



# Ups & Downs

## Pyecombe G C

# Newsletter

July / August 2012

No. 126

Editor Alf Bickham

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Luckily the weather during the last two months did improve somewhat and I have been very fortunate in that all the golf I have played has not been affected by the weather. I hope you have been as fortunate in your games.

The highlight of my year came at the beginning of August with Gala Day and Captain's Day, both the Chris White Trophy and the Charlie Beamish Trophy were very well supported and I must thank everyone who generously contributed by participating in the golf, the chipping and putting competitions, the tombola and especially in the beat the pro, on the 8<sup>th</sup> Captain's Day, where Michael Stoner raised over £560 to the total of over £1200 of the Help for Heroes Charity. It is a big THANK YOU to Michael, the Staff, my family, all those other people who helped make the weekend a great success and to you the members and your guests for your participation. Congratulations to the Gala Day, Chris White Trophy winners, Team Bainbridge. Angie Bainbridge, Jan Brittin, Bob Foster and guest Gene Myers, and to the Captain's Day, Charlie Beamish Trophy, winner David Jaggar.

There have been other successes, internally Bob Foster won the SCGU Medal, Mike F Price won the Broken Spur Stableford, Paul Corny and Barry Wood won the Combination

Cups. In the Mixed Competitions Ken and Mary Barnard won the Sergeants Challenge and Phil Hubble and Angie Bainbridge won the Molly Keet Trophy. In the Open Competitions, the Mixed Open was won by Allan Gormley and Tessa Stockwell from Cowdray Park, the Mixed Team Rumble was won by Neil and Bea Janes and their guests from Seaford, Andrew and Christine Jesty. In the Men's Over 50's Invitation yours truly and my guest, Derek May, from Haywards Heath, were just beaten into second place by winners George Eves and his guest from Royal Eastbourne, Frank Horner. Congratulations to all the winners.

There was, also, Pyecombe success in the MSL Friendship Bowl, played at Haywards Heath, where Vice Captains', Nick Lee and Irene Silander, were individual winners. The Pyecombe Team finished in the top three beating both Worthing and Copthorne. The Pyecombe Team retained the Jack Squirrel Trophy in a very tight match against Mannings Heath.

We have, also, had success in the Mid Sussex League beating Worthing both at home and away, probably one of the first times we have ever beaten them. We also had a good result with Copthorne, halving the Match.

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### 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

## **CAPTAINS REPORT** (Continued)

Both the Men's and Mixed Teams have fared well in their respective matches but it is becoming increasingly difficult to get enough players to represent the Club in these matches. I am very grateful to the loyal core of members that always put their names down for the matches but I would like to see more names going down on the team sheets for the remaining matches this year. It is good to be representing your Club in matches against other clubs, it is good fun, you play some good courses and you meet some very nice people. They are always competitive but they are played in a fun and social atmosphere.

As my Year as your captain draws to a close there is one major Event that everyone can enjoy The Annual Pyecombe Ball at Wickwoods Country Club on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October, the details are displayed on the Captain's Board. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

In what remains of the season enjoy your golf and play well.

*David Schwartz*

### **A Very Warm Welcome to Pyecombe Golf Club**

During July and August I have welcomed the following new members:-

Patrick Manvell,

Ian Pinder and

John Broomhead

If you meet them on the Course or in the Clubhouse I am sure you will make them most welcome. I hope they will enjoy our Course and facilities for a very long time.

**David Schwartz**

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## **LADIES SECTION**

July and August got off to a good start with the Ladies' Championship on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. Remarkably the weather was lovely, for a Tuesday, but I think some of the Ladies found it almost too hot. It was a truly remarkable Championship for Aileen as she achieved her 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive win. She took her first Championship crown at the age of 16. Well done Aileen.

The Ladies Open on the 7<sup>th</sup> August saw 84 Ladies taking part, from 25 different clubs. Reg Auchterlonie and Geoff Webb, kindly acted as starters for the day, and the whole day was well organised by Sandra Staynes. The winning pair came from The Nevill. It proved a very popular day, so much so, several Ladies have already booked for next year.

Our Annual Lady Day Cups away day, was held at Rookwoods Golf Club. I think everyone had a good time, and it didn't rain!! Lets hope for a good Autumn with plenty of fine golfing weather.

*Janice Hawes*  
Lady Captain

## ON THE COURSE – JULY / AUGUST

Since my last report we have had limited rough cutting which was received warmly by most member sections within the club. The scarring of the course lasted only a couple of weeks before returning to a more normal look. Wildflowers have been in abundance almost everywhere.

A big thank you to those members who helped on the first volunteer work party with the re-shelling of the ninth tee path, a great improvement, and also to the Ragwort pullers on both work party days, where the area around the eleventh green had become badly infested. Hopefully we will not now have a problem when the farmer comes to cut and remove the rough next month.

The main aeration works of the late summer have now taken place. The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> greens have had an additional Ecosol drill and fill treatment. This treatment minimises the risk of waterlogging and flooding. After top dressing this week they will hopefully return back to good playability. This aeration work is essential, allowing us to play our greens year round.

The greens of 2, 7, 8, 12 and 14 have also had Rescue treatment to kill off undesirable Poa Annu grasses, so they may look a little worse for wear as the Poa dies off and the fine grasses become established.

Winter tees are being cut regularly, some having been reseeded again as some of the first sowing didn't germinate.

I give an answer to enquiries made about the dilapidated steps to the 12<sup>th</sup> tee. It was decided at Green Committee last year to decommission these steps as they were very steep, in poor repair and deemed unnecessary. We have now roped off the area and will allow rough to grow up, thereby encouraging members to approach the tee from the flatter front area of the tee, this should eliminate the risk of slipping on the steep banks on the nearside of the tee. The old steps will be removed in winter works. I believe this will improve the visual look of this tee also.

Happy Golfing

*Gary Hann*  
Chair of Green

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## SENIORS

**Brighton & Eastbourne Seniors League** – Those members wishing to play this winter please add your name to the list on the **Seniors board**. Matches are informal but competitive with a maximum handicap allowance of 18.

*Neil.Beard-Neilson*

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## VETS SECTION

Match Results:

In the Vets matches so far, we have played 28 games of which 17 have been home games out of which we have recorded 13 wins and 4 losses. In the away games, totalling 11, the record is disastrous as we have lost all 11.

Our remaining matches are all away. It would be nice to win at least one away game, so here's hoping with everything crossed!!

*Martin Sutcliffe*  
Vets Captain

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## PGC Social Scene

As you read this the “Comedy Night” is done, as we print it isn’t. We sincerely hope those that attended were suitably amused.

July & August have had their usual array of meaningful & friendly club competition along with various society days, all helping to fill the clubhouse and create a great atmosphere. This was especially evident during the Gala & Captains Weekend.

Round 4 of the Champagne Supper Challenge was won by Mike Wilkins with 37 points on the night that the Sussex Cricket T20 team won through to a Cardiff Finals day (less said...). Round 5 with a rather paltry turnout of just 5 players on a beautiful summer evening was won by the much in form Richard Cheal with a flawless 39 points. Not so memorable the “Seagulls” defeat away to Swindon in the “League Cup”. **Yes, I know. Not the start of the football season already!**

Thanks once again to Nigel & his team for the tasty suppers of “Scampi n Chips” and “Lasagne” which were snaffled hungrily by players & guests.

Can anybody catch Bob Foster..... (In the Eclectic)

### Events coming up

- Wed 12/9/12 – Round 6. Last Chance to win the Champagne. (T20 Eng v SA)
- Sat 29/9/12 – Champagne Gala Supper. (Great food & prizes)
- Sat 13/10/12 – Annual Pyecombe Ball

## Enjoy your PGC

*Colin Kemp*  
Social Secretary

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## COLTS SECTION

The weather caused several of the matches to be rescheduled; however the Colts played the following matches:

Away to East Brighton which we lost 4½ - 3½ however over the two legs the Colts won 9½ - 5½ and are now the holders of the Bill Beard Trophy. We also hosted The Dyke in August which resulted in a 4 – 2 win for the Colts. The Inter Club competition was rearranged for August and held at Cottesmore this was duly won by the home team with Ifield finishing second.

Looking forward September will be a busy month for the Colts with home matches against Cottesmore and Ifield, also away to Ifield. Our last match is away to Ham Manor on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012 any club members wishing to play (handicap of 17.5 and over) please enter your names on the fixture lists found on the boards.

*Cahel Logan*

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# JASON BOWEN

PGA PROFESSIONAL



We are now nearing the end of another season, one that has proved testing due to the poor weather conditions we have experienced throughout this year. I think we are all praying for an Indian summer!

David and I have had a challenging few months playing our Captain / Pro matches. We are about two thirds of the way through and I would like to thank all those that have participated so far. I am particularly grateful to those that did the honourable thing and also let us win. To those that didn't, the handicap reviews at the end of the year lie in wait!

It's a bit depressing to say, but we have just received all the winter stock for this year. Once again this will be largely dominated by the Underarmour brand. With a view to finding some room in the shop for the new stock when the weather cools down, we are running an end of season sale on summer clothing.

## **End of season sale now on.**

**Buy two items of clothing and get a third item absolutely free.**

**Offer is on all clothing including the latest UKKO, Lobster and Underarmour clothing and logo shirts and jumpers.**

## **Equipment Corner**

### **More Headcovers in the Bag Does Indicate a Smarter Golfer**

Not long ago I was asked my opinion of what have been the most significant recent advances in golf club technology. Such a list has to include improvements such as perimeter weighted irons, the use of titanium in manufacturing driver heads creating a higher COR and graphite shafts to lighten the total weight of golf clubs, just to name a few.

I also believe such a list should include hybrid clubs right up at the top. Over the past 30 years, manufacturers have slowly been decreasing the loft of the irons in a battle to make their clubs go further. This has not only resulted in a large loft gap appearing between the pitching wedge and sand wedge as discussed in previous articles, but also resulted in the de-lofting of the long irons making them increasingly hard to hit. A 1 iron in the 1970's actually has exactly the same length and loft as a 3 iron in some sets found in Pro shops today.

This decreasing loft in the irons most certainly is what has opened the door to allow hybrid clubs to step in to offer a truly positive solution for golfers who find the modern 3, 4 and 5 irons more difficult to hit consistently well. Unfortunately, because hybrid clubs sold off the shelf are again competing in terms of lengths and lofts to increase distance, simply buying hybrid clubs off the

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shelf will not bring about the best possible results for all golfers. Some hybrids are built the same length as fairway woods. Most are made to lengths in between those of the longer irons and fairway woods, while few are offered in the same lengths as the low loft conventional irons that need to be replaced.

The most effective way to custom fit every golfer for hybrid clubs is to start by fitting the golfer for hybrids with the same length and the same loft as the irons the golfer finds difficult to hit consistently well. Most golfers will find it very helpful to replace the 5-iron with a hybrid as well. By custom fitting the hybrids to the same length and loft as the irons being replaced, not only will the golfer have a club for each shot distance they may encounter, they will also have clubs that truly will eliminate the problems caused by decreasing loft in the irons.

### **Some of the Hybrid clubs available to try at Pyecombe GC:**

#### **Titleist 910 h**



Was £170 - Now only £140

#### **Ben Ross Quad**



£77.50

I have been using this hybrid all year and have been delighted with it. Comes in a white finish.

#### **Wishon 331 h**



£80

Available as part of the Yourfit programme

Please come into the shop to try these clubs or any one of the large number of other clubs we have available to trial on the course. We are here to help with any advice.

Happy golfing!

*Jason*

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**Flooding on 12<sup>th</sup> Green in Early July**