Harwich & Dovercourt Golf Club

May Newsletter

Issue 1 - May 2021 Edition



Welcome

Welcome to the Club's first newsletter which we hope will help improve communication and keep members informed on a monthly basis with what's going on at the Club in one central place.

The newsletter will be issued on the 1st week of each month via the Club's system. Hard copies will also be made available in the Clubhouse and can be downloaded from the Club's website in the Membership section.

As noted in April's email we have co-opted Darren Law to the Committee until our AGM in July. Darren will take up the role as Communications Officer and has already made a start by putting together this newsletter. You will also see we have relaunched our social media platforms and you can find further information on page 10.

Alongside these initiatives we're looking at ways to promote the Club and encourage new members to join, so if you have any friends or family that are interested in taking up golf or are looking to join the Club then please get in touch with us.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and find it informative. In particular the course updates and dates of future golf competitions which we hope will provide better awareness and encourage greater member participation.

Finally, your feedback or suggestions for future issues is important so if you have a news story or would like to see particular articles in the newsletter then please do let us know.

Happy golfing!

Captain's Comments

Dear members

I hope by now you have been able to play a round of golf and are enjoying being back on the course and using the bar and catering facilities, albeit outside at the moment, myself and the Honourable Secretary have been busy with the diary of events for this season. Hopefully by the end of July I can be finally sworn in as the official captain of the club with Alan Challis taking up the role of my vice-captain.

The past 12 months have been challenging to say the least but I now look forward to the task ahead with our golfing life steadily turning back to normal. We will be hosting the usual golf events e.g. Captain's Drive In, Club Championship, President's Day etc. but this year I would also like to try and turn back the clock to days of old where social events were more common and enjoyed by not just by our member golfers but also their families. I believe we have possibly the best outdoor summer seating area in the town and with a capacity to hold over 80 people inside we should try and utilise this for members social nights, charity nights and so forth.

As you will be aware from the diary the AGM will be on Friday 16th July please don't forget this date. It's not a committee night, it's for you as members an opportunity to share your views and vote for any new committee members and proposals that may be put forward.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has re-joined this year and a warm welcome to all our new members.

Phil Elwood H&D GC Acting Captain

The Course

The course has had a challenging winter with heavy snow in February and staff on furlough during lockdown. More recently we've seen very little rain and a persistent wind with sub-zero temperatures at night which means the course is very dry for this particular time of the year. We are running our irrigation system at maximum capacity and over a 7 day period we have used over 200 tons of water. The course continues to be very dry and is fast approaching drought status.

When the course reopened on Monday 29th March we saw two temporary tees on the 2nd and 9th and also damage to the 8th green. This was due to problems with birds, mainly magpies, that feed on leatherjackets that sit just under the ground. Unfortunately leatherjackets are a common golf course issue due to EU regulations on pest control and is something we'll have to live with for the time being until an economical solution can be found; more information can be found in the link below.

Link: Leatheriackets can be bad news for golf courses? But, what are leatherjackets and why have they become more of an issue for greenkeepers?

This month we will be carrying repairs to the 2nd and 9th tees and we hope for warmer weather to help speed up the flattening of the 8th green following recent hollow tining.

Below is an overview of the greenkeeping activities that takes place each week.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	Wednesday	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Cut Greens	1	✓	1	1	✓	1	1
Cut Fairways	1			1			
Cut Rough	1			1			
Tidy / Rake Bunkers	1	✓			✓		
Tees & Approaches	1			1			
Repair Divots	1			1			
Flymo & Strimming		✓					
Willow Course			09:30 - 11:30				
Machine Maintenance			1				
Holes Changed				1			
Irrigation					✓		

^{*}Subject to weather conditions and staff availability

Winter rules

As decided by England Golf preferred lies normally run from 1st October to 30th April meaning from Saturday 1st May winter rules will no longer be in force. Penalty breach of Local Rule is; General Penalty (Matchplay: loss of hole, Strokeplay: two stroke penalty).

Due to Covid restrictions the rule of pick and place in the bunkers remains in place. Covid restrictions also mean that stakes around the course cannot be touched and a free drop is permitted.

Future activity:

1st tee: Our plan is to remove the bushes to the left of the 1st tee and replace them with a wooden fence, similar to the fence erected just before the greenkeeper's hut. Not only will this smarten the look on the course but also from the car park, also form a health and safety perspective the bushes are not necessarily providing a safety barrier as before when they were flourishing. To cover the cost of



this the Club are looking for sponsors who will be able to advertise their business on the car park side of the fence. We will be looking to commence this project later in the year and further information can be found on page 7.

• 9th tee: We have funding in place that could be used to renovate and raise the men's 9th tee which will enable golfers to be able to view the green. This project is subject to proposal and discussion at the AGM in July.

Inter-Club Team Competitions

Members at the Club all get an opportunity to test themselves against other clubs via Inter-Club Team Knock-out Competitions. There are 5 main events that the Club take part in, split into different handicaps. Clubs across Essex and close proximity take part and organised by Essex Golf Union apart from the Jubilee Cup which is independently run. Here are details of the 4 events we take part in.

Link: Club Team Competition Fixture list 2021

Thornton Challenge Cup: Scratch Handicap Index

Format: Straight Knockout - losers in the first round go into a Plate knockout

Team Captain: Phil Elwood

After an excellent 8 v 2 win against Risebridge at home, sadly the team were later disqualified from the competition due to one of our players having not played enough qualifying rounds.

Link: 2021 Competition Conditions & Regulation

Leslie F Wood Championship: From 6 Handicap Index

Format: Straight Knockout competition with 1st round losers entering into a Plate knockout

Team Captain: Phil Elwood

On Sunday 18th April the team played Thorpe Hall at home in a match that was contested by 10 singles matches (format amended due to Covid19). The team made a strong start with 3 wins from the first 4 matches but as the rest of the team were finishing it was becoming clear that it would go to the wire. Captain Phil was the last match and needed to secure at least a half on the final hole to gain a point for a 5-5 tie. A good chip shot out of the bunker gave him an opportunity to par which was narrowingly missed but the resulting bogey was enough to move to a sudden death playoff. Phil stepped up on the 1st driving his 3 wood straight down the middle and both players were able to par the first playoff hole. Moving down the 2nd Thorpe Hall played a fantastic drive 3 foot from the ditch whilst Phil hit his right. Phil was able to follow up with his 2nd shot heading 30 yards from the green close to the trees on the right. Advantage was to Thorpe Hall who needed a strong 2nd shot to make the green, however a rush of blood led to Thorpe Hall placing 2 balls left out of bounds resulting in the playoff match going in the Club's favour. A special well done to Captain Phil for holding his nerve in the playoff.

Following the team's success in round 1 the team are to play away against Nazeing Golf Club on Sunday 16th May. The team to play is:

Singles		
 Phil Elwood Ian Powell James Gosbell Neil Blackburn Sam Warren 	6. Jago Hepburn7. Darren Law8. Stuart Wallace9. Neil King10. Paul Sims	

Link: 2021 Competition Conditions & Regulations

Jubilee Cup: From 11 Handicap Index

Format: League format with 6 teams and 4 matches played. Top 2 then go into a straight knockout

Team Captain: John Oakley

On Saturday 17th April the team got off to a great start to their campaign beating Manor of Groves at home in the first league match. The 6 single matches won 4-2 & the pairs won all 3 of their matches resulting in a 7-2 win.



For their second match they play Castle Point away on Sunday 2nd May with a 10:00 tee. The team to play is:

<u>Singles</u>		<u>Pairs</u>	
2. I 3. 4. I 5	Ashley Brundle Matt Adams Tommy Armstrong Richard Bushell Joe Cheeseman Alan Challis	1. 2. 3.	Nigel Carpenter & Rod Noakes Robert Simpson & James Roots Jamie Eades & Ben Hammond

Link: Rules of the Competition

Norman Plum Trophy: Handicap Index ranges of Pool A (11.0 to 17.5) or Pool B (17.6 to 24.0)

Format: Teams are split into 2 with 3 pairs at home and 3 pairs away playing fourball better ball match play

Team Captain: Tommy Armstrong

The team were given a walkover in round 1 and are up against Canon Brook on Sunday 2nd May. The team to play is:

	<u>Home</u>		<u>Away</u>	
	1. 2.	Marcus Smith & Ronald Brown Graham Pomfrett & Bryan Shears	1. 2.	Phil Armstrong & Kieran Brown Carl Jobling & Darren King
1	3.	Kevin Routledge & Adrian Gray	3.	Kevin Challis & Daniel Amner

Link: 2021 Competition Conditions & Regulations

Senior Team Championship

The Seniors played their first match in the cup away at Orsett. The new Essex Golf Union qualifying rules where players under a 15 handicap were only allowed to play meant they had to go 2 team members short giving 2 games to Orsett to start with. Despite a valiant effort they were just beaten 6-5.. Well done to all who went and took part.

Link: 2021 Competition Conditions & Regulations

Essex Matchplay / Allan Lockwood Trophy

The competition is open to male members of Clubs affiliated to the Essex Golf Union who are aged 18 or over at the 1st January in the year of competition with a maximum Handicap Index of 22.

This year we have Phil Elwood, Ian Powell, Jamie King and Darren Law taking part and we'll keep you posted with their progress.

Link: 2021 Competition Conditions & Regulations

Qualifying for Inter-club Competitions

All team members for each club are required to have played a set number of qualifying rounds in a 12 month period. For 2022 competitions the intention is that the eligibility criteria will be increased to 12 qualifying rounds.

Club Competitions & Handicaps

The new World Handicap System is in full swing which is designed to welcome more players, make golf easier to understand and give all golfers a handicap which is portable all around the globe.

Handicap Index x (Slope Rating/113) = Course Handicap.

The Clubhouse, Bar & Restaurant

In April we welcomed Phil Murray who joins the bar staff as a part time manager alongside Sharon Challis.

On Monday 17th May we will enter step 3 restrictions allowing indoor hospitality meaning we'll be able to host you in the



Please remember to add all scores are entered via the psi machine and score cards are submitted, filled in properly (names, date, competition name, tees used etc.) and signed by your marker.

Forthcoming May Club Competitions

*Fixtures are subject to change - please check club diary online for confirmation

Comp	Date(s)	Mens	Ladies	<u>Vets</u>
Captain & Vice Captain's Challenge	Saturday 1st May Sunday 2nd May Monday 3rd May	1		
May Weekend Medal (Stroke)	Saturday 8th May Sunday 9th May	1	Sunday	1
GV Smith Cup*	Saturday 15th May	✓		
May Midweek Medal (Stableford)	Tuesday 18th Wednesday 19th May	1	Tuesday	✓
Basil Warner (Stableford)	Wednesday 19th May			1
Breakfast Golf	Friday 28th May	✓	✓	1
Carnival Cup	Saturday 29th May Sunday 30th May Monday 31st May	1	1	1

^{*}Qualification from winning a medal competition between Oct '19 - Sept '20

April Winners:

Competition	Winner
Walker Cup	Luis Reynolds
Hepworth Cup	Steve Bushall
Basil Warner	Bryan Austin
Midweek Medal	Neil King
Ladies Medal	Sue Keen
Ladies Stableford	Rita Turner

List of Club Competitions & Details is currently being updated and will be shared in next month's issue.

Clubhouse subject to the rule of 6 /2 householes. Masks will have to be worn in the Clubhouse when moving about.



Bar Opening Hours

Monday - Saturday: 11:30 to 19:00

Saturday & Sunday: 12:00 - 18:00 *Closing hours are subject to demand

Catering

Applications to take over the franchise from Mandie and Trevor closed on Friday 30th April and we're pleased to report that we have received some exciting applicants. Over the course of the next month a selection team from the Committee will review applicants and we hope to have a new franchise in place from Monday 12th June.

Breakfast Golf

Breakfast golf is a fun event where breakfast is served after 9 holes and then you return for your back 9. The event is open to members and non-members and costs £7.50 for a delicious buffet style breakfast (plus a green fee for visitors).

Please use V1 to book your tee time and contact Trevor or Mandie to reserve your breakfast.

Friday 28th May is our last breakfast golf event until we restart in September.



The 200 Club

The 200 Club is the Club's monthly raffle event organised by President, Chris Day with money raised being spent on clubhouse facilities. The cost per year is £10 and can be added to your annual subscription. If you would like to take part please let the office know.

Due to Covid on Saturday 17th April Chris drew the raffle for the previous 7 months. Here are the monthly winners.

<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
£25 G Parks £20 L Gooch £15 J Hurst	£25 D Turner £20 J Oakley £15 D Allen
<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
£100 D Allen £50 G Rolph-Wills £25 E Bushell £25 M Tibbles	£25 R chambers £20 J jewell £15 J Oleszko
<u>February</u>	March
£25 G Horne £20 P Armstrong £15 D Sheppard	£25 A Manning £20 D Sheppard £15 C Bradford
April	
£25 A Roger £20 M Smith £15 K Stapleton	

Prize money will be credited to the winner's Club Card.

V1 Tee Time Booking App

On the Monday 21st June, subject to the Covid restrictions being lifted, the Committee has agreed that Tee Times booking will cease. Although many of you have enjoyed being able to come down at a set time, tee times are difficult to manage on a 9 hole course. The back 9 has been a contentious issue e.g. how long does it take? Who has priority if it takes longer than expected? And the blocking off back 9s couple of hours when other members cannot start their rounds.

It caused particular issues during the short hours in the winter when there were simply not enough hours in the day to provide tee times for the people who wished to play at the times they wanted to. In the coming weeks there will be issues with members who are playing in competitions and want guaranteed reserved back 9. We will revert to the priorities we used to have and those will be confirmed in due course.

Membership Update

2021/22 Subscriptions

The Club's golf season runs from 1st May to 30th April which means Annual Subscriptions are now due.

Your renewal subscription notice will be issued week commencing Monday 3rd May by email.

The deadline to finalise your payment is Monday 31st May which enables us to make good financial decisions for the rest of the year.

Payment can be made in full or via monthly direct debit. If you wish to pay in full payment can be taken via BAC, Credit / Debit card or cash via the office. For online payments please reference "Surname & Invoice Number".

Remember if you already pay by direct debit and wish to continue you don't need to do anything. Your next payment will be taken on 10th June and will continue each month for 10 payments until your final payment in March 2022.

If you have any questions please email the club at secretary@harwichanddovercourtgolfclub.com or call the office on Thursday or Friday morning and ask to speak to Carol.

Financial Accounts

Financial accounts for year 2020/21 have been audited and will be emailed to members very soon.

Membership Club Card

As we're now able to do more with our Membership Club Card such as making payment for Club competitions and top up via V1 (more information below) we will refer to it as 'Membership Club Card' or 'Club Card' rather than Bar Card. Discount at the bar for using your Club Card is approximately 20%.

Members are now able to top up their membership club cards via the V1 app. Go to the **Dashboard** (top right corner) > **Card** > **Top up this purse**, and follow the instructions on the screen. You can still top up your card via the bar should you prefer.









Summer Knockouts

The draw for Summer Knockouts has taken place and you can see who you're up against in the V1 app.

Please organise your matches as quickly as you can (played off white tees).

Competition	<u>Format</u>	1st Round Deadline	
Scratch Cup	Men's matchplay off scratch	Sunday 16th May	
Pilot Cup	Men's matchplay open to all levels of handicap	Sunday 9th May	
Garland Cup	Men's matchplay with a maximum course handicap of 18	Sunday 9th May	
Johnson Cup	Men's matchplay for those with course handicaps of 18 and above.	Sunday 16th May	
Mixed Summer League	4 ball better ball league for mixed pairs.	N/A - League Format	
E D Saunders Bowl	Foursomes matchplay for mixed pairs	Sunday 30th May	

Fence Car Park Advertising

Opportunity to sponsor / advertise your company / business on a new large fence in our car park.

We are replacing the protective fence between to 1st tee and the car park with new wooden slatted protective panels and are giving you and companies the opportunity to put an advertising board on these panels.

We would ask you to provide your own advertisement board (weather proof for sustainability), max size 1 metre x 0.5 metre.

Sponsoring a panel would cost £400 plus VAT and your sign will remain in the car park for 10 years with no annual charge.

This is a good opportunity to have long term advertising at a very reasonable cost.

If you would be interested and for further details please contact the Club or Club Captain Phil Elwood on 07584 087866.



General

Many thanks again to Club Member, Steve Harding and his team for resurfacing the road into the Club last year to create our very own Magnolia Way.



You will be aware that there is a blindspot on the entrance into the Club. At this stage the Committee are discussing options to make the road clearer, however as we're not owners of the road we're

Notable Future Dates

Here are some of the big events the Club hosts with a number of these being board competitions so please put these dates in your diary.

Competition / Event	<u>Date</u>	
Summer Foursomes Daily Mail Qualifier (Mens)	Sunday 20th June	
President's Day	Sunday 27th June	
Club Championship	Sunday 11th July	
Annual General Meeting	Friday 16th July	
Captain's Drive	Saturday 17th July	
Evans Bowl	Saturday 24th July Sunday 25th July	
Captain's Day	Saturday 14th August	



unable to make any significant changes without prior approval and it will therefore require careful thought on how we can improve visibility.

At this stage we can only ask members and visitors to drive slowly when entering and exiting the Club observing a 15mph speed limit.

*Fixtures are subject to change - please check club diary online for confirmation

Link: Club Diary (also available in V1 app)

Hole in One

April: None

May: Good luck!



For Sale, Lost & Found

If you wish to place your golf items on here for sale please email secretary@harwichanddovercourtgolfclub.com

Juniors

Joe Bushell from Coastal Golf Academy restarted junior coaching in April. Coaching is aimed at juniors aged between 5 - 13 years old and takes place on Saturday afternoons at 3pm priced at £7.50 per junior.

If you would like to book a place contact Joe on 07398 221951.

Ladies / Vets section



An interview with... your Club Captain

Each month we will interview members of the Club and we're starting with our Club Captain, Phil Elwood.

Q1: How long have you been a member at H&D GC for?

33 Years

Q2: What is your handicap and current swing thought on the tee?

Handicap 10, without the slope 8.9. Current swing thought: anything but a hook (it's the course!).

Q3: What's your favourite golfing moment?

Shooting a gross 68 nett 59 with 46 points in the swindle on a wet Sunday morning where only 4 people turned up. I won £7.40 and we still laugh about it now.

Q4: Who's your favourite golfer & why?

Nick Faldo, when you're that good you can get away with those jumpers he wears.

Q5: If you had a reasonable sum of money,, what one thing would you do with the Golf Club?

Move the 7th hole completely to behind the 2nd green on our wasteland with a cut through the bank from behind the 3rd, that should mean no more congestion. If we had a significant sum of money then a new Clubhouse with all the trimmings and a balcony (those lottery numbers will come up one day).

The Committee

- (i) The General Committee is responsible for the Management of the Club, shall consist of the Captain, President, Vice Captain, Vice President, immediate Past Captain, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and 9 elected members of the Club one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Bar Committee. The Bar Committee, elected annually at the AGM shall consist of three members responsible for the purchasing of intoxicating liquor for the Club
- (ii) The Ladies Section is to propose their Captain and Vice Captain at the Club's AGM and should they be accepted by the Club Membership shall become full members of the Committee.
- (iii) The Captain, Vice Captain, President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Bar Chairman and in rotation four members of the Committee shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election at the AGM.
- (iv) Seven members of the General Committee shall form a quorum. The Captain and the Honorary Secretary, together or individually, are delegated to act on behalf of the committee in matters that may require a decision before the next scheduled meeting at which time the action shall be confirmed and recorded in the minutes.
- (v) The name of any member for election or re-election shall be nominated in writing to the secretary not less than 3 days before the AGM. The Committee shall have power to appoint the junior organiser, to co-opt to fill a vacancy and appoint other members to Sub-Committees all to be elected annually.
- (vi) A register of attendance of members of the Committee shall be kept by the Honorary Secretary and read at the AGM before their re-election.

Monthly committee meeting minutes are published online can be







found below:

Link: Committee Meeting Minutes

The next Committee Meeting is due to take place week commencing Monday 17th May and will be the first one in a while that will be held at the Clubhouse.

Photography - A View From Above by Greg Mann

A big thank you to Greg for allowing us to share some of his photos that he took from his drone in April. Greg will be looking to take some more photos in the future that he's happy to share with us. If you ever see him at our bar please feel free to buy him a drink, I'm sure he'll appreciate it!

As you can see the greenkeepers have done a great job lining the fairways.







If you have some nostalgic photos of the course please send them through and we'll share them in future issues.

Useful Links

www.howdidido.com

www.englandgolf.org

www.essexgolfer.com (free monthly magazine available)

www.essexgolfunion.org

www.coastalgolf.co.uk

www,whs.com

Professional Golf

2021 Major & Ryder Cup Dates

The Masters, Augusta National - April 8 - 11 Winner: Hideki Matsuyama

PGA Championship, Kiawah Island - May 20 - 23

US Open, Torrey Pines - June 17 - 20

The Open Championship, Royal St George's - July 15 - 18

Ryder Cup, Whistling Straits - September 24 - 26

Social Media

We recently relaunched social media platforms which will provide members and non-members with regular access to what's going on at the Club.

We hope to use those platforms to provide up to the minute course updates and share any significant events at the Club.

We also hope it will encourage new members and provide the local and wider community with information about the Club.

You can also use these platforms to get in contact with the Club.

New Member's Corner

Here we will add some useful information for new members and also include any questions along with answers that new members raise. If you have any questions regarding the Club, competitions, the course etc. please email the Club and we will provide answers in the following month's issue.

This month we're explaining about 2 popular team golfing formats and a link on golf etiquette.

Foursomes



Twitter: @HandDGolfClub

Instagram: @handdgolfclub

Facebook: @Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club







Notices

A warm welcome to new members to the Club.

Lewis & Tracy Carter Neil Morgan Ross White Alan Shaw Steve Kirby Andrew Sheppard Mark Barwood



William Parmenter-Stratta (intermediate)

Format: Medal, stableford or match play, two players per team. What is the handicap allowance? Medal – ½ combined team handicap Stableford – ½ combined team course handicap Matchplay – ½ difference between combined team course handicaps.

How to play: In a team of two, players will hit alternate shots until the hole is finished. Player one hits the tee shot, player two hits the next shot, player one the next, and so on. On the next hole, player two hits the tee shot, player one the next, etc. In effect, one player will tee off on the even holes, and one player will tee off on the odd holes, which is why this format is also known as Odds & Evens.

Greensomes

Format: Medal or Matchplay. What is the handicap allowance? Medal – 0.6 of the lowest players handicap, and 0.4 of the highest players course handicap Matchplay – $\frac{1}{2}$ difference of combined handicaps.

How to play: Greensomes, also known as Scotch Foursomes, is a competition format that is a variation of Foursomes (2-person teams, each playing one ball). In Greensomes, both players on a team tee off, the best of the two tee balls is selected and that ball is then played alternate-shot until holed.

Link: Golf Etiquette, the Basics

The Committee

Captain: Phil Elwood | Vice Captain: Alan Challis

Honorary Secretary: Kate Fender | President: Chris Day | Vice President: Rodney Osborne | Honorary Treasurer: Geoff Woolley | Past Captain: Barrie Wheatley Handicap & Competition Secretary: Steve Fender | Greens Chairman: Graham Pomfrett | House Chairman: Mel Boley | Bar Chairman: Dave Day Ladies Captain: Georgie Grout | Ladies Vice Captain: Sue Hayes | Vets Captain: Ken Stapleton | Communications Officer: Darren Law

Administration, Bar & Catering

Administrator: Danielle Stace Finance Administrator: Carol Fay Shared Bar Managers: Phil Murray | Sharon Challis Catering Manager: Mandie Cowley | Staff: Trevor Malone

Greenkeepers

Course Manager: Lee Squire
Greenkeepers: Graham Pomfrett | Dave Passfield | Neil King | Tim Leeks



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