



The Haymaker

(The Newsletter with a Punch!)

Newsletter of the Little Hay Golf Club

www.littlehaygolfclub.co.uk

Edition 1, April 2011

A Word from the Club Captain

Hello, and welcome to a new golf season at Little Hay Golf Club. My thanks go to all those members - ladies, juniors, adults and seniors - who have stayed with us for another year, and a special welcome is extended to all our new members. I wish everyone a happy and successful golfing season.

I would like to start by telling you about the Club Committee, its members and their contribution to the running of the Club.

The Officers of the Club are as follows:

President: Jenny Williams, a past Lady Captain possessing a cool head in all situations.

Club Captain: Tony Alford, who as Chairman of the Committee represents all members of the Club.

Vice-Captain: Martin Evans, who supports the Club Captain in his duties.

Honorary Secretary: Ralph Lane, a long-standing Club member with much experience, who takes care of the Club's organizational needs.

Honorary Treasurer: Jim Lochhead, who keeps the Club accounts, pays the bills and ensures that our accounts meet the external audit requirements of our constitution.

Handicap and Competition Chairman: Paul Rickard, a past Club Captain and long-standing Committee member. He is responsible for all Club matters regarding Handicaps and Competition requirements from both CONGU, the UK handicap authority, and the R & A Rules of Golf.

Membership Secretary: David Garbutt, who takes care of all Club membership records, together with initial documentation and renewals for all members.

Ex-Officio Past Club Captain: Phil Jefferson - a wise head able to offer advice to all.

The General Committee members are:

Lady Captain: Jean Dove, who is responsible for all matters regarding our lady members.

Bobbie Barnes, who supports the Lady Captain in her duties.

Esther Smith, who supports the Lady Captain in her duties

Seniors' Captain: Mark Sheldrake, who looks after the Seniors and mid-week golf for the Club.

Seniors' Vice-Captain: Lance Redler, who supports the Seniors' Captain in his duties and is Editor of our Club newsletter.

Ray Moore, who brings years of experience in all matters to the Committee, including being a member of the Greens' Committee.

Publicity representative: Chris Dove, who covers all aspects of publicising the Club.

Last, but not least, the Junior Coordinator: John Poston, who takes care of all matters regarding our junior members.

We are all there to help make Little Hay Golf Club a happy, successful and welcoming Club for all players, regardless of age, gender or ability. If you have any concerns or comments please do not hesitate to contact me (Tony Alford, (01494) 580872 or email alfordtony@hotmail.com), or one of the Committee members. We will endeavour to answer you as soon as practical. (Photographs of your Club Committee can be found on the Club website, by clicking first on 'The Golf Club' button on the home page, followed by 'The Committee' on the next page that opens.)

Tony Alford

Newsletter

Many readers will know that a newsletter for Seniors, called *Senior Moments*, was introduced in December last year and distributed at the start of each month to Senior Club members by email or in hard copy. The Editor was Lance Redler, who is also the Vice-Captain of Seniors for 2011.

Feedback on *Senior Moments* has been such that Lance (in one of what must have been his own 'senior moment') has agreed to extend the scope of the newsletter so that it becomes one for Little Hay Golf Club; this is the first edition.

Members with longer memories will know that, back in December 1996, a Club newsletter called Tee Times was started, but did not have a very long life. The same could happen to this one, as so much depends upon not only the willingness and availability of an Editor, but also on the interest and enthusiasm of Club members to contribute to it...it is *your* newsletter, so let's keep it going!

All feedback, comments, suggestions - and especially articles - concerning this newsletter will be more than welcomed by the Editor; we do wish it to be interesting, informative and helpful. Articles for possible publication can be handwritten, typed or sent by email. Later in this newsletter is an item sent in by 'Sandy', whose wish to remain anonymous will be respected.

Regular readers will notice a difference in the content of George Reid's items. In future his section will be the replacement of the 'Sportspace Update' that has been appearing bi-monthly on the Club website, but not available to those without internet access.

Thanks go to Club member John Parker for suggesting the newsletter's title.

Logos

The three logos at the top of the first page are those of the chosen charities of the three adult Captains:

- Club Captain: Shed @ the Park Theatre Company
- Seniors' Captain: The Hospice of St Francis
- Lady Captain: Médecins Sans Frontières

These charities will benefit from funds raised throughout the year from dedicated competitions, fundraising events, raffles and donations.

Captain's Drive-In



The Captain's Drive-In took place on 19 March and was well supported by members from all sections of the Club. The total yardage for the Club, Ladies, Seniors' and Junior Captains' drives was 640. It took place in brilliant sunshine and some great golf was played with the winning score of net 59.

The winning team was made up of: Peter Goodwin, Jim Lochhead, Anthony McGuinness and Siddhant Day. Well done to them and to everyone who took part.

The Captains (l to r): Mark Sheldrake (Seniors), Alex Dukes (Juniors), Jean Dove (Ladies), Tony Alford (Club)

Websites

Club Website. For those with access to it, this newsletter appears on the Club website.

Competition and Local Rules – a Major Review

At its January 2011 meeting the Club Committee set up a sub-committee, chaired by Terry Silverton and with representatives from all Sections, to review all competition and local rules of the Club before the start of the 2011 playing season; it was required to:

- review the existing rules and modify/update where necessary;
- rationalise rules that are common to all Sections;
- produce a single, consolidated and agreed set of rules for Little Hay Golf Club which cover the needs of all Sections;
- submit the consolidated rules to the Club Committee for approval and sign-off.

The revised rules were considered by the Club Committee at its meeting on 9 March and approved for use.

Apart from updating, rewording and general tidying up, the principal additions to local rules are the inclusion of new rules regarding embedded balls whilst Winter Rules are in force, and relief from aeration holes when on the greens. To see the exact detail you'll just have to read them!

All members are urged to familiarise themselves with the revised local rules for the Club. These, together with the revised Competition Rules, are on the Club website and are also contained in a folder on the Complex Reception desk.

New Members

A welcome is extended to the following new members and we hope that they enjoy golf in their new Club: Ben Alford and Jon Esson (Adult Men) and Eric Binns, Ken Conium and John Ridgewell (Seniors).

Winter League 2010/11 – Results

The Winter League competition ended on Sunday 13 March, after a winter-long endurance test of 162 holes of golf, entailing 36 hours of walking, 45 miles of which were in ice, sleet, rain and gales. The winning pair were Steve Pinnock (centre) and Keith Muir (left), narrowly beating Martin Evans and Brian Ridgeway, with Dave Smith and Paul Williams coming a close third.



Pictured after presenting the winners with their trophy, Club Captain Tony Alford said 'Through this competition, with entries from ladies and men, and ages from 16 to 70 plus, playing throughout the winter, Little Hay Golf Club can truly claim to be bringing golf to all.'

**Builder? Plumber? Architect?
Painter/Decorator? Motor Mechanic?**

Are you a Club member with a trade or profession that you can offer to other

Club members? If so, consider taking out an advert at a special rate in this newsletter. Contact the Editor if you are interested (see back page).

Greens' Committee

The key answers arising from the Greens' Committee meeting on 4 March were: chippings will be used on paths as they become available; new holes are cut on Wednesdays and Thursdays, dependent on the weather; the tidying of tee mats is dependent on staff availability; there is no space for driving nets; there has been a 70% improvement in ground conditions since the introduction of hedgehogs; due to solid tining being undertaken, the greens will be in better condition earlier this year; a reminder to all players that staff have priority on the course.

(Please mention *Senior Moments* when talking to this advertiser)



The next Greens' Committee meetings take place on 3 June and 2 September. The Committee consists of: Paul Rickard, Ray Moore, and Jenny Williams, who are the people to

contact if you have any matters relating to the course, so please let them have any comments or suggestions in order that they can be raised for discussion.

Rules of Golf

If a Player Runs Out of Golf Balls During a Round, May (s)he Borrow a Ball from Another Player?
Yes. There is nothing in the Rules of Golf that prohibits a player from borrowing a golf ball from an opponent or fellow-competitor. Although golf balls are part of a player's equipment, the only type of equipment that the Rules limit the borrowing of is clubs (see Rule 4-4).

Club Shirts & Pullovers

Members will appreciate that the Club's three adult Captains hope and expect that those representing Little Hay Golf Club in matches against other Clubs will wear white polo shirts, and/or navy blue pullovers, bearing the Club insignia.

Orders for Club shirts, ties and pullovers can be made to Michael Clark, to whom we are grateful for taking over this task from John Poston. Michael can be contacted on (01494) 863811.



(Please mention *Senior Moments* when talking to this advertiser)

Social Events?

The Committee invites any member who would like to organize social events for the Club to give his/her name to the Club Secretary. Should any member wish to organize a specific social occasion, (s)he should similarly contact the Club Secretary.

Open Weekend 9/10 April...Please be There!

Little Hay Golf Complex, in partnership with the Club, is arranging an Open Weekend to celebrate the formal opening of the new Clubhouse on Saturday/Sunday 9/10 April 2011.

Planning for the Open Weekend is now well advanced and has involved a number of representatives of both the Club and the Complex. It's an event to attract people to come to Little Hay and play more golf. It's also important to the Club because it will raise our profile locally and it's good for us to be seen as an active golf club and a good member of the community. The event will be reported in local newspapers both before and after and Sportspace will be advertising it.

What members can do is to encourage any people that they know who are 'thinking about playing golf' to come and take a look, especially children, juniors and ladies. There will be free coaching and some free golf. Second, please turn up yourselves at some time over the weekend and wear your club sweaters! Let's put on a good show; after all, this is a partnership effort between us and Sportspace (the first ever) so it is important that we deliver our part of the partnership by supporting it.

During this weekend, Lee Jordan will be the PGA Professional giving a one hour coaching session each day to beginners, combined with a one hour's introduction by Club and Complex members to the Club, Complex and general discussion, as mentioned also in the County's Try Golf notice on Page 5. These start at 10:30 on Saturday and 11:30 on Sunday.

Advertising

In any dealings with any advertisers that appearing in this newsletter, please mention it to them. We are most grateful to our advertisers for their support.

For Sale! Wanted!

Should any Club member wish to have a For Sale, Wanted or other notice (not necessarily golf-related) included in this newsletter, please give details to the Editor who will include them, at no cost, if space permits (which should not normally be a problem).

Try Golf Weekend - 9/10 April

Calling all budding golfers - Try Golf For Free

The Hertfordshire Golf Partnership is running a county wide 'Come and Try Golf' initiative on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th April 2011 to coincide with the weekend of the US Masters. This will give budding golfers the opportunity to enjoy the great game of golf whilst meeting people in a welcoming and friendly environment. All equipment will be supplied. The sessions are ideal for adult beginners and those returning to the game.

If you are interested in attending one of the sessions, simply email:

office@hertsgolfunion.com Please state your preferred day.

Book now to avoid disappointment, as numbers will be limited to ten per session per professional.

The sessions are to include: An introduction and welcome to the club; a one hour group coaching session by Professional and a post coaching farewell session – with sign-up sheets for follow-on activity. Venues taking part are:

Aldwickbury Park

Batchworth Park

Bishops Stortford

Brickendon Grange

Chesfield Downs

Cheshunt

East Herts

Harpenden

Harpenden Common

Knebworth

Letchworth

Little Hay

Manor of Groves

Mill Green

Old Fold Manor

Porters Park

Redbourn

The Hertfordshire

Try Golf

Men's Section News

Competition Results

Readers will notice that no competition results are shown in this section of the newsletter, although they are in respect of the Seniors. The reason for this is quite simple; results for Men can be seen on the Club website, but as more than one quarter of Senior members do not have access to the internet, they rely upon receiving this news in printed form.

Senior Moments

A Word from the Seniors' Captain

I'm sure all Seniors will wish to join me in conveying our appreciation to Keith Puddiphatt, the outgoing President, and at the same time congratulating Jenny Williams in her appointment as the first LHGC Lady President. Also, best wishes to Tony Alford, our new Club Captain and to Jean Dove, Ladies Captain. We wish them success for the coming season.

My thanks to all Seniors and particularly to Lance in his role as Editor, for everybody's support in *Senior Moments'* debut which, through its success, has become the newsletter for the whole Club. I hope the *Haymaker* will help to promote open dialogue across the Club's membership and continue to communicate interesting news and future developments.

martin storrie

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(Please mention *Senior Moments* when talking to this advertiser)

On 31 March, Little Hay Seniors played the first of this season's 10 inter-Club matches against Redbourn GC. As usual it turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable day, with excellent golf and hospitality, but we narrowly lost. During April we play Rickmansworth GC, aptly called 'tricky Ricky', Wycombe Heights GC and Shendish GC and I would encourage any Senior in search of a good day's golf to put their names on the entry sheet.

I do just want to draw your attention to a special charity event in aid of the St Francis Hospice, Berkhamsted. On Tuesday 26 April, Peter Balding will be organizing a 'fun' Texas Scramble, followed by our second Charity Lunch - a Karen's speciality gourmet carvery. A date for your diary!

The Seniors' opinion survey has been submitted to the Club Committee for their consideration and information. Chris Dove and I are finalizing the action plan and this will be available to members later in April. Again many thanks to all those who participated in the survey - we are working hard to ensure that your comments lead to improvements at Little Hay.



Singles and Pairs Knockout Competitions

The draws will shortly be published for both the singles and the pairs Seniors' knockout competitions, which are played during the summer months. Please note that, in accordance with the recently agreed rules for competitions, unless it is mutually agreed between players these competitions are not to be played at weekends.

Each round will have a date by which it must be completed and extensions will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, especially in the case of pairs as The Rules of Golf permit a single player to represent his pair for a complete, or part, round of golf. Holidays, injuries or long-term illnesses will not normally be considered 'exceptional'.

NAPGC Seniors' Competitions 2011

The NAPGC Seniors' Competitions for 2011 consist of one team event and one individual event. The Mitchell-Thomson team event is played against other Club's Seniors (over 55s) anywhere in the South-East of England and is in greensomes Stableford format. Two pairs play at home and two pairs play away, teeing off at the same pre-arranged time, the winners being the team with the highest aggregate Stableford points. This year the competition is being organized by Martin Evans; anyone wishing to be considered for selection will find a sheet in the Seniors' section of the competition entry book in Reception at the clubhouse.

The Riley Cup is an individual Stableford event also incorporating a team event. This competition, in the past, had necessitated a qualifying event, but for 2011 all it needs is a completed entry form and a fee of £19 per entry. The team element is for two players to sign up together and pay an extra £5; the winners will be the aggregate score of the two individual scores. This competition will be held at Western Park Golf Club in Leicestershire on Monday 5 September and entry forms are available from Peter Balding.

Match and Competition Results (Seniors)

March Medal	Div 1*: 1 st : Martin Evans Gross 82 Net 63 2 nd : Graham Cracknell Gross 88 Net 65 3 rd : Peter Balding Gross 89 Net 70	* One Division only as winter handicaps still in force.
March Stableford	Div 1*: 1 st : Paul Whiter 42 Pts 2 nd : Ron Johnson 40 Pts 3 rd : David Garbutt 39 Pts	* One Division only, but played from the white tees as a qualifying round.
Awayday Mentmore GC, 10 March	1 st : Graham Cracknell 39 Pts* 2 nd : Chris Dove 38 Pts Team: Michael Clark, David Garbutt, Peter Balding, Vic Allen 117 Pts Nearest Pin: Terry Silverton Longest Drive: Mike Tatum	* Highest actual score was Peter Balding's 42 Pts, but as he won a team prize he was ineligible for another.
Seniors' Pairs, 24 March	1 st : Tony Hodson, Lance Redler 50 Pts 2 nd : Peter Balding, Bob Bussey 49 Pts 3 rd : Paul Whiter, Peter Jordan 47 Pts (on cb)	
Seniors with Ladies Summertime Stableford, 28 March	1 st : Jan Boyling, Maureen Bidgway, Paul Whiter, Mike Musk 99 Pts	
Match vs Redbourn (Away), 31 March	Lost (7 & 1)	

Ladies Section News

A Word from the Lady Captain

Compared to last year the Ladies have had a more fortunate winter in as much as we have not had to cancel as many competitions as we did during the same period in 2010. We have at least been able to play our trophy competitions and the first medal of the year. We would like to congratulate Linda Cusick on her double win in the March Medal for both the Business and Monday Ladies. Alison Sexton won the 2011 Dacorun Trophy.

One of the events we have been involved in on behalf of Little Hay Golf Club this winter has been the Marie Foster Bowl. This is a winter team competition organised by the NAPGC. There are three teams in each group and we each play at each other's courses. This year Little Hay Ladies have played Trent Park and Belfairs Golf Clubs. Belfairs is situated near Southend at Leigh-on-Sea. Our first competition at Belfairs proved a bit of a nightmare and the following is my account of our experience:

Marta organised the team for the Marie Foster Bowl. This is an NAPGC winter club team event. There are three teams in our group this year, Little Hay, Trent Park and Belfairs Golf Clubs. The first competition was held at Belfairs GC in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. The team was Marta, myself and Jacky Pearson. On the morning of the competition it had snowed, but Belfairs insisted that their course was open and there had been no snow there, although it was bit frosty. Marta's central heating had broken down that morning so her day started with a panic. She had kindly arranged to give me a lift. Having mixed up where we were to meet we finally made contact and got to Belfairs in good time. However Jacky did not appear and we started to get worried as we knew she would never in a million years not turn up for such an event. We rang Jacky at home, but got no reply so assumed she was on her way. We eventually got to the pro 'shack' and offered to pay the green fee. '£20' came the reply. Having only bought about £15 with me I offered my credit card – 'Don't take those' came the reply – 'there is a cash machine in the restaurant' – which incidentally had run out of money and would not take credit cards!!! We eventually sorted this out amongst ourselves.

By this time we were in the midst of freezing fog and about to start our round in conditions I can only describe as close to a white out and still no Jacky. We were supposed to be off their mats, but they were frozen solid and like ice rinks so were advised to take the ball on frozen grass close to the mats. We soon discovered that the fairways and greens were frozen as well and the consequence of this was the inevitable search for lost balls. When we got round to the 4th one of our number hit a good drive but the ball disappeared and we began searching for it. Having declared it lost we called through the group behind (which was Marta's) and the individual in our group went back to the tee to take a second ball. I was standing close to where Marta took her third shot to approach the green and her ball landed short at which point a crow flew down onto the green and stole her ball!!! At this point a young girl came up to me and asked if we were looking for a ball and handed me one she had found in the 'field' next to our fairway (which incidentally was another fairway). It was the original drive we were looking for and thought lost. Our group eventually continued to the green and a member of the group thought she saw the crow take her ball as well. Off she disappeared into the woods chasing this crow to try and retrieve what she thought was her ball. In fact her ball was just on the edge of the green. We eventually retrieved her from the woods.

The round continued. The back nine holes were in the midst of Belfairs Park which was mainly a wooded area and where the world, his wife and their children and dogs were walking. On a par 4 another of our number hit a great drive only for a dog to shoot out of woods and pick up her ball. Off it charged into the woods with the owners and family in hot pursuit. It was eventually replaced. We continued but dodging the children and dogs running across the fairways and greens. We eventually finished our round and enjoyed a welcoming bowl of soup. Marta and I then packed up our things and made our way back home. We 'phoned Jacky on the way back – she answered the phone this time – 'Jacky, are you OK?' 'Yes, Jean apart from the fact that I had a blow out on the M25 this morning'!!

Little Hay then hosted the next event which was held in February. The weather was so appalling. It had been raining the night before and the following morning. Some people who had started their round came in after a few holes as the conditions were not conducive. One of the visiting teams had already telephoned the NAPGC organizer and he said that he would be happy for a score to be established on the basis of a nine hole competition, but we would have to agree with all the teams involved which we eventually did.

The next event was hosted by Trent Park on 26 March.

The Marie Foster Bowl is scored on the total of the team's Stableford points and the winning team is awarded one point (which was the host team Belfairs), Trent Park two points and Little Hay (as we were one person down) scored three. The result for the event hosted at Little Hay was exactly the same so Belfairs were now two points, Trent Park four and Little Hay six. The last event was held on 26 March at Trent Park. Although the weather was much improved, Belfairs won the overall event with Trent Park winning the day and scoring overall six points, Belfairs four points and Little Hay nine points.

Although our start to the competition was unfortunate and the conditions in general have not been good this winter and the golf difficult for these reasons, involvement in the NAPGC national events is seen by the Ladies as a valuable part of belonging to Little Hay Golf Club.

At the end of February and the beginning of March the ladies held their New Member Coffee morning. There was a particular interest in the Business Ladies section with a number of people expressing an interest in joining the Club. Whilst we would normally sign people up as Club members on these days we did refer them to the Sportspace Open Days on 9 and 10 April where the Club would be offering special deals for them.

All the best,

Jean

Match and Competition Results (Ladies)

BL Medal	1 st : Linda Cusick 75 2 nd : Nichola Goddard 82 3 rd : Jackie Joslin 84	
Seniors with Ladies Summertime Stableford, 28 March	1 st : Jan Boyling, Maureen Bidgway, Paul Whiter, Mike Musk 99 Pts	

Junior Section News

The Season so Far

The junior season kicked off during half-term, and while one competition was cancelled because of rain, the other one went ahead, off the whites, with a field of 16, one of whom was playing for handicap. Hamish Jarvie, who won the order of merit in 2011, started as he left off, with a net round of 67, bringing his handicap down to 28. Tom Butler was second with a 71 and Aqib Raja returned to his form of the first half of 2010, with a 72. Junior Captain Alex Dukes had the best gross score with 82, playing to his new handicap of 10.

There will be more tournaments throughout all school holidays - and a series of eight matches in the Herts Junior League, so it promises to be a busy season - and the organizers would appreciate any offers of help. Coaching continues, both at the Academy on Saturdays and in new sessions with Lee Jordan on Tuesday evenings.

It was very good to see eight boys at the Captains' Drive-In. Alex did us proud with the best drive and the boys all enjoyed themselves - especially one of our youngest, Siddhant Dey, who was in the winning team. One of our year's objectives could well be to win the all-Sections Cup at the end of the year !!

Notes by the Little Hay Complex Manager/Head Greenkeeper, George Reid

Course Maintenance

The golfing season has now moved on; it used to be April through to October but now the golfing season runs nearly all year long. This allows very little time for fitting in any major maintenance work.

Given what I would describe as a typical year, this month should see the end of winter and the onset of better ground and air temperatures that we all know will soon encourage growth. If we get a few days of mild weather I will apply a fertiliser tonic to encourage the early growth. This will help produce smoother surfaces more quickly. Smoother surfaces and trying to balance the growth rates of different grasses in golf greens is always a difficult task. The irrigation system will be opened up in the next few weeks and tested ready for the new season.

In April, if weather conditions are favourable, we will be deep scarifying the greens to a depth of 10mm and following up with a heavy top dressing. Bunkers will have an additional 60 tonnes of sand applied to maintain levels. Tees will be back in play in April (weather permitting). The tees that were re-levelled will not be back in play until after the Easter weekend.

I hope you all enjoy watching the Augusta Masters in April but please do not compare Little Hay with Augusta. One of the comments that has been passed on to the staff in recent years is that their fairways are better than our greens. They may well be but I am afraid their budget is also better than ours.

2011/2012 Prices

I have been working on more membership options for next season to try to encourage more new members to the Complex. The new green fee and yearly ticket prices have been agreed and are available at reception. We have kept all increases to a minimum and they continue to be very competitive. All the services we buy in or provide at Little Hay have also increased to us in the last year with further increases expected in the coming year. The one month free for all yearly ticket holders who were registered with the Complex at the time of the fire will be given in April 2011. Payments for next year's yearly tickets must be paid by 1 May 2011. Everyone who is continuing with yearly tickets must fill out a registration form available in reception.

Open Weekend

The dates for the open weekend have been agreed and will take place on 9/10 April. The purpose of this weekend is to highlight to users and non-users of the Complex everything we have to offer at Little Hay. This will include all of the playing areas, green fees, yearly ticket options, tuition, the catering and events venue and Little Hay Golf Club functions, memberships and benefits of being a member of the golf club.

A ribbon cutting ceremony by Dacorum Borough Council will mark the official opening of the new clubhouse. This will take place on 9 April. The Open Weekend will be advertised using various mediums, but I ask all sections to make sure they spread the word as well.

The return of the Sunday carvery has proved very successful with every one being either sold out or very close to it. All the feedback we have received has been very positive, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 3 April – Mothering Sunday Little Hay will be serving up the very popular carvery, so treat Mum to a day off and let us do the cooking and cleaning up.	Wednesday 18 May 7pm-11pm Swing Night	Sunday 19 June Fathers’ Day Carvery
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Please support the events wherever possible and tell all your friends about what’s going on at Little Hay.

If there is an event or any other pastime that you would like to see at Little Hay, your suggestions will be most welcome.

Little Hay Golf Complex – Who is it For?

Little Hay Golf Complex was created as an affordable golf facility for people working and living in Dacorum and surrounding areas, and that still remains its principal role. There are many other golf courses in this area but there is something that sets Little Hay apart. Over the years, golf has established a very high profile as a professional sport, with major televised events. However, it is not seen as being affordable or accessible to all and because of this some sections of society are under-represented. It is the role of Little Hay Golf Complex to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to learn to play golf and to take it up as a sport if they so wish. As a result we have tailored group lessons specifically aimed at beginners, improvers, young people, ladies and girls, with a clear message that EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

There is no question that golf is good for your health. If nothing else it is an excuse for a good walk, in a very pleasant environment. This is increasingly important for people living sedentary lives, where active sport may not be an option. Golf is also a good sport for people who do not wish to participate in team sport.

In addition to the benefits of golf itself, Little Hay Golf Complex has a very special role to play in managing the environment with its wildlife, footpaths and bridleways, giving golfers and non-golfers alike the chance to appreciate Dacorum’s countryside. We all have a role to play in keeping this a facility of the highest quality for everyone living and working in this area.

Tips ’n Hints from your Head PGA Professional, Lee Jordan

The feet support the pivot, the knees allow flexibility, the hips power the pivot, the shoulders give direction to the arms, and the head provides balance. This month I will begin at the top of the body and work down since the head and shoulders work closely together.

A still head is essential to putting, chipping and pitch shots inside 50 yards of the green. During the full swing, however, the head is not still, but it is steady. The head will rotate as the shoulders tilt during the back and downswing motion. The key for the shoulders is to ***think about how they tilt and not how they turn.***

When right-handed players address the ball, the right hand is lower than the left on the club so the right shoulder should be lower than the left shoulder, and the right ear should be lower than the left ear.

In order to keep the head steady in the backswing and downswing motions, the shoulders must learn to move at right angles, or perpendicular to, the spine. If the spine stayed in a vertical position in the golf swing, then the shoulders would move horizontally. However, the spine is tilted between approximately 30 and 40 degrees during the swing depending on the golf club and body type. Therefore, in order to keep the head steady, the shoulders must feel as if they tilt in both the backswing and downswing motions.

One of my favourite swing thoughts when starting the backswing, from putt to drive, is to feel like the left shoulder tilts down. A key to remember when initiating the downswing is the downward tilt of the right shoulder.

The shoulders provide direction to the arms in the golf swing, as well as keeping the head steady through proper tilt. This is extremely important for consistent ball striking.

A View from my Bunker – by ‘Sandy’

*‘We’re Off!’
We dug our holes, we left some mud.
The fairways we did ruin,
But we can’t compete with hedgehog feet,
It’s all that George’s doin!’*

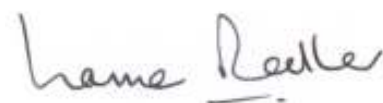
The day of the AGM my wife said to me ‘What are you going to do about it?’ I said ‘What?’ She said ‘The AGM’. I said ‘The AGM’. She said ‘Yes, the AGM – you are going aren’t you?’. I said ‘Well, I’d thought about it.’ ‘Well’, she said ‘You’re always going on about it, why don’t you go and see. You might even ask a question.’ ‘What should I ask?’ I said. She said ‘Well, where does all the money go for a start. £140 was spent on a blazer, a jumper and a brooch, but they don’t say what the Ladies and Gentlemen’s expenses are. I mean there’s never a breakdown and they’re big sums.’ I thought ‘She’s right’, but then she usually is; I don’t say a lot you know. She said ‘If I was thinking of joining that Club and they said what the subs were, I’d ask what it was spent on – broken down like, you know.’

She’s right you know. I went, but I didn’t ask. I should have, shouldn’t I!

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is...do help to keep this newsletter alive with your comments, suggestions and articles.

...and a touch of humour...Golfer: *‘I wish you wouldn’t keep looking at your watch, caddie; it’s distracting me.’* Caddie: *‘It’s not a watch, sir, it’s a compass!’*



Editor &
Seniors’ Vice-Captain

What's on This Month and Next?

Club/Men:

Saturday 2 April – Medal (Gold Cup Qualifier)

Saturday/Sunday 9/10 April – Complex Open Weekend

Sunday 17 April – Bryn Aldridge Charity Shield

Saturday 23 April – B team away match vs Ruislip

Saturday 30 April – B team home match vs Downshire

Saturday 7 May – Medal & NAPGC Qualifier

Saturday 14 May – Secretary's Cup/Burhill Q

Saturday 21 May – A team home match vs Stevenage

Thursday 26 May – Ladies vs Men

Saturday 28 May – A team home match vs Stockwood

All Seniors are eligible to play in any of the competitions listed above.

Seniors:

Thursday 7 April – Medal

Saturday/Sunday 9/10 April – Complex Open Weekend

Thursday 14 April – away match vs Rickmansworth

Wednesday 20 April – away match vs Wycombe Heights

Thursday 21 April – Stableford

Tuesday 26 April – Texas Scramble + charity lunch

Thursday 28 April – home match vs Shendish

Tuesday 3 May – home match vs Batchwood

Thursday 5 May – Medal

Tuesday 10 May – away match vs Hazlemere

Thursday 12 May – 3-club competition

Tuesday 17 May – home match vs Whitewebbs

Thursday 19 May – Stableford & NAPGC Qualifier

Wednesday 25 May – home match vs Redbourn

Ladies:

Saturday 2 April – BL Medal

Monday 4 April – Medal

Wednesday 6 April – home match vs Ivinghoe

Saturday 9 April – BL Charity Cup

Monday 11 April – Charity Cup

Saturday 16 April – BL Bland Shield

Monday 18 April – Bland Shield

Wednesday 20 April – away match vs Rickmansworth

Saturday 30 April – BL friendly Stableford

Wednesday 4 May – away match vs Caddington

Saturday 7 May – BL Medal & NAPGC Qualifier

Monday 9 May – Medal & NAPGC Qualifier

Saturday 14 May – BL Stableford/Burhill Qualifier

Monday 16 May – Stableford/Burhill Qualifier

Saturday 21 May – BL Coronation Fours

Monday 23 May – Coronation Fours

Thursday 26 May – Ladies vs Men

Juniors:

Wednesday 13 April - competition

Wednesday 20 April - competition

Key Contacts

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Vice-Captain: Carol Kent

Membership Secretary: Fran Tarling

Match Secretary: Bobbie Barnes

Medal Secretary: Linda Cusick

NAPGC Rep: Marta Thomas

Treasurer: Esther Smith

Business Ladies Rep: Caroline Banks

Juniors

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