

Season's Greetings



Ups & Downs

Pyecombe G C

Newsletter

November / December 2014

No 139

Editor Alf Bickham

FROM THE CAPTAIN

I have had the great pleasure in being Captain of our club for nearly a month now and time has just flown by.

On the 14th of December we did manage to have the drive in. The weather was kind and



what a terrific turnout, we had over 130 players. What a time Mary and I had meeting each team with our refreshments.

The organisation for the day worked so well starting with either bacon or sausage baps for those that wanted them followed by such competitive golf. The food after was fantastic and what a brilliant idea to have tables laid out with platters etc, and also pre ordering of

drinks, this prevented queuing and everybody was served together.

The only downside was that the drive in was early and nerves came into play which only got worse after seeing Geoff driving down the middle of the fairway with a gentle draw followed by Mary booming her 3 wood again up the middle with the perfect draw. I was shaking and praying that I just hit the ball and did manage to do just that. (Photo's on page 4)

There were many people who made the day happen from the green-keepers to the front of house, the kitchen team, the office and not forgetting Jason.

I would also like to give a big thank you to Andy who did a great job of raising money for the charities – we raised around £100.00, plus of course Paul Bowles who's ideas worked so well.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all members and staff a great Christmas and a very happy New Year and also wish members who could not make the drive in due to not being too well a very speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you in the club very soon.

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

Season's Greetings

FROM THE CAPTAIN (Continued)

Urgent call for the Mid Sussex League.

Remember the old saying your country needs you, well your club also needs as many members as possible to put their names down to represent Pyecombe in the two matches in January against Worthing and Ifield. Sheets are up on the board across from the kitchen.

You will have a great day. The matches are open to all members with a handicap of 18 or less.

Again have a most wonderful Christmas.

Mike Willmott

Captain

From the Lady Captain



This is my first report as Lady Captain. Mike Willmott and I did not have a very auspicious start with the AGM and Drive-in weekend. The Saturday was a terrible day, pouring with rain that was so heavy that the course closed itself and, with another very wet day forecast for the Sunday, an early decision was made to postpone the drive-in until the day of the Christmas scramble. It turned out to be a very wise decision and the new date dawned bright and sunny with a very heavy frost, which unfortunately meant that those playing in a buggy were unable to take part. Hopefully everybody else had a good day. Mike and I had great fun catching up with all the groups to dispense the goodies. Mike's mulled cider was extremely popular and all the sausage rolls and sausages vanished very quickly. Later, as we went outside to do the actual drives, we were treated to a vicious, squally shower, but Geoff Webb, the new Vets

Captain, managed to hit a really good drive putting the pressure on me. Fortunately, I managed a reasonable shot, admittedly with my fairway wood ('chicken' – I hear you say) and then Mike hit a really good drive to finish it off. We all heaved a sigh of relief and then went back inside to enjoy the rest of the day. The new format for the lunch, organised by Paul Bowles, was a great success and I am sure will be repeated in future years. Very many thanks Paul.

I feel very honoured and privileged to be Lady Captain at such a great Club as Pyecombe and am really looking forward to doing my best for the club, and for the Ladies Section in particular. I plan to do my best to follow the traditions of the Club, but at the same time, to work with the members and club management team to move Pyecombe forward.

Late Footnote:

Ken and I went to the Carol evening at the Club on Thursday 18th when 32 members enjoyed an evening of Carols organised by Paul Bowles. There was a glass of mulled wine on arrival and



(Continued on next page)

Season's Greetings

From the Lady Captain (Continued)

.....we were entertained by Dave Farmer and Geoff Goater, both on keyboards, singing all our favourite carols, which the members joined in. There was a quiz at the interval whilst the members enjoyed the excellent canapés provided by Nigel.

All in all a most enjoyable and fun evening and a shame there were not a few more members attending.

On that note - I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Mary Barnard

A Message from the Chairman

“At this festive time of year we quite rightly look forward to enjoying Christmas with family & friends and thanking God for having plenty of fare and happiness. However, when saying our thanks we should also be thinking of those less fortunate than ourselves and whom we have lost over the past year.

I wish you all a great Xmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Michael Price

+++++



To all Staff &
Members



Merry Christmas
&
A Happy New Year

from the Editor

Season's Greetings

Captains' Drive In Photographs



Geoff Webb



Mary Barnard



Mike Willmott



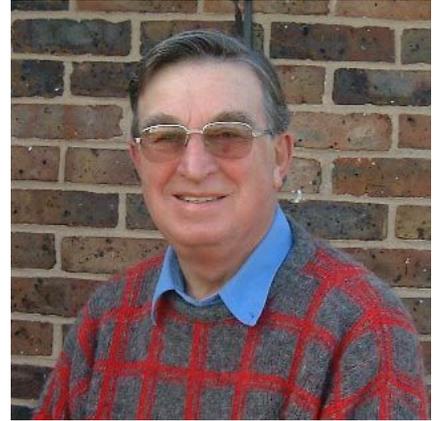
Photographs courtesy of Bob Foster & Alison White

Season's Greetings

Brian Dury (Compiled by Colin Milward)

Many members, in addition to all of us in the Vets, will be saddened by the death of Brian Dury.

Alexander Brian Dury, ever known as Brian, was a long term member of Pyecombe Golf Club, having served on several Committees, including Head of Greens and The Review Committee, where he was always determined to make his presence felt.



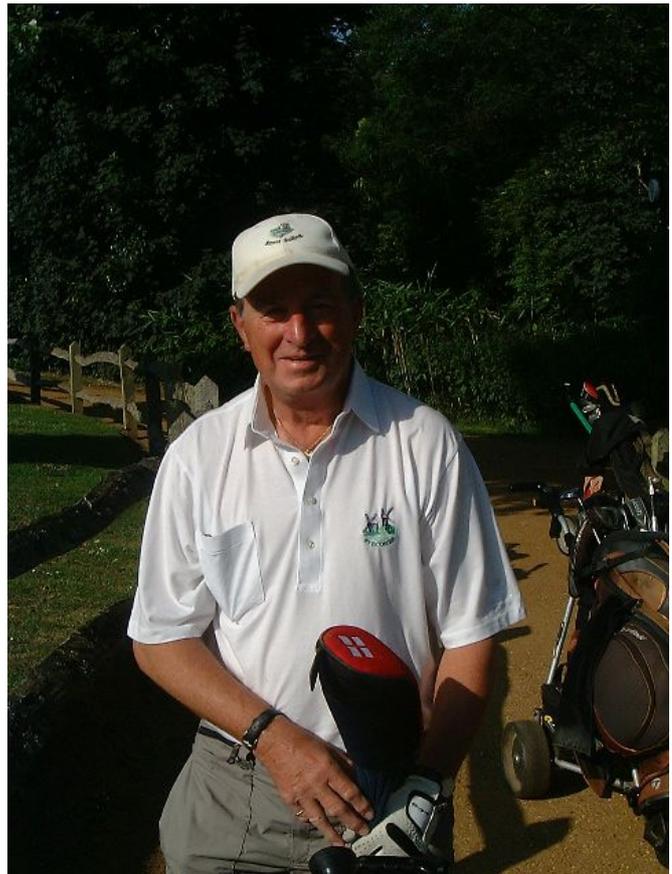
Brian Dury (2002 Photo)

Having been a member of the Vets Section for over 20 years, serving as Captain in 2005 and as Treasurer for a short time, he was very popular and always part of activities on, and off, the course. He was a regular participant on away days both in this country and in France and could often end up the talk of the trip by either forgetting his passport or ending up in hospital. Any such event would be explained with typical good humour and it would always be done in his usual self-deprecating style with no one to blame but himself.

Born in Leeds, he was intensely proud of his roots and with a constant sense of good humour he was always able to create a good audience, being specially interested in the activities of those around him. An accomplished public speaker, that served him well in his year as Vets' Captain, he was always ready to ex-temporise for votes of thanks etc. which were always appropriate and fun.

His popularity was again in evidence at his recent funeral. A large number of PGC members attended, where they were reminded of his many other activities including his long insurance career, the Church, his prison visitor role and his private study securing a degree at Sussex University.

Brian's usual Yorkshire non-PC greeting would be "**Hello, old love**" - he would be pleased if we just said:



Brian ready for Golf in his year as Vets Captain

Goodbye, old love - you will be remembered.

Season's Greetings

ON THE COURSE

I would imagine that everyone has noticed lots of high visibility winter work being carried out on the course at the moment by our greenstaff and groundwork contractor. For your information I outline the three main projects being undertaken this winter.

The first being the 3rd path refurbishment and the new path being created adjacent to the 14th tee which involves cutting into the cambered bank. This has always been a tricky area to negotiate, with trolleys and buggies wanting to flip sideways. Both areas are going to be utilising a reinforced pocketed rubber matting system. This will be pegged down, planted with soil and seed in the spring, to provide a durable, hopefully mud free surface which blends sympathetically into the surrounding grassland when the seed has germinated and the sward intertwined with the mat. Thanks go to Friends of Pyecombe for funding this work, which I am sure, will be greatly appreciated by all members. It will enhance our course and provide safer passage through these areas.

The second project is the tree clearance to the right hand of the 10th Yellow tee. Hawthorn and canopies of larger trees that have self-seeded have encroached in this area to produce shade and lack of airflow, which puts stress on the grass on the Yellow tee, the 9th Green and the surrounding area, causing it to take much longer to dry out and hence get muddy. Increasing light levels encourages stronger grass growth and a healthier sward. A corollary of this work will be the opening up of the right hand side of the fairway as enjoyed in past times. With the continual growth and enlargement of the central stand of trees, and the Yellow Tee becoming wetter and more difficult to maintain, this work is probably long overdue. Some more scrub and tree clearance is taking place around the 7th Summer Tees to increase light levels in that vicinity as well. The stand of gorse in front of the Ladies 11th Tee, which has now grown well above the ridge line, will also be cut back.

The third and largest project is the refurbishment of the 9th White, Yellow and Red Tees. The White Tee measuring only 40sq metres with no irrigation is woefully inadequate. It suffers badly in both wet weather and in dry periods. It provides one of the finest views from the tee on the course, probably only surpassed by that at the 3rd, but we seem to be playing on it less each year. This tee will be enlarged into the area cleared around it two years ago to provide approximately 100sq metres and it will be irrigated. The Yellow and Red Tee will also be enlarged, totally refurbished, and will incorporate the winter tee area as well, to provide approximately another 250 plus square metres which targets the total combined area needed to sustain year round play from the main tees. The path between White and Yellow/Red Tees will also be upgraded. This work is scheduled to commence late January/ early February, weather permitting. I am sure the inconvenience of the work will long be forgotten when hopefully the new tees will be in play around May time.

I find it gratifying that the club strives for and commits to continued improvement of the course and infrastructure when finances permit, hopefully the refurbished 9th Tee will be appreciated by all and provide a springboard for further course development projects ahead.

Finally, enjoy your golf, enjoy the paucity of rough, enjoy the Festive Season, and if not already a friend, but would like to support and become a Friend of Pyecombe, please contact David Schwartz (available 365 days a year) for details.

Happy Christmas and New Year

Gary Hann (New Head of Green)

Season's Greetings

VETERANS SECTION

The Vet's AGM was held on 14th November. My appointment as Captain and that of Chris Muschamp as Vice-Captain for the coming year were approved. Ted Chapman and Aubrey Watson continue as Secretary (responsible for inter-club matches) and Competitions Secretary respectively. Ted Longley (in his absence) also continues as Treasurer. There was some discussion over the merits of lowering the minimum age from 60 to 55, as is the situation in some other clubs, but the feeling of the meeting was that this should not be pursued.



Above: New Vets Captains for 2015

L/R: Geoff Webb Captain & Chris Muschamp Vice Captain

The prizes for the year were presented by Colin Kemp and resulted in the distribution – not quite evenly – of several cases of wine. The results are shown on the following page.

The last few competitions of the year were a casualty of the wind and rain with the Ron Clark Fun Day (a cross-country competition in which you play from 1st tee to 2nd green, 3rd tee to 4th green etc. – really fun?) being postponed so often that it was eventually cancelled and the Tam O'Shanter Cup (2 clubs and a putter) postponed until the end of March. There was a suggestion that we combine the two but perhaps that would be just too much fun. We did have good weather for the Texas Scramble before our Christmas Lunch on 15th December so perhaps that augers well for next year.

Those days sitting at my desk looking at the weather did however give me some time to explore the Vet's archives. One item I found was the record of an early Vets/Ladies match from 1974. In those days there was no mixing, it was Vets *versus* Ladies and there was no doubt about the equality. However the post-match notes include the following novel idea:

“A heavenly autumn day and the Ladies lost every match, most by a substantial margin which was a pity. We should give them some additional advantages such as *men off yellow tees* next time”

A bit of a rest now until the season starts in earnest next March.

Happy Christmas to all.

Geoff Webb
Vet's Captain

Season's Greetings

VETS SECTION (Continued)

The Vets Section in addition to playing home and away social matches against 17 other Sussex golf clubs play a number of internal competitions at 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 2014 are given below.

VETS INTERNAL COMPETITIONS AND TROPHY WINNERS 2014

HARVEY FRAREY

Winner David Schwartz
Runner Up Roy Plummer
Semi-finalists Geoff Webb & Aubrey Watson

MILNE SALVER

Winner Martin Avis
Runner-Up Roy Plummer
Semi-finalists Peter Ferns & Graham Tate

SUMMER PAIRS CUP

Winners Nigel Greg & Geoff Webb
Runners-Up Len North & Robert Jeans
3rd Aubrey Watson & Mike Smithers

NEGUS TROPHY

Winner Ted Whitbourn

HOLE TANKARDS

1st Ian Hawes & John Gorton
2nd Jim Spicer & Tom Nutley
3rd Stan Green & Alan Davies

DANCY TROPHY

1st Chris Muschamp
2nd Alex Burford
3rd Ken Barnard

CHEVALIER SPOON

1st Ken Barnard
2nd Ted Whitbourn
3rd John Bould

OVER 70's CUP

1st Ted Whitbourn
2nd Martin Sutcliffe
3rd David Leach

DRAKE PAIRS

1st Brian Langley & Jim Spicer
2nd Geoff Webb & Robert Jeans
3rd Ted Whitbourn & Ken Tompsett

BOWMAN TROPHY

1st Peter Bolton & David Hurst
2nd Ian Hawes & Phil Copper
3rd Martin Avis & John Gorton

OLD MAN'S MEDAL

1st Aubrey Watson
2nd Maurice Woolgar
3rd Alex Durie

RON CLARK

Not Played

TAM O'SHANTER CUP (2 clubs & putter)

Not Played

MONTHLY STABLEFORDS WINNERS

March – Peter Bolton
April – Peter Fray
June – Aubrey Watson
July – Alan Dunstan
August Tom Nutley
September Peter Ferns
October Chris Openshaw

LES HARRIS TROPHY

1st Peter Bolton

Season's Greetings

JASON BOWEN

PGA PROFESSIONAL

New products in your Professional shop

Bigmax bags



The new Terra 5+ from Big Max has a full featured design with plenty of pockets to store all your golfing essentials. Only weighs 3.5kg and comes with a 3 year warranty.

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worth £50



Season's Greetings

Coaching Corner.

I'm going to look briefly at distance control with your wedges. Most of you have heard the length of swing compared to a clock face. I think that this is often misunderstood.

I think the focus should be on the left arm position on the clock face.

For your pitches, you should set up square to the target with the ball position in the middle of your stance. On all pitches you should get the feeling of fully hinging the wrists and just varying the length of arm swing. On all pitches you should try and hold a full finish so as to ensure a gentle acceleration through the ball.



This picture shows a 9 o'clock arm swing position

Wedge Sale



CLEVELAND 588 RTX, CALLAWAY MAC DADDY
& TAYLORMADE TOUR PREFERRED

ALL NOW £59.95 EACH

Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

Jason and Michael