wilkinson/Julie Grey: June Ryder/Viv Nagle & Yvonne Salisbury/Mo Burns.

A good season for the A team this year against very strong teams. Congratulations to all players taking part.

B Team Report by Gill Smith

This year the Helsby B team were drawn against Wirral,



Bidston, Upton and Sandiway golf clubs. We knew that there would be some tough matches especially the away matches. We played each team both home and away starting in the spring and finishing in the summer.

Luckily we started off well with wins against Wirral and Bidston which made us feel quite upbeat about our chances. Unfortunately it didn't last long and we lost all the rest of the matches.

I would like to thank all members of the B team for their hard work and determination to be

successful. We tried our best and there were many individual successes including those against Sandiway at their course. Even if we weren't successful we played with some delightful ladies, enjoyed some gorgeous afternoon teas and played a variety of interesting courses.

There is always 2020 to have another go and maybe it will be our year of success. At the start of the season I hope as many of you as possible will make use of Chris's golf lessons and just keep on practising. I'm sure we can do it!

Membership and Marketing update

We thought you may appreciate an update on what your Membership and Marketing committee have been working on recently, so here is a short summary -

- Regular social media posts on Facebook and Twitter to cover events, competitions, greens work on course etc
- Selling of tee sponsor packages to cover cost of new course signage
- Our Pro continues to liaise with local schools re activity to encourage youngsters to take up golf
- Liaise with office re delivery of club flyers to new local housing developments
- Via our pro, Helsby staged "Girls Golf Rocks" initiative in association with England Golf

- Our local advertising campaign continues to
 - target new members
 - publicise our junior activities
 - promote the clubhouse as a function venue
- We continue to get regular press coverage in Golfer's Local, Helsby to Hand, Helsby News, Frodsham Life, Chronicle – this covers news articles about the club and our charity work for the Powered Wheelchair Appeal
- Production of the Club newsletters – editions at the start and the finish of the golfing season

We welcome any feedback or suggestions so if you have any, please contact the committee via the secretary's office.

Match and Handicap

1. Congratulations to all participants and winners in the competitions for the 2019 season. They have all been very well attended and the HDID system is working well
2. Blue tees are now in place for gents winter golf. The yellow and white tees will be removed shortly
3. A reminder that the flyer for the 2019 rule changes is still available from the Pro shop – please feel free to pick one up
4. The SLOPE system comes into effect in 2020 and the course has been measured recently for this
5. As per last year there will be a handicap review and it will be done in January/February based on the 2019 season. All members will be notified of the outcome
6. The weekly update on fixtures has been met with great appreciation and this will continue during the winter break.

The M and H Committee



PRESIDENT

We are coming to the close of another golfing season at Helsby Golf Club. The winter league is again upon us and I have no doubt it will be as hard fought as it has been in previous years. In contrast to last year the weather has been poor and the winter league players may see little difference in the weather from the summer.

Fortunately, this has not been reflected in the state of the course due to the amount of work that is taking place by the green staff, green committee, the artisans and all the volunteers, who have worked tirelessly to present a course and greens in the best possible condition.

A lot of work has gone into the clubhouse – the lounge and the spike bar look and feel welcoming – and the clubs appearance has been further enhanced by the work completed in the hall, stairs and landing. I hope the members take the opportunity to support the club in the large number of events being provided by the house committee in the coming year.

As you are no doubt aware as the President, I am responsible for holding two Tournaments a year.

The first competition is for the Gentlemen and was held on Saturday 15th June. As I have already mentioned the weather wasn't brilliant this year. However, on that day, although overcast, we got away without any rain and the lads appeared to be enjoying the day. As usual I enjoyed the company of the competitors at the halfway house, who were full of good banter. I must thank Ann Johnson

and Gloria Potter for their help at the halfway house as everybody seemed to enjoy the food and drink. The winner was Jeff Hughes, Lee Horton was second and Jon Nagle was third. Your Secretary Steve Collins was the best senior and Jeff Hughes collected the prize for the lowest gross. Jeff Hughes has had a great season and it was no surprise that he was at the top of the Order of Merit.

On the 13th July I hosted the Ladies Day. Again the weather wasn't great but no-one got wet, which is always a blessing. However, like the men the ladies were great company at the halfway house and again Ann and Gloria were a really great help to me. They assured me that the Pimms is a sure fired winner with the ladies of Helsby Golf Club. June Ryder was the worthy winner of the event, Hazel Jones was second and Gill Smith came third. Kath Wilkinson was the best senior and the winner, June Ryder, also picked up the prize for the lowest gross.

The Directors have now settled in their roles on the Board and are doing their best to manage the club and keep it on a business footing. Communication is a key element in any organisation and I know the Directors are continually trying to improve communications with the members.

Together with the Captain and Lady Captain I attend all Board meeting and get to know all the work that is going on behind the scene. On that basis I would like again to thank all the volunteers on all the various committees that feed into the Directors for their hard work and dedication. There is no illusion that everything at the



Club is perfect but there is a willingness by a large number of staff and members to improve it in every area.

Without naming all the staff and volunteers who get involved in the running of this great little club I would like to thank them for their help and support. It would be impossible for me to have completed my year of office without them.

It's sad to see that Kieren and Natalie have now left us to take up other challenges. I wish them both well in whatever venture they take on and wish Natalie well with the new baby.

Julie continues to look after the catering needs of the membership and our visitors with her usual smile and good humour.

A special thanks to this year's Captain and Lady Captain - Roddy and Liz - who have been a pleasure to work with

and have provided loads of help and support.

Unfortunately my time as your President is coming to a close. It has been an honour and a pleasure to perform the role and my biggest thanks has got to go to you the membership. Your help, support and good humour has made it an immense pleasure.

At the Presidents Day for Gents I was also joined in the halfway house by Kath Wilkinson, your President for next year. Kath had come to help but also see the duties that will be required of her, and she is already taking her role next year very seriously. I wish her well and have absolutely no doubt she will make a success of the role if you give her the help and support you have given me.

Peter Duffy



Pitchmarks!

Interesting read on Pitchmarks!



Roger Horton – Hole in One

On Sat 22nd June, Roger Horton scored a Hole in One in the gents Jubilee Trophy on the 11th hole. Roger's only other hole in one was at Padeswood & Buckley GC

25 years ago; Roger recently celebrated his 70th birthday a week before scoring his hole in one. The Hole in One was witnessed by his playing partners, his son Lee and Graham Cheesbrough.

Well done Roger!!!



Helsby President scores an ace abroad!



The President, Past Captain of Helsby Golf Club and Helsby Parish Councillor, Peter Duffy recently scored a hole in one at the Sueno Golf Resort in Belek, Turkey.

Peter was there on holiday with a number of golfing pals from Helsby when he scored the ace on the 4th hole of the Dunes course. The achievement will mean

his name will be added to the resort's Hole in One board in the clubhouse.

He was fortunate though at not having to foot the traditional bar bill when achieving a hole in one – he was staying in an all inclusive resort!

Well done Peter!



Pro Shop News

Volvik Rangefinders

The new Volvik rangefinders are now available in store, retailing at £189.99 these range finders are fantastic value and are over £100 less than the equivalent model of the leading brand. There are a wide range of colours available so why not pop in and take a look!



PING Collection Winter Clothing Range

The PING Collection AW Winter Clothing Range is now in stock, feel free to come and take a look. Any required sizes/colours/styles can be ordered in to suit, logo garments available on request. Below is a selection of some of the items in the range:

Breaker Jacket	£64.99
Breaker Vest	£54.99
Norse Primaloft Vest	£89.99
Elden Mid Layer	£44.99
Phaser Mid Layer	£49.99
Ramsey Mid Layer	£34.99
Anders 2 w/proof jacket	£84.99
Anders 2 w/proof trousers	£59.99

To view the full range please visit <https://www.pingcollection.co.uk/>



World Handicapping System

The World Handicap System is expected to launch in November 2020. It is designed to welcome more players, to make golf easier to understand and to give all golfers a handicap which is portable all around

the globe. It will replace the six different systems currently used by over 15 million golfers in more than 80 countries. It has been developed by The R&A and The United States Golf Association (USGA), supported by the world's handicapping authorities, including CONGU, which represents the four home countries of Great Britain and Ireland. To make the game more enjoyable, the new system will include:

- Course rating and slope rating
- Minimum number of scores to obtain a handicap
- Competitive and recreational scores to count for handicap
- Handicaps will be calculated from an average of recent scores
- Maximum handicap of 54
- Abnormal course and weather conditions adjustments

Helsby GC was re-measured at the end of August, where we were issued with an updated course measurement certificate. Upon receiving this certificate we were then assessed by the Cheshire Union; at the time of going to print are currently awaiting their decision about our new course/slope rating which will come into effect in November 2020 as above.



Powered Wheelchair Appeal

At the end of October 2018, we set ourselves two targets to achieve by the end of November 2019; to raise £55,000 and to present our 400th powered wheelchair.

We are pleased to announce that we have raised over £50,000 so far and will be presenting our 400th wheelchair at a Glitz and Glamour Evening on 23rd November 2019.

We would like to thank all the members and our supporters who have helped us to achieve this by attending events, making donations and providing prizes. Special thanks go to Captain Roddy Snedden, who held a Charity Golf Day, Kathryn Hoather & Keith Trenell, who completed the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge and Alex Walters, who walked the Sandstone Trail. We would also like to thank all those volunteers who have helped behind the scenes to make the events run so smoothly, without your help we could not make it happen.

We have presented 12 wheelchairs this year to some delightful local children who have been very appreciative of their new 'wheels'.

As can be seen from the following, the difference the chairs make to them and their families is enormous. "Donating this fab electric wheelchair to Archie to replace his manual will give him more independence. He absolutely loves it!" "Thank you for funding all those amazing wheelchairs you have made such a difference xxxx Jackie Therese"

Last year, we presented a fantastic 'all terrain' chair to Tom who is severely disabled. In August this year, his mum, Jan sent the following message and photo of Tom. "We are a year on and still very much in love with the chair. For his hols, Tom wanted to go camping and drive on the beach. We booked a camping spot and drove up to Bamburgh to find there is no access to the beach unless you can walk. We inspected every access point and luckily, we discovered one with access by 4X! Tom loved it! From parents who are very grateful for your help, Jan"



Peter Alliss Masters

In September, a group of Helsby Golf Club members attended the Peter Alliss Masters Tournament as a reward for all their hard work in raising funds for the Powered Wheelchair Appeal. This included the winner of the David Kitchen Quaich, Brian Gibbons.

Following the tournament, Peter Alliss presented a number of wheelchairs to children with special needs, including one on behalf of Helsby GC to Lola Johnson from Dukinfield, Stockport. Lola is 7 years old but wanted to point out to us that she will be 2 years old on 29th February 2020!



At the Gala Dinner in the evening, Peter Alliss presented the prizes to the winners of the tournament. Helsby were in the prizes again with Keith Ainsworth, last year's winner, gaining 3rd place. He must like the course!

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 23rd November 2019 – Glitz and Glamour Charity Evening at the Pavilion, Chester Racecourse. This promises to be a super evening when we will be presenting seven wheelchairs, including our 400th, to local children with mobility problems. Tickets cost £50 per person and include bubbles on arrival, a 3-course meal including wine, vocalist

Jess Malone, dancing to the band 'The Singles Table', an auction, a gin hamper raffle, a grand raffle and casino tables. Further details are on the Club noticeboard. If you would like tickets for this special event, please contact Penny Ainsworth on poweredwheelchairappeal@gmail.com

January 2020 - Chinese Banquet at the Fortune Palace Restaurant

Thursday 12th March 2020 – Annual General Meeting

Saturday 14th March 2020 – Race Night. After the success of last year's event, we will be holding another fun evening including racing and a bite to eat.

Thursday 11th June 2020 – Wheelchair Classic

Finally, it is with great sadness that we said "Goodbye" to 'Canadian' Bill Loucks who died at the end of September. Bill was a fantastic supporter of the Appeal and we are very grateful to him and his family for their generosity. Our sincere condolences go to Jayne and the family.

Steve Cunliffe,
Chairman



SOLHEIM CUP 2019

I was very fortunate to attend this year's Solheim Cup tournament with four friends from Sandiway Golf Club. We rented a house in Stirling and had tickets for all three days plus a ticket for the Opening Ceremony on Thursday. The Opening Ceremony was fantastic and was followed by a spectacular performance from Scotland's own – Texas!

I'm afraid I couldn't face a 6am start to get on the Stand on the 1st Tee on Friday but am told by Kath & Julia Wilkinson that it was well worth it, an unbelievable atmosphere, well equal to the Ryder Cup!!



The Scottish weather decided to be kind to us, it was cold but dry and sunny! After watching the foursomes tee off, we managed to get a few holes in front and watch the teams coming through. The scenery as we walked the course was absolutely incredible. Thousands round the greens chanting for "Europe" and of course the odd few shouting for "USA"! Many of our supporters, including my group were wearing the yellow & blue of Europe, some even dressed as daffodils & ducks!! (Can't quite get my head round the ducks!)



Saturday proved to be our worst day, very cold and very, very wet. At lunchtime, I'm afraid we withdrew to the Pavilion and the warmth of a Hot Toddy or two!! It was very difficult to decide which way the match was going to go but on Sunday the atmosphere was electric! Some of the greens were showing a big screen so you could keep an eye on the scores, on occasions, not what we wanted to know! Towards the end of the afternoon we managed a great spot on the 17th and when the roar went up on 16, we knew we were in with a chance. Bronte Law saved the day for us when she won 17 and the score was level, just needed Suzanne Petterson to get the putt down on 18! It was hugs all round from complete strangers when she did just

that! A day to remember and the old adage, "Never give up till the last putt is in" was never truer!! Wonderful!!!

We even managed to get a close up photo of the trophy when Georgia Hall's caddie and boyfriend was drinking out of it!

Viv Nagle



From the Secretary's office

Summer seems a distant memory and the course is now looking more autumnal as the leaves start to turn brown. It's amazing how the course has stood up to the recent wet weather and visitors have commented on how well

Helsby compares to other courses

they have visited.

As you know Kieren and Natalie have now left, we wish them well. Please support Julie and Dave Brinkley who will be looking after the kitchen over the winter months. Dave will be taking over full time in April.

I'm pleased to report there have been twenty four new and returning members since April.

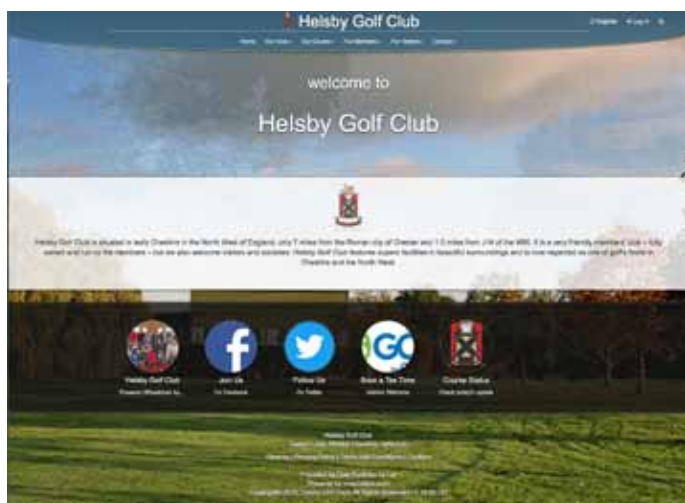
There are still a few Christmas pens available from the office.

At £3 they are a nice stocking filler.

The 2020 Fixture Books will be available just before Christmas.

Steve and Gillian





Winter is coming!

Summer days are a distant memory and Autumn seems to have been mainly wet and

windy. So what does winter have in store for us? – maybe beautiful scenes like the one above?

Many thanks to Howard Pay for capturing a stunning winter day earlier this year.

Your club's website:

www.helsbygolfclub.org

You probably already know that the club has its own website but, if you have not yet used it, you are missing out on a great source of information.

Did you know?

- You can use the website to check if the course is open. This is especially handy over winter months when extreme weather can force a temporary closure of the course – and the information is updated each morning
- You can 'play' the course from the comfort of your own armchair by watching a hole-by-hole flyover of our course. Handy for polishing up your course management tactics without actually being on the course!
- You can use the website to check your balance and details of recent bar transactions on your Membership Card. For this you need to log in with your personal email address and password

These are just three examples of what is on the website but there is so much more available. Visitors and potential members use the website to find out all about our club and our course.

Members have

access to a wealth more information - available only to those who have registered and over 280 members already have.

If you haven't yet registered to use the Members area of the website, details of how to do so can be found under 'For Members' and 'How to Login'. You can also see from the drop down menu what other facilities are available.

If you would like to help with the running of the website, please email Phil Davies at PJDsolutions@aol.com

Don't forget Social Media - We are on Twitter and Facebook

Updated Course info, interests, updates, bulletins from the club and what's going on. If you are registered give us a follow, if not, why not?

Twitter - @HelsbyGC
Facebook - Helsby Golf Club - Official



Yoga is back in the clubhouse!

After the successful launch of Yoga sessions in the clubhouse last year, there was a break over the summer months as everyone was busy with golf commitments. However now that the main golfing season is over, the Yoga sessions have resumed on Thursday mornings for 1 hour classes beginning at 10am.

The sessions are run by Callie Meakin who teaches classes and yoga workshops locally. They have proved extremely popular with both Ladies and Gents – so feel free to join in!

Yoga can be practiced by anybody of any age or ability. It offers many benefits and can be really helpful for golfers. The exercises keep the joints healthy by improving their range of motion and strengthening the muscles that support the joints.

It reduces tightness from the muscles improving your overall posture and flexibility. It can help establish core strength and can also eradicate lower back conditions. Yoga is practiced with an awareness of the breath. This helps to steady the mind which strengthens concentration and improves overall focus

Callie teaches classes and yoga workshops in Frodsham and also hosts yoga retreats in North Wales and Cumbria. She also teaches small group classes and 1-2-1 classes that can be tailored to your needs. Her classes are held in a friendly, non-competitive environment and she welcomes everyone along.

For more information visit her site www.callieyoga.com or contact her on 07917891944.

Why not come and join us to try it? – the sessions are held on Thursday mornings at 10am to 11am in the clubhouse and cost £5.





Helsby Seniors

It only seems like yesterday that we were greeting the start of the season and now it's all over for 2019 as far as Seniors inter club matches are concerned. Following an uncertain start, when we struggled a bit for participants for the first two matches, it was great to welcome a number of new faces to the fold and then complete 18 fixtures between April and September. We were also glad to have the Captain join us for a number of games, all of which he professed to enjoy. Or maybe he's just really polite! It's fair to say that, as usual, results were mixed. Mostly wins at home and reverses away with one or two notable exceptions. However as is the accepted norm in these matches all were formally declared to be "honourable draws" followed by the usual stage whisper indicating the actual result (we don't completely lose our competitive edge after reaching the qualifying age of 55!). 18 players picked up a prize for having a 'two' at home (mainly on the 8th) so somewhere around Helsby there's a decent chance of finding a ball bearing the Helsby Seniors logo in the coming months! And though in August Llangollen had their revenge at the reverse fixture within a week of our spanking home win we did manage a decent consolation by relieving them of a dozen Titleists for the 3 'two's' scored on their course that day!

For many years the Seniors have played home games on Mondays but there is currently a discussion taking place about moving these to Tuesdays. It's believed that this may encourage even more seniors to play as we already have thriving Tuesday/Thursday groups (TT's). The thought being that many gents won't play on consecutive days so if the mountain won't come to Mohammed.....! Watch this space for details of 2020 days/dates.

In addition to our inter club matches both the TT and seniors groups enjoyed spring (Sale GC) and autumn (Padeswood and Buckley) away days and short breaks. The latter was held in fine, dry weather at P&B with Lawrie Holman (pictured collecting his voucher from Brian Prince) taking the honours with 40 points from Brian Kennerley (36) and Graham Poland (33). Brian cemented a good day by taking the nearest the pin prize on the 14th whilst Ric Harrison claimed the balls at the 10th.

The 'early start' TT's headed north and can be seen in front of their hotel during their tour of the Ribble Valley at Mytton Fold. Playing Shaw Hill, Chorley and Mytton Fold it is rumoured that Paul Trow took the honours.

Whilst the 'lunchtime' TT's left the country for a pre Brexit break in North Wales (group pictured at Maesdu), where a good time was had by all and where Tony Insley was forced to part with the 3 bottles of

Scotch he'd smuggled over the border to different winners (Howard Jones, Lawrie Holman and Brian Kennerly) or maybe it was one bottle and he presented it 3 times!

We're glad to report that Billy Jones is recovered and back in the playing fold following his buggy mishap at North Wales GC. Many of us also enjoyed what has become a bit of an annual pilgrimage to 'mount' Church Stretton for their Seniors Open and Captains Charity Day. The trips, pioneered by Norman Clough, and continued now by George Randles to this strikingly beautiful but challenging course atop the Shropshire hills usually take place in May and July. So if you've not yet been, give yourself a treat and try to get there. Crampons and oxygen recommended though for some of the ascents!

For next year we have some new match day organisers for the Seniors inter club matches (see below) so thanks in advance to them for stepping up and at the same time thanks also to those who have overseen this years games. Without them the matches wouldn't happen. And though we've only just finished we are already looking forward to next years fixtures. Details of the dates will be in the fixture booklet and on the notice board in due course.

Before then though we have Winter League to look forward to as well as our annual Christmas Lunch which, as has become the custom, will be held on the last the

Tuesday before Xmas Eve. So clear a space in your diary for 17 December. 12.30 for 13.00. Thanks too from all the seniors to Kieren, Natalie and Julie for looking after us so well at our lunches. Our best wishes to K & N in their new life, your biscuits were just the best and loved by all our opponents & us. Grub was always great too Kieren! Thanks also to Danny and the lads for giving us a cracking course again this year.

Match Organisers for 2020:

Jim McAllister - Bromborough
Tony Williams - Runcorn
Jeff Mulholland - Portal
Howard Jones - Wrexham
Ken Bewley - Upton
Lawrie Holman - Vicars Cross
Alan Gardiner - Childwall
Brian Prince- Lymm
Billy Jones - Llangollen

And finally it's many happy returns to long time member Maurice Barnes who treated the Secretary, current and some past playing buddies to coffee and cakes on 13 September to celebrate his 92nd birthday. Some unkind 'friends' suggested that many of Maurice's jokes originated around the same time as him! Be that as it may, it's great to see him still getting out regularly for a few holes before holding court over coffee (which it is rumoured that he occasionally buys!) on all matters Brexit, cricket, rugby league and ICI!

Keith Trenell



New Sponsorship for the golf club

Members may have noticed that we have updated the sponsorship board next to the main entrance. This has been an on-going project that has led to new income to the golf club by companies sponsoring individual holes. The new signs have been added to the board as well as smart new tee signs.

Please support the following local companies:

FDL Packaging Group, Arran Pipeline Supplies, Chris Cousins Golf, Electrod Electrical Contractors & Installers, CFI Cases For Industry, Powered Wheelchair Appeal, Kindertons Accident Management, The Ring O' Bells Frodsham, Flowers by Jenny Penny, Applegate & Co. Accountants, We Have The Solutions Financial Services, Neil Sherlock Builders and Thwaites Brewery.

Many thanks to all our sponsors - we really appreciate your ongoing support.



New addition to the Cousins family!

Our Professional, Chris Cousins and his wife Gemma recently welcomed a new addition to their family. Alexander Thomas Cousins

was born 2 weeks premature by caesarean section on Sun 25th Aug weighing 7lb 3oz.

Both mother and baby are doing well!

A few photos are above including one of Alexander and his two big brothers Dylan (age 9) and Sam (aged 4)!



Curzon Park Salver Win for the Wilkinsons!

Past Captain Colin Wilkinson and Past Lady Captain and President Elect Kathleen

Wilkinson took the honours recently at Chester Golf Club.

It was the first time they had played in the Mixed Open Curzon Park Salver event and there were approximately 70 entrants but they came out on top – Well done to you both!

