



Ups & Downs

Pyecombe G C

Newsletter

January / February 2014

No. 135

Editor Alf Bickham

FROM THE CAPTAIN

CAPTAINS LOG

Star date - 27/2/2014

Location - Planet Golf, Algarve

Mission –

- (1) To stay sober.
- (2) play some good golf &
- (3) complete Captains Review by deadline date

Projection - Mission failure on 2 of the above.

Meanwhile, back on Earth. I've just read an email with Jason's course update saying that Pyecombe GC is closed today. Obviously this is most unwelcome news as a lot of hard work goes into this winter training in Vilamoura. I would like to hit the ground running from March onwards preferably with quickly improving conditions in which to complete the backlog of MSWL matches, Mixed matches and all sorts of other golf as the "Masters" approaches, which always heralds that the Golf season is well and truly underway.

Well done to Duncan Scott on two counts. One for adopting one of the Captains' Charities for prostate cancer. Best of luck with the marathon Dunc. (See page 2) Also, well done for

masterminding a victory in the "Daily Mail" competition versus Singing Hills, even though it was a hard fought putting comp. All great stuff.

CAPTAIN'S REVIEW

Officially the wettest winter since records began in 1910. I was rather hoping that during my year in office at Pyecombe it would be golfing records that would be broken. Still plenty of time in the golfing year left for that then. I don't want to dwell on the weather too much, but inevitably it has an effect on everyone connected to the club. Take a moment to applaud our green keepers who have toiled through the high winds and relentless driving rain to somehow keep the course ultimately playable when other clubs have seen long term closures. Our hard working office and professional staff are constantly rescheduling golfing events and organising repairs to the fabric of the house and the surrounds battered by the elements.....

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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**

CAPTAIN'S REVIEW (Continued)

As the rain falls, to us, the members, how frustrating it is when looking forward to a club match, or a game with our mates, only to

realise that the DIY job that should have been done last year has to be done now!



“Danica, what are you doing with that plank”

Thanks to our Head of House Trev & our team of tradesmen who have been completing the much needed bar refurbishment. When the season gets into swing I'm sure we will all reap the benefit of the vast improvements made.

Colin Kemp

Prostate Cancer Marathon Run

The Captain's Charity this year is Prostrate Cancer and one of our members Duncan Scott is running a marathon in order to raise funds.

Duncan has been out running virtually every day, and even managed a 7 mile training run up to the club from Burgess Hill before playing in a match against the County.

You can help Duncan Scott raise money for this great cause by donating directly to their fundraising page - <http://www.justgiving.com/Duncan-Scott4>.

JustGiving sends your donation straight to PROSTATE CANCER UK and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

LADIES SECTION

There is not much to report for this newsletter due to – well the weather. It is taking its toll on the golf programme at the moment, even Pyecombe is suffering. Our thanks must go to the green staff and management for their hard work at such a difficult time.

The Ladies Mail on Sunday had to be re-scheduled and took place on Thursday 20th February in not ideal weather conditions. A brave Pyecombe and Hassocks team took to the course and played in what must be described as horrendous weather throughout the whole match – heavy wind and rain - and I am pleased to say that Pyecombe came out victorious. Thank you ladies for putting up such a great fight - I hope you have all dried out now.

Hopefully by the next issue of Ups and Downs, we should be enjoying our golf – spring is just around the corner.’

Sandra Staynes
Lady Captain

VETS SECTION

I would just like to say as a small contribution to “Ups & Downs” that I welcome all the new members who have joined the Vets section in the last few months and I hope you will all enjoy your golf with the Section.

As this is a period when few competitions apart from the winter knockouts are played and inter club matches have not yet started, there is not much for me to report.

We must all be hoping that this bad weather will soon cease and we can return to playing in much better weather conditions and return to enjoying competitions and matches which in a month’s time will become regular events.

One additional item is that the Friends of Pyecombe are going to start a book lending library so they might be asking for books to be donated but more details of this should be issued shortly.

Brian Langley
Vets Captain

Welcome to New Greenkeeper



Pyecombe gives a warm welcome to Stephen Milner, (pictured left), as he starts a new phase in his career, joining the Pyecombe greenkeeping staff. Stephen is well qualified and brings considerable knowledge having had experience at Hollingbury for a number of years. We wish him well and success at Pyecombe.

The President reflects

Members will have been saddened recently by the passing of Bill Wise. The excellent turnout at his funeral and wake bears testament to the high regard in which he was held. Many members will have their own memories of him and I am no exception.



Bill Wise (1996 photograph)

Bill was quite a character. I really got to know him after the 1985 AGM when I was the incoming Captain. Bill had only just taken office as the Club Secretary, so we were both very much feeling our way into our respective jobs as it were – early on, he said to me in his typical northern style “hey, lad, I’d call this the blind leading the blind!”....he was right of course! Somehow though we muddled through the year without too much ado and Bill gradually “got his feet under the table”.

But it wasn’t easy for Bill in that first year because my day job was in Banking and he often found it difficult to contact me at times.....no, I wasn’t out on the golf course!! So Bill found it easier to phone my wife Vi and leave messages for me. In true Thomas Hardy style, Bill thus dubbed Vi “the go between!” We shall always remember his kind gesture when my year came to an end – one day there was a ring at our door and there, looking a little uncomfortable holding a lovely bouquet of flowers, was Bill.....no, they were not for me!.....but for Vi as a gesture of appreciation for being “the go between” throughout the year.

Quite frequently Bill displayed his impish and mischievous sense of humour, often at the expense of the ladies! The answer was to give as good as you got! At Club meetings, whether internal or external ones like Open events, he could always be relied on to lighten proceedings with a humorous aside or two. In fact a number of Open competitors told me that one of the attractions in coming to Pyecombe was to hear Bill announce the winners in his inimitable witty way! In the Club archives you will find the old Suggestions Book and I recommend you to have a look through the pages of his era and enjoy a chuckle or two at some of his unique responses to ‘old chestnuts’ or controversial issues of the day. He most certainly had his own style with words!

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The President Reflects (Continued)

When I retired I was fortunate in that my eldest daughter was then working for British Airways, which meant that Vi and I were the lucky recipients of generous air fare discounts. Having the time, we naturally took advantage of the travel opportunities to some lovely destinations – typically, and, I suspect, with a twinkle in his eye, Bill accused me of “hedonistic tendencies!”...perish the thought!

Sadly, about the time he was retiring, his future plans were dealt a devastating blow. His wife Marion suffered a major stroke which severely affected her speech and mobility, in addition to which she developed crippling arthritis. Thus, for the best part of the last 20 years of his life, Bill spent much of his time being ‘chief cook and bottle washer’ as he devotedly cared for Marion.

I will finish by mentioning that, as Secretary, one of Bill’s duties was to walk the Course on a regular basis to ‘keep an eye on things’. It was not unusual for him to do this sometimes at weekends, often when Monthly Medals were in full flow and, amongst other things, he was looking out for slow playI can see him now.....away in the distance on the 14th coming towards us with his limping gaitwe braced ourselves, knowing that in a short while we would be subject to some erudite comments regarding our efforts!! No doubt many of you have similar reminiscences!

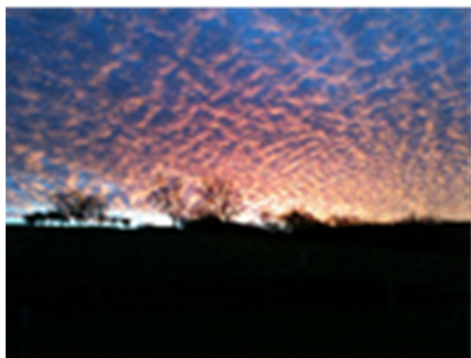
Reg Auchterlonie

Banned Golf Shoes at PGC



Unfortunately as our greens are being heavily damaged by ADIZERO TOUR golf shoes and as a measure to protect the course we now have a ban on them until further notice. Picture shows the effect of these shoes on our greens.

An Early Morning Sky at PGC



A mackerel sky: The photograph shows the end of some storm clouds on 5th January. The sun rising early in the east would only have been seen by the greenkeepers or ‘early bird’ golfers.

(Photo by George Eves)

Friends of Pyecombe Golf Club

The Friends of Pyecombe was set up to raise funds for expenditure, for Pyecombe Golf Club that cannot be covered by annual business revenue. Since its inception the Friends have helped the Club purchase the Tee Boards, ball washers, waste bins, the turf iron and provided funds towards the building of the 2nd Tee. In the Clubhouse the friends have helped to purchase tables, chairs, table clothes and more recently provided funds for the improvement and refurbishment of the Bar.

Besides occasional donations and sponsorship the only regular source of income for The Friends of Pyecombe Golf Club is through the Golf Club Members and their friends joining the '500' Club which holds a monthly draw, with prizes of £75, £50 and £25, for a donation of only £5 per month, usually paid quarterly through standing order. For your chance to win, if you are not yet a member of the '500' Club, complete the application form which is located on the Friends notice board opposite the kitchen door, then hand in the Standing Order Instruction to the Friends Committee, Office or Bar Staff.

Draw winners of the January Draw:-

£75	Mike Sexton
£50	Ted Chapman
£25	Lesley Fallowfield

Martin Sutcliffe has very kindly donated a quantity of books to Friends of Pyecombe, it is intended that these books will be put on sale, in the near future, to raise further funds. The Friends Committee has asked the Management Committee if it would be viable to start a 'lending library' at the Club. It is hoped to start this with any of the books which are not sold and it is hoped that Club Members will donate books that they have read and finished with. Books can then be borrowed, for a small contribution to funds, and returned when read. Watch out for further details in the Clubhouse.

The Tee Board Sponsorship was originally intended to be for a period of up to two years, it has now been in place for five to six years. To raise further funds it is now time to renew this sponsorship. Current sponsors will be offered the opportunity to continue and new sponsors will be sought. It is also proposed that a Sponsors Board be strategically placed either inside or outside the Clubhouse. If anyone knows of any company or organisation that would like to sponsor the Golf Club please contact the Friends Committee or the Office.

The Friends of Pyecombe Cup is a golf competition played in September. It is a pairs stableford competition which has not been particularly well supported in the past few years. The Friends Committee have submitted suggestions to the Captain's Committee to try and make this competition more prominent in the Club's calendar.

Friends of Pyecombe Golf Club are very grateful for your continued support. We would be pleased to welcome anyone interested in helping with our fund raising efforts to join the Committee.

FoP Committee --	David Schwartz	Alan Carter	Jim Dossetter
	Bob Foster	Alison White	

Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) Awards

Further to the report in November / December's issue of "Ups & Downs", Pyecombe narrowly missed out on the ultimate award at the National Golf Environment Awards Presentations.

The club was one of 10 finalists from across Britain, and received glowing comments from judges.

Eventual winners were Hankley Common and Dundonald Links, both boasting enormous resources compared to Pyecombe.

The event held in Harrogate, Yorkshire, attended by our secretary, celebrated how golf clubs work with the environment. Pyecombe was respected for making best use of available resources, its work within the South Downs National Park and its stunning golf course.

Among the congratulatory comments made by the Judges they announced that at Pyecombe GC;

'There is a considerable range of wildlife on the course, but to enhance this the Club has carried out a number of strategies such as the installation of bird boxes, planting silver birch and hawthorn, creating wood piles in woods, encouraging various species of beetle by setting buckets in the ground and by stacking piles of rubber mats to form a beetle 'hotel'.

At the same time the club is well supported by members and volunteers showing commitment from the membership and club.

'Roughs' are left as natural as possible and the local farmer harvests hay from these once per annum to be used as animal feed.

In addition the Club's website contains an extensive amount of environmental information regarding the Club.'

Evidence of Flooding at Pyecombe Golf Course



Above: The old 18th green during some of February's rain



A February scene



Putting Green – February

GET READY FOR THE NEW SEASON

With spring hopefully on the way, it's time to start thinking about getting ready for the golf season. Here are a few points you should look at to help make this year a successful one.

1) Check your grips. Grips should be changed at least once every two years but depending on how much you play, they may need to be changed as often as every six months. Worn and slippery grips can cause problems in your swing. Slippery grips will cause you to subconsciously grip the club too tight. Tension of any kind affects the swing but none as much as excess grip pressure. Squeezing the club too tight may cause one or more of the following problems: loss of power, slices and overall poor contact.

Cost of new grips - £5 to £10 per club. (10% reduction on full sets)

2) Check your spikes. Aside from the obvious safety reasons while walking up and down Pyecombe hills, spikes that are worn down may cause slipping during the swing. Loss of balance and excess foot movement may cause mishit shots leading to unnecessary bogies and worse. I would recommend using metal spikes during the winter and soft spikes through the summer months. We will happily change spikes over between seasons. Keep hold of the old ones if they are in good condition as we can fit them back into your shoes when ground conditions dictate.

Cost of a set of new spikes including fitting - £10

3) Book a lesson. This is the perfect time to brush up on your basics. Starting the season with good fundamentals should lead to a more enjoyable year of golf. I am running a special promotion for Members through March and April of a **1 hour lesson for £25.** (Save £10). This will provide a great opportunity to have a check up on the long game and short game. All lessons come with an optional emailed video of your swing.

4) Is it time to change your set of clubs? We are continually updating our stock and currently have the new range of Callaway, Taylormade and Titleist clubs available to try. A number of members used our new custom fitting service last year and the feedback has been very positive.

***Don't forget that this service is free to all members
including an after sales check-up.***

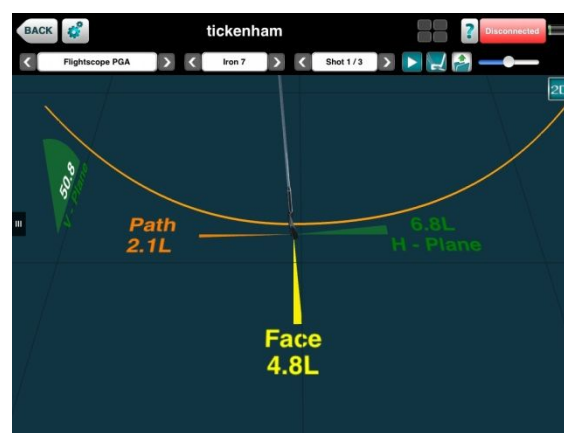
We will also be running demo days throughout the year. ***The first one is booked in for the 10th April.*** Both Callaway and Bridgestone will be in attendance offering a full selection of clubs and balls to match your game. Once again this is complimentary to all Pyecombe members.

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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FLIGHTSCOPE



Four stages to your perfect set of clubs:

- Stage 1: Fill in pre-assessment questionnaire**
- Stage 2: Free custom fitting session on the FlightScope X2**
- Stage 3: Make your decision and order your clubs**
- Stage 4: Free checkup one month later to ensure satisfaction**

FlightScope takes all the guesswork out of choosing your next set of clubs. We have plenty of new stock to choose from and demo clubs to try.

