



# Ups & Downs

## Pyecombe G C

# Newsletter

September / October 2012

No 127

Editor Alf Bickham

## FROM THE CAPTAIN

This being my last report as Captain it is time for some reflections on the past year and what a year it has been. It started with a real BANG, last November, when a bomb was dug up, and then exploded, as the 15<sup>th</sup> bunker was refurbished.

I have had a fantastic time this year and have enjoyed it immensely. I have played a lot of golf, with some marvelous people, at wonderful Courses. I have tried to play golf with as many Club members as possible. I have enjoyed playing golf with every faction of the Club.

My main competitive golf has been leading the Club in the Mid Sussex League which is a superb arrangement with the other four clubs, matches that are full of fun, enjoyment and sociable freindship. As for the competitive element we at Pyecombe are usually pleased to finish in the top 5 concentrating more on the fun, enjoyment and social freindship. In the winter league we finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place but improved in the summer league to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>. I played eight league matches as Captain and thanks to my partners (having had the pick of the names on the list) I won every one of my games. I must thank all those members who have represented the Club in all the matches this year, the MSL, Men's, Ladies, Mixed, P@VIT, Exclusive Golf, Colts, Seniors and Vets. We do need more members playing in

these fixtures; it does tend to be the same few, to whom I am very grateful for putting their names down for the matches. It is your Club, get involved and support these fixtures.

It has been a pleasure playing golf this year with our Professional, Jason Bowen, in the Captain and Professional Challenge. The charity Help for Heroes has benefitted as we have won more games than we lost. Jason is a delight to play with and he is always full of encouragement, as you may have seen with his recent analysis of my swing, having won so many games I must have got lucky with a lot of my golf shots. I hope all those that have challenged us this year will be taking the chance to beat us again in the Finals Day on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

There are, of course, many people I must thank for their support in making my life and role as Captain as easy as it has been:-

- The Professional, Jason Bowen, with Michael Stoner, who organise all the golf competitions and open events making sure they are effectively run.
- Head Greenkeeper, Simon Wells, and his team have done a great job, in some adverse and unseasonal weather conditions to produce the Course in superb condition and with the plans Head of Green, Gary....

(Continued)

### MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

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

## **CAPTAINS REPORT** (Continued)

.....Hann, has put into place the Course will continue to improve.

- The Catering and Bar Staff, Nigel Baldock and his team welcome us into the clubhouse and provide the much needed refreshment.
- The whole enterprise is overseen, with tremendous passion, by our Managing Secretary, Alan Davy, with Jo Gallway and Matt Bolton, they have done a wonderful job in ensuring that events and I have been fully organised this year.
- Then there are all those people who volunteer to represent you, the members, to ensure the club is run on a sound footing and managed effectively. They are Gary Hann who I have already mentioned plus Andy Selsby, Head of Golf; Chris Openshaw, Head of House; John Mackenzie, Treasurer; and Len North, Chairman; together with the other people who have been co-opted to work on committees for your benefit.

I must mention the Lady Captain, Janice Hawes. We have worked together this year to try and ensure that everyone enjoyed their golfing experience at Pyecombe. We have played lots of rounds of golf together this year, with some success, and I've had a wonderful time, I hope that Jan has enjoyed it as much as I have and I hope we can continue playing golf together in the future.

The Annual Pyecombe Ball at Wickwoods Country Club was a great success, over a hundred people attended and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The Wickwoods' staff looked after us really well, the catering for such an event was good and the DJ kept the music going all evening.

Congratulations to all those of you that have won competitions during the year. Having been beaten into second place on a number of occasions this Year, I look forward to presenting you with your awards at the Presentation Evening on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you for supporting the Captains' Charity this Year, "Help for Heroes", when all the monies are reckoned up the total should be around £4000. The Charity Bunkers on the 8<sup>th</sup> have made a very good amount of money; the prizes for competition will be awarded at the Presentation Evening so do not forget to put your name in the book when you go in them.

Finally, I must wish the incoming Captains, Nick Lee and Irene Silander a very enjoyable and successful year. My best wishes go to the Vice Captains, Colin Kemp and Sandra Staynes; the Vets Captain, Lionel Foot and Junior Captain.

Again thank you all – *I've had the time of my life.*

*David Schwartz*

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

During September and October I have welcomed the following new members:-

Lesley Fallowfield	Valerie Jenkins	Antony Orkin
Luke Crossley	Alan White	Jon Barkley
Shaun Marchant and	Simon Potten	

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**

## LADIES REPORT

Where has the year gone, I'm nearly at the end of my Captaincy. As I look back over the past months, I remember all the good times I have had, the games of golf I've played and all the lovely people I have met. It's been good fun having David Schwartz as the Men's Captain. Together we have represented Pyecombe at many Venues and functions. It's been fantastic being part of the Club.

We have lost a few of our Lady members. Joyce Holland has not rejoined this year, a shame, she was an excellent golfer. Val Grant and Mollie Artlett "The Twins" have also not rejoined this year. What will we do without all the "Jokes" they told so well which kept us all laughing. They will all be sadly missed in the Ladies Section.

The Southdowns Trophy was played at Hollingbury on 11<sup>th</sup> October but it was called off after a few holes, due to heavy rain, and a waterlogged course. It will be now played on 1<sup>st</sup> November so let's hope for better weather then. Aileen and Sarah Godfrey represented the club in the Ping competition. They came 7<sup>th</sup> out of 65 pairs taking part, well done.

Sadly this will be my last contribution to the Ups and Downs, and I will leave it in the very capable hands of Irene Silander, who will be the next lady Captain, after the AGM on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. I wish her all the best for 2013, and hope she enjoys her year as much as I did.

Best Wishes to all.

*Janice Hawes.*  
Lady Captain

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## THE PRESIDENT REFLECTS

With the Club's AGM less than a month away, the clocks back an hour, and the darker evenings now here, the phrase "out with the old and in with the new" comes to mind. No, the New Year isn't here yet, but we shall soon be voting on the nominations for the various Club and Committee positions that are required. At this time I would like, on behalf of the members, to thank all those who have served the Club well over the last year – not only the Captains of their respective sections, but also the various Committee members, and others, particularly our staff. Everyone has worked very hard on your behalf to make our Club 'tick' and I, for one, much appreciate the effort and time they have spent in doing so.

I know David Schwartz, our Club Captain, and the Ladies Captain, Jan Hawes have thoroughly enjoyed their year (that's what it should be all about!) and particular thanks to you both. I can see the look of contentment on David's face now.....in fact, I am sure he would be happy to have another year.....but somehow I think Maggie, his wife, might have something to say on this!

As with the economy in general, it has been a difficult year for the Management Committee. They have had a testing time keeping finances within our limited means budget without sacrificing too much in the way of quality and service. They have done well.

The weather has proved a particularly damp squib this year. The Green staff have worked extremely well to continue to present the course in such good condition despite the frequent downpours and flooding. Thank goodness we are essentially on chalk subsoil. Some local courses were very badly effected by the year's weather – apart from the several Mid Sussex courses built on Wealden clay which have suffered much waterlogging at times, other Clubs, such as Bognor .....

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## **THE PRESIDENT REFLECTS (Continuation)**

..... Regis and Ham Manor, experienced extensive flooding to their courses. In fact, although several months have now passed since the rains came, two of Ham Manor's holes are still out of action. Yes, it's been a rough year, or a year of the rough, whichever way you look at it!

It was good to see a large attendance at one of the Club's principal events, the Pyecombe Ball held at Wickwoods. The evening proved very enjoyable and a good time was had by all.

Lastly, after several months of hospitalisation and being in a critical state, it was great to hear that Bob Watson, one of the Club's 'old' stalwarts, is now back at home. We wish you all the best Bob, on your way to full recovery.

*Reg Auchterlonie*

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## **COLTS SECTION**

Detailed below is the Colts report for 2012.

2012 once again proved to be a successful year for the Colts section with the majority of matches being over subscribed. The highlights being a 6-0 home won over Cottesmore (by far the strongest team) which resulted in a 6½ - 5½ win overall, also the winning of the Bill Beard trophy (against East Brighton) which was 9½ - 6½ win for Pyecombe. The Colts won all but one of their home matches.

	Home	Away	Overall	
West Hove	4 – 2	4 – 2	8 – 2	Pyecombe win
Cottesmore	6 – 0	½ - 5½	6½ - 5½	Pyecombe win
Ham Manor	4 – 2	5 – 1	9 – 3	Pyecombe win
East Brighton	6 – 2	3½ - 4½	9½ - 6½	Pyecombe win
Ifield	1½ - 4½	2½ - 3½	4 – 8	Ifield win
The Dyke	4 – 2	1½ - 4½	5½ - 6½	The Dyke win

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Office, Professional Shop, Kitchen and the members of The Colts for the support I have received over the season.

*Cahel Logan*

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## **SENIORS WINTER LEAGUE**

Just a few words on the Seniors Winter League.

Winter must be here the Brighton and Eastbourne Winter League has started.

Pyecombe played Peacehaven in their first match and in inclement weather at both courses, rain at Pyecombe and fog at Peacehaven. Our Seniors won overall 7-3 with all players contributing to the win. Our next match against Hollingbury is in November the teams for this match are on the Seniors board.

*Neil Beard-Neilson*  
**Seniors Captain**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our financial year has now finished and it is now a case checking the figures and concluding the accounts for the AGM. Initial indications are positive so let's continue with that optimism.

The summer (do you remember those few odd days) was not good for our green fee income and society bookings. To overcome this downturn your Management Committee will be actively marketing to increase this good source of revenue, particularly mid-week afternoon when few members play our beautiful course.

Membership income represents around 85% of our yearly income and it is very important for the Club to maintain this, if not increase. Our membership attrition this year has been high and an advertising campaign has already started to encourage new members so that our income can at the very least be maintained. This year the age related membership categories have been altered to encourage younger members, who will form the backbone of the Club in future years. You as members are also a good source of new members and your help to increase our membership numbers would be most welcome.

Over the next few weeks your Management Committee will firm up on the provisional budgets produced in August. The budgets will be set to our known membership income.

At the beginning of October three new employees joined our staff. Debby Holden and Danica Bunt replacing Alex Coley and Josh Baldock respectively and Chris Wallace has joined the green staff as an apprentice. Your positive comments have been most welcome.

We move forward to a new year with confidence, accepting that it will also be very challenging. The economic environment remains difficult and I'm sure that with the right attitude we can overcome the difficulties we will invariably face.

*Len North*

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### Page Filler – Old Photograph of Pyecombe Clubhouse and the then 18<sup>th</sup> green



## VETS SECTION

The Vets Section as well as playing home and away social matches against 17 other Sussex golf clubs also play a number of competitions within Pyecombe golf club. Most of the internal competitions have longstanding trophies that are awarded and held for a year by the successful winners. The names of the competitions and names of the vets that were successful in 2012 are given below.

### VETS COMPETITION AND TROPHY WINNERS 2012

#### HARVEY FRAREY

Winner Martin Sutcliffe  
Runner Up Duncan Campbell  
Semi-finalists Tim Cotton & Graham Tate

#### MILNE SALVER

Winner Ray Abraham  
Runner-Up Chris Muschamp  
Semi-finalists Geoff Webb & A.N. Other  
Dunstan

#### SUMMER PAIRS CUP

Winners Stan Green & Peter Ferns  
Runners-Up Duncan Campbell & Tom Nutley  
3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Bolton & Tom Oliver

**NEGUS TROPHY** Winner Ted Whitbourn

#### HOLE TANKARDS

1<sup>st</sup> David Schwartz & Richard Cottell  
Dunstan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Colin Prior & Geoff Webb  
3<sup>rd</sup> Barry Roberts & Ted Longley

#### DANCY TROPHY

1<sup>st</sup> Maurice Woolgar  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ian Hawes  
3<sup>rd</sup> Alex Durie

#### CHEVALIER SPOON

##### WINNERS

1<sup>st</sup> David Leach  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Chasser  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ray Abraham

**CAPT. / VICE CAPT. CHALLENGE** Joint Winners

#### DRAKE PAIRS

1<sup>st</sup> Chris Muschamp & Alan Dunstan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ted Longley & John Bold  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ray Abraham & Peter Ferns

#### BOWMAN TROPHY

1<sup>st</sup> Ian Hawes & Ted Longley  
2<sup>nd</sup> David Schwartz & John Bold  
3<sup>rd</sup> Duncan Campbell & Alan

#### OVER 70's CUP

1<sup>st</sup> David Leach  
2<sup>nd</sup> Martin Sutcliffe

#### OLD MAN'S MEDAL

1<sup>st</sup> Martin Sutcliffe  
2<sup>nd</sup> Geoff Webb & Alan Maynard

#### RON CLARK

1<sup>st</sup> Martin Sutcliffe & Alan  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup>

#### TAM O'SHANTER CUP (2 clubs & putter)

1<sup>st</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup> (To be played on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov12)  
3<sup>rd</sup>

#### MONTHLY STABLEFORDS

July – Alan Dunstan  
August – Martin Avis  
October – Aubrey Watson

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## Miscellaneous News Items

### Success for Andy Barnes

Just 12 years after his first attempt, Andy Barnes has finally managed to capture the Guildford Open Trophy. The Guildford Open attracts many of the top Surrey golfers and the Scratch prize is a major achievement. A morning round of 71 on the downland course placed Barnie in a good position. A nerve tingling second round saw a repeat score of 71 that enabled Barnie to claim the title by a single shot. He is congratulated on bringing fame and fortune to Pyecombe golf club.



**Andy Barnes**

### Staff Changes at Pyecombe GC

It's all change at Pyecombe, as members will note some different faces around the club. Following Josh Kelly's departure last Autumn, the club have successfully recruited a trainee to join the Greenkeeping team, Chris Wallace. Chris has some greenkeeping experience already at Benfold Valley, but will be attending training at Plumpton College. Chris is also a keen golfer, when he has time to play!

On the catering side, we welcome Debby Holden. She joined the team on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Debby is attending further training in Catering at Northbrook, and will be replacing Cameron, who goes to pastures new, and Alex, who left a few weeks ago.



**Debby Holden**

Additionally, we welcome Danica Bunt who also joined on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Danica will be joining the bar staff replacing Josh, who will be furthering his career with Brighton and Hove Albion, as a Junior Development Coach. Danica and her husband Steve who plays at Pyecombe, is already known to some members through previously worked at Hassocks Golf Club and at the Men's Club in Hassocks. She is hoping she will also be able to play some golf at PGC.



**Danica Bunt**

### Peter & Joyce Holland Retire

It is, as well as an exciting time, a sad time when members feel unable to continue to play at Pyecombe. Peter Holland and wife Joyce have retired from the club due to poor health after **60 years membership**.

In a letter to the secretary Peter said "I have many happy memories playing matches and competitions for both the Men's and Vets Sections and I was privileged to be Chairman of Greens Committee on two separate occasions. Thank you for the happy times I have enjoyed along with my wife Joyce, they will be treasured."

### Bird Boxes

The eagle eyed golfer, will have spotted some bird boxes on the course. No need to duck, they are hidden away. The brainchild of Roy Plummer and Rex Perham, the nesting boxes will support Tawny and Barn Owls. The boxes are different and the clever owls will know which one is for them.

Members are requested to respect their presence. It is hoped that it may be possible to obtain photographs of the birds sometime in the future not just pictures of a box!



***Special offer – book four 1 hour lessons for £100.  
Save £40 and fine tune your game for next season***

The Get into golf lessons that I am running on Saturdays at 12 noon are now gathering momentum. Can I remind all members that these lessons are the perfect opportunity to get your friends and family involved at Pyecombe Golf Club. They are specifically aimed at beginners and the academy membership is available for those that want to take the next step.

**Do you need 14 clubs in the bag?**

I'm sure most of us have played in a 3 clubs and a putter competition, scored 34 points and then only managed 28 points at the weekend with the full set. Do we really need to carry the maximum allocation of clubs as specified by the rules of golf?

One of the first things I do when giving a golf lesson to someone for the first time is to have a quick glance through the golf bag and see what equipment is being used. Invariably there is a club in the bag that is there for getting the ball out of a bush or one that was hit 6 months ago and is there "just in case". A number of you also carry clubs that do the same job. You may have a five iron and a 9 wood that in reality go the same distance or a 4 hybrid that does the same job as your 7 wood.

On top of this, the less distance you hit the ball, the fewer clubs you require. If you hit a drive 250 yards then it would stand to reason that you would need a lot of clubs to fill the gaps between your driver and your sand wedge that would probably go approximately 100 yards. If you hit your driver 150 yards and your sand wedge 75 yards then far less clubs would be required to fill all the gaps. Ideally, it would make sense to have clubs that progressively go 10 yards less as you go down through the set, starting from your fairway woods. For some of you, you may find that a full set would only need to contain around 8 clubs.

So what are the benefits of not carrying so many clubs? First of all it's cheaper, secondly you won't be lugging around 3 stone of extra weight and thirdly your decision making will be much easier leading to less indecision and a quicker round of golf. You might think that the weight of your bag doesn't matter as you are using an electric trolley, but I'm sure that manoeuvring it would be significantly easier and less tiring with less weight.

If you do fall into the category of golfer that hits the ball less than 200 yards off the tee, have a think if there are any clubs you have not used recently and clubs that do the same job. Lighten the load, pop them in the garage, save some energy, be more decisive and improve your game.

***Sale now on – 30% off selected clothing***

## **SOCIAL**

Last of the Summer Champagne was won by Alison Vermes, out-pointing a Gallant 36 points carded by Rich Cheal with a superior 37 points of her own as the Sun was disappearing over the Downs along with everyone else's chance of catching the overall victorious Mr Bob Foster in the Eclectic Challenge. About 12 disciples ate the Last Supper as we watched England's Cricketers get crucified by the South Africans in the T20.

Thanks to all the guys & gals who supported the challenge throughout the summer and thanks to Nigel & his late team for providing the tasty Suppers for players and guests alike.

Ole-Ole-Ole-Ole (A "where were you" moment.) Some of us were in the Clubhouse. What a night. Unbelievable. Wow. When a subdued early Sunday evening acceptance of a stateside Tsunami changed as the Europeans turned the tide. Oh, how we nearly choked on our Burgers & Hot-Dogs as we incredibly retained the Ryder Cup in the early hours of Monday morning. Brilliant!-----Thanks to the late shift for staying on for the celebrations.

The Pyecombe Ball – A fabulous glitzy affair was enjoyed by well over 100 of Pyecombe's finest members and guests along with some of our Mid-Sussex mates. The Night moved seamlessly through fine cuisine, enlightening speeches' and Pyecombe's answer to 'Strictly Come Dancing' with Captain Dave & Margaret opening with a creditable 7. The dance floor was crammed all night as Matt Harper lead the way making some 'Matt Harper' shapes he recently perfected in Vilamoura. Lew, Frank & Bob AKA "The Fun Boy Three" just escaped accommodation charges after commenting that the night was still young as they were being shepherded into the taxi in the wee hours. Great night, well organised.

### **Dates for the Diary**

- 16<sup>th</sup> Nov – Prize giving Night
- 24<sup>th</sup> Nov – AGM
- 25<sup>th</sup> Nov – Captains Drive-in
- 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Party
- 31<sup>st</sup> Dec – New Year's Eve Party

Your support is really appreciated.

**Enjoy Your PGC**

*Colin Kemp*  
Social Secretary

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