



Ups & Downs

Pyecombe G C

Newsletter

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No 130

Editor Alf Bickham

FROM THE CAPTAIN

As I write this we have just enjoyed the most marvellous spring bank holiday weekend culminating in the Fun(d) raising day I mentioned in my last jottings.

More about that later but reflecting back on March and April it brings a shiver to my spine as I recall probably the most miserably cold couple of months of golf I can ever recall and believe me that's over a long period of time. A couple of days stand out in particular. The first was 4th April when I played at the Nevill in the Sussex Captains spring meeting. Teeing off at 8.45am I spent 5hrs 8mins, yes 5hrs, 8 bloody minutes going round in a ***** blizzard. It was so cold we had to send one of our group in after 11 holes before he froze to death on his buggy...! It seems Captains & past Captains struggle to understand the concept of playing quickly – 5hrs 8mins for goodness sake....!

Having recovered and dried out all my kit from that the following day it was off to Worthing for 30 holes in the MSWL finals day. Teeing off first into a bitterly cold north wind with increasing wintry showers, bloody marvellous...! Oh well at least the swear box did well.

We didn't exactly distinguish ourselves at Worthing. We did however finish 2nd in the....

league & we also gave Hylton Jolliffe a great send off as he retired after 25yrs as secretary of the MSL. Well done Hilt on a great achievement. Believe it or not for once he was lost for words.....!

Back to the action as the season kicked off with the annual Captain v Presidents match. I'm pleased to say I now have bragging rights over Reg who reports in more detail in his piece. If you read it my match with the Vice Captain against him and immediate Past Captain Dave Schwartz was little more than the Colin Kemp show. Colin this, Colin that - cheers Reg...!

The scratch boys got off to a winning start in the Optimus trophy beating Sedlescombe 9-3. It looks on paper like an easy win but 5 singles matches went down the 18th of which we won 4 and halved 1 so it was pretty close with some great golf played.

On the social front it's been a busy couple of months. The Captains Carve up went well with 50 odd people turning up for an excellent lunch on 9th March. Another one is planned for early June. An evening with Peter James was a fantastic success with over 120 enjoying a most entertaining few hours. What was even more impressive was he out swore me by a considerable margin. That doesn't happen often..! Well done to our Man Sec

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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 or to make contact by telephone, call him at home, **Tel. No. 01444.242101**

FROM THE CAPTAIN (Continuation)

Alan Davey for organising and running the whole show. That was followed by our second comedy evening which featured 4 very different acts all highly entertaining. It was great to get positive feedback from members who attended. Another one will hopefully be organised for later in the year.

Finally back to the fun(d) day. Another organisational master piece from Davey & Bolton saw over 100 members take part in a Texas scramble in perfect weather. Various other challenges lay in wait including speed putting, nearest the pin on the old 18th, beat the Pro and a long driving competition.

The speed putting competition (9 holes on the putting green) was won in 1min 36 seconds. Longest drives were measured on the ninth hole & yielded the following winners: Aileen Greenfield (ladies) 220yds; Colin Kemp (men's over-50s) 260yds, Matt Greenfield (one day short of his 18th birthday, men's) 308 yds, just beating Phil Hubble on 295 yards. Matt Greenfield's drive off the first tee in the drive off went up the back of the first green before trickling back down the slope. What a hit..!

Generous bidding for the right to be the first to drive off the new second tee was won by Austin Smith raising more money for club funds.

All this was followed by a barbecue which saw people milling around enjoying the sun with a glass of something cooling. We raised £2,500 so well done to everyone who took part - Pyecombe Golf club at its best.

For the record the scramble was won by Angie Bainbridge's team. The team comprised Angie, Jan Brittin, Celia Schultz, Roy Lawson, Dave Allen and Patrick Coleman. They achieved a fantastic score of 45.1; despite having Roy Lawson in the team! Well done.

Nearest the pin (5th): Kevin Cox; (8th): Steve Bunt; (old 18th): David Heweson.

Time to shut up now. Hopefully we've turned the corner weather wise and we can now enjoy the main part of the season in the sun. Let's hope that's not famous last words.....

Cheers

Nick Lee

LADIES SECTION

It has been a fairly quiet time at Pyecombe, particularly for the Tuesday Ladies - WHY does it always rain on a Tuesday? Our match with The Vets Men came to an abrupt end as the weather deteriorated, visibility was non-existent, and the log fire and lunch seemed much more appealing. So, a note was left on the 12th green for those behind to walk in from there. Needless to say, the mist lifted just as we were all leaving for home and it turned into a beautiful afternoon - but all too late!

Our teams, though have been very busy playing at home and various venues away!

Divisions 1, 2 & 3 are all doing well winning their matches so far. The Morrice 4's team won against Hassocks and will now play away at Wells Wood. But the news of the month is that Aileen Greenfield and Alison Vermes played at Mannings Heath in the Sussex County Ladies Scratch Fours Competition and WON! This involved 5 rounds of golf over 3 days playing against the best golfers in East and West Sussex in various weather conditions, but in the end they came out top. This is Aileen's 4th win and Alison's 2nd. Very well done Ladies!

(A facsimile of the report extracted from PGC office newsletter issued by email on 18/4/13 follows.)

Quote

"The start of the competition, Wednesday morning, a good start, a 4/3 win over Bognor.

(Continued on next page)

LADIES SECTION (Continuation)

Thursday was an early start 7.51a.m. to play against Cowdray Park, best golf of the week, one under par through 11 and an 8 & 7 win.

Next up the Nevill. We managed to win 6 & 5 to earn a place in the semi-final against the home side, Mannings Heath.

Highwoods in the other side of the draw had beaten Worthing and met West Sussex.

A ragged start was turned round with the arrival of Irene and Doreen, who fulfilled the caddie role, and Pyecombe ran out 4 & 3 winners.

So to the final, where Highwoods, represented by classy Chelsea Masters and Belinda Whent, went 2 up with birdies at 7 and 8, Pyecombe 2 down at the turn. A half at 11 was followed by a win at 12. Highwoods birdied 13, Pyecombe won 14, they birdied 15. Two down with three to play!!

Pyecombe won the 16th, this was followed by a half at 17. A nervous 18th for all, except Aileen, (Alison's quote 'the girls a legend') secured a win on the hole for Pyecombe and forced extra holes.

The Pyecombe girls had had three birdies in the last three holes to force the play off, so the pressure swapped to the Pyecombe girls to get the job done. Alison's solid drive was followed by 'the sweetest 7 iron from Aileen to 8 inches right of the pin'. Highwoods putted....missed and conceded the match!



Alison, Irene and Aileen with their County Trophies

Absolutely brilliant. Well played Aileen Greenfield and Alison Vermes on a tremendous achievement.” Unquote

Pyecombe Golf Club has the honour of hosting the Ladies Sussex County Spring Rumble on the 2nd of May. There will be approximately 60 Ladies playing in the morning followed by lunch. We can only hope the weather is good and they see the course at its best. Perhaps the bluebells in the woods by the 17th green will be in full bloom!

Our two newest lady members, Lesley Fallowfield and Valerie Jenkins have been playing in the mixed matches with excellent results and are looking to play in more if they get the opportunity. So gentlemen - if you see their names on the list Lesley and Valerie would love you to sign up to play with them.

Irene Silander
Lady Captain

THE PRESIDENT REFLECTS

Thankfully, the weather on Good Friday this year was again dry and reasonable for the annual President's v Captain's team four-ball Challenge matches. Leading from the front, Captain Nick, aided by Vice Colin, eventually got his side off to a good start with the first win. I say eventually, because they left it somewhat late to stamp their superiority over the President and last year's Captain, David, who had led throughout the game and were, I have to admit, pretty confident of closing out at 2 up with 3 holes to play. Wrong! Colin stepped up a gear (or two!) and showed his class, getting pars at holes 16 and 17 to leave the match all square on the 18th tee. With his opponents wobbling, Colin then produced a bit of magic, recovering from a bad lie to win the match with a single putt.

As the results came in, the Captain's side started stretching their overall lead and it looked all over for the President's men and ladies. But sterling performances in the last few games reversed fortunes and a cliff-hanger resulted – only for the Captain's team to triumph in the end by 7½ - 6½! Thus, for only the third time in these matches over 19 years, did the Captain's team prevail. Will Colin be looking to emulate his feat again next year and record another Captain's win? Will I be regretting the lost opportunity I had this year and be determined to make amends next? You betcha!!

I usually like to think that the Good Friday Challenge is the precursor to Spring arriving, but, as I write this some 4 weeks later, we are only now just getting a few nice warm days.....mind you, the forecast for this weekend is getting cold again! How Simon and his team must wish for the warmer weather so that our course can get that much needed growth.

Reg Auchterlonie

COLTS SECTION

The season started with the Colts Tankard, this year won by Alastair Smith.

Then the matches got underway the following week with our first match against East Brighton away which we managed a draw(3-3), this being the first leg of the Bill Beard trophy, we were happy with result as we had the home leg to come.

Then our second match was at home against Ham Manor which was also a draw (3-3).

Then came the return Home leg against East Brighton, a tense affair which also ended in a draw, and as holders of the Bill Beard trophy we retain it for another year.

So the season so far has been good golf but yet to manage a win, but we Haven't lost April and May are quiet months with only one fixture (4th May), but June gets a little busier with 3 matches, and in July we welcome all of our opponents here for the inter-club Challenge.

Happy Golfing

Alan Carter

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our Club is half way through the financial year. During April we have had a number of new members join and suspended members rejoin. However there is still a long way to go and we will not be letting the reins go on expenditure just yet.

Green fee income over the winter months has been the best ever and this has given us good start for the next six months. Let's hope the weather is not as bad as last year. Society income is also up on last year and is also another good sign.

In my last report I mentioned that we have lost our discretionary rate relief. The sub-group set up has reported back and made a recommendation, which at this stage the Management Committee has put on hold pending further inquiries regarding the legal position. With the improved income from green fee and society income it is possible that this year's Council rates will be partially covered. We will know more through the year.

During March we also carried out an advertising campaign, which has brought in some new members and generally let potential golfers in mid Sussex know we exist. The marketing strategy is being implemented. The aim is to encourage new members over the coming years for the long-term stability of our Club. There has been a good up-take in Flexible Membership, which we hope will prove a stepping stone to full membership at a later date.

The Twitter and Face book accounts are now active. I also have a twitter account should you wish to follow me and hopefully you will find it interesting. (@leonorf74)

We do need new members and any help you do in this direction will be to your advantage in keeping subscriptions at a reasonable level.

Hopefully the summer will be better than last year and we can all look forward to some good golf.

Len North

Junior Alfie Hutton's Achievements

Young Alfie has been impressing again. At Princes Golf Club he shot 96 to card a 37 points and thereby gain victory in his age group.

Obviously having wintered at Pyecombe, conditioning had paid off as the wind chill of minus 6 meant that only the hardy were in with a chance.

Parents are critical in supporting children, but in a novel twist Alfie's prize of a golf bag was given to his Dad, as Jon had a hole in his!

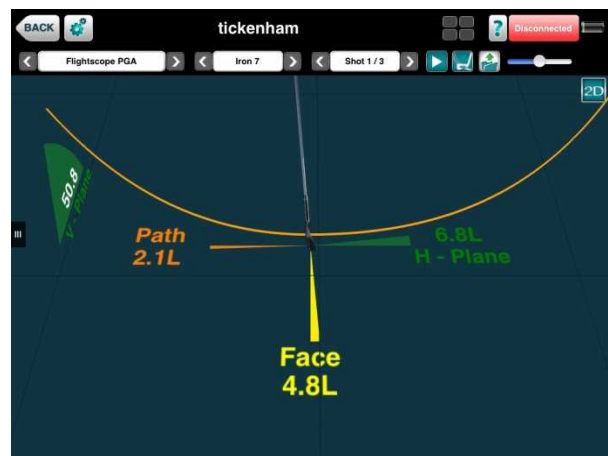
Alfie has also just won another trophy for winning the nearest pin in a competition at Chichester Golf Club Cathedral course. His tee shot to the 15th hole, 145 yards into the wind, beat all.

Well done Alfie.



FLIGHTSCOPE AT PYECOMBE GOLF CLUB

Flightscope is a Doppler radar that tracks the ball flight from start to finish. It provides over 30 vital readings about the ball flight and the swing path so that all the information is on hand to make the right decision when choosing new golf clubs. It is also an extremely valuable tool for coaching and ball fitting. Flightscope is used by many of the top players, coaches and club fitters around the world and is also featured every year at the Open Championship.



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The use of the flightscope is also included in all 1 hour lessons

And now for something different

Many of you will probably be aware that next year I will be taking a group of golfers and non golfers to Swaziland. This is being done in conjunction with my sister who has been running safari holidays to Africa for a number of years. (www.senseafrica.co.uk) I have been to Swaziland on a couple of occasions and it truly provided some memorable experiences. From sitting by a waterhole watching the Giraffes, Elephants, Antelope and Hippos with a drink in hand to hearing the roar of lions in the evening as the sun goes down. Truly magical.



The holiday takes in Swaziland's 2 best golf courses. The Royal Swazi Spa is immaculately presented with stunning views of the Lugogo mountain range. It hosts 2 South African tour events each year. Nkonyeni was designed by Phil Jacobs who also designed Leopard Creek. It's a bushveld course winding in and out of the game reserve. One word to describe Nkonyeni – Stunning!

Full details of the holiday can be found on the club website under the Professional link. If anyone would like to chat about the holiday please pop into the Pro shop and I will try not to go on too much! My sister is coming down to visit on the 19th May and we will be having a meeting at my house in Hurstpierpoint with some drinks for anyone that's interested.

Jason