



# Ups & Downs

## Pyecombe G C

# Newsletter

September / October 2009

Editor Alf Bickham

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Well, this is my final fling and soon you will be welcoming Jim Dossetter at his Drive-In on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The sign-up sheet should be posted by the time you read this so please join in and make it a memorable day. I'm sure that Jim will be a great Captain and I am indebted to him for all of his support over the past year as I am to the retiring Lady Captain Bronwynne Morley.



**Jim Dossetter**

You will all know that Peter Gavin is Jim's nomination for Vice Captain and he received the full support of the Captains Committee at our October meeting. Peter, you have a busy but rewarding 2 years ahead and I wish enjoyment and success for you, the new Lady Captain, Joanna Greenstreet and the new Lady Vice-Captain, Carol Crothers.

There are many, many people that I need to thank for their help including all of the Pyecombe staff, office, catering and greens who have been just exceptional. There is just too much to say in this article so I intend to speak with them all or mention them in my final words at the Annual Dinner and at the AGM.

Some members deserve special mention.

The best supporters of the men's matches are George Eves (who turned out 15 times – one more than me), Jim Dossetter and Neil .....

Beard Neilson(14 each) closely followed by Dave Schwartz and Tom Knight (11 each). Thanks guys, your support has been outstanding.

Someone who also works very hard for all of us and rarely receives thanks but has steered the club with a steady hand is our Chairman, David Brown. Thank you David. I've appreciated your advice and that we have been able to sit down and chat through a number of things when disagreeing. It has been much appreciated. Other members of the Management Committee have also worked extremely hard so my special thanks go to Richard Plummer (retiring as Head of Green after 9 years of dedication to the club), Bob Watson (Head of House), Brian Chasser (Treasurer).

A very special thanks goes to Jo Galway who, on her gruelling charity swim, not only raised £685 for the Sarah Matheson Trust but unbeknownst to me until recently £487 for my Captains charity. Jo, you are great. Thank you.



**Jo Galway**

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

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

Finally, thank you to all the members of Pyecombe Golf Club for your support and understanding and in many cases great companionship. In the main Pyecombe has very warm-hearted and friendly members and it has been a privilege to be Captain. Thank you.

### **Golf**

In the MSL we avoided both the Wooden Spoon and the Chimp and hosted a great summer finals day. There were many compliments about the condition of the course and the quality of the catering and organisation on the day.

At the Captain/Professional Challenge Finals Day, Lew Smith and Phil Hubble, the winning pair over the season, were presented with their prizes. On the day, Paul Corney won the singles and Bob Foster and George Eves the pairs competition (a Vegas Stableford where – one score is multiplied by the other, e.g. a par and birdie equates to  $2 \times 3 = 6$  and a par and no score =  $2 \times 0 = 0$ , it is possible therefore to make a high score or nothing at each hole).

### **Pyecombe Pitcher**

I am delighted to report that, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November, the Pyecombe team, captained by Alan Davey, in this scratch pairs better-ball medal competition narrowly won the final against Littlehampton in the most awful conditions at East Sussex National. 5 pairs from each team played better ball medal to determine the result. As the match finished 2.5 points each, the total medal score from all ....

5 pairs was the deciding factor, with a tense last match, last green, final putt finally seeing Pyecombe triumphant by 2 shots. A special mention here goes to Ritchie Farmer who single-handedly (due to his partner retiring unfit) managed to claw back a 4 shot deficit on the back nine to lose by only 1 shot.

More details will be found on the Captain's board.

### **Social**

As I write, the Annual Dinner & Dance on 7<sup>th</sup> November is rapidly approaching and I am looking forward to it. It promises to be a great evening with around 100 attending.

Don't forget to sign up for the Xmas Party (Dec 11<sup>th</sup>) - New Years Eve (guess when?) promises to be another great night with live entertainment – look out for the notices.

### **Prize Presentation – 11<sup>th</sup> December**

The prize presentation is on 11<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6:30pm. Please be there to either receive trophies or to support the winners. You'll be welcome to just attend the Prize Presentation or to sign up and stay on for the Xmas Party – a separate event.

With Christmas only 7 weeks away I wish you all a relaxing and happy holiday.

That's it from me.

*Michael Price*

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## **LADIES SECTION**

I can't believe my year has come to end! It has been very enjoyable, and I hope Mike has enjoyed his year as well.

I am keeping this missive quite brief as I am saving all my "thank yous", etc. for our Ladies AGM on November 20. However, I thought for my last report, I would like mention the non-golfing achievements of Margaret Wilding. Margaret is a Masters Swimmer (having won a Bronze Medal at the 1956 Olympics) and entered the European Masters Swimming Championships recently held in Cadiz and she won her specialist event, the backstroke, breaking the European Record at the same time. She was also third in the Freestyle Event of her category. Then just a couple of weekends ago she entered the National Masters Short Course Championships held in Sheffield. In all she won three Gold and two Silver medals and achieved a World Record for the 50m Backstroke (70-74 year olds). She took .4 secs off the old world record and 1.6 secs off the European and British records (which she held). Many congratulations Margaret.

Finally, Good Luck Joanna 2009/2010.

*Bron Morley*

## Further Ladies News Reported in the Press

### PGC Ladies Autumn meeting (15th Aug)

The Ladies of Pyecombe were once again unlucky with the weather, it rained for most of the morning and as it hadn't improved by the time the afternoon round was to be played it was decided to abandon it and just count the morning round.

#### Scratch

1st Aileen Greenfield	74
2nd Alison Vermes	79
3rd Sarah Godfrey	89

#### Handicap

1st Alison Vermes	79-7=72.
2nd Aileen Greenfield	74-0=74
3rd Carol Kemp	103-26=77

### Molly Keet Trophy,.

20 Mixed couples played for the Molly Keet Trophy on Monday 31st August, the best day of the Bank Holiday weekend. The weather was nice and sunny and not too windy so the scoring was a little easier than it had recently been. The best three scores were those of couples:

1st Angie Bainbridge & Dave Schwartz with	44pts
2nd Jan Brittin & George Eves with	43pts
3rd Joanna Greenstreet & Mike Green	40pts.

### Tuesday 8th September

#### Div 1

1st Joanna Greenstreet 43pts

### EWGA Trust Stableford

#### Div 2

1st Joyce Holland 42pts  
2nd Patricia Dossetter 38pts  
3rd Anne Cook 37pts

#### Div 3

1st Diane Mackley 36pts  
2nd Jenny Mason 31pts

### Sunday 13th September.

### EWGA Medal

1st Bronwyn Morley 92-22=70.  
2nd Sarah Godfrey 88-11=77.

### Ladies' Div A at Seaford GC

The Sussex Ladies' Division A competition, for players under 15 handicap, was held at Seaford Golf Club on 23rd September. Some superb scores were returned by the elite field in benign conditions.

Winner of the individual medal was Karen Sykes of Worthing with a gross 71. Karen pronounced the Blatchington greens to be "fantastic". In second place with gross 74 was Chelsea Masters of Highwoods, aged 18, h'cap 4, just pipping Aileen Greenfield of Pyecombe on countback.



L/R: in matching kit

Karen Sykes and Aileen Greenfield



The afternoon 11-hole foursomes competition was won by Jo Galway (h'cap 3, Pyecombe) and Hannah Ralph (h'cap +2, aged 21, Cowdray Park) with 26 points. Runners-up were Chelsea Masters (Highwoods) and the very promising Hope Beland, aged 13, h'cap 6, of Royal Eastbourne. In third place, pipped on countback and also with 24 points, were Karen Sykes and Aileen Greenfield.

Pictured: Jo Galway (L) and Hannah Ralph, winners of the foursomes event.

## The President reflects

Another year is drawing to a close and once again we are becoming accustomed to the long dark evenings. It has been quite an eventful year on all fronts. Apart from commendable performances on the golf course by both the men and ladies (which I know will be covered by the Captain in his report), we have said farewell to Chris White our Professional for over 40 years (although he stays with us as an honorary member) and welcomed in his stead Jason Bowen, who in a short time seems to have settled in very well. His teaching lessons are proving very popular, with a number of members telling me that he has improved their game no end.

It has been very challenging for all golf clubs in the current difficult financial climate. We are, however, fortunate to have the services of very dedicated and responsible officers and committee members who try and keep matters, including the three big capital projects that were approved at the EGM last June, on an even keel. In addition, the Club has been quite innovative in a number of ways to provide extra value and increase membership. Our course continues to be well managed and has attracted numerous plaudits from visitors. Also, the revised catering arrangements have been well received.

I would like to add my congratulations to the many that Margaret Wilding, our former Olympian, has received, not only for her gold in the 50 metres Backstroke at the European Seniors in Spain recently, but also for breaking the World record for her age group in the ASA Senior Age Group Championships in Sheffield. Also, on matters aquatic, the first Great Scottish Swim was staged recently, and you have to admire Jo Galway's effort in braving the icy waters of Loch Strathclyde to raise nearly £1200 for charity in memory of her Aunt Nancy who died earlier this year. Well done to both ladies!



**Margaret Wilding**

Perhaps I should mention the Autumn Foxbridge GC Seniors Team event held on 9th September 2009. Pyecombe won the inaugural competition in 1996 and have competed every year since. This year, represented by Ken Barnard, Colin Prior and some chap with an unpronounceable name, they won again making it 5 times in all, apart from several runners up and third places. We seem to have an affinity for the course!

Lastly, as this is likely to be the last edition of U & D for 2009, and with the AGM approaching, may I say well done to all the respective Captains who will shortly be ending their year. Particular thanks go to Club Captain Mike, who, despite his 'day job,' has worked very hard and conscientiously, and also, to Lady Captain Bron, who has brought her very own inimitable sense of humour to proceedings!

***Reg Auchterlonie***

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## **Other Notable Achievements by PGC Members'**

**Colin & Annie Prior** were the overall winners with a score of 38 points in the Rowlands Castle Mixed Open on the 6th September 2009.

In the National over 80s Tournament held at Leatherhead Golf Club, **Ken Barnard** won third prize overall.

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## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

### **Recent Trading**

Our trading year to end September finished on a high. With glorious weather and a full golfing and social programme the figures for visitor and catering income were well above last year and provided us with a surplus which made the year as a whole very respectable. Members and visitors alike gave us positive feedback on the standard of our Course and our catering, which is very gratifying.

I have just signed off our annual Accounts and the overall result of a very small deficit in what by any standards has been one of the most difficult years in living memory is I think pretty satisfactory. More detail will be sent out very soon with the AGM papers.

### **Subscriptions**

Over 300 members renewed their subs by the due date and so earned the £15 credit on their swipe card account. It's good to know that our members recognise a good deal when they see one! As a result the advanced subscriptions figure in the year end Balance Sheet is well ahead of last year.

Of course we do not know the final subscription figure because in accordance with the present Club Rules, subscriptions can be renewed at any time up to the date of the AGM without members losing their playing rights. This factor causes your management Committee a serious headache because it means that nearly a quarter of the year has passed without certainty as to the figure representing some 85% of our total income.

Therefore there will be a proposal at the coming AGM to bring forward the final payment date to 1<sup>st</sup> November, so as to improve the situation in future years. After all it's your Club and in your interests that your Management Committee can plan the Club's affairs in an efficient manner.

### **Capital Projects.**

The current status of the 3 major projects is as follows:

- Pro Shop--- we have placed the contract with local builder Len Eade and work is about to begin, with a targeted completion of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.
- Energy Project--- there has been a delay due to late advice that our electricity supply needs to be upgraded to meet the requirements of the new system. Unfortunately it is taking an inordinate amount of time to obtain a firm quotation from EDF to achieve this. Hopefully a start can be achieved early in the New Year.
- GreenKeepers Shed extension---Planning application documentation is about to be sent off to MSDC.

### **Trees**

Management Committee has agreed to fell the two large ash trees which are located very close to the Club house on the car park side, and which cause considerable shading. This work will be carried out soon. Ash is one of the best woods for burning and so the Clubhouse open fire should be well supplied.

### **Winter Conditions**

Winter conditions are now upon us and I am aware of one or two falls on the slopes of the Course. Please take extra care and consider fitting new spikes in your golf shoes.

*David Brown*



# Pyecombe Golf Club

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## FROM THE OFFICE

### The Club's Website:

If you have logged-on to [www.pyecombegolfclub.com](http://www.pyecombegolfclub.com) recently you will have noticed the changes that have been made to the site. Thanks to member, Barry Wood, and his wife Helen and to my assistant, Jo Galway, for the hours and hours of effort that they have put in on the re-design.

There is now a dedicated members section to the site which requires user-name and log-in password details to access. Members are invited to apply to the Office either in person or by email for their individual specific details.

Jo Galway will be largely responsible for keeping the website up-to-date, so Team Captains please keep feeding results and interesting information to her on a prompt and regular basis. Members are also invited to let Jo have articles of note for inclusion on the site.

### Membership Benefits:

The reciprocal golf arrangements made with Ham Manor; Ifield; Tyrrells Wood and Purley Downs Golf Clubs have proved very popular and to date nearly 100 of our members have enjoyed a warm welcome when visiting our partner clubs. We have also received a steady flow of visitors and mutual benefits to participating clubs have ensued. The Club's Management Committee is trying to expand the arrangements to a couple more clubs and is also considering whether discounts/corporate membership can be secured for play at popular resort locations, both abroad and within the UK. Watch this space!!

In previous editions of Ups & Downs, David has noted the Club's intentions to make golfing insurance cover available free to all Club members. I can now inform members that cover has been contracted with Golfguard Ltd that insures members against

- a) **personal liability due to a third party bodily injury up to £5mn and**
- b) **personal accident (death; loss of limbs or sight; permanent total disablement) up to £15k (£4k for Juniors) whilst playing golf at any recognised Golf Club in the UK. The personal accident cover extends to playing golf abroad for up to 120 days in the year.**

Members can obtain copies of the full terms and conditions of the cover from the Office.

### Handicaps – Central Database

As from 1 January 2010, the English Golf Union has mandated that all Club handicap details should be held on a central database managed on behalf of the EGU. Thereafter, any registered golf club in England will be able to use the database to validate visitor players' handicaps subject to the player being able to provide appropriate log-in data.

Pyecombe has already registered with the EGU and, accordingly, our men members can forthwith obtain their individual **lifetime log-in details from the ProShop**. Please call in to see Jason or Michael.

(Continued on next page)

## **FROM THE OFFICE** (Continuation)

### **Handicaps – Central Database** (Continued)

Lady members are expected to have a similar facility via the EWGU next year and Scottish, Welsh and Irish clubs are understood to be considering linking with the EGU site in the near future.

### **Food and Beverage**

May I remind members that the catering staff will be ready to serve breakfast specials from 8am-11.00am on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. For this service to become a permanent arrangement we do need to cover staff costs so please do your best to support the initiative during the trial period which will run through to the new year at least.

We have several bookings over the winter months for private parties, mostly for members and their guests but also for external club annual dinners etc. We are looking to expand this element of the Club's catering services and members are thus encouraged to book functions or to introduce appropriate business to the Club. A thank you drink or two at the bar has been known to be offered!!

Finally, do watch out for notices advertising Sunday Lunches at the Club; we will be re-launching this service very shortly.

### **Capital Projects: Probable Disruption**

As David mentions in his article, work on the ProShop is due to start shortly; in fact on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November! The contractors will require a part of the car park by the shop down towards the 1<sup>st</sup> tee to be cordoned off for their materials and to cover health and safety requirements. There will be some inconvenience and, on occasions, shortage of parking space and it would be very helpful, therefore, if over the next 3-4 months members could do their best to share transport to/from the Club to keep the negative impact of the project work as low as possible. Thanks.

Also, on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, the tree-felling mentioned by the Chairman will take place. That will further limit the parking space available that day as the whole of the lower area from the garage down to the 1<sup>st</sup> tee will be out-of-use. Again, many thanks in anticipation of your understanding/patience that day.

### **Tee Reservations:**

Known tee reservations for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November – 31<sup>st</sup> December are tabulated at the rear of this newsletter.

*John Wilkinson* Managing Secretary

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## **Rotary Club Visits Pyecombe GC**

### **Local Sweeney Takes Charge of Proceedings and The Trophy Into Custody**

Local Police Officer Pat Sweeney won the main Trophy of the Day at the Charity Golf Day organised by the Rotary Clubs of Burgess Hill & District and Haywards Heath, held at Pyecombe Golf Club on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

The sum of £1150 was raised for charity as ten teams from Godalming, West Worthing, Titsey, Pyecombe, Singing Hills, Scaynes Hill, and representatives of Mid Sussex Police, as well as the home clubs of Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath, all of whom battled for honours.

The main event was the John Beacon Memorial Trophy; who was a former member of both the Rotary Club and Pyecombe Golf Club. This was won in style with 42 points on a pleasant but blustery day on the downland course. The Rotary Trophy was won by Peter Jenkin from the West Worthing Rotary Club, whose Team also finished first.

Pyecombe player Mary Barnard had a fine round with 36 points, off a 17 handicap, and won the Best Lady prize.

Our grateful thanks go to Pyecombe Golf Club in particular, and to the participants, the Golf Clubs of Haywards Heath, Mid Sussex, Hassocks, The Thatched Inn, Watsons, Jeremy's Restaurant, Plumpton Race Course, and Grant Barnet for their generous sponsorship.

*Mike Greenfield* Rotary Club

## **PYECOMBE SENIORS' CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

Pyecombe seniors' club championship was held at Pyecombe GC on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009. A field of 39 Senior Members contested the Championship in dry but windy conditions. The course however, was in good condition and some competitors had good scores. There were 5 members on 79, so a 5 ball sudden death playoff had to be run to decide the winner. A 5 ball play off must have been unique in the 115 year history of Pyecombe golf club. Alan Davey, last years Champion, again won by obtaining a birdie on the first play off hole. This success earned Alan the championship best gross score trophy, the "Slater Quaiche". The trophy for the best handicap score, the "Raison Cup", was won by Mike Sexton. The leading scores are given below.



**L/R: Alan Davey receives trophy from Alan Gower**

**Dave Sexton receives the Raison Cup**

### **Best Scratch Scores**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Alan Davey	79 ocb
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Alan Smith	79 ocb
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mick Green	79 ocb
4 <sup>th</sup>	Dave Hackett	79 ocb
5 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Coburn	79 ocb

### **Best Handicap Scores**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mike Sexton	84-15 = 69
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Jefferson	83-13 = 70 ocb
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Peter Coburn	79- 9 = 70

(ocb from Mike Cousins)

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

Pyecombe Seniors have commenced playing the 2009/2010 Seniors winter league matches. Their first opponent was the team of Seaford Head GC with the opening games played at home on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October. The away leg at Seaford Head was played on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. The results of the matches are recorded below together with PGC player's names.

### **Home**

George Eves & Neil Beard-Neilson	won 2 up
Ken White & John Jefferson	won 3-2
Martin Sutcliffe & Andy Belenkin	won 3-2
Barry Wood & Jim McGhie	won 5-4
Alan Smith Capt & Mick Green	walkover

### **Away**

George Eves & Neil Beard-Neilson	lost 3-2
Ted Whitbourn & Brian Langley	won 2-1
Alan Smith Capt & Stan Green	halved
Barry Wood & Peter Gavin	won 2-1
Mick Green & Andy Belenkin	lost 2 down

With a 5-0 home win and a halved away match 2 ½ to 2 ½ Pyecombe won 7 ½ points to 2 ½. This was a very good result to start the winter campaign especially as we usually lose badly at Seaford Head.

***Alan Gower***

Pyecombe Seniors Captain

## VETS SECTION

I'm writing this as we approach the Vets AGM and the end of a very memorable year in my life. Can it get better? During October we enjoyed a particularly warm and sunny day, accompanied by the Ladies of Pyecombe in our annual Greensomes competition won by Phil Poulter and Jenny Mason with 40 points.

On 2nd November the Ron Clark Funday provided yet another glorious and eventful day; we discovered parts of our course rarely visited as we attempted to travel cross-country. Whoever decided that the 3rd tee to the 4th green is one of the easiest holes might listen carefully to our adventures!

Consideration of the Vets Captain as a permanent member of the Club Captain's Committee will take place at the Vets AGM and then the main Club Committee.

I have attended seven meetings as an observer and believe the added means of communication and official representation will be of some benefit to both the Vets and PGC.

Without doubt, our section is a very important part of the Club community and we are seen to be active in many areas.

Match results during September were as follows:-

HOME	Seaford Blatchington	6.5 - 1.5
AWAY	Haywards Heath	3 - 5
	Lewes	2.5 - 5.5
	Nevill	5 - 3

As usual, results followed a fairly regular pattern of home wins and away losses. However, we were beaten at home by Crowborough, Mannings Heath and Cowdray Park albeit in closely fought games but we managed to win at Seaford and The Nevill.

Eight of our players who were involved in at least 10 matches each, contributed success rates of approx. 70%. Ken Tompsett, Peter Gavin and Ray Abraham, Graham Tate, Rex Perham, David Brown and Stan Green should be commended for their efforts. Stan achieved 7 wins, 2 draws and lost only once. I would like to wish Peter Gavin even more success in his new roles.

In addition, all my best wishes go to Richard Cottell for 2010. We created a splendid partnership during the Capt./V.Capt Challenges and enjoyed many happy and competitive games. Congratulations to the partnerships of David Brown & Chris Muschamp and Stan Green & Gordon Gosling who both beat us 3/2 and share the coveted malt whiskey.

Finally, my thanks go to Ted Chapman who is the backbone of our group. We have worked well together for the benefit of all members and, we hope, will continue to do so.



L/R: Aubrey Watson (Vets Captain 2009)  
& Richard Cottell (Vets Captain 2010)

**Aubrey Watson**  
Vets Captain 2009

## **COURSE UPDATE**

The greens and the course are in a good condition with regular mowing of greens, fairways, banks etc continuing well into this autumn. David Stansfield, the course agronomist, inspected the course last month and was generally pleased with its condition, health and development, from his last visit. Topics discussed with him this time included the relatively weak growth of the meadow grass on the greens on occasions during the past summer, increasing the use of the main tees during the winter, and the sand in the new bunkers at the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>. His comments and recommendations are detailed in his full report that is available in the Members' Room in the Clubhouse.

### **Tees**

Winter tees are to be introduced shortly but as mentioned above, and as happened last year, the intention is to make more use of the main tees during the winter, and particularly for Club competitions. Main tees will, however, not be used if the ground conditions are unsuitable and/or the tee needs to be rested. Grass growth in the winter, particularly after Christmas, often ceases completely and then there is virtually no recovery of worn areas until growth restarts next spring. The longer-term programme to improve the tees' resistance to wear is now well underway with the recent hollow tining, seeding, fertilizer and top dressing treatments being the central part of our autumn and spring tee overhauls.

### **Other Course Items**

Other course items of report include the **introduction last Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November, of Preferred Lies**, the completed installation of the composite tee signs and new permanent marker discs denoting the respective yardage measurement points on all the tees. Other course items being planned for the next few weeks include replacing the pennants on the flags with the 3-colour (red, yellow, white) flag system indicating front, middle and back pin positions, and replacement ball washers and litter bins. Further bunker refurbishments are also being planned for this winter as well, and more immediately, pond clearance work is scheduled for the coming month.

### **Greenkeeper's Golf Success**

On the personnel front, congratulations are due for David Allen who won Category 3 on the second day of the National BIGGA Greenkeeper Championship held last month at Burnham & Berrow. His 10 on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole on Day 1 was his undoing as he finished overall just 3 strokes away from winning the Handicap Cup. Better luck next time, Dave.

### **Departing Comments**

This is my last Course Update as Head of Green as I am standing down at the AGM. I hope that the articles have kept members informed on what has been, or is about to be, carried out on the course and why the actions have been taken. I hope they have also conveyed the responsible and professional way that the course work here has been attended to. Maintaining a golf course in good condition is difficult enough but improving it each year has been, and I am sure will continue to be, the aim and achievement of everyone involved with the management of Pyecombe. I am very grateful to Simon and his team – Richard, Simon, Paulo and Dave –and their predecessors, for their excellent work, their enthusiasm and commitment, and for their support and very good company.

**Richard Plummer**  
Head of Green

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# JASON BOWEN

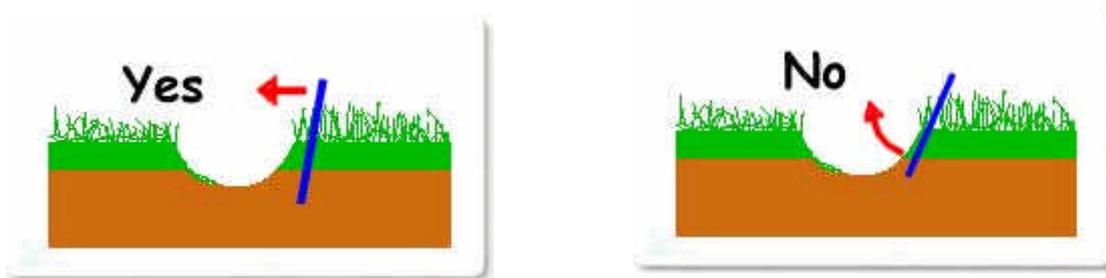
PGA PROFESSIONAL

By the time you read this, work will have started on the Pro shop extension with an anticipated completion date of around the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. If any members would like to come in and have a look at the plans, I have a copy in the Shop. There may be some degree of disruption, but we will be open as usual in some shape or form throughout this period.

Many of you will have started receiving emails on Club competitions, upcoming events and Pro shop news and special offers. I am hoping to build up a comprehensive database of all members so if you haven't received any emails from the Pro shop, please could you pop in and give us your details. It may be that we don't have an email address for you or we have the wrong one.

We had quite a successful open day on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. In total 23 people from outside the club came and had a go. Each session was arranged into 90 minute time slots and a number of members brought friends and family along. They all had a go at putting, chipping and hitting some long shots, (some longer than others!) then played around the 3 short practice holes next to the 18th and finished off by playing the old 18<sup>th</sup>. One boy holed out in 3 on his first attempt. I am hoping to have a number of offers on free introductory lessons in mid April next year so please let all your friends know so they don't miss out. I would love to get more beginners into golf and give the membership a good boost.

I'm sure that almost all of you are aware of the correct method for repairing a pitch mark that creates the least disruption to the grass roots. I thought I would just include these pictures that explain how to repair correctly.



Please pass this information on to everyone you play with so we can maintain the greens in as good a condition as possible.

Winter stock is now in the shop. I have a good supply of winter hats, winter gloves, jumpers, long sleeve shirts and wind tops to get everyone prepared for the months to come.

## Coaching Corner.

I'm going to look briefly at distance control with your wedges. Most of you have heard the length of swing compared to a clock face. I think that this is often misunderstood. I think the focus should be on the left arm position on the clock face.

For your pitches, you should set up square to the target with the ball position in the middle of your stance. On all pitches you should get the feeling of fully hinging the wrists and just varying the length of arm swing. On all pitches you should try and hold a full finish so as to ensure a gentle acceleration through the ball.

(Continued on next page)

## Jaon Bowen (Continuation)



Try practicing a 7.30 arm swing, a 9 o'clock arm swing and a 10.30 arm swing. (Always remember the full finish and to hinge on the backswing) Once you have practiced these swings and got a **smooth rhythm**, you will have 3 exact distances for the club in hand. Practice with your 3 wedges and that gives you 9 known yardages close to the green. Much better distance control.

**The picture shows a 9 o'clock arm swing position**

Happy golfing!!

*Jason Bowen*

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### Jo's Charity Raising Efforts

Jo Galway, 45, of Hove, has just raised £1172 single-handedly for charity.

Jo was motivated by the death of her beloved Aunt Nancy from MSA (multiple system atrophy), a progressive neurological disorder.

Jo selected the inaugural annual Great Scottish Swim, held in late August at Loch Strathclyde, as a focus for her fund-raising effort. Months of training in Sussex, both in swimming pools and in the sea, meant that the swimming itself was not much of a problem but the cold did get to her: it was 15°.

Said Jo, "My Auntie Nancy suffered a lot and in the end she donated her brain, so the least I could do was swim a mile in a freezing loch and get hypothermia!"

Jo, who plays golf off a 3 handicap at Pyecombe Golf Club and works as a secretary there, has donated £487 of her sponsorship money to the captain's charity (Alzheimer's) and £685 to the Sarah Matheson Trust which supports people living with MSA.

More information and pictures at:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Jo-Galway/>

## **COLTS SECTION**

I report below on matches played by Pyecombe 'Colts' teams since I last wrote in Ups & Downs in the May-June issue.

### **Dyke, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

Not a lot to report on this match, because the Dyke could not manage a team, so it was cancelled.

### **Inter Club, at Ifield, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

This was my first outing at an Inter Club competition and the way I played it could be my last. There were six teams, comprising of six players in each team, and the top five scores of each team counted.

After the first three scores were in, all six teams were quite close, but in the end two teams were level on points, which meant looking at the Captains scores. Mick Gillett from East Brighton had one less than Ham Manor's captain, so Costas Samothrakis took the trophy for Ham Manor. From the smile on his face, it looked as if he had 52 teeth. The final scores were:

Ham Manor 157	East Brighton 157	Cottesmore 153
Dyke 152	Pyecombe 149	Ifield 143

Mike Korol from Ifield took the individual win with 42 points, and Pyecombe's very own Peter Ferns again had a nearest the pin trophy. I think he toe-punts the ball, a trick he learnt from Cahill?

### **East Brighton, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

We managed to field a full team, and didn't lose any to the 'Pride March' in Brighton. I was concerned that Ian Semel might wear his pink outfit. One player who lives in Burgess Hill decided to avoid going through the centre of Brighton, and approach from the rear.

A week before the game I phoned Mick Gillett, and he told me he only had eight players, giving me a false sense of security that we might retain the Bill Beard trophy. That's if we could find it? Low and behold, once Alan Carter mentioned the cost and implications of replacing it, it turns up. Thanks to Martin Stoner.

On the day we managed a three all draw, with Ian Semel/Gary Hann doing extremely well having to give eight shots away, and halving their match. Robin Probert/Brian Harris, playing this course for the first time, also halving. Two winning matches were PhillipTidbury/Mark Allen and Bob Foster/Pete Fray.

Having lost the home match 4-2, we handed over the trophy to Mike Gillett the following Saturday, when he was a guest at Gala day.

### **Cottesmore, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

As with the away match at Cottesmore we started with a cooked breakfast, before play. The winning matches were John Chapman/Harvey Smith 4/3, Gary Hann/Cahel Logan by 1, and Robin Probert/Alan Carter 2/1. Gary Hann chipped in on the 18th to win their match, and we won 3-2, so having lost 3-2 at Cottesmore it finished as an honourable tie.

### **Ifield, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

Unusually we had a late start, at 1 o'clock, but the weather was glorious and their course was in excellent condition. We finished losing the match two and a half to three and a half, with wins coming from Phil Tidbury/Harvey Smith 2/1, Ken Tompsett 4/3 and the half from Robin Probert/Brian Harris. Harvey told me that on the 16<sup>th</sup>, one of the Ifield players was on the green for two and he was down for five. When it came to the second 3 foot putt, Harvey said, 'No pressure', and the look on the Ifield players face was a treat, needless to say he missed.

(Continued on next page)

**COLTS SECTION** (Continued)  
**Ifield, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

Having lost the away match by three and a half to two and a half, we were up against it, but we rallied to win three and a half to two and a half, therefore drawing the two games, and retaining the 'Pyefield Trophy'. Wins were had by Alf Bickham/Brian Harris 2/1, Alan Carter/Pete Fray 3/2, Ian Semel/Harvey Smith by 1, having been 4 shots ahead at one stage. The half was made by Ken Tompsett/Peter Ferns. Most noticeable was the fact that Pete Ferns didn't get a nearest the pin for two matches.



**L/R: Dil Sandhu (Ifield Capt) congratulates Peter Fray (Pyecombe Capt) Who holds the Pyefield Trophy**

**Results for the year were:**

East Brighton	Home	lost 4-2	Away	halved 3-3
Cottesmore	Home	won 3-3	Away	lost 3-2
The Dyke	Home	Cancelled	Away	lost 4-2
Ham Manor	Home	won 4-1	Away	halved 2 ½ - 2 ½
Ifield	Home	won 3 ½ - 2 ½	Away	lost 2 ½ - 3 ½
West Hove	Home	won 3 ½ - 1 ½	Away	won 3-2

I was talking with Roy Jarvis and Tim Carter before a Sunday morning game. Tim had won the previous week's stableford with 39 points. When it was mentioned that to get his results from 'How did I do' he had to plug in a password; Roy very quickly said he knew a six letter word he could use, 'bandit'.

The Ifield match at home was the last match for the year, and I would like to thank all the players who took part in the matches, whether they won or lost. I had so much support from so many people it was a joy to be part of the Colts. Best wishes go to Alan Carter, who takes over the reins next year. Finally, having heard that Gary Hann has had a bad knee accident, we all hope he recovers soon.

***Peter Fray***  
 Colts Captain 2009



**Peter Fray hands over Captaincy to Alan Carter (on left)**

## November Tee Reservations

Date	Day	Event	Time	Venue	Type
01 Nov	Sun	MSWL v Haywards Heath (confirmed)	8.50-9.45 am	HOME/AWAY	MSL
01 Nov	Sun	Ladies EWGA Medal (Q)	-	HOME	Ladies
01 Nov	Sun	Medal	-	HOME	Mens
02 Nov	Mon	Vets Ron Clark Funday	8-10 am	HOME	Vets
03 Nov	Tue	Ladies EWGA Medal (Q)	8.45-11 am	HOME	Ladies
04 Nov	Wed	Stableford	-	HOME	Mens
06 Nov	Fri	Vets AGM & Competition	7.30-9.30 am	HOME	Vets
07 Nov	Sat	Pyecombe Ball	-	SOCIAL	Social
08 Nov	Sun	Junior Stableford	-	HOME	Juniors
08 Nov	Sun	Ladies Flag Competition (NQ)	-	HOME	Ladies
08 Nov	Sun	Dinner Plate - Cleary Challenge Plate	10.30-11.30 am	HOME	Mixed
09 Nov	Mon	Seniors v Peacehaven (confirmed)	9.50-10.30 am	HOME	Seniors
10 Nov	Tue	Ladies Flag Competition (NQ)	8.45-11 am	HOME	Ladies
11 Nov	Wed	Stableford	-	HOME	Mens
13 Nov	Fri	Vets Annual Dinner	Evening	HOME	Vets
14 Nov	Sat	Junior Stableford	-	HOME	Juniors
14 Nov	Sat	Private Party	7.30 pm -1 am	HOME	Private
15 Nov	Sun	Stableford	-	HOME	Mens
15 Nov	Sun	Ladies Stableford (Q)	-	HOME	Ladies
16 Nov	Mon	University of Surrey Committe Room	1.30-4.30 pm	HOME	Committee
16 Nov	Mon	Seniors v Willingdon (confirmed)	9.50-10.30 am	HOME	Seniors
17 Nov	Tue	Ladies Stableford (Q)	8.45-11 am	HOME	Ladies
18 Nov	Wed	Stableford	-	HOME	Mens
18 Nov	Wed	Private Lunch	12 noon	HOME	Private
20 Nov	Fri	Ladies AGM	2pm	HOME	Ladies
21 Nov	Sat	Club AGM	7pm	HOME	Social
21 Nov	Sat	Junior Stableford	-	HOME	Juniors
22 Nov	Sun	Captains Drive In	c/closed until 2pm	HOME	Mixed
24 Nov	Tue	Ladies Match Play (Low-High)	8.45-11 am	HOME	Ladies
24 Nov	Tue	13th Golfing Society (committee room)	4.00 p.m.	HOME	Committee
25 Nov	Wed	Lamb GS (Provisional)	10.00 - 10.45	HOME	Society
27 Nov	Fri	Cuckfield GS	10.30-11.30 am	HOME	Society
29 Nov	Sun	Junior Stableford	-	HOME	Juniors
29 Nov	Sun	Turkey Trott	-	HOME	Mixed

## December Tee Reservations

Date	Day	Event	Time	Venue	Type
01 Dec	Tue	Lynn Flask Eclectic Starts	-	HOME	Mens
01 Dec	Tue	Ladies Stableford (Q)	8.45-11 am	HOME	Ladies
02 Dec	Wed	Stableford	-	HOME	Mens
02 Dec	Wed	Heffle GS	11-12 noon	HOME	Society
03 Dec	Thu	Lazy Bees Christmas Lunch	12.15 for 1.00 p.m.	HOME	Private
04 Dec	Fri	Broken Spur	10.30-11.30	HOME	Broken Spu
05 Dec	Sat	Junior Stableford	-	HOME	Juniors
06 Dec	Sun	Christmas Scramble	c/closed until 2pm	HOME	Mixed
07 Dec	Mon	Private Lunch (G Webb)	1.00	HOME	Private
07 Dec	Mon	Seniors v Eastbourne Downs (confirmed)	9.50-10.30 am	HOME	Seniors
08 Dec	Tue	Ladies Match Play (Low-High)	8.45-11 am	HOME	Ladies
09 Dec	Wed	13th Golf Society	9.15-11.45 am	HOME	Society
11 Dec	Fri	Prize Presentation	6.30 pm	HOME	Social
11 Dec	Fri	Christmas Party	7.30 pm	HOME	Social
11 Dec	Fri	Partridge GS	10-11 am	HOME	Society
13 Dec	Sun	Junior Stableford	-	HOME	Juniors
13 Dec	Sun	Ladies Xmas 4somes	-	HOME	Ladies
13 Dec	Sun	Guide Dogs Ch S'ford (1 card)	-	HOME	Mixed
14 Dec	Mon	Vets Xmas Comp & Lunch	8.30-10.00 am	HOME	Vets
15 Dec	Tue	Ladies Xmas 4somes	8.45-11 am	HOME	Ladies
16 Dec	Wed	Stableford	-	HOME	Mens
18 Dec	Fri	Saturday Group Dinner	7.30pm	HOME	Private
18 Dec	Fri	Shaft Shavers GS	9.30-10.30	HOME	Society
19 Dec	Sat	Norman Plummer Shield	-	HOME	Mixed
20 Dec	Sun	Ladies' Roll Up	-	HOME	Ladies
22 Dec	Tue	Ladies' Roll Up	8.45-11 am	HOME	Ladies
24 Dec	Thu	Xmas Eve Competition		HOME	Mixed
26 Dec	Sat	Heath Salver Stableford	-	HOME	Mixed
27 Dec	Sun	Ladies' Roll Up	-	HOME	Ladies
29 Dec	Tue	Ladies' Roll Up		HOME	Ladies
31 Dec	Thu	New Years Eve Party	8pm	HOME	SOCIAL