



Ups & Downs

Pyecombe G C

Newsletter

September / October 2014

No 138

Editor Alf Bickham

CAPTAIN'S

As duties go, this will be my last "Ups & Downs" offering as your Pyecombe Golf Club Captain. Like the previous 9 months as your proud skipper, the last couple of months have flashed past with lots happening through September & October, on and off the course. In fact, it's difficult to keep up with all the end of season results, but with the presentation evening around the corner, all will be revealed during what is always an entertaining prize giving extravaganza hosted by "Uncle" Alan Davey & chums. Talking of Trophies, Pyecombe successfully hosted this years MID SUSSEX LEAGUE summer finals day and with home advantage ensured that we were victorious. We can now boast that we are holders of no less than 3 of the 6 MSL Trophies. Indeed, the MSL continues to be a much revered institution with the legendary camaraderie undiminished.

Brian Hooker (Worthing), Paul Oliver (Cophorne), Geoff Dykes (Ifield), Derek May (Haywards Heath). MSL Club Captains (See Photo) joined us at the "Amex" for a great Night at the Pyecombe Ball.

Thanks again to all those members and guests that supported the event organised brilliantly by Paul Bowles and his team. In the hope that



our newer and dare I say, younger members get to read this, I urge you to get involved in the MSL matches along with other club matches, you will be most welcomed and you'll love it!

Membership numbers thankfully have held up well following the October re-joining date. I must therefore thank our office staff, Management and Captains committees, caterers, bar-staff, professional's, not least our green keepers for all their collective effort in providing us members with a course, a club house and an overall golfing product to be envied. If I tried to **THANK** everyone

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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)

.....individually I would likely miss one or two, therefore if you have supported the club during my tenure then consider yourself congratulated and remind me to buy you a drink some time.

Looking forward to - Captains Drive-in on the 23rd of November is the day after the AGM. I wish Good Luck to new Captain Mike Willmott, Mary Barnard lady Captain and Geoff Webb Vets Captain.

Up & coming.....

- 12th Nov – Captain & Pro finals
- 14th Nov – Presentation Evening
- 20th Nov – Jim Dossetter Trophy
- 18th Dec – Carol Service
- 31st Dec – New Year's Eve Party

CHEERS

Colin Kemp



LADIES SECTION

Things started to slow down in September, therefore a very short newsletter for my final one.

The SCLGA Presidents Trophy took place at Sedlescombe Golf Club on 04 September. Forty four clubs took part and Pyecombe came joint 6th. Angie Bainbridge, Jan Hellings and myself represented the Club and we had a super day with good weather once again.

The South Downs Trophy took place on 09 October. This is a competition played between six Golf Clubs: Pyecombe, The Dyke, East Brighton, West Hove, Brighton & Hove and Hollingbury. The Dyke was the venue this year but on this occasion the weather let us down. We had gale force winds from the start which were quickly followed by rain. We had four heavy showers, depending on where you were on the course. Each shower moved quickly due to the wind but even hailstones joined in the act. The South Downs Trophy was in the end won by The Dyke with Pyecombe coming joint second with East Brighton. Our team consisted of Aileen Greenfield, Alison Vermes, Lorraine Everard, Sarah Godfrey and Christine Gunn. Well done ladies and thank you for playing in such atrocious weather conditions.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for all their help and support over the past year (or rather over the past seven years!). You have all done really well in the various matches and competitions and I couldn't have wished for anything better in my year as Captain.

I have enjoyed keeping everyone informed of the successes within the Ladies Section and I wish Mary a happy and successful year.

Sandra Staynes
Lady Captain

The President reflects

The hour has gone back and already it's nearly dark by 5 o'clock. The shops are getting into Xmas shopping mode and in no time at all it will seem that the festive season is upon us. As this will be the last edition before the Club's AGM at the end of this month it gives me the opportunity, on everyone's behalf, to say a few words of appreciation to those members and staff who have worked so hard over the year to ensure the club functions and serves us in the way that we would wish.

Yes, we all know that you can please some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time but not all of the people all of the time! Nevertheless, overall it's been a very good year with everyone pulling together, high standards maintained and improvements introduced in a number of areas both on and off the course. A number of plaudits received from visitors to the Club in recent months bear testimony to this. In this regard our thanks must go to the entire Pyecombe 'Team', ably led by Alan, Matt, Jo, Simon, Nigel, Danica and Paul. I am sure the Captain and Chairman of the Management Committee will expand on this in their own reports.

Our thanks also go, not only to the outgoing Captains of the various club sections for their leadership and contributions during the year, but also to Michael F Price, the Chairman of our Management Committee. They have all worked hard behind the scenes. Club Captain 'Col', as he is known, has proved a popular figure and has had a great year, thoroughly enjoying himself in the process, which is what it should be all about!....however it's back to the day job shortly Col!!

Having played recently at other nearby courses following wet weather, I was reminded yet again, looking to the coming winter months, how fortunate I shall be to play at Pyecombe when members of some of our neighbouring clubs may be floundering in muddy conditions, and in some cases following bad weather, be unable to play on their course for days or weeks at a time. Yes, Pyecombe certainly has a lot going for it!

Lastly, I am sure we all wish Alison White, the Ladies Vice Captain elect, a speedy recuperation from her recent op and are all delighted to see that Paulo has resumed some of his greenkeeping duties following recent illness.

Reg Auchterlonie

VETS SECTION

At the end of another season's play it is good to look back at a good summer which let us play a lot of golf. Although we seemed to lose matches at the start of the year we reversed that trend and ended on a winning streak. I would like to thank all those who represented the club and played in the matches in a competitive but friendly manner and were most enjoyable. The competitions were well supported on the whole and I would encourage any member of a certain age to join us on a Monday or Wednesday morning when you would be most welcome.

I have enjoyed my year as the Vets captain although it has meant playing more golf than I usually do. I would like to wish Geoff Webb the incoming captain an enjoyable year in 2015.

Brian Langley
Vets Captain 2014

From the Chairman

Other contributors to Ups & Downs will express thanks to some members and concern for others. Whilst I echo those thoughts I propose to keep this article brief.

It is now just a few weeks before the 2014 AGM and I will be undertaking a review of the year and happily take questions at the appropriate time. I encourage you to attend the meeting, listen to the reports and participate in the management of your club.

The men's shower and toilet refurbishment is now completed and what a fantastic result. Again, more at the AGM on this and my thanks to those who have achieved so much on behalf of the club.

The water well project is moving on. There are no guarantees with subterranean water but test pumping indicates that we have a sustainable flow of good quality water. To complete the project we now have to connect the well to our irrigation tank and install controls in good time for next April and the summer season.

We are still progressing with our application to resurface part of the over-flow car park (the field) but the route is tortuous because our property is within the South Downs National Park and there are many, many rules and regulations in our path.

I am always happy to hear from members and my contact details are on the hallway board.

Again, I urge you to attend the AGM.

Michael Price

Chairman of the Management Committee



**WINTER CLOTHING
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Under Armour and Dwyers

| <i>Base layers</i> | <i>Mid layers</i> | <i>Outer layers</i> | <i>Lined trousers</i> |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |



*Everything you need to keep warm through the winter
and enjoy your golf at Pyecombe GC*

Do you need 14 clubs in the bag?

I'm sure most of us have played in a 3 clubs and a putter competition, scored 34 points and then only managed 28 points at the weekend with the full set. Do we really need to carry the maximum allocation of clubs through the winter as specified by the rules of golf?

One of the first things I do when giving a golf lesson to someone for the first time is to have a quick glance through the golf bag and see what equipment is being used. Invariably there is a club in the bag that is there for getting the ball out of a bush or one that was hit 6 months ago and is there "just in case". A number of you also carry clubs that do the same job. You may have a five iron and a 9 wood that in reality go the same distance or a 4 hybrid that does the same job as your 7 wood.

On top of this, the less distance you hit the ball, the fewer clubs you require. If you hit a drive 250 yards then it would stand to reason that you would need a lot of clubs to fill the gaps between your driver and your sand wedge that would probably go approximately 100 yards. If you hit your driver 150 yards and your sand wedge 75 yards then far less clubs would be required to fill all the gaps. Ideally, it would make sense to have clubs that progressively go 10 yards less as you go down through the set, starting from your fairway woods. For some of you, you may find that a full set would only need to contain around 8 clubs.

So what are the benefits of not carrying so many clubs? First of all it's cheaper, secondly you won't be lugging around 5 kilos of extra weight and thirdly your decision making will be much easier leading to less indecision and a quicker round of golf. You might think that the weight of your bag doesn't matter as you are using an electric trolley, but I'm sure that manoeuvring it would be significantly easier and less tiring with less weight.

If you do fall into the category of golfer that hits the ball less than 200 yards off the tee, have a think if there are any clubs you have not used recently and clubs that do the same job. Lighten the load, pop them in the garage, save some energy, be more decisive and improve your game.

**FLIGHTSCOPE AT PYECOMBE GOLF CLUB
AVAILABLE FOR CUSTOM FITTING, LESSONS AND
STASTICAL ANALYSIS**

See following page

FLIGHTSCOPE



Jason

