



Ups & Downs

Pyecombe G C

Newsletter

May / June 2014

No.137

Editor Alf Bickham

CAPTAIN'S REVIEW

If we thought April was busy then May & June WOW! All competitions well underway some have come & gone, but it matters not. Disappointment at being knocked out in one competition or not playing well in one event is suddenly a distant memory when the golfing gods turn in your favour, you hole a long putt or chip in to win the weekly stableford or win the friendly four-ball. The point is, there is always the next game and at this time of year it's never far away. Highlights over the last couple of months would have to include the "Fun(d)" day where you managed to raise around 3k towards the "Car Park Cause" and thanks to some great organising by Paul Bowles in particular we had a FAB bank holiday "FUNDAY". It was a RED letter day on Saturday 17th of May when our "Optimus" & "Exclusive" teams had great victories over Littlehampton & Hollingbury respectively. It was indeed a pleasure to caddie for one of our transatlantic young bucks, Ritchie Farmer, while our other rising US Collegiate star Matt Greenfield went on to edge out Julian Deans on the 36th hole (See Photo's) to win our Club Championship for the first time in June, with Mummy Greenfield drying the tears in time to claim yet another Club Championship of her own. Fantastic!

NEW MEMBERS

It's been brilliant to see lots of new members on the course over the last few months. The fresh faces are a welcome addition to the Pyecombe "Family" and we genuinely hope that you have been made to feel at home at your club of choice and will continue to benefit as a member of the best golf club in the south for many years to come.

DON'T MISS!

CAPTAINS DAY (Sunday 3rd of August) – Will be a Hawaiian themed day with something for all the family. The "Charlie Beamish" Trophy will be played for on the course, while other Hawaiian themed games will be played around the clubhouse to the musical sounds of the Pacific Island. Tasty Tropical food will be the order of the day, all washed down with refreshing cocktails. YUM!

(Please see the Captains board for more details)

M.A.D

Men's Auction Dinner.

On Friday 8th of August we are launching.....

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

CAPTAIN’S REVIEW (Continuation)

.....the inaugural auction dinner followed on Saturday 9th by the associated golf competition. On the Friday night, playing pairs will be drawn & allocated a tee time for the 4BBB Saturday competition. On The Friday we will be encouraged to amass a “Tote” style pot, which will be played for on the Saturday. (simples!)
(Please see the Captains board for more details)



OTHER DATES FOR THE DIARY

2nd August

Gala Day – Chris White Trophy
– Hog Roast (all day)

6th September

Friends of Pyecombe Day – FOP Stableford –
Comedy Night

11th October

PYECOMBE BALL at the AMEX
(Heineken Suite)



Club Championship 18th green Photo’s

RESPECT FOR JACK LUCKING

A much loved member who we lost recently in his 96th year. Jack became an honorary member after being an active member for many years. He will be remembered fondly by those that were privileged to have known him. Sincere condolences are conveyed to David and family from all members and staff at Pyecombe Golf Club.

Colin Kemp

LADIES SECTION

Since the last Newsletter, we have seen Aileen reach the semi-finals of the County Championship at East Brighton only to lose to the overall winner, Alice Barnes of West Sussex. Pyecombe's Jelina Fernando was runner up in the Plate and the Pyecombe team only narrowly missed out on the team prize

All the Division matches have now been played. Division 1 are through to the Quarter Finals and sadly Division 3 just missed out for the second year running.

County Week was at Muswell Hill Golf Club 9-13 June – Aileen and Jelina were both part of the Sussex team.

The 5th round of the Mail on Sunday was played on 15 June at Highwoods. Our team put up a brave fight but lost to Highwoods in the end.

The Kathleen Ryder match took place on 17 June at Copthorne and our team of Aileen, Sam Wakefield, Alison Vermes and Joanna Greenstreet came joint fourth. There were approximately 200 ladies playing on the day so many congratulations to our team for a good result.

The overall winner of the Summer Cup, played on 21 June, was Angie Bainbridge.

The Ladies Championship was played on 24 June and Aileen is the Pyecombe Ladies Champion with Pat Webb winning the 18 hole Greenstreet Salver.

We still have many matches and competitions ahead of us but congratulations to all the ladies who have been part of the various teams and have done so well. Thank you all for your efforts.

We have been very lucky with the weather so far and hopefully long may it continue for the rest of 2014.

Sandra Staynes
Lady Captain

Vets report

The vets section is now well into the season's matches. As we have 32 matches these fixtures are coming thick and fast.

In the last few weeks we have beaten teams from Eastbourne Down and Willingdon, halved with Ifield but lost to the Dyke, Mannings Heath and Ham Manor.

In club competitions Chris Muschamp won the Dancey trophy, Aubrey Watson won the monthly stableford and Ken Barnard won the Chevalier Spoons. Well done to them.

Throughout the season the section is invited to send representatives to play in seniors invitations at other clubs round the county. The format is teams of four from different clubs, a great way of playing great courses and making new friends.

Brian Langley
Vets Captain

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Firstly, may I take the opportunity to welcome all new members to the club. You may not be aware but we have had an influx of new members who are extremely welcome and I hope appreciating the many qualities that Pyecombe Golf Club has to offer - not the least of which is playing golf on one of the most picturesque and interesting courses in Sussex. Our green staff have worked extremely hard to overcome the effects of the incredibly wet winter and you will have seen that the aeration, hollow-tining and dressing earlier in the year have brought the greens into good condition. Indeed, some are saying that over Championship week-end the course has never been presented better. I hope you agree.

Your management committee is currently involved in progressing various projects, the most important of which is to improve our car parking. With this in mind we are aiming to present a complete application and justification to Mid Sussex District Council to enable the lower, overflow car park to be terraced and for the surface to be improved. This will not be easy as there is great resistance within MSDC planning to allowing any change within the South Downs National Park. However, we are pressing on with this.

You will have seen changes around the clubhouse environs as we strive to make our facility even more welcoming to visitors of all sorts and to potential members. This is part of an ongoing strategy and I welcome any ideas that you have. Inside the clubhouse we have seen a bar refurbishment, new carpeting and the installation of the leader-board screen. We have also seen improvement in presentation of the bar area, thanks largely to the efforts of Danica and Paul.

As to finances, the wet winter has taken its toll but I am pleased to report that the year-to-date figures are now very encouraging and we are looking forward to the next year with great optimism.

The improvement in finances has enabled the Management Committee to move forward with other projects. The men's showers and toilets are in need of an upgrade and we plan to do this in the Autumn. Also, we have agreed that we will invest in a borehole to abstract water - this does carry some degree of risk in that we may not strike a good supply but, results from nearby golf clubs indicates that we should be successful and this would not only reduce our ongoing water supply costs but provide us with water when the water board restrict our supply in drought conditions. Further improvements to our irrigation system will be considered once the drilling results are available.

Finally, I would like to add a word about our hard-working office staff. Alan, Matt and Jo are an excellent team and as they are all single figure handicap golfers understand the needs and concerns of members. They are happy to field members questions when working but I would ask you to avoid asking 'office' questions when they themselves are playing golf in their own leisure time.

I wish you happy golfing for the remainder of the summer – let's hope the good weather continues.

Michael Price

Chairman of the Management Committee

The President reflects

Unlike last year when the Ladies President's Trophy competition had to be rescheduled because of bad weather, this year we had a beautiful day. Conditions were nigh on perfect although in equestrian terms the going was a tad 'rough'! The scores reflected this, but nevertheless most of the ladies were up for the challenge and seemed to have had an enjoyable time. In third place with a net score of 81 were Pam Perry & Sam Wakefield with runners up Marsha Shand & Di Mackley on 79. The worthy winners, however, were Pat Webb & Helen Woodcock-Downey with a battling 76



Pat Webb(left), Helen Woodcock-Downey(right) receiving the Trophy

Pyecombe's Seniors Open took place on Monday 19th May. Our Defending Champion Nick Lee not only had to present the prizes at the end of the competition, he also held his nerve to defend his crown with a superb 39pts. The Scratch prize was won by John Cox of Rye Hill with 33pts, with PGCs Austin Smith in 2nd with 33pts, followed by Kevin Hardy of Eastbourne Downs on 33pts ocb.

Pictured: Nick Lee (left) is presented with the Seniors Open Trophy by yours truly.



Having just returned from holiday it was sad to hear that Jack Lucking had passed away at the grand old age of 96. Jack joined Pyecombe in 1971 and I believe he was the longest serving member of the Broken Spur Golfing Society and was attending their dinners at the Club up until a year or so ago. For many years he ran a Gentlemens Outfitters business at Shoreham. A lovely man, Jack always had a cheery outlook and in his day had been a very good dancer being very light on his feet - 'Twinkletoes Jack' I called him! He and his wife Ellen were keen supporters of Club social events and, where dancing was concerned, Jack was always first on the dance floor and last to leave! For many years he teamed up with another Club 'stalwart' of previous years, Dick Smithard, and hosted the Club Xmas Party Punch Cocktail Evening which, with the two of them 'in full flow', always guaranteed a thoroughly enjoyable evening for everyone.

Sorry to see you go Jack, but it was a grand innings!

Reg Auchterlonie

Club Championship

On the biggest weekend of the year 21st & 22nd June when the Club Championship at Pyecombe was competed for, there were of course many stories of bad luck mixed with the inevitable misfortune of making some bad strokes. The Saturday starting sheet saw 83 hopeful golfers.

Shortly after sunrise on Championship Saturday head green keeper Simon and his green keeping team started at 5 a.m. to put the finishing touches to the course that provided this year's golfing exam paper.

In the Club Championship Scratch competition, playing for the Campion Cup, the results were, in fifth place Drew Bailey with a gross score of 154, fourth Trevor Greenfield with 152, third Richie Farmer with 152, runner up with a score of 150 was Julian Deans, but the winner was Matt Greenfield with a magnificent 147.

In the Warren Cup net handicap competition, in fifth place was Paul Cook with 148, fourth Matt Greenfield with 147, third Mark Kemp with 146, and once more Julian Deans found himself runner up with 144, but the winner of the Warren Cup and Net Champion was Matt Redmore with a net total of 142.



Pictured: Club Champion, Matt Greenfield (left), and Net Champion, Matt Redmore (right)

Thanks go to all who helped to make it a great Championship weekend. There were many helpers to make the weekend's two days run smoothly. These included Gary Cager & son Liam, Danica, Mike Sexton, Annie Eves, Angie Bainbridge, Aileen Greenfield, Jan Brittin, Barry Wood, Sandy Selsby. Thanks also go to the Sunday starters of Peter Gavin at the 1st and Graham Harwood at the 9th and to Jason for running the competition. Thanks also to Margaret Hann for collecting the Tote money on the Saturday morning for the weekends winning Net score. The Tote produced £183 for "Friends of Pyecombe".

Aileen Greenfield shoots course record again at Pyecombe GC

(Below is the text of an Office email sent to members on 2nd June)

Aileen Greenfield has been at the top of county golf for over thirty years. As Aileen continues in her inimitable style to shoot dazzling scores, it is easy to sometimes forget the magnitude of her achievements: Sussex County Champion for the first time in 2002 at Royal Ashdown GC, 2007 at Seaford Blatchington GC, then again in 2010 at Crowborough Beacon GC.

Not only has she won Pyecombe's Club Championship 31 times, she has now established a new ladies' course record with a blistering 69 in the ladies' Spring meeting at Pyecombe on Tuesday 13th May 2014. Always a contender to watch in the Sussex ladies' County Championship, this year she was knocked out in the semi-finals.

Course management and dealing with the rough in the summer

It's that time of year again when the course plays a bit tighter and the rough claims its quota of golf balls. (If you find any ProV1 balls marked with a JB, please return to the shop) Obviously the main aim is to avoid the rough completely and good course management can help. Don't just blaze away with the driver as you would in the winter, place a premium on accuracy over distance and think about using a 3 wood or even an iron off the tee. Remember that the ground is hard and the ball is running meaning that a shorter club off the tee may still give you a chance of reaching the green in regulation. Even if you can't reach the green in regulation with a shorter tee shot, place the emphasis on accuracy as you probably still get a shot on the hole. Measuring your performance against par is a set-up for failure for the average golfer. Decide which holes you can par and which you can bogey and set your own par on each hole.

If your ball is heading for the rough, don't just turn away in disgust, keep a close eye on where it went in and try and pick out any bushes or trees as reference points. Then it's time for a provisional ball. You are allowed 5 minutes to look for your ball but most of the time this is probably excessive. Think whether you really want to find it in the first place. If your provisional ball is in a good position, ignoring the original ball by declaring it lost, could be the best option.

If you are lucky enough to find your golf ball, escaping from the rough involves a decision making process:

How deep is your ball in the rough and where is it in relation to giving you a reasonable chance to salvage a couple of points on the hole?

Should you throw caution to the wind and try to hack the ball as far as possible towards the green at the risk of finding even more trouble? Or should you perhaps take the cautious approach and get back on the fairway and start again from a better lie?

It's a case of balancing the risk with the likely rewards – or penalties. Being aware of your limitations is probably the key.

On finding your ball in deep rough, you have to consider if you have the right tools and the right technique to get your game back on track at one stroke or take your punishment, find the fairway and maybe drop only one or two shots in the process.

Very often inexperienced players will try to get away with using a club that's poorly suited for the purpose. It's all very well opting for a 4- or 5-iron or hybrid for a shot of 150-160 yards from a good lie, but not from a bad lie in the rough.

If the ball is in deep rough take a club that has plenty of loft and is heavy enough to help cut through to the bottom of the ball – a pitching wedge or sand iron is often the best club for this purpose.

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Open the clubface, making allowance for the clubface to close or shut as it makes contact with the grass and re-grip firmly. Position the ball towards the back of your stance and make a steep angle of attack as you strike down towards the bottom of the ball.

The set up and angle of attack will cause the ball to fly on a lower trajectory and as a result, won't carry as far as it normally would. Even if it means playing out sideways or even backwards it's often a better option than trying to propel the ball over too much rough.

There are occasions when the rough is spindly but not so heavy, in which case you can often risk a high lofted wood or hybrid but, again, slightly open the clubface before re-gripping and allow for a right to left flight as the club closes towards impact.

For those members that don't hit such a long ball and have difficulty with the carries on the course at the moment, try using a 3 wood for your tee shot or consider replacing your driver with a more lofted one. The slower your club head speed is, the more lofted your driver should be in order to get the ball up in the air and to maximize carry and distance.

Always remember that if you are in the rough, take your punishment and get back into play as soon as you can, presuming you can find it in the first place!

Reasons for having golf lessons.

1. More consistency: Most golfers who come for golf lessons are looking for more consistency. They wonder why they can sometimes hit the perfect shot and the very next swing can propel the ball straight out of bounds. There are no two ways about it, consistency comes with good technique. The better your technique the more consistent you will become. I am often asked "What did I do wrong?" when a bad shot is hit. The truth is that maybe you just weren't as lucky as on the good shot!
2. Give yourself something to practice: Just hitting balls on the practice ground will simply re-enforce the faults that you have, probably leading to a decrease in performance. Practice make permanent not perfect.
3. Decrease the risks of injuries: Some of the movements that many golfers make are quite unnatural and put considerable strain on the body. I regularly come across people with various ailments, particularly bad backs which are specifically brought on by incorrect movements and set up.
4. Get rid of a repetitive fault: Most of you probably have a destructive shot that continuously rears its head, whether it is a sliced tee shot or a thinned chip. A lesson and a bit of practice could eradicate it and make the game a great deal more enjoyable.

Lessons are available on both weekdays and weekends. Pop in for a chat, we're here to help.

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Offer of the week

1 free re-grip with every 6 purchased.

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.

Large selection of grips available from £5 to £10



Jason
