



Ups & Downs

Pyecombe G C

Newsletter

May / June 2013

No 131

Editor Alf Bickham

FROM THE CAPTAIN

So at long last summer seems to have arrived and the memories of a freezing April and May start to recede. It's difficult to believe we only lifted 'winter rules' the last weekend in May when the course was still pretty barren. Now we have an oasis of green with discussions once again turning to the length of the rough..!

The season is in full swing with lots of exciting golf having already taken place. The Club Championship was a fantastic weekend although the elements conspired to make it one of the most difficult I've ever played in. Scores soared (especially mine) but once again the cream rose to the top. As the saying goes "form is temporary but class is permanent" so it was no surprise to see Trevor Greenfield winning for the umpteenth time. He was pushed hard by Ritchie Farmer who lost at the second playoff hole. Bad luck Ritchie but as Trevor said his time will undoubtedly come.

A mention as well for Lew Smith who stole the show by doing the double of Mistlin & Chapman Cups, the Club Championship for 16+ handicaps. It was a welcome return to form for Lew whose life long fitness regime of rolling his own fags and downing a few

Harvey's has at long last seen him peak at just the right time – well done indeed Lew! He is available for functions I'm told at very reasonable rates.

At the other end of the scale we saw young Alfie Hutton win the regional 'Wee Wonders' qualifying tournament to make the grand final at St Andrews. It was winner takes all as there was only one spot available. What a fantastic effort Alfie, very well done. We're very proud to have you as a Pyecombe member and all the club's best wishes go with you to the home of Golf. You do need to find a bit of time though to give your Dad a few tips....!

Talking of being proud it was a huge thrill to be awarded the Southern Counties Golf Club of the Year 2013 award from The Golf YearBook. They cited amongst other things our 'stunning course in fantastic condition with top greens and fairways cut to perfection' & 'Excellent food'. Perhaps the most satisfying comment was 'the warm friendly and welcoming attitude of staff which really put you ahead of the rest in the face of a lot of fierce competition'.

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

FROM THE CAPTAIN (Continuation)

Winning the award is a huge compliment to all our staff who all work so hard to make our club what it is. All our thanks go to Simon & his team for doing such a great job on the course. Nigel and all the catering/bar staff who provide the food and friendly welcome in the clubhouse, also Jason and his team who organise and welcome visitors in the Pro's shop. Working behind the scenes of course is dear old Uncle Al and the office team who somehow keep everything running smoothly.

In the words of Old Mr Grace (showing my age here...) "You've all done very well" - thank you.

On the social scene Elvis paid us a visit back in May. For those who came along it was a great show with all the old classic's sung in great style and some serious rock'n'rolling going on, on the dance floor. More news on upcoming socials will be appearing shortly.

That's it for now but I'll finish with a plea. We need more members to put their names down for all the various matches, particularly the mixed and MSL. They are great fun so if you haven't played before please give them a go.

Cheers for now

Nick Lee

LADIES SECTION

I am now halfway through my year as Lady Captain and so far have thoroughly enjoyed it. I do hope the weather improve though for the next few months. So many matches have been played in dreadful conditions, postponed to a later date, or cancelled altogether. I want to thank all those ladies who braved the elements to play in the Divisional Matches and County Matches representing the club at various venues. Some were won, some were lost but that's the way it goes.

I also want to again thank everyone for all their good wishes by card and emails and your support for my two Lady Captain's Days held recently. I think they went well and I thoroughly enjoyed them as I hope you all did. On the Tuesday the weather was beautiful although there were a few complaints of wind up on the 6th. On the Sunday the forecast was supposed to be good but woolly hats were the requirement for the day, they looked very fetching along with the shorts worn by most!

It has been an interesting few months and a steep learning curve for me dealing with the various issues that come up. The biggest one being about Sussex County Golf! I had no idea what was involved, such as The Lady Captain collecting the Trophy and making a speech when Aileen and Alison won the Scratch 4's at Mannings Heath. Thank you Doreen for getting me there dressed appropriately in club colours and warning me an hour beforehand! The range of opinions expressed regarding the use of the new second tee prove that you can never please everyone at the same time. That will be an issue for on-going discussion!

A warm welcome to our new lady members Jackie Lee who has previously been a member and Rosanne Rees who recently moved to the area and is on the Sussex Ladies County Committee.

I have had great fun playing in so many mixed matches with the Club Captain, Nick Lee. Some we have won, some we have lost, but all have been great days out whether at home or away. We were fortunate to be invited to Bramley Golf Club Centenary Captain's Invitation Day where a great day was had by all! There are some perks to the job" as they say!

Irene Silander

Lady Captain

The President reflects

It looked like a Moonies Annual Conventionhundreds of people (well, scores at least!) wandering slowly up the first fairway.... then stopping temporarily to gather in groups to discuss a matter of high moment and tension..... no, not Moonies, but spectators and players, who were witnessing the denouement of this year's Club Championship! The result I will not dwell on, as by now this is well known and was delightfully documented in our beloved Managing Secretary's recent weekly email newsletter entitled 'Noonerism Spewsletter'. (Alan, your writing talents are such that I think you made the wrong career choice yonks ago! All I would say is don't give up the day job – we need you!). But it was great to see such support out there on the closing holes for those two excellent players in the play off. It was so close....well done to both, and congrats and commiserations to the winner and runner up respectively. The support for a memorable weekend was also apparent when Captain Nick made the presentations to the worthy winners in a packed clubhouse, mentioning that he felt this event was the highlight of the Club's calendar.

Not for the first time were the excellent efforts of Simon and his team were somewhat thwarted by mother nature – the course was superbly presented, but unfortunately the adverse conditions, particularly the fierce winds, made the going very difficult and competitors had to keep their heads down most of the time, so that they were hardly able to fully appreciate the hard work of the greenstaff. In my case, with the 'red mist' rising at times, I forgot to position my trombone trolley correctly into the gale and it was blown over on at least four occasions! No wonder hardly anyone, if any, played to their handicap over the two days! But all credit to the vast majority of competitors who stuck at it and completed the two rounds.

Lastly, compared to last year, the rough, which was inevitably visited by most of us, was at least much fairer, inasmuch as the scarifying work had eliminated the extreme thickness of the rough grass and it was easier to find your ball and also save time looking for it!

Only another few weeks and more highlights beckon.....Gala and Captain's Day!

Reg Auchterlonie

Pyecombe GCs Mixed Open

Our Mixed Open saw 76 players from 23 clubs represented in what turned out to be a glorious Pyecombe day. Plenty of plaudits about the day and the course, as Pyecombe showed what a joy it can be on a still summer day. The top four places were filled by players from Hayling Island, Chichester and West Surrey, with West Surrey pairs finishing first and second with 41 and 42 points: the winners being David and Petrina Jones.

Dear Members,

During the last week your Club has received the "**Southern Counties Golf Club of the Year Award 2013**".

This is a great honour for our Club, the officers and every member; one that we should be very proud to receive.

The Golf Yearbook, who attended our Club without our knowledge, made the award and at this time we still do not know the days they made their visit.

The award recognises those businesses in golf that are offering the best products and services for golfers.

The following are some of the main reasons given as to why we have won this award:

1. The course is stunning - a real gem!
2. It's a really lovely course that is well looked after and offers a challenging test to any level of golfer.
 - It is in fantastic condition with top greens and fairways cut to perfection.
 - A challenge on both still and windy days.
 - Excellent venue for society days as a true test for all ranges of handicaps.
 - A course with a lot of character and a lot of variety for the competent golfer.
 - By far the most beautiful picturesque course in the area, a really charming course with beautiful views over Sussex, lovely wildlife and flowers all add to the charm.
3. The food was excellent we particularly liked the 'Full round' breakfast.

The presenters of this award have had feedback that a lot of courses in the area are brilliant, but are let down by a somewhat pretentious and unwelcoming attitude from the staff.

This is not the case at all with Pyecombe. The Yearbook panel were really impressed with all the reports of the warm friendly and welcoming attitude of staff, which really put us ahead of the rest in the face of a lot of fierce competition.

The above would not have been possible without the staffs' loyalty and commitment to our Club. This award is not just to our Club it is also a tribute to our staff that has worked hard to provide a wonderful golfing experience for us all.

In the very near future we will be presented with an engraved glass trophy that we will display to let our members and visitors know what a great Club we are and have.

In closing be proud of this moment and proud to be a member of Pyecombe Golf Club.

Kind regards

Len North
Chairman, Pyecombe Golf Club

A Pyecombe Junior's Success was Reported in the Mid Sussex Times on 6th June, plus Aileen's achievement in the Sussex Ladies Championship. (Here is a facsimile of the report with photo)

SUSSEX GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Weather fails to put the dampers on Jelina as she retains her title



County Golf News
From Kay Grindell

Talented young golfer Jelina Fernando birdied the final hole at Chartham Park to retain her Sussex Girls Championship title by three shots.

Wet conditions led to the East Grinstead course flooding in places and meant the championship was reduced from 36 holes to 27.

But nothing could dampen the spirits of the 16 year old Pyecombe member as she was helped on her way by a superb six over par round in the morning.

There were 18 golfers from across the county taking part and **Jelina is pictured receiving the trophy from county president Margaret Grover.**

Lizzie Price, aged 14 of Nevill GC, won the Under 15 scratch competition. With a handicap of just 8, Lizzie no doubt is a rising Sussex star.

Lily Margaroli of Worthing GC, playing of 26, won the handicap competition with some great golf but it came at a price as she suffered a significant handicap cut.

Three days later it was the ladies full Sussex Championship at the Dyke.

In a thrilling weekend of quality golf, 46 of the county's top players competed fiercely over three days.

The scoring reflected the very challenging and windy conditions on Friday morning, with only five players scoring under 60. But improving conditions as the day went on saw 11 players shooting under 80 in the afternoon.

The prize winners in the 36 hole strokeplay competition were Chelsea Masters (Highwoods) who won the Stobart Cup for best scratch score (77+72), and Nikki Purton (Mannings Heath) who lifted the Grant-White Cup for best handicap score (net 71+72).

Katherine Russell (Royal Ashdown Forest) retained the Langridge Salver for the third year running for best scratch score aged 50+ (82+77).

The Championship was then contested over Saturday and Sunday with the top 16 players going through.

Pyecombe's Aileen Greenfield missed out in the

semi-final to eventual winner Karen Sykes' from Worthing. It was Sykes' fifth final in 13 years and produced a victory over Emma Carberry of Highwoods. Carberry had beaten clubmate Chelsea Masters in the semis.

Greenfield had the consolation of making the county team to play in County Match Week at the end of the month.

There were plenty of spectators enjoying the golf and long awaited summer sunshine for the Championship and Plate finals on Saturday afternoon. Carberry's ball striking was phenomenal, with awesome length off the tee, but Sykes' short game was on fire as she birdied four of the last seven holes to win 2&1. Her bunker shot on the 17th left her a tap in for par.

The Plate Final was another hard fought battle between Lizzie Price, aged just 14, of Nevill GC and Alice McCutchan of West Sussex, who has recently moved back to the area after university. The younger player clinched victory 2&1, showing great coolness under pressure.

PGC Men's Club Championships (Extracts from earlier club email newsletters)

There was a good turnout for the club championship and a cracking atmosphere as the leaders played out the final shots around the 18th.

A weekend of the most challenging conditions saw top golfers reduced to mere mortals, mortals to hackers and hackers tolots of hacks.

The 36 hole competition did however throw up some fantastic competition, and provided the opportunity for most golfers to hit more shots in a weekend than they ever dreamt they would. The competition is restricted to 15 handicappers and below, (it used to be played on the same date as the Club Championship for over 15 handicappers, the Mistlin and Chapman Cups, (See below).

It was a close run thing in the nett. In the end Frank 'back from driving around Brighton' Dennis, managed a 36 hole nett total of 148, despite finishing 6, 6.

Andy Duffy avoided similar duff shots in the field for 147, hence scooping some decent prize money, but the winner of more cash was Dave Cashmore, with a fantastic nett 146 to claim the Warren Cup.



Dave Cashmore hugging the Warren Cup

In the Scratch event, 2 days of battling saw Drew Bailey's 152 secure third place. It was then left to Richie Farmer and Trevor Greenfield to battle for the title. A 'seven' down 17 did little for Trev's hopes, with Richie holding a two shot lead as they approached the 18th. Both safely in the middle of the fairway, first up Trev, who hit his second shot to five feet. Richie needing a par to win, subsequently thinned his approach through the green, hit his recovery to 6 feet and lipped out. Trev made his birdie.

Off for extra holes, and they had a half down, or up, the first. At the second Richie airmailed the green, Trev safely on. A tricky 6 footer for par was missed by Richie giving Trev his 13th club title! Well done everyone who competed and took part in good spirit despite the harsh test. Special congratulations to Trevor, a true Champ.



Trevor Greenfield

Mistlin & Chapman Cups

Pyecombe's higher handicappers championship was played earlier in May when 'Lew Smith was triumphant in the Mistlin and Chapman Cups competitions. In the Scratch Mistlin Cup, Roy Lawson returned a gross 86 beating Phil Lee's gross 87, but the winner by one shot was Lew Smith with an 86. In the Nett part of the competition Richard Davey managed a nett 71, Phil Lee shot a nett 70, with Lew romping home with a nett 68. Well done, Lew.



L/R: Capt Nick Lee with Lew Smith

New Members since March 2013

Ranging from Flexible to Full to Extended Memberships.

Ian Halstead	Tom McCarron
Tim Crossman	Paul Eaton
Roger Head	Jonathan Wintle
Paul Isaacs	Richard Lynn
Chris Rea	Jackie Lee
Paul Benoy	Richard Mortimer-Lee
Clive Stillman	Nasser Elfurghani
Michael Fuller	Graham Mephram
Dave Cauvin	Sam Dring
Tony Wright	David Lucking
Ian Mackendrick	Annette Walsh
Phil Merchant	Mike Walsh
Andrzej Smith	Tony Burnham
Simon Lawrence	Peter Woods
Paul Ransome	Roseanne Rees
Gary Cager	Mark Bailey
Paul Harmes	Gary Mullan
Stephen Kirwan	James Stellard
David Roberts	Rob Miller
Jez Freedman	Jakub Kotan
Chris Phillips	Alex Woodford
Nic Hardy	Chris McMullan
James Harvey	Claire Riley
Nick Radbourne	Paul Spivey
Andrew David	Dan Hare

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.

Regards,

Matt Bolton

Assistant to Managing Secretary



I am very pleased that a number of you have been taking advantage of the larger choice of clubs that we are offering in the Pro shop and also the complimentary custom fitting service we are offering with the Flightscope Launch Monitor. Thank you for all your support. We have over 70 demo clubs that you can take onto the course to try and are stocking TaylorMade, Callaway, Titleist, Lynx, Cleveland and BenRoss. We also have a large selection of TaylorMade, Odyssey and YES putters. I am confident in saying that our prices compare extremely well with the best you can find in the golf market.

On the coaching side, I am delighted to say that Pyecombe is continuing its links with St Lawrence School in Hurstpierpoint. We have been running breakfast clubs every Thursday through the summer term and the demand has been so good that we have been asked to run more classes next term. This is now the 4th year that we have been providing golf services in the local community and I hope that we will start to see a few more young golfers coming up to Pyecombe Golf Club in the not too distant future.

Equipment corner – Wedges

A Wedge is Not Just a Wedge

Next to the putter, the wedges are the second most important group of clubs in the bag when it comes to improving your scores. A quick look at the statistics on the European Tour and PGA Tour is proof. The average Tour player hits 11 to 12 greens in regulation per round yet still scores par or better. How? By getting the ball close enough to the hole with their wedges to make the putts for par.

When being custom fit for the best wedges for your game, specifications such as loft, lie, length, sole width and sole angle are certainly important. But what most golfers don't know is that choosing wedges on the basis of the design and condition of the courses they play is very important for getting the complement of wedges that improve their ability to "get the ball up and down" more often.

Sand Conditions

If the sand in the bunkers is fluffy and deep, a sandwedge with a wide sole and a greater bounce angle is recommended. Conversely, the more coarse and shallow the sand, the more narrow the sole should be and a wedge with less bounce should be used. These points are true because the wider the sole and more bounce on the sole, the more the sole can resist travelling deep into the sand. ***I would recommend having a sand wedge with 56 degrees of loft and between 12 and 14 degrees of bounce for use at Pyecombe Golf Club.***

Grass Conditions

If your course has longer grass and softer turf around the greens then a wedge with a wider sole and a greater bounce angle is recommended. Likewise, if the grass is shorter and the ground is firmer (Such as at

Pyecombe Golf Club in the summer) then a club with less bounce and a narrower sole angle is preferential. ***I would recommend having a gap wedge of approximately 52 degrees and a bounce angle of around 8 degrees for your chip shots and short pitches off the fairway at Pyecombe Golf Club.***

Green Design

The more elevated the greens, the steeper the bunker faces and the smaller the greens, the more loft should be on the wedges to help get the ball elevated for a softer landing shot. For flatter and larger greens, less lofted wedges are better to encourage a lower ball flight and to get the ball rolling as quick as possible. It's always easier to judge the distance when the ball is rolling than when it's in the air.

Personally I don't carry a lob wedge but if you struggle to hit the high shots around the green, I would recommend a 60 degree wedge with around 8 degrees of bounce.

Wedge Specifications

The loft angle between each wedge should not be less than 3 degrees, or more than 6 degrees. This way the golfer always has a club for the distance in question and they'll never have to over hit a wedge, a practice which can destroy wedge accuracy.

A good mix of wedges would be either having a 52 degree and 56 degree wedge based on your pitching wedge being 48 degrees. You can add a 60 degree wedge if required. Please note that some pitching wedges can be as little as 44 degrees and then a more appropriate mix of wedges would be 49 deg, 54 deg and 60 deg.

Always, have the lie angles of your wedges adjusted dynamically by noting the point of impact with the ground to the sole. A lie angle that is 2 degrees out can result in your wedges consistently missing the target by up to 4 yards. It might not be your fault!

We offer a complimentary wedge check and fitting service. We have the equipment required to check the lie and loft of your current clubs and the Flightscope Launch Monitor is perfect for learning your exact distances achieved with each wedge.

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Trade in any old wedge for a brand new 588 Cleveland wedge and get

£25 OFF

A NEW WEDGE FOR ONLY £55!!

Jason