



Ups & Downs

Pyecombe G C

Newsletter

January / February 2009

Editor Alf Bickham

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Conduct

It pains me to have to include a paragraph about this subject, but several unpleasant comments including swearing have been directed at bar staff, due to the lack of catering whilst the kitchen is being refurbished. In an earlier event when the clubhouse was very busy due to a group catering booking by the Pathfinders on 31st January, one member used some very offensive language in front of the Pathfinders just because there was a delay in being served. This is completely unacceptable.

Firstly, to those concerned. Grow up and be a little more considerate. This is a members club and whilst everything may not be perfect we do try hard to please you and in these difficult times we need all the revenue we can bring in.

Secondly, if you have a complaint, bring it to me or take it to the Managing Secretary. Please do not vent your anger against the staff – it is not their fault if management get things wrong. Even if you do take issue with staff conduct do not speak with them directly. Make your complaint through the proper channels please.

Social

The very successful New Years Eve event (social organiser George Eves) was followed in January by a great Burns Night supper (organisers Bill Marshall & Doreen Shafer).

Both events received fantastic support and a maximum turnout – 90 for New Year's Eve and 70 at the Burns Night. The catering was outstanding, as was the entertainment. Roy Aitken merits a special mention. During his address to the haggis, he lapsed into such a broad Scottish 'Burns' tongue that few present could understand all the words. However, his 'all body' expressions and tone of voice left no doubt as to the message that was thoroughly entertaining. Well-done Roy!

Look out for other social events. Friday February 27th we are holding one of our ever-popular Quiz Nights at £10 per head and are introducing a Bingo Night in March. Sign up early to avoid disappointment. Other events will include a Vamps and Tramps night (the mind boggles at the thought), a repeat of the very successful Whist Night as well as parties and other entertainments. Come along and enjoy yourselves. My Vice-Captain, Jim Dossetter, and George are already planning New Years Eve 2009 and whilst he has been very popular I can tell you that "Elvis has left the building", at least for a few years. (See page 14 for the year's full social calendar)

A sub-committee has been formed to look at extending Gala Day/Captains Day on 7th, 8th and 9th August this year. More details will emerge but please keep these dates free for both daytime golf and evening entertainment.

(Continued)

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Leave in the Office with the Secretary or in an envelope in the foyer marked for the attention of Alf Bickham / Newsletter or send Alf an Email message to his Email address of: alf@abickham.freeserve.co.uk or to make contact by telephone, call him at home, Tel. No. 01444.242101

CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Continuation)

Social (Continued)

There is a notice on the social board about ballroom dancing lessons – beginner's classes. If you have ever fancied this then why not go along. Several members already attend lessons and it really is good exercise and a good laugh. If I can join in then almost anyone can!!

Golf

Moving on to golf, in the men's MSL Winter league we have yet to record a win overall. We drew with Ifield and due to inclement conditions and cancellation had the same score against Worthing. We need a win against Copthorne on Sunday 22nd February to avoid collecting the dreaded wooden spoon that, as you may know, has to be displayed in the clubhouse until passed on. The team selection for the Copthorne match is on the match board so please check if you have been selected. All those who play in the matches are eligible to play at the finals day that will be held at Copthorne on Thursday 26th March. These are great days and if you don't play you are missing out.

Look out! for the spring and summer events. The Captain/President Challenge takes place on Good Friday, 10th April – sign up early to avoid disappointment! There is a mixed competition on Easter Monday and the first mixed match of the year is at home against Copthorne (again) on Sunday 5th April. If you enter as a single we will try and pair you so don't be put off if you do not have a regular partner.

CONGU. Please can I remind all members that you must have recorded at least three scores in qualifying competitions if you want to take part in any events or enter into club matches. If you are unsure if you have a bona-fide handicap or need advice on how to put in cards please check with Chris or Michael in the Professional shop. Remember, you do not have to enter the sweep to play in the competitions.

Mike Selby

On a sad note, I have to report the untimely demise of Mike Selby. I did not know Mike personally but it is clear from discussions with

other members that he was extremely popular and will be sadly missed. On behalf of the members, I offer our condolences to his family and friends. (See an obituary on page 11)

Dress Code

The dress code survey is going fairly well. I'm grateful to those that have responded – more than 50% of members. Over the next few weeks I shall be chasing those who have not responded so please save me time - get a form and complete it. It will only take a few minutes at most. You can get forms from the office, from the bar or download them from the web site. Return them to the bar or the office. At the next meeting in early March I shall, based on the survey, be making recommendations to the Captains Committee. Any changes will take effect from that time.

Course

As I write this rain is washing away the first snow of 2009. Hopefully, we shall avoid more snow fall and the course can reopen for golf rather than tobogganing. I think it would be remiss of me if I do not mention that, until the heavy snow, and through some of the most difficult weather conditions we have seen for several years the course has remained very playable and the greens in excellent condition for the season. We owe our thanks to Simon and the greenstaff for all their hard work. Why not take the opportunity to thank them when you see them on the course? We also owe a vote of thanks to our Head of Green, Richard Plummer who works tirelessly whilst maintaining a cheerful disposition throughout. Thanks Richard for all your hard work. The remodelled 5th and 8th holes look stunning and we are all looking forward to the bunkers being in play.

If anyone wants to contact me with questions, suggestions, complaints or observations, my email and telephone numbers are on the board adjacent to the kitchen.

Michael Price

LADIES SECTION

Golfing-wise, things somewhat naturally have been a little quiet in these winter months, but we have still managed to play, due in no small part to the efforts of Simon and his staff - they deserve a big round of applause for keeping us going when many courses around us are closed! Am I being lulled into a false sense of security? Things will surely crank up in the next few months!

Those of you who know me, will know that I am a bit of a "twitcher" and a fauna watcher. Quite often I take my monocular out on the course (not binoculars - thanks to Phil Copper for that bit of good advice). I keep a watch for buzzards (high in the sky and "smewing" and not just the old ones on the course!) and kestrels (someone even thought they had seen a red kite). I heard a lark on January 27th, and in the summer I have seen and heard the yellow hammers. We have pheasants, red-legged partridges and long-tailed tits, and I am sure some of you can add to the list.

Re the fauna: my very, very favourite at Pyecombe has to be that wonderful, shy, elusive creature, the hare!

There are also the increasing numbers of deer, yum, yum!

For those of you who like fungi - keep an eye out for giant puffballs - delicious cooked with olive oil, garlic and dry white wine! the occasional Liberty Cap to spice things up a bit.

What else? Oh, yes! Orchids on the 3rd, on the right as you go down the slope!

So, good golfing and good observing in 2009!

Bron Morley Lady Captain

How Did I Do Message



Dear HowDidiDo member,

Like most of you, the staff of HowDidiDo are starting to think about the golf season ahead. Lots of very exciting things are happening in the coming year. Even more enhancements to the website, more free services, some exclusive discounts and more golfers joining our online community. 2009 will see more online club competition booking and new ways to organise your social and competitive golf.

Now over 100,000 men and women golfers have signed up and we are welcoming more every day. Of course if you still just want the basics, they will still be there and of course standard membership is still FREE.



Many of you will have entered the The HowDidiDo Matchplay Competition in 2008, the finals are being contested now at the Vilamoura Resort on the Algarve. We are happy to announce our continued support of this great amateur competition this year. To find out more about the competition and see the 2008 scores and results [Click here](#).

We are also very pleased to announce our Sponsorship of the 2009 Golf Managers' Association's Manager of the Year contest. This award is to recognise outstanding managers of golf clubs in Britain and Ireland, to read the rules and maybe nominate your Secretary/Manager please [click here](#).

Remember to tell your friends, family and fellow club members about HowDidiDo; it's FREE and connects you to the largest network of golfers in Europe and probably the World.

Happy Golfing
Regards
HowDidiDo Team

The President reflects

With little golf being played and being ‘ confined to quarters’, as it were, due to the adverse winter conditions, I have taken the opportunity to read a new book which gives the reader valuable playing tips, insider information, and is a useful tool to help enjoy your game and much more besides:

Contents:

- Chapter 1** - How to **line up** your fourth putt.
- Chapter 2** - How to hit a Nike from the rough, when you **hit** a Titleist from the tee.
- Chapter 3** - How to avoid the water when you lie **6** in a bunker.
- Chapter 4** - How to get more distance off the shank.
- Chapter 5** - When to give the ranger the finger.
- Chapter 6** - Using your shadow on the greens to maximize earnings.
- Chapter 7** - When to implement handicap management.
- Chapter 8** - Proper excuses for drinking beer before 9:00 a.m.
- Chapter 9** - How to rationalise a 6 hour round.
- Chapter 10** - When does a divot become classified as sod?
- Chapter 11** - How to find that ball that everyone else saw go in the water.
- Chapter 12** - Why your spouse doesn't care that you birdied the 5th..
- Chapter 13** - Using curse words creatively to control ball flight.
- Chapter 14** - When to let a foursome play through your twosome.
- Chapter 15** - How to relax when you are hitting five off the tee.
- Chapter 16** - When to suggest major swing corrections to your opponent.
- Chapter 17** - God and the meaning of the birdie-to-bogey three putt.
- Chapter 18** - When to regrip your ball retriever.
- Chapter 19** - Throwing your clubs: an effective stress-reduction technique.
- Chapter 20** - Can you buy a better golf game?
- Chapter 21** - Why male golfers will pay £5.00 a beer from the cart girl and give her a £3 tip, but will balk at £4.50 at the 19th hole and curse the bartender.

.....and the title of the book?wait for it.....

‘You cannot be serious?!?!’

Reg Auchterlonie

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Club Security

Following the break-in and theft of stock from the Pro Shop last November the Management Committee resolved to make the shop really secure. Since then, regrettably, we have had two further break-ins, with a resulting loss to Chris and the Club.

With a remote building like ours there is no such thing as complete security, but a new door and reinforced grill are currently being fitted, and in addition members will have seen that we have installed an 8 camera CCTV system, covering not only the Pro shop but the entire Club House. But we all need to be vigilant. It's a sad fact that property crime increases in tough economic times. Please report suspicious behaviour on the car park or especially in the Club House.

“That's Only A Pound A Member”

How often have I heard that in recent months!! With subscription income below that which we budgeted we are having to cut costs, and with a large % of expenses fixed in the short term or considered essential to maintain the quality of the Course, I'm afraid we do have to look critically at every item of spending even if it's “only a pound a member”!! The good news is that we have been able to identify some £20,000 of savings which we have now built into a revised budget, and although we are in the quiet time of the year, so far our management accounts show that we are achieving break-even and close to budget.

Improvements To The Club House

Deciding, planning and implementing various improvements to the Club House and surrounds seem to have taken a great deal of the Management's time recently, but I am able to report the following:

- The 8 Camera CCTV System is now in operation.
- The Kitchen refurbishment is now in progress and we are promised completion by this weekend.

- Orders have been placed for a replacement hut on the 13th, new fencing up the Drive and below the Old 18th, and a new base for the Practice Net.

Plans are being developed for an enlarged Pro Shop and an extension to the Equipment Shed. Each of these will of course require Planning permission, and given our location we know this will not be without its problems. We have begun the process and will keep members informed. Given the significance of both these projects we anticipate an EGM at some time.

Maintaining “normal service” while carrying out major improvements is a real challenge, as we have discovered while refurbishing the kitchen. Things do go wrong! So apologies to those who could not get food from just before 2 p.m. on Sunday 1st February (we underestimated the amount of work required to prepare the kitchen for the Contractor starting the next morning); and for there being no hot water / showers this last weekend (the Contractor disconnected the gas and forgot to reconnect it—he apologises).

As Chairmen always say in these circumstances: “Lessons have been learned”!

Safety

The Course is inevitably slippery at this time of the year and members are advised to take special care particularly on slopes. I personally always use metal spikes in winter.

Memorabilia

Despite our being a Club of over 100 years standing we are very short of historical documents and memorabilia—papers, letters, photographs etc. With digital scanners the process of copying documents etc is very easy, so if you have anything tucked away, please lend it to me and I will scan it and return it to you within a week.

David Brown



Pyecombe Golf Club

Clayton Hill, Pyecombe, West Sussex, BN45 7FF

Secretary: 01273.845372

Fax: 01273.843338

Office Email: info@PyecombeGolfClub.com

Man/Sec Email: John.Wilkinson@Pyecombegolfclub.com

FROM THE OFFICE

The Club's Website:

The first stage of the website re-vamp, namely members' telephone numbers, is now available and to access members are asked to email the Office (office@pyecombegolf.co.uk) requesting a 'user i/d' and 'password' which will be advised very swiftly; simple instructions for usage will be included! As the site is developed, there will be more information posted on the web for members' only benefit.

Our target date for the launch of the new layout of the website is 1st April 2009, but as a great deal of preliminary work is still to be done, that date remains provisional at this stage.

2009 Marketing Initiative:

As mentioned in the last edition of Ups & Downs, members will soon be seeing further PGC adverts in Golf News and in local papers. We are having a three-pronged 'attack' in this round of marketing, namely memberships; golf society bookings; casual green-fee players.

On membership we are majoring on the fact that Pyecombe doesn't charge joining fees; has special subscription rates for 18-30 year olds; has attractive 6-month and 18-month membership options for new joiners from 1 April 2009; and has the 'academy/short course' available for those new to golf.

Re society bookings, we are offering packages that are very competitive especially for bookings for over 20 players/diners and for those societies that are able to book two meetings at Pyecombe in any one twelve-month period.

Green-fee players should be attracted by our highly competitive standard fees which can be discounted on a 3-for-2 basis for off-peak weekday play.

The overall objective is, of course, to boost the Club's revenue to ensure that the Club continues to be able to invest on the course and the infra-structure to remain a top-quartile Sussex club. The Management Committee feel this is an essential status to retain, particularly in the current tough economic conditions when 'value-for-money' is very important.

Members can be assured that every effort will be made to protect the Pyecombe ethos, namely a friendly, welcoming club, that whilst proud of its century-old history and tradition is nevertheless progressive in its outlook.

2009 Opens and Invitations:

Entries are now being taken for the Club's major events of the year which will be held on the following dates:

Men's Open	Saturday	16 th May
Juniors Open	Thursday	28 th May
Seniors Open	Monday	1 st June
Men's Invitation	Saturday	13 th June
Mixed Open	Thursday	9 th July
Ladies Open	Tuesday	11 th August
Over 50s Invitation	Thursday	13 th August

(Continued on next page)

FROM THE OFFICE (Continuation)

2009 Opens and Invitations (Continued)

Please encourage as many of your family and friends to participate in these events. It would be really good to have to close the entries this year.

For those members that do not wish to enter these events but still wish to get a game on the committed dates, I will be trying to arrange courtesy rounds at a few other clubs; please contact me within a month of the fixture dates to book (there is no truth in the rumour that a bottle of wine guarantees a courtesy allocation!!).

2009 Social Dates:

Captain, Mike Price, aided and abetted by Jim Dossetter (Vice Captain) and George Eves (Head of Social) have drawn up a very comprehensive and broad-based social calendar for the year. Please make every effort to support the Club and have fun at the same time. **The calendar is on page 14.**

Friends of Pyecombe 500 Club

Congratulations to Peter Cook, Dave Schwartz and Trevor Greenfield who were the lucky winners in the January monthly draw.

Out of the net proceeds since The 500 Club was formed in July 2008, it has provided £1000 towards the cost of the new tee furniture that is now on site and ready for installation over the next few weeks. There are several other assets that the Friends would like to acquire for the Club...new logo'd crockery would be a welcome addition...and members are again invited to join the 60 or so that are already subscribing to The 500 Club. Application forms are on the Club bar; don't be shy!!

New Feature: Tee Reservations

I propose including in my regular article a table of known tee reservations for the period between each Ups & Downs editions; please see below for dates from 14 February to 31 March:

Day	Date	Event	Tee Reserved from	Tee Reserved Until
Sat	14 Feb	Junior Stableford		
Sun	15	Men's Stableford	Normal Sunday arrangements	
Mon	16			
Tues	17	Ladies Match Play	8.45	11.00
Wed	18	Men's Stableford		
Thurs	19	Junior Stableford		
Fri	20			
Sat	21	PAV Team Trials	10.30	11.00
	21	Men's Stableford		
Sun	22	MSWL v Copthorne	8.50	9.45
	22	Junior Stableford	Otherwise normal Sunday	
	22	Ladies EWGA Medal	arrangements	
Mon	23			
Tues	24	Ladies EWGA Medal	8.45	11.00
Wed	25	Heffle Golf Society	9.30	10.15
Thurs	26	Seniors v Lewes	9.50	10.30
Fri	27			
Sat	28			
Sun	1 Mar	Ladies Stableford	Normal Sunday arrangements	
Mon	2	Seniors v Willingdon	9.50	10.30
Tues	3	Ladies v Vets	8.45	11.00
Wed	4	Men's Stableford		

(Continued on next page)

Tee Reservations (Table Continued)

Day	Date	Event	Tee Reserved From	Tee Reserved Until
Thurs	5 Mar	Black Horse Inn GS	9.45	10.45
Fri	6	Sweetwoods Park GS	10.30	12.15
Sat	7	Junior Stableford Colts Tankard	12.50	2.00
Sun	8	Men's Medal Ladies Australian Spoons	Normal Sunday arrangements	
Mon	9	Vets Bowman Trophy	8.30	10.00
Tues	10	Ladies Australian Spoons	8.45	11.00
Wed	11	Arun & Adur GS	10.30	11.30
Thurs	12			
Fri	13	Ashdown GS	9.15	10.15
Sat	14	PAV Team Trials	10.30	11.00
Sun	15	Men's Medal Ladies Captain/Secretary Junior Medal	Normal Sunday arrangements	
Mon	16			
Tues	17	Ladies Captain/Secretary		
Wed	18			
Thurs	19			
Fri	20	TEVA GS	10.00	10.45
Sat	21	Men's Stableford Junior Stableford Ladies Morrice 4's	11.30	1.20
Sun	22	Ladies McMillan Stableford	Normal Sunday arrangements	
Mon	23	Seniors v Ebourn Downs Ladies Div 3 v Ifield	9.50 11.45	10.30 12.45
Tues	24	Ladies McMillan Stableford	8.45	11.00
Wed	25	Lewes Prison Officers GS Windfallers GS	9.30 1.00	10.15 1.45
Thurs	26	George & Dragon GS	1.15	2.15
Fri	27	Broken Spur Beagles GS	8.30 12.00	9.30 1.00
Sat	28	PAV Trials Colts v Ham Manor	10.00 11.20	10.30 12.30
Sun	29	MSSL v Haywards H'th Ladies Coronation 4s Junior Stableford	8.50 Otherwise normal Sunday arrangements	9.45
Mon	30	Vets Old Man's Medal	8.30	10.00
Tues	31	Ladies Coronation 4s Past Captains Spring Mtg	8.45 12.00	11.00 1.30

John Wilkinson
Managing Secretary

A Message from the New Professional

First of all a big thank you to all of the Members of Pyecombe Golf Club, that I have already met on my visits to West Sussex. You have made me feel extremely welcome and I can't wait to get started.

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief insight into a few of the plans I have for the shop and the services I am aiming to offer. As well as stocking the usual range of accessories, balls, shoes and logo products, I am planning to introduce a range of men's and ladies' clothing. I won't be able to keep all sizes in every style in stock, but I will maintain a good display and any products not immediately available will be ordered while you wait.



Jason Bowen

I will be offering a comprehensive fitting service on all golf clubs. Obtaining the correct performance specifications of golf clubs has been proven to maximise the performance of golfers of all abilities and also to offset many of the different mistakes made during the swing. I will offer both an alteration of existing clubs and a component build where I will assess the individual golfer, ascertain what is required and build the clubs on site. Everything will be looked at including shaft selection based on swing speed and tempo, loft, lie, club head design, weighting and grip design. All clubs can be fitted from drivers to wedges and putters. I will always be available to offer any advice and if I haven't got it in stock, I will happily try and source any products for you.

In conjunction with the club fitting, I am going to offer a free 15 minute consultation to all members, available up to April 2010, where I will look at both your equipment and your swing on the practice ground. A chance for a quick MOT! Please book these in the Pro shop.

Junior coaching will be starting in earnest from mid April and after consulting with Aileen Greenfield, it has been decided that Saturday afternoons will be the best time for these sessions. Exact times have yet to be finalised, but we will probably start with 2 groups (1 group under 12 and the other for 12 and over) so please bring your children and grandchildren along. I'm sure they will have a great time. As well as the Saturday afternoon coaching, there will also be extra group lessons for the juniors during school holidays and there are discussions on going with the local schools to visit them for outreach work. The Golf Foundation Passport scheme will be used to provide structure for the junior development.

Individual and group coaching will also be available for all members and visitors. I currently use the GASP video analysis software and find that it really helps people understand what they need to work on. I can even send an email of your lesson to you so that you can admire your swing in the comfort of your home. I really enjoy coaching, take great satisfaction in seeing improvement, believe in a simple and easy to understand approach and promise to be patient!

Both Michaels that currently work for Chris have agreed to give me a 1 month trial through April to see if they can put up with me and I sincerely hope this works out.

My aim is to provide a first class service to all Members of Pyecombe Golf Club and its visitors and I'm greatly looking forward to meeting all of you in April.

Jason Bowen
Professional from 1st April 09

VETS SECTION

I recall Les blaming the weather last year for a lack of golfing opportunities at the beginning of the year! Even the most hardy and longstanding veterans amongst us have been struggling to get their regular exercise on the hills. I can't remember a worse period since I joined Pyecombe 25 years ago. Having suffered a drenching twice during summer matches in 2008 I made a Christmas request to the "Family" for a real waterproof suit, which to my delight was granted. All set for summer 2009 - I hope I don't need it too often.

However, we've reached the quarter-final, knock-out stage of the Harvey Frarey Winter Matchplay and eagerly await the chance to advance. Best wishes to all qualifiers.

I am particularly pleased to see Ted Chapman, our Secretary, up and running again. He has the list on the board for the first game with Pyecombe Ladies on Tuesday 3rd March. Please add your names for this very enjoyable start to the season. Following a brief discussion, Bronwynne Morley and I decided to make this a mixed competition. As usual the Bowman Trophy will follow on Monday 9th.

I can promise a very competitive match on Friday the 27th against the Broken Spur Golfing Society. As they were victors on both occasions in 2008 we need to make a great effort to redress the balance. On each occasion in March, we should be able to utilise the new kitchen facilities when we gather for lunch.

The annual 2-day French Trip is scheduled for the last week in June. At present there is one place remaining. If you'll be available at that time and would like to join us please make contact with Ted immediately.

At this rather gloomy time of year we can now look forward to a year full of a variety of competitions to suit most members. Richard Cottell and I will be ready to face all opponents in the Captain/Vice Captain Challenge from May onwards; matches against sixteen clubs around Sussex - home and away - begin in the first week of April when Royal Eastbourne are the visitors. [You may care to note that our matches against The Dyke will be reversed, as work will be taking place on the course at Pyecombe in April]

I look forward to playing with many of you during 2009 and making the most of our splendid Club.

Aubrey Watson Vets Captain

New Year's Eve Party (Report to press 15Jan09)

This year, like last, we had an Elvis Presley impersonator. He didn't let us down - he was brilliant. Not only did he do Elvis but he also did a mean Dean Martin and for the rest of the evening he and his wife ran a disco.

Everybody looked as if they were enjoying themselves, from the young ones to the not so young. There was a selection of music that suited everybody's taste.

A special thank-you must go to Alex and his team for the fantastic buffet they put on for us.

Once again we were able to use the Hurst community bus for the excellent price of £5 a head, which saved quite a few of us having to worry about driving home afterwards.

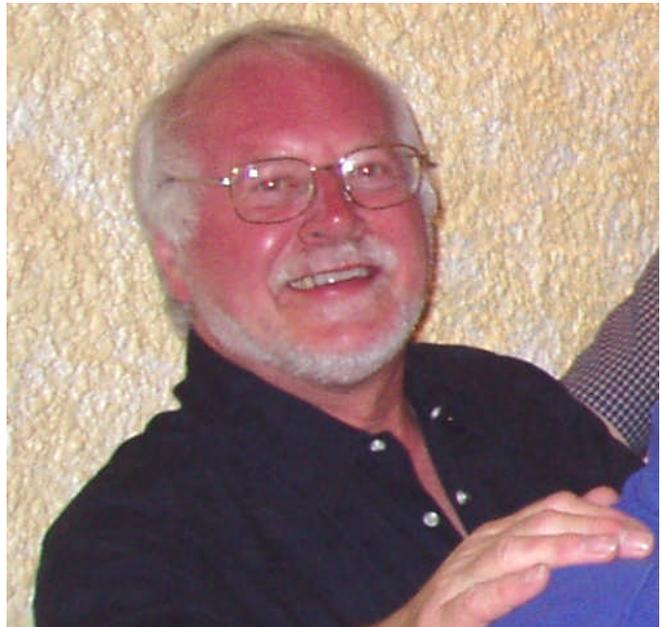
Next year, Jim Dossetter will be Captain and we are already looking out for a different act for you (watch this space). The cost may have to go up a couple of pounds but we will once again try to give you value for money.

George Eves

Mike Selby

Mike Selby, a member of Pyecombe GC for 25 years, died of a heart attack on the 23rd December 2008, aged 64. His funeral, on 7th January at Worth Crematorium, was extremely well attended by his friends, work colleagues and members of Pyecombe GC.

Mike was born and brought up in the Cardiff area of Wales, the son of a clergyman. His early career was as premises manager in London for BOAC, now British Airways. After moving to Sussex, he joined a firm of Consulting Engineers in Brighton. He survived various takeovers and mergers and was Group Property Manager of Mott MacDonald for the last 15 years.



Michael John Selby (1944-2008)

His early sporting activities were focused primarily on the game of cricket, a passion which continued throughout his life. He played for many years for Harloldslea Cricket Club in Horley, and after moving to Burgess Hill in 1970 he joined St Andrews CC. He came to golf a little later. In 1983, he joined Pyecombe Golf Club. During his time with us, he achieved a respectable handicap of 13 and gathered a few trophies along the way. His enthusiasm and competitive spirit enabled him to play many of the top courses in and around Sussex and the Home Counties. His contributions to golf at work also ensured the survival of many long standing fixtures in the Company's golfing calendar.

My own memories of Mike and almost certainly those of others, who knew him, are of someone whose wholehearted enthusiasm, passion and commitment to those activities he participated in, ensured they were an enjoyable occasion. He, and his wife, Sue, were very active in the Highlights, a local song and dance group which presented all types of shows, mostly for charity.

His sociable personality was matched by a generous character topped up with a sincere, unfailing kindness and patience. He lived life to the full had a fine sense of humour, was a self confessed wine buff, a gourmet, a jovial and jolly good all-rounder in company.

He will be greatly missed and yet he will still be remembered on those occasions when he would have been with us having a pint, ribbing us with his mischievous humour, and debating the rights and wrongs of everything under the sun. His was an untimely and sad loss.

He is survived by his wife Sue, his son and daughter, and his mother.

Gordon Gosling & David Tree

COURSE UPDATE

Firstly, congratulations go to Simon Barton on the arrival last week of his first child, a baby boy. When he left to start his paternity leave a name had not been settled on but Kieran was the short priced favourite.

Greens

The winter is proving to be harder than previous years and during the last month in particular, the greens have been either frozen rock solid, under several inches of snow, or waterlogged. In the circumstances, there has been no grass growth but they seem to be standing up to the elements pretty well. It has been a bad year for fusarium and a third fungicide treatment was applied in January. But aeration work has been impossible to carry out and will need to be done at the earliest opportunity. The good news, fingers crossed, is that the greens have so far escaped damage from the birds in their quest for chafer grubs, and that the preventative spraying for leatherjackets has also been worthwhile.

Tees

The intended use of medal and main tees this winter has been severely reduced by the weather. Intermittent use was possible up to Christmas and continuously through the Christmas fortnight but there has been none since. With no growth at present, any immediate use will have to be limited to competition days when conditions allow. However, the plan remains for the main tees to be increasingly used during future winters and an improvement programme to increase the density and resilience of the grass on the tees is being put in place.

Some of the tees have suffered bird damage but those most affected and most vulnerable have been treated with pesticide, the cost of the product prohibiting general treatment to all the greens, tees and surrounds. Where necessary, repairs have and will be made to the damaged areas.

The new composite tee signs (the 9th tee sign has been on recent display in the Clubhouse) have been delivered and will be installed shortly.

Bunkers

The bunker refurbishments at the 5th and 8th have been completed and the bunkers and rebuilt surrounds are establishing themselves well. They remain GUR and will need to remain so for the next few weeks. Consequently, dropping zones are being introduced this week.

Fairways, Etc

No fairway mowing has been possible since pre-Christmas but the definition is still visible and better than other years. The normal contractor has carried out deep vertidraing of several fairways and he still has another day's work to complete some surrounds and selected tees when the conditions are right. The usual scarifying of the rough is scheduled for this month together with further gorse regeneration work and woodland edge and scrub reduction.

Other work planned for the next few weeks include replacing the barbed wire fence with a post and rail fence in the field car park and the one in the main car park by the 19th green. The practice nets are also to be revamped and a new hut at the 13th has been ordered.

Richard Plummer (Head of Green)

Social Calendar for 2009

February	Friday 27 th	Quiz Night & Raffle
March	Saturday 28 th	Bingo.
April	Saturday 25 th	St. George's Day
May	Saturday 30 th	Karaoke Evening - By Don
June	Friday 19 th	Vamps & Tramps - Music by Kevin
July	Saturday 11 th	Fun Day & BBQ
August	Sat / Sun 8 & 9 th	Gala Weekend with Hog Roast
September	Saturday 26 th	Whist Drive
October	Friday 23 rd	Quiz Night
November	Saturday 7 th	Pyecombe GC Ball (Venue to be finalised)
December	Saturday 5 th	Prize giving – followed by Xmas Party
December	Thursday 31 st	New Year's Eve Party

George Eves

PRO SHOP

Have you checked your spikes and grips lately?

Worn spikes and shiney grips are a health hazard to both you and your golf

£7.95 TO RE-SPIKE A PAIR OF SHOES

GRIPS

£8.95 GRIPS NOW ONLY £6.95

£5.50 GRIPS NOW ONLY £3.50

LADIES GRIPS £5.50 NOW £2.95

WHILE STOCKS LAST

ALL GRIPS INCLUDE FREE FITTING