



# Ups & Downs

## Pyecombe G C

# Newsletter

March / April 2009

Editor Alf Bickham

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT

### Social

We are celebrating **St Georges Night** at the club on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Tickets are selling fast for this really enjoyable evening so why not sign up and join us for a good meal, sundry entertainment and a good sing-song.

Please keep your eyes open for posters advertising other social events. There will be Karaoke on 30<sup>th</sup> May and a Vamps and Tramps disco on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Which type of tramp?? Make a note in your diaries and join in.

### Golf

The first round of the PAV IT trophy will be played on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Pyecombe have a home draw against a strong Haywards Heath team and the team will appreciate volunteer bag carriers (see Alan Davey or me) and as many supporters as possible. If you have not previously watched this competition I would encourage you to support and watch some really good golf and, hopefully, a win for us. Get out there and support PLEASE.

We escaped the wooden spoon on the MSL winter league by just 2 points – it goes to show that it is worth battling on to the end. We started our summer campaign with a narrow loss against Haywards Heath.

On Good Friday after the President v Captain Challenge I left the club with a rosy glow. This was partially encouraged by the extremely good red wine that was consumed by myself, the VC Jim and the presidents (current and ex.

Reg and Ken) but also because the Captain's team secured a rare victory in this competition. My thanks go to every one of the 96 competitors for joining the competition and to the late starters for enduring the fairly miserable conditions. The raffle raised over £100 for my charity and the winner of the tickets for the BMW PGA at Wentworth was Jim Cullen.

Bank holiday Monday arrived and weather was perfect. A beautiful sunny day saw 24 pairs compete in the traditional mixed competition which was won by Jim Dossetter and Ann Eves with an outstanding 44 points. Congratulations to them. Jim also entertained us prior to the prize presentation with some interesting banter about blondes etc. What a raconteur!. We laughed until the tears ran down our legs. Jim is available for private parties at a fee to be arranged!!



Centre: Mixed Winners Jim Dossetter & Anne Eves  
Left: Bron Morley & Right: Mike Price

(Continued on next page)

### 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](mailto:alf@abickham.freeserve.co.uk) or to make contact by telephone, call him at home, Tel. No. 01444.242101

## **CAPTAIN'S REPORT** (Continuation)

### **Golf** (Continued)

The summer knock-out competitions will soon be underway. Please, please arrange your matches early. No extensions will be allowed except in exceptional circumstances with my agreement.

I am delighted to let you know that our developing junior section again impressed. Matt Greenfield and Harry Klus had success in representing Sussex under 14's and Matt also won in a Sussex under 18 match – an exceptional achievement at 13.

### **General**

There is much happening at present both as concerns golf, club and management but I will leave other contributors to comment on progress and news.

### **Jason Bowen**

Jason has now started as our professional and on behalf of the Pyecombe members I really do wish him every success and many happy years at the club. He is offering a free 15 minute consultation on swing and equipment – why not take advantage of this and get to know him.

Jason is gradually building his stock for the shop and has many Pyecombe logo items on order. If you do not see what you want then please speak with him and I'm sure he will be able to help.

For those of you with young children, Jason is holding regular junior coaching sessions on Saturday afternoons.

### **Dress Code**

The new code is in force and it is little changed from the previous one. The changes are that round-necked golf shirts (a-la-Tiger Woods) are acceptable wear and jeans will be allowed

for certain social events. In addition, casual visitors to the club will be allowed to wear

jeans – this does not include members, their guests or society players. It is aimed at situations such as allowing parents collecting their children to be able to wait in the clubhouse lounge instead of being relegated to sit outside in miserable weather or in their cars.

Can I please reinforce that hats, clothing such as jackets, waterproofs, golf shoes and trainers are not allowed in the lounge? Nor is wet or soiled clothing. Please read and comply with the code. Notices have been posted throughout the clubhouse.

### **Course**

The green shoots of recovery are starting. No, not the economy but the course. We will soon have plenty of growth and can look forward to the course blooming and the greens playing well. Simon and his staff have been hard at work and we will soon benefit.

At the time of writing the new tee furniture has been installed on the 18<sup>th</sup> and looks very smart. I'm sure that the overall effect will be to improve the appearance of the course and give a favourable impression to all.

With the main season about to start, I hope that you have a good year and that, even if your golf is not so good, that you find time to take in the stunning scenery that is so much part of Pyecombe and so easy to overlook.

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

*Mike Price*

### **Late News: The Sad Departure of Derek Coomber**

It is with much regret that I inform members of the death over Easter of our Honorary Member, Derek Coomber. Members will be aware that for many years Derek helped with the course maintenance doing a fine job for our benefit.

Condolences to Derek's widow and family will be sent and details of his funeral will be posted on Captain's Notice Board when known. (See also page 4)

*Mike Price*

### **Derek Coomber's Honorary Membership Record**

**Richard Plummer** has looked back in the club records and found in the Green Committee Report of the Spring 1997 Newsletter the following written by the then Head of Green, David Leach:

"At the end of last year our Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Derek Coomber, retired after nearly twenty years of service with the Club. Derek was always an approachable and affable gentleman with very high standards of green keeping and took a pride in everything he did on the Course. He will be missed by both members and Staff alike. Always a keen golfer Derek was a regular player on Saturdays after he had completed his early morning duties. We shall continue to see him on the Course playing, as the Committee has offered him honorary membership in his retirement. Best wishes and a very big thank you From Pyecombe to you Derek."

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## **LADIES SECTION**

The day I started to write this report, the sun was streaming through the windows and, I thought, Spring is really here. Today, Good Friday, it's a little miserable and starting to drizzle.

On Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, we had a mixed match against Cophorne. Mike and I played against the two Vice Captains: Paul (1) and Barbara (19) & by the 14<sup>th</sup> we resembled a Christmas Turkey filled with Sage & Onion! However, we all agreed that, with the lovely weather and the spectacular views, there really wasn't a better place to be.

Our ladies played Singing Hills in the Mail on Sunday competition at Singing Hills. Once again, Singing Hills triumphed, but congratulations to Alison Vermes, Annie Pryor, Jan Brittin, Angie Bainbridge and Jo Galway on their efforts.

Our Daily Mail 4s qualifiers, Helen Woodcock-Downey and Joy Millns had a convincing win on the 13<sup>th</sup> against Hassocks. Well done ladies, they now go on to play Singing Hills (Home)

Aileen Greenfield & Jo Galway recently played in the London 4s at the Berkshire and reached the second day. This is a rather prestigious event, which is by invitation, so again well done.

So far, at the time of writing, Div I played at Worthing but came second and Division III have played two matches: a home win against Ifield and an away loss at Bognor, and yours truly will not dwell on the events of a mechanical nature as she was driving home from Bognor!!

Our Morrice 4s Team had a tough match against Haywards Heath at home, all winning on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the winning team of Angie Bainbridge, Jo Galway, Aileen Greenfield, Sarah Godfrey, Alison Vermes and Joanna Greenstreet.

Finally for the moment, congratulations to Jamie Blades down from 30 to 25 in just about two weeks, and I am sure there is more to come. Wow!!

### **STOP PRESS**

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 09, Jamie Blades achieved another milestone by scoring a **hole-in-one**. What next??

***Bron Morley*** (Lady Captain)

## The President reflects

Hearty congratulations to the Captain's team in beating the President's team by the convincing margin of 15-9! (**Full tabulated results on page 14**)



**Above: I hand the trophy over to Mike Price**

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting between the two teams took place on Good Friday in fairly damp conditions, but notwithstanding this we had 96 players turn out with no drop outs (apart from one unfortunate individual who incurred a broken hand a few days prior, but his place was taken by Len North – thank you Len!). My thanks to everyone who took part and I hope the event was enjoyed by all. To date, of the 15 annual matches played, the President's team has won 8, the Captain's 2, with 5 matches halved.

One of our juniors is improving his golf at a very impressive rate and has already played for, and captained, the County U14's last year. I've managed to extract some interesting information from his father, who modestly told me that his son, still only 13 years old, was recently picked for the Sussex County under 18's in a match against Lewes, last year's Runners up in the Club County Scratch Competition. Played at Lewes, he won his singles 2 & 1. Again, just over a week ago, in a match at Worthing, he beat the reigning English under 14's champion Toby Tree by the same margin on his own course. Excellent results by any standard! His name? You've guessed - Matt Greenfield. Well done Matt! Father, Trevor, who plays off 1 handicap, has reluctantly conceded that Matt (now down to handicap 3.5) is outdriving him, though Trevor smilingly tells me that his course management is still better than Matt's! It cannot be long before we have a new recruit to the Club P@VIT team.

Having honed their hut erecting skills at the 5<sup>th</sup> hole, we are once more indebted to those Club stalwarts, Richard Plummer and Jim Cullen for their time and free labour in erecting the second sponsored hut at the 13<sup>th</sup> hole. Well done gents! Arrangements for the hut at the 8<sup>th</sup> hole are nearly complete and we wait with eager anticipation to see 'the lads at it again!

Some sad news; I have learned today of the death of Derek Comber. As many of you will know, Derek was a very popular member of our Greenstaff for many years before taking well earned retirement. Our condolences go to his family.



**Derek Coomber**  
(2001 photograph)

Lastly, as we leave the winter months behind, we now look forward to the start of the 'proper' golfing season. With warmer weather, Pyecombe will soon be at its best again. I wish you all a successful and enjoyable summer's golf.

***Reg Auchterlonie***

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

### **Catering**

Your Management Committee has for some time been researching and debating the best way forward for the Club's catering function. We have concluded that we will be best served if all staff are employed directly by the Club on annual hours contracts, including a Catering Manager/Chef who will be expected to devote no less than 40 hours a week to the job.

Accordingly, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March we formally gave Tee Time Catering 3 months notice terminating the existing contract. Alex Pereira has in principle accepted the Manager's position which will be subject to a 3 month trial period commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Over the coming weeks we shall be having discussions with other members of the Catering and Bar Staff.

### **Free Golf at Other Clubs**

As part of our policy to create added value to being a member of Pyecombe, we have come to an agreement with a number of other Clubs whereby full members can play two rounds per year without green fee on their courses and vice versa for their members. The Clubs are Haywards Heath, Ifield, Ham Manor, Purley Downs and Tyrrells Wood.

The offer is subject to conditions, namely weekdays only, and must be arranged through the Office at least 24 hours beforehand. This arrangement is separate and in addition to the traditional discounted green fee arrangement with all MSL Clubs.

I trust members will welcome this arrangement. Please support the host Club's Bar and Catering when you visit.

### **Welcome Jason**

On behalf of the Club's Management I extend a warm welcome to Jason Bowen, our new Club Professional, while at the same time bidding farewell to Chris. (Elsewhere in this issue Ken Barnard has written a tribute to

Chris and towards the end of May there will be an opportunity for members to gather on a Sunday to say goodbye.)

Although the Club pays the Professional a retainer it is essential that from the Shop and Lessons he earns additional income. Jason is keen as mustard and I hope that all members will support him.

***“YOUR PROFESSIONAL NEEDS YOU!!”***

### **Rate Rebate**

Elsewhere our Managing Secretary gives details of a recent decision by Mid Sussex District Council to grant us concessionary Rate relief. Full marks to John for spotting the opportunity and successfully completing all the necessary paperwork.

An important contributory factor in the favourable decision was our recent effort to open up the Club to the wider community with Open Days, subscription offers, the Short Course, and membership of the Sussex Golf Partnership. Interestingly, the financial benefits to the Club are not dissimilar to what would apply had we become a Community Affiliated Sports Club (CASC).

### **Car Parking**

On busy days our car park is full, and so is our overflow field area. Looking around on these occasions it is obvious that careless or selfish parking on the part of a few means that we accommodate 6-8 fewer cars than could be the case. It would of course be nice to have a resurfaced car park with white lines everywhere, but that is not a spending priority at this time. In the meantime please park with care and consideration for others. A good parker is a good putter!

***David Brown***



## FORTY-TWO YEARS OF SERVICE



**Chris (1962 approx)**

**Chris White**, the Club Professional at Pyecombe Golf Club was appointed in 1967. He was then in his early twenties and had been assistant professional at Croham Hurst Golf Club and had an impressive record both as amateur and county golfer and also in professional events in Surrey, Kent and Sussex. Coming from a golfing family, his father had always been a professional and his two brothers were also pros in Sussex. He was, therefore, the obvious choice from a large number of applicants.

The Professional's shop at Pyecombe has always been too small for modern day requirements but when Chris arrived it was only about 10 feet by 8 feet but Chris managed to build up a good reputation particularly for his teaching ability. He was one of the first pros in Sussex to start a housewife's 'group teaching' which was most successful and as a result many of our current lady members were part of that original idea.

I, together with all of our Past Captains, have played many rounds of competitive golf with Chris in the Captain & Pro Challenge matches and although it has cost most of us many pounds we have also benefited from the help and advice which was offered by Chris during those matches. It is amazing how many Captains seem to play the best golf of their lives during their year.

I am sure most of you will be aware of the success so many of the young men who assisted Chris in his shop have achieved, they have gone on to become very good golf pros and moved on to make a success of their working lives and when we held the farewell golf day for Chris just over a year ago, eighteen of those young men returned to Pyecombe to play in his event and support him. This says a lot for the appreciation they had for the manner in which he trained them in their early days.

I have had the privilege of being a member of Pyecombe Golf Club for the entire time that Chris has been the pro. I think that we can all be proud to know that we treat our staff well enough for them to stay with us for many, many years and also to thank him for his loyalty to us. It is probably quite unusual and perhaps a bit old fashioned in the current world but it is nice to feel that that's the way we are at Pyecombe.

Well, Chris will be leaving at the end of May and at that time the proceeds of the collection for a leaving gift will be presented to him by our Club Captain, please support this collection. The day and time will be on the Notice Board so do try and be there – I think he deserves all of our support.

Chris is now an Honorary Life Member and will be able to play with us as an amateur which should give us a chance to get some of our money back!



**L/R: Chris White with new Pro Jason Bowen**

Have a happy retirement and welcome as a new member.

***Ken Barnard***  
Senior Past Captain



# Pyecombe Golf Club

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## FROM THE OFFICE

### The New Pro:

It is my pleasure to add my best wishes to those expressed both the Captain and Chairman to Jason who joined us earlier this month.

In line with the contract agreed between the Club and Jason, all of the Club's golf administration will pass to Jason over the course of the next 6 months; it will be a gradual process to ensure that events, matches, society bookings etc. run smoothly during transition and beyond.

One of the first delegations agreed by Management Committee (at its meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April) is that Jason will take responsibility for informing members should extenuating circumstances cause the course to be closed, as regrettably happened twice last week when mist descended over the South Downs making play unacceptably dangerous under Health & Safety directives. *The method of communication to players already on the course of temporary closure has been agreed as 'one loud blast of a klaxon' and resumption will be signalled by 'two short-blasts of a klaxon'*. Members can be assured that temporary closure will only be enforced when conditions are truly dangerous.

### The Retiring Pro:

Chris's retirement will be marked at the end of his own golf tournament that will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Members are invited to attend the presentations which will be made on behalf of the Club and also the members themselves. In the latter regard, members can make personal contributions via the bar, the ProShop or the Office.

### A Date for Your Diaries:

It is looking extremely likely that the Club will be calling an Extraordinary General Meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June for members to consider several capital development projects (e.g. ProShop extension; Equipment Shed extension; Ground Source Heat Pump Energy System); Additional Greenkeeping Equipment; Course Improvements) and the funding options relative thereto. There may also be proposals to extend the membership categories to come into operation from October.

*Please pencil this probable meeting in your diary.*

### The Club's Website:

Well we're nearly ready for re-launch with the final bits and bobs of detail to be added soon. Thanks for your patience but I'm sure that you will notice the difference when the revamped site is up and running.

### 2009 Marketing Initiatives:

We have had a very good response to the recent round of local newspaper advertising with a total of 24 new members signed up since the start of the campaign. We are steadily making up the budget shortfall on subscription income that was identified last autumn.

(Continued on next page)

## FROM THE OFFICE (Continuation)

### 2009 Marketing Initiatives (Continued)

Also, the bookings for societies are well above both budget and prior year levels, again indicating that our marketing has been on the right track. That said, we are mindful of getting a good balance between the extra revenue that societies bring to the Club and the availability of the tee for Club members; hopefully members will agree that in the main the office team achieve this objective....no doubt you will let us know if that's not the case!!!

### Discretionary Rate Relief:

The Chairman, in his report, alludes to some significant financial benefits that have been gained recently from our successful application to Mid Sussex District Council for 'DRR' that can be granted to not-for-profit sports clubs that have adopted a strong community policy.

By having 'cheap' junior membership fees; holding 2 Open Days per year; encouraging non-members to use our facilities (via casual green-fees, society bookings, and function room events); participating in Sussex Golf partnership activities etc. etc., Pyecombe Golf Club was able to satisfy the criteria for DRR. *This has saved the Club over £20,000 per annum for the foreseeable future.*

My personal thanks go to members Dave Knight and Harvey Smith who helped steer me through the application process, having done similar at Hassocks FC and the British Legion respectively. A drink at the bar awaits guys!!!

### 2009 Opens and Invitations:

Current entries for the Club's major events of the year are as follows:

Men's Open	Saturday	16 May	12
Juniors Open	Thursday	18 May	6
Seniors Open	Monday	1 June	59
Men's Invitation	Saturday	13 June	10 pairs
Mixed Open	Thursday	9 July	26 pairs
Mixed Invitation	Saturday	18 July	4 fours
Ladies Open	Tuesday	11 August	nearly at capacity
Over 50s Invitation	Thursday	13 August	10 pairs

Please encourage as many of your family and friends to participate; it would be really good to have to close the entries this year. An A5 size 'flyer' advertising the events is available at the Pro Shop that can be used by members to promote the Club's special days.

### Tee Reservations:

Known tee reservations for the period between 18 April and 31 May are given in the table in the last two pages (15 & 16) of this newsletter.

**John Wilkinson**  
Managing Secretary

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## **BRIGHTON & EASTBOURNE SENIORS WINTER LEAGUE**

The success or otherwise of Pyecombe Seniors matches in the winter league played since the New Year are reported below plus the names of Pyecombe's players and the results they achieved.

Home and away matches were played against Willingdon on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March, respectively.

### **Home**

Neil Beard-Neilson & Mike Coward	won 3-2
Peter Cook & Mick Green	won 8-6
Ken White & Ken Long	lost 3-2
Ken Barnard & Reg Auchterlonie	halbed
Andy Munday & Martin Sutcliffe	lost 3-2

### **Away at Willingdon**

Roy Jarvis & Rod Claydon	lost 4-3
Brian Megenis & Andy Munday	lost 2-1
Ken White & Ken Long	lost 4-3
Roger Benjamin & Barry Wood	lost 2-1
Peter Cook & Graham Heyes	lost 3-1

With the home match halved and the away match lost by 5-0, the net result was a win for Willingdon of 7.5 to 2.5 points. This was another bad result in the away match and means we are now playing for 5<sup>th</sup> place in the league. The very dry conditions have made putting difficult, particularly in the away matches.

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Against Eastbourne Downs the away match was played first, on 16<sup>th</sup> March, and the home leg on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The results of the games were as follows:

### **Away at Eastbourne Downs**

Ken White & Roger Benjamin	lost 5-4
Brian Megenis & Mike Sinfield	lost 4-2
Stan Green & Mick Green	lost 3-2
Andy Munday & Tom Bailey	won 2-1
Alan Gower Capt & Alan Smith	lost 6-5

### **Home**

Ken White & Roger Benjamin	halved
Brian Megenis & Mike Sinfield	won 5-4
Stan Green & Mick Green	halved
Rod Claydon & Tom Bailey	won 4-3
Alan Gower Capt & Andy Munday	lost 1 down

Again another bad away result losing 4-1 and not quite making up for it in the home match, by only winning 3-2 means an overall 6-4 loss. It means we are now likely to be 6<sup>th</sup> in the league, our worst result in the 8 years of the 8 team Seniors Winter League.

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We played our two legs, firstly at home and then away, against Lewes GC on February 16<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> with the following results:

### **Away at Lewis**

George Eves & Neil Beard-Neilson	lost 4-3
Brian Megenis & Andy Munday	lost 4-3
Ken White & Ken Long	won 2 up
Roger Benjamin & Barry Wood	lost 5-4
Reg Auchterlonie & Jim Dossetter	lost 4-2

### **Home**

Ken White & Ken Long	won 2-1
Brian Megenis & Barry Wood	won 4-2
Andy Munday & Tom Bailey	won 4-3
Terry Reilly & Chris Openshaw	halved
Alan Gower Capt	lost 7-6

We let ourselves down in the away match once again by losing 4 games to 1 win so the home win by 3 ½ games to 1 ½ wasn't enough to avoid an overall defeat of 5 ½ to 4 ½. This Lewis result definitely places us in 6<sup>th</sup> position in the league, third from bottom, but fortunately there is relegation in this league. Strong pairings who have previously performed well for our team only had a low percentage of wins this winter but we remain optimistic and hope to do better next season.

***Alan Gower***

Pyecombe Seniors Captain

## From the Professional

First of all I would like to say thank you to all the members at Pyecombe Golf Club for the very kind welcome you have given me. The first 2 weeks have just reinforced my positive feelings I have had about the club and moving to the area. Also, I must give many thanks to Michael who has been a great help.

By the time you read this, I'm hopeful that I will have the shop fully stocked. If there is anything that I haven't got, you only have to ask and I will do my very best to order what you need, promptly and at a competitive price.

The free 15 minute swing and equipment checks have now started. Dates and times are available in the Pro shop for you to book. There will be plenty of weekday and weekend times available in the coming weeks. Don't worry if your clubs are not right for you, I can make all the changes required in the workshop. It doesn't mean buying a new set!

My coaching diary has now started to fill up and a number of you have expressed interest in the video analysis service I offer. If anyone would like to see it in operation, just pop into the pro shop and I can give you a demonstration. It can be a very useful aid in helping you to understand where faults are occurring.

Junior coaching started on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of April and will be continuing every week. We had six for the first week and I'm confident this is going to keep growing. From Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> I will be running 3 groups, 1.00pm will be for 12 year olds and under, 2.15pm for 13 year olds and over and 3.30pm for those with handicaps. This is open to both members and non members.

The after schools clubs will also be starting at the end of April and I will be running the Tri Golf sessions at St Lawrence on Mondays and at Downlands on Tuesdays. If any of our older juniors would like to help in the delivery of these sessions, they would be very welcome. We would also welcome help from any adult members, especially when the children visit the club towards the beginning of July.

I am looking forward to playing a few rounds of golf in the Captain/Pro challenges. You may see me on the practice ground hitting a few balls in the coming weeks, getting myself prepared. Mike and I are planning on being a formidable team to beat this year!

*Jason Bowman*

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## VETS SECTION

The new season began with a very good turnout for the Ladies/Vets match on 3rd of March. Most of us managed a few holes before coming to the conclusion the elements were gaining the upper hand! Happily we can look forward to the re-arrangement of this pleasantly social event.

The Bowman Trophy attracted 40 players on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Colin Milward and James Easley had an excellent round to win with 44 Stableford points.

Hopes were high on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> when Dave Hurst and I led the Vets team in our first encounter this year against the Broken Spur Golfing Society. At times it was difficult to recall who was playing for each team, almost everyone present being a Pyecombe member. As the groups returned, scores remained very close: The conclusion left us level at 3.5 - 3.5, therefore "The Spur" retained the trophy by a whisker.

It was a huge disappointment to begin the inter-club matches in a dense sea-fret on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The closure of the course after the leading pairs reached the 6<sup>th</sup> tee reflected present day concerns for our safety and the ever-present possibility of litigation should an accident occur. This fixture against Royal Eastbourne has been rescheduled for Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. It is intended, if possible, to keep to the original teams. [see vets noticeboard]

On a near perfect day, our team gathered for the first away fixture at Highwoods, 6<sup>th</sup> April. It is a beautiful, parkland course and was in very good condition for the time of year. The hospitality was exceptionally good and the lunch was prolonged until 4 o'clock! Results of seven of the games were in doubt to the end; I believe it was a fine performance by our team to end the match at 5.5 - 2.5.

Finally, I should mention the Vets Invitation Day on 21<sup>st</sup> May and hope as many of you as possible will support the efforts of Ted Chapman in his organising of a successful day.

*Aubrey Watson* Vets Captain

## HOUSE REPORT

### Kitchen refit:

The kitchen refit was carried out successfully, and within budget. To keep costs to a reasonable level, cookers, deep fat fryers and stainless steel work surfaces were all refurbished. Floors and walls have been recovered and the extraction system updated.

### Energy Project:

#### **Replacement of hot water and radiator systems**

We are in the process of developing a new scheme to replace our ageing boiler and electric heating system.

The system has a ground source heat pump which involves drilling six boreholes, each 115 metres deep. These have a system of pipes which take the heat out of the ground. This is then passed through a heat exchange unit which raises the temperature for our hot water and to supply a wet system of radiators. The use of a ground source heat pump system should reduce our consumption of electricity by up to 75%. This scheme allows us to apply for government funding which is essential to make it affordable for us to install.

Chris Openshaw is using his expertise in this field and is project managing the scheme.

#### **Further energy saving changes:**

1. Lighting in the gentlemen's changing room has been fitted with sensors. These enable the lights to be turned off automatically when the changing room is not in use.
2. Replacement of lever taps with push button taps to stop taps being left on.
3. We intend replacing shower heads with the Mira ECO Range. These shower heads aerate the water which creates larger droplets and could achieve a 50% saving on the present consumption. We are also hopeful of reclaiming this cost through a government grant.

*Bob Watson.*

Head of House

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## **CYRIL BLAKE CUP 1<sup>st</sup> Round – County Seniors Inter Club Foursomes**

### **Pyecombe GC Seniors v Slinfold Park GC Seniors**

Pyecombe Seniors played their first round match in the Cyril Blake Cup foursomes competition at Slinfold Park GC, Bexhill, on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009, but did not obtain a favourable result losing 3 games to 1. The team and Individual Results:

Alan Davey & Peter Coburn	Won	4-2
Bob Watson & Mick Green	Lost	3-1
George Eves & Andy Munday	Lost	2-1
Brian Megenis & Terry Reilly	Lost	3-2

**Captain's Comments:** Slinfold Park is very tricky, especially in dry conditions & we had to give shots in all matches. We held a slight advantage after 11 holes, but those shots & local knowledge cost us the match.

*Alan Gower*

Pyecombe Seniors Captain

## **COURSE UPDATE**

### **GREENS**

The greens are taking their time recovering from a harder than average winter and grass growth is taking a long time to get going. They have been fertilized and top-dressed but the putting surfaces remain bumpy largely due to the varying growth rates of the different grass species. There is a bit more misery to come with the spring overhaul scheduled for next week but very little scarifying will be necessary this year.

### **TEES**

Main tees are now in full summer use. They have generally come through the winter in good shape and their experimental use during the past winter for competitions will be extended next year. With this end in mind, treatments to increase the density and resilience of the grass including additional top dressings are planned for the summer.

The winter tees have been vertidraind and fertilised, and some have been dressed with rubber crumb to improve wear. The composite tee signs are being installed, with the already sponsored tee signs being done first

### **BUNKERS**

The bunkers at the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will remain GUR at least until the end of this month. The face of the fairway bunker at the 7<sup>th</sup> has been reduced to make it less penal and should be back in play at the same time.

### **FAIRWAYS, ETC**

Fairway mowing is picking up but preferred lies will remain in place until the end of the month. The Green Committee has agreed the fairway and semi rough cuts for the season together with some slight modifications to some green aprons etc. The main Course set-up changes are:

- **1<sup>st</sup>:** fairway to be cut nearer to the tee
- **2<sup>nd</sup>:** slightly more semi-rough plus in the short term addition of low-level wire fencing to limit ball run into the rough from off the fairway (NB: Committee also expressed an opinion that at some stage in the future consideration should be given to reducing the left/right slope of the fairway)
- **4<sup>th</sup>:** rough will hopefully be thinner this year; trimming will take place in July
- **5<sup>th</sup>:** consideration to be given to a slight enlargement of the putting surface behind the front left bunker (as per Course Architect's suggestion)
- **7<sup>th</sup>:** rough to be allowed to grow below the winter tee/6<sup>th</sup> green for c50 yards
- **8<sup>th</sup>:** bank at the back of the green to be cut 4 metres up to reduce ball search time
- **11<sup>th</sup>:** wider collar on left hand side of green to reduce run-off
- **12<sup>th</sup>:** slightly less rough width on left hand side, and semi similarly reduced
- **13<sup>th</sup>:** fairway cut nearer to the tee
- **15<sup>th</sup>:** removal of rough on carry from yellow/red tees. Patch of rough to be added to right hand side, 75 yards from the green

### **OTHER NEWS**

New post and rail driveway and 19<sup>th</sup>/carpark fences have been installed.

The hut at the 13<sup>th</sup> has been installed with temporary anchorage pending the erection of chains etc as at the 5<sup>th</sup>. A similar hut to the one at the 13<sup>th</sup> has been ordered for the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Work is also underway to extend the base of the practice net area. The new net has arrived and the Astroturf base is expected shortly.

The SCLGU representative has carried out an SSS assessment of the Blue Course. Scorecard production will follow receipt of the course rating.

***Richard Plummer*** (Head of Green)

## COLTS SECTION

All 7-day Gentlemen members with handicaps of 18 and over are eligible to play in the Colts Team, and all are welcome, no age limits – young or old. The Colts would like to have more players who have a handicap of 18 or above join the group, to ensure that they can field a full team in all of their 2009 fixtures. If you are a 18 handicap (or higher) player then do add your name on the entry sheets. You will be sure of a game and a good time. The Colts notice board is almost opposite the entry door to the kitchen. The difficulty for the Colts is that 18 plus handicap players are often those players whose handicaps are in decline and once below 18 they no longer qualify to play and are lost to the group.

Colts golf is a great way to play different courses, improve your game, and meet new people. It is played in a competitive manner, but is never taken too seriously, and so if you have a handicap that qualifies please seriously consider signing up for a game.

The golf match against East Brighton is played each year for a trophy in memory of Bill Beard, a Colts Captain who unfortunately suffered a fatal heart attack on the 1st fairway at Pyecombe in the match played in March 2000. A Bill Beard memorial trophy, a shield, was created following his passing for which the two Clubs compete annually. The shield is awarded each year to the team scoring the best aggregate score in the two matches, home and away, the winners being allowed to keep and display the trophy for twelve months.

We also have a new plaque called the Pyefield Trophy, played between Ifield and ourselves. As with the Bill Beard trophy it is the aggregate scores of the two matches.

Colts matches are normally played on Saturday afternoons (West Hove, Sunday) and teams are either 10 or 12 players per side. Home and away matches are played against the following clubs:

East Brighton	Ham Manor	The Dyke
Cottesmore	Ifield	West Hove

Colts Tankard is a competition between Pyecombe club members and was played on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, with 16 members including Mike Price the Club Captain, who was on the lookout for potential MSL

players. This game is the first of the year for the colts, and is the time when the captain for 2008 hands over the reins to the new captain. Cahel Logan was the outgoing captain and did a great job, making sure that members were aware of matches and arrangements. He is also a great motivator and will be a hard act to follow by Pete Fray (captain) and Alan Carter (vice captain). Although it was dry for the tankard competition, the wind picked up towards the end of the round, which ruined a few scores. Ian Semel was suitably attired with pink jumper, pink glove and he had a 'mare' of a game. Ken Tompsett has a new Driver and when it was mentioned to Mike Price that it was making a difference of 20 yards, he said 'forwards or backwards'.

As for the result, Robin Probert won with 35 points, a very good score considering the strong winds, he also won nearest the pin, but wasn't around for the prize giving as he had a better offer of a meal at his Cricket Club. Second was Ken Tompsett (him with the new driver) 33 points, and third Bob Foster also with 33 points. Bob is a previous captain of the colts, who hasn't had the best of health recently, so whilst recuperating has adapted a silver cross pram to a golf trolley. Brian Chasser was in good form, and won the longest drive, on the ninth.

The 28<sup>th</sup> of March saw the first Colts match against Ham Manor at Pyecombe. Costas, their Captain and the Ham Manor players were a great bunch. The weather had promised to be wet, and during the round it didn't disappoint, with a downpour of hail and rain, but were we downhearted...? One or two players that qualified from the 'Tankard' were unable to play, so a 4 to 1 win was a welcome surprise. One player to fill in at the last minute was 'super sub' Tim Carter, who really needs to go to Spec Savers when, on the first hole he played the oppositions ball. Peter Ferns and Brian Oliver were the only pair not to win and were the first to be invited by the opposition, to the re-match on the 30<sup>th</sup> May. The scores were,

Tim Carter/Pete Fray won 3/2  
Cahel Logan/Harvey Smith won 5/3  
Ken Tompsett/John MacKenzie won 4/3  
Peter Ferns/Brian Oliver lost 4/2  
Alan Carter/Bob Foster won 3/2

(Continued on next page)

## COLTS SECTION (Continuation)

The second match was against East Brighton, played at Pyecombe. Having had a reasonable result in the first match, the East Brighton result came as quite a shock, with a 4-2 drubbing on home soil..

The only two pairs to win were: Cahel Logan and Mark Allen 6/5 and Ken Tompsett and Alan Carter 3/2.

This result means that we have an uphill battle when we play at East Brighton to regain the Bill Beard trophy, but it's not over till the Fat Lady sings. There were two nearest the pin prizes, the first on hole five was won by Gavin from East Brighton, and the second on hole eight had our own Alan Carter picking up the bottle of wine. On one occasion Peter Ferns hit a cracking shot, and whist putting his club back in the bag saw his ball fly back past him, having hit the directional post. This kind of luck, and some outstanding play by some 28 handicap players was our demise.

### Future Colts matches for 2009

April, Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	West Hove (Home) 1.00 pm
May, Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Dyke(Away) 1.00 pm
May, Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Cottesmore (Away) 10.00 am
May, Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Ham Manor (Away)
June, Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	West Hove (Away) 1.00 pm
June, Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Dyke (Home) 11.20 am
July, Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Inter Club at Ifield
August, Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	East Brighton (Away) 10.30 am
August, Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Cottesmore (Home) 11.20 am
September, Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ifield (Away)
September, Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ifield (Home) 11.20 am

### Contact information:

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*Peter Fray*  
Colts Captain

## RESULTS – PRESIDENT / CAPTAIN CHALLENGE

Event held on Good Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Start Time	President's Team	Result	Captain's Team	Result
09.30	Aileen Greenfield & Jan Brittin		Jo Galway & Anne Eves	<b>Win</b>
09.38	Angie Bainbridge & Mary Barnard		Jan Hellings & Joanna Greenstreet	<b>Win</b>
09.46	Alys Gordon & Margaret Wilding		Sandi Selsby & Bron Morley	<b>Win</b>
09.54	Pat Dossetter & Val Grant	<b>Win</b>	Sheila McNeill & Vi Auchterlonie	
10.02	Doreen Shafer & Dawn Glastonbury		Denise Daughton & Beryl Thom	<b>Win</b>
10.10	Mary Briant & Joan Cullen		Margaret Marshall & Mollie Artlett	<b>Win</b>
10.18	Christa Sexton & Christine Muschamp	<b>Win</b>	Rosemary Oliver & Julie Pearce	
10.34	Reg Auchterlonie & Ken Barnard		Michael F Price & Jim Dossetter	<b>Win</b>
10.42	Trevor Greenfield & Mark Kemp	<b>Win</b>	Matt Greenfield & Matt Harper	
10.50	Jake Southon & Bob Watson		Matt Little & Alan Davey	<b>Win</b>
10.58	Neville Pells & Andy Selsby	<b>Win</b>	George Eves & Shaun Southon	
11.06	Peter Coburn & John Hall		Stan Green & Martin Little	<b>Win</b>
11.14	Nick Lee & Neil Beard-Neilson	<b>Win</b>	Paul Corney & Andy Belenkin	
11.22	Maurice Woolgar & Ian Beckett		Dave Bundy & Bradley Riddell	<b>Win</b>
11.30	Len North & Barry Wood		Chris Muschamp & Steve Bunt	<b>Win</b>
11.38	Hilton Jolliffe & Bill Marshall		Mike G Price & Ton Knight	<b>Win</b>
11.46	Jim Cullen & Lew Smith		Ian Hawes & Frank Dennis	<b>Win</b>
11.54	Mike Cousins & Mike Sexton	<b>Win</b>	Pat Coleman & Dave Schwartz	
12.02	Nick Watson & Roy Lawson		Tim Gleave & Gary Ellis	<b>Win</b>
12.10	Alan Gower & Brian Langley	<b>Win</b>	Dave Lodge & Tom Bailey	
12.18	Ken Tompsett John Hyslop		John Jago & Alf Bickham	<b>Win</b>
12.26	Tom Oliver & Bob Foster	<b>Win</b>	Ian McNeill & Garry Hann	
12.34	Richard Ruffle & Harvey Smith	<b>Win</b>	Chris Harmes & Chris Shafer	
12.42	Chris Daughton & John Secrett		Chris Moquet & Nick Sorensen	<b>Win</b>
	<b>President's Total Wins</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Captain's Total Wins</b>	<b>15</b>



## Tee Reservations:

Known tee reservations for the period between 18 April and 31 May are as follows:

Day	Date	Event	Tee Reserved from	Tee Res'ved Until
Sat	18 Apr	Junior Stableford VW Mst Qual Medal		
Sun	19	Men's Queen Mother Cup Ladies 4bbb Colts v Hove	Normal Sunday arrangements  1.00	  1.45
Mon	20	VertiDraining		
Tues	21	Ladies 4bbb VertiDraining	8.45	11.00
Wed	22	VertiDraining		
Thurs	23	Men's Stableford VertiDraining		
Fri	24	Verti-Draining Purley Downs GC PIGS GS PIGS GS Purley Downs GC	9.30 10.30 1.30 2.30	10.00 11.00 2.00 3.00
Sat	25	Ladies Div 1 v Sweetwds	1.15	2.15
Sun	26	Jim Appleby Trophy Junior Stapleford Ladies 3 Princes Cup	Normal Sunday arrangements	
Mon	27			
Tues	28	Ladies 3 Princes Cup	8.45	11.00
Wed	29	E Sussex NFU GS	12.00	2.00
Thurs	30	Seniors v Lewes	9.50	10.30
Fri	1 May	Broken Spur	1.30	2.30
Sat	2	Londo Pride Winter Warmer Medal		
Sun	3	MSL v Copthorne Junior Stableford Ladies Poppy Mayne Medal	8.50 Otherwise normal Sunday arrangements	9.45
Mon	4	Bank holiday Greensomes	8.45	11.00
Tues	5	Ladies Poppy Mayne Medal Royal British Legion GS	8.45 12.30	11.00 2.00
Wed	6	Vets Stableford Men's Stableford		
Thurs	7	Sussex Police GS	9.30	11.00
Fri	8	Vets v Crowborough Seniors Winter League Finals	8.30  11.50	9.30  1.30
Sat	9	PAV Trophy v HHGC PAV Trophy v HHGC Junior Stableford Men's Stableford	8.45 1.30	9.45 2.45
Sun	10	Chris White Trophy Ladies Leatham Cup S/ford	Course Closed for most of the day	

## Tee Reservations (Continuation)

Mon	11	Barry Adams GS Ladies Div 2 v Willingdon	10.30 12.00	11.15 1.00
Tues	12	Ladies Leatham Cup S/ford	8.45	11.00
Wed	13	Men's Medal		
Thurs	14	Gateway House GS Ladies Morrice 4s	10.00 4.15	11.15 4.30
Fri	15	BIGS GS BIGGA Sussex Comp BIGS GS	9.30 11.00 2.45	10.15 1.00 3.30
Sat	16	Pyecombe Open	Course Closed for most of the day	
Sun	17	Men's Stableford Ladies EWGA Medal Junior Medal Mixed Match v Ifield	Normal Sunday arrangements  12.50	  2.00
Mon	18	Vets Dance Trophy	8.30	10.00
Tues	19	Ladies EWGA Medal (Spring Meeting)	8.45 1.00	11.00 3.00
Wed	20	Stableford		
Thurs	21	Vets Team Invitation	Course Closed until.....	1.30
Fri	22	Sussex Ladies v Sussex Men Ladies Div2 v Rye Sussex Ladies v Sussex Men	9.15 12.00 2.15	10.00 1.00 3.15
Sat	23	Men's Cancer Research Stableford Junior Stableford Club v. Puttenham	  12.30	  1.30
Sun	24	Men's Medal Ladies Stableford (Gell Wooley)	Normal Sunday arrangements	
Mon	25	Captain's Charity Shotgun	Course Closed	
Tues	26	Ladies Stableford (Gel Woolley) Junior Stableford	8.45	11.00
Wed	27			
Thurs	28	Pyecombe Juniors Open	11.00	2.00
Fri	29	Hill Barns Seniors GS Ladies Div 1 v Worthing	9.30 1.15	10.30 2.15
Sat	30	Men's Medal Junior Stableford		
Sun	31	Ladies President's Trophy  Juniors' Langmead Trophy Qualifier	Normal Sunday arrangements  1.00	  3.00

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