



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

Newsletter 56 for May 2019



**John Perkins,
Club Chairman**

Some of you will think 'here he goes again', but I am not fazed to give credit where it's due.

Over the last couple of years both our Past and Present

Captains have done a great job in keeping the club on an even keel.

I have great respect for our current Treasurer who has done an amazing job for the members. His position has been a full-time job.

It is not easy to find a replacement, thank you Alan. Dorrien and his team have really pulled together and made a difference to the Bar and Kitchen. Denis has worked hard and is at last getting the results we need to proceed with the landfill. You will all be informed as and when we know. There has been lots of work carried out at the Club and both Barry and Mike have to be thanked for the way they quietly get on with it. Gerry, our latest addition to the MC, has shown great commitment and is sure to be another asset. Ros, Ian and Gill are all to be thanked for their efforts.

I can see that with the changes made and the ones to come the Club is in good hands. We have at this moment nine applicants for the Secretary-Manager's position; update next month.



**Glenn Ross,
Club Captain**

With the Tiger's historic Masters victory now a distant memory the golfing season is now in full swing. Club Matches against Enmore Away and the Swindlers

were great fun but the team came out a distant second in both. If you would like to be considered for selection for Club matches please put your name on the Captains board; it would be great to see some new faces playing too.

I recently received some great feedback from a Bath GC member who had played for Somerset in the recent Seniors County match at the club. He paid a glowing tribute to the condition of the golf course. My thanks go to Robert, Adam and Sean for keeping the course in such great condition, especially after a particularly dry summer last year and fast-growing conditions in the last 6 weeks.

Entries will open shortly for my Captain's Day, which will take place on Saturday 27th July and I have a fun day planned with Paul Barrington, former World Trick Shot and Long Drive Champion performing his amazing show towards the end of the day. If you have never seen it before, you won't want to miss it. I hope as many members as possible can join in and enjoy the day, even if you are unable to play.

An entry sheet for golf will be on the Captain's notice board shortly. If anyone would like to help me ensure the smooth running of the day in any way, please let me know.



**Ros Chidgey,
Ladies' Captain**

May saw a team of Minehead Ladies playing at Wells against Worlebury in the Rogers Cup; they had a great match coming out winners 4 to 3 after one match went to the 19th and another to the 20th hole to decide. The 13th May saw the Ladies away again this time in a friendly at Oake. Although the match was close Minehead ended up losing 4 to 1. 20th May saw the Ladies at home in a Wessex Match against Burnham and Berrow; a good match but Burnham and Berrow proved too strong and Minehead Ladies lost 4½ to 2½. The Ladies 4BBB Open took place on Thursday 30th May with Sheila Grant & Jeannette Jones from Oake coming first with 43 pts. Second were Jayne Fulwell & Stephanie Bartlett with 42pts; third were Ros McGuire & Jennifer James with 41 pts; fourth were Eve Bolton & Sarah Lake and fifth were Joan Smith & Elizabeth Ward from Honiton.



Neil Powles Seniors' Captain

We are in a buoyant mood after a successful month match-wise, recording two wins and

a draw, which over many years we would walk away from the opposition with a drubbing. First up a hard-fought game against Saunton, resulting in a 4–3 win to Minehead. Winning pairs were Paul Rees/Nigel Trevelyan, Dave Oatridge/Tim Evans, Dave Chidgey/David Ball & Neil Powles/Alan Jones. Next up playing a totally different course to ours, we nearly took Vivary Park at Vivary drawing 3–3, their team commenting they nearly lost a home record spanning many years and what a satisfying 6½–5½ aggregate score. Wins came from Barry Chaffey/Mike Shortland, Neil Powles/Nigel Trevelyan and Paul Rees/Bill Hogg. The best result came in our final game against Burnham & Berrow, winning by a margin of 4½–1½ at home and recording an overall score of 7–5. Winning pairs were Tony Bowden/Alan Jones, Sandy Lyons/Nigel Trevelyan, David Ball/Bill Hogg, Malcolm Bruce/Mike Shortland and the half from Neil Powles/Dave Chidgey. Excuse our slight smugness but when, over the years, you take some hits it is nice to have the boot on the other foot for a change. Many thanks to Ashley and staff for the meals: they have been spot on, each club awarding them the same praise as ourselves.

On the internal front at Minehead, Edwin Frewin with a 72 won the Monthly medal, followed by Trevor Stephens & Mark Ruttley with 73.

The Seniors' Open was won by Dave Oatridge with 43 points, followed home in third by Ian Gover 41 points after countback and Graham Stone on 40 finishing fifth again on countback; this from a field of 77 players. Two more rounds of the Marshalls Cup took place over the month with Mark Ruttley leading the way. With two more rounds to go he will take some catching. Our monthly Stableford also featured Mark, winning with a score of 39 from Trevor Stephens 36 and Andy Dahl 35. To finish the month a Texas Scramble took place with the winners

coming from the team of Phil Watts/Peter Coombes/Ashley Giles with a score of 62.5 from Martin Edkins/Alan Jarrett/Ray Holland one point behind on 63.5.

June will see us away at Ilfracombe and home to Tiverton. Unfortunately, our match at Worlebury has been cancelled again, a new date is being pursued.



Denis Compton Course Manager

We are now well in to summer and excessive growth is upon us. It is putting a lot of strain on

Robert, Sean and Adam to keep up with things. The greens and approaches of the putting surfaces remain well grassed with the fine-leaved species still increasing. However, in the spring/early summer indigenous bent grass stems became woody with an unfortunate straggly growth. Daily rolling helps us to provide acceptable ball roll along with light sand topdressing. These coarse species are not so desirable on the links and we are endeavouring to reduce their number. On the fairways we are always hoping for rain during long spells lacking in significant rainfall like we have just had. The recent rainfall will help as I write this. Several fairways do not have the level of grass cover density we desire. Spring scarifying has helped to some extent with golf balls sitting slightly more uniformly, helping the player strike the ball. We have had some success from over-seeding, but rainfall has to increase still further through June for this to be pushed home. Divotting and rabbit hole filling with continued voluntary help from Doug Hayhoe, Mike Nichols, Mark Ruttley and Mark Ogdon has helped significantly. The semi-rough areas are being mown regularly and golf is flowing well through this area of the course, especially on the early holes. Some areas can become sparse with low rainfall, and so may become slightly scruffy when left when we prioritise work on other areas of the course. The rough has become quite testing and balls can be lost. This is the nature of our links and part of the course's



character. Please help watch your partner's ball flight, get a definite line and feel for distance. You will have much better luck finding your ball! The concrete scalplings adjacent to the 4th hole are ready to provide a stable track when landfill income is relevant and will help to reduce wear and tear on parts of the course caused by significant heavy vehicle traffic. These tracks will be able to be taken up replaced with seed and turf after the intended use. It looks unsightly but it was thought the best place to store such material at this time.



Dorrien Bickerstaff Bar & Catering

As predicted, May proved to be a very good month with comps and matches keeping both bar and kitchen busy. Members

continue to benefit from the discounts on food and drink when using their cards for purchase. The Club night was a success but sadly both names pulled out for the club draw were not in attendance, so the prize rolls over for another month! Many thanks to Sticky and Sarah for making sure the night was fun for all. We are now concentrating on the catering for Sunday lunches especially. Bookings are being taken for Father's Day (16th June) - keep an eye on the board for specials and Club night dates which will be announced soon.

Avalon Seniors, A & B

Avalon Seniors - Tony Bowden

Minehead are top of the South Division after a very good 3-2 away loss to Long Sutton, good wins for Terry Walker, Dave Shambrook, Paul Rees, and a debut win for Peter Taylor. Our next match is away at Cannington, 12th June. We need a good result to keep up the momentum, with Long Sutton hot on our heels with 2 games in hand. Thanks to all of those that have already played and hope we can get games for the rest before the end of the season.



Avalon B – Lewis Baker

The season is in full swing for the B team and a mixed set of results so far. The season started on the day "storm Gareth" hit at Worlebury, hoping our seasoned links golfers could cope; it ended up a 5-0 loss. Next game saw Vivary play at Minehead and a much better outcome winning 4-1. We then played Long Sutton on back-to-back weekends, winning 5-0 at home in a very strong wind which this time thankfully gave us the advantage, and again another 5-0 loss away. The month of June brings us 3 fixtures: 2 at home and 1 away. I'm confident we can lift ourselves off the bottom of the table and compete with Worlebury and Long Sutton at the top having played 1 less game than them so far. I would like to thank Bix and Jordan for helping with supplying our new team kit and to Jewson for sponsoring our team shirts.



Ian Gover Handicap & Competitions

Bunkers are the bane of many a player's life. You can hear players sigh as the ball trundles towards the little sandy hollows that proliferate around the course as again a good round could be ruined (How many bunkers are there at MWSGC? - answer at the bottom of this article). My record this year is 5 different bunkers in a round, I would be interested to know if any player can beat this.

The choices once in a bunker are different to those in the General Area. Embedded balls do not get free relief, you cannot touch the sand behind the ball in making a stroke and if in a paw mark you do not get free relief (if it is a trail of paw prints then it is different).

You do have some choices: you can drop outside the bunker for 2 penalty shots, you can drop inside the bunker for 1 penalty shot or you just declare it unplayable and as a choice go back to where you came from.

At this moment the bunkers on our course have been left in an awful condition causing people great difficulty playing out of footmarks or ridges from poorly-raked bunkers. Please use two



hands when raking a bunker and if you see one that needs attention please take responsibility and spend some time cleaning it up for others. At our course we leave the rake inside the bunkers, I know this is different on other courses.

Last month's problem centres around rule 15.3a around the issue of leaving a ball as a backstop for another player. If you agreed before playing the shot that this is a backstop, then both players get two penalty shots.

This month's problem is one from our 10th. Teeing off the player hits it under the lip of one of the front bunkers. What are their choices as to the next shot?

Numbers of bunkers on our course: 60