



Ups & Downs

Pyecombe G C

Newsletter

July / August 2015

No 143

Editor Alf Bickham

FROM THE CAPTAIN

Well we are now in the last three months of my Captains Year, and it only seems like yesterday that the drive-in took place. Since the last newsletter a lot has happened.

An inaugural evening cricket challenge took place on Thursday 23rd July when representatives of the Club turned out for the Captain's X1 in a match against the Secretary's X1. It was an evening greatly enjoyed by the Pyecombe golfers in which the Secretary's X1 ran out worthy winners.

We have had a fantastic Captain's Day when 140 people played, the weather was great the theme was Cowboy and we even had a Horse on the first tee,



Then on the following week-end it was Gala day, when over 150 members played and an additional 30 people came for food (HOG ROAST) which went down well.

Mike Ovet and his team have proved very popular and most comments have been extremely positive and it is great to see them

supporting events and out on the course. I would also like to thank Mike for giving up his time to support the Captain and Pro challenge and would like to take this opportunity to invite all those members who put their names down to challenge us, to attend the finals day which is on 24th October. I am aware that some members were not able to play due to the poor weather but they are more than welcome to join us on the 24th.

The course is playing very well and it is credit to Simon and his staff that the greens are coming on nicely and the rough this year has been well managed.

It is now fast approaching my swan song which will from a formal point of view be the Pyecombe ball on the 10th October at the Amex Stadium. I look forward to meeting as many members as possible on that evening and I do know that there are only a few places left. It would be good to fill the venue, it is going to be an evening of dancing and good food with very few speeches.

I would like to also thank our Lady Captain Mary for all the help and support she has given me over the last nine months and wish Andy and Alison all the best for their year to come.

Kindest Regards

Mike Willmott

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**

LADIES SECTION

I write this at the end of another busy (and very enjoyable!) few weeks of golf in the Ladies Section.



**Above: On Lady Captain's Day:
Mary Receives flowers from Mile Willmott**



**Pam Perry (R), winner of Div 2 on Lady Captains Day
Receives flowers from Mary Barnard**

My Captain's Days in July were great fun! The Sunday Ladies enjoyed a Pyecombe Special breakfast together before venturing out into the rain for some golf. The Tuesday ladies were luckier with the weather for their game and, afterwards, tucked into a delicious cream tea, beautifully prepared and laid out by Danica and the Catering Team. My very grateful thanks to all the PGC staff team for helping to make my days so successful.



We held our first Ladies Invitation for three years at the end of July when 77 ladies played and our guests came from far and wide. We were lucky with the weather. The PGC greenkeepers and catering team gave us every reason to be proud of our course and our club.

The winning team, with a score of 74, were:
Annette Walsh and her guests Pam Homer and Irene Matheson (all are pictured on the left).

Then, a week later, we held our Ladies Open. The field this year was slightly smaller than in previous years but the day was very successful nonetheless. Teams from Singing Hills and Worthing took first to fourth prizes and were fulsome in their praise of the Club in their speeches. Both the Invitation and the Open need a great deal of preparation and planning, and our Ladies Committee and team of volunteers worked extremely hard to ensure the success of both days. My thanks to them all, but especially to Alison whose organisational skills are second to none.

And then, as a reward for all the hard work, the Ladies took themselves off to The Dyke for a very enjoyable Away-Day of fun golf and lunch; at the start of August. Unusually for The Dyke, the weather was sunny with no wind.

But of course we couldn't hope for two good days in a row, and we paid for it when our Morrice Foursomes team played their quarter final at The Dyke in driving wind and rain. They, sadly, lost to Cottesmore.

Our run of success in Divisional County competitions has finally come to an end with both Division 1 and Division 3 losing in the quarter finals to Bognor and Chichester respectively. A good run nevertheless and we'll bounce back for another go next year.

(Continued on next page)

LADIES SECTION (Continuation)

This year, I have particularly enjoyed the two big club events of the summer - Mike's Captain's Day and then the Gala Day. They were long days for those of us involved in the background, but well worth all the effort that went into them. It was, of course, especially good to see so many members and guests participating - very obviously having as much fun as we did! Well done, Mike!

The Sussex Ladies County Team (including Aileen of course!) finished at the top of their group in the South Eastern County Match Week in June. We wish them all the best of luck when they play in the English Women's County Finals Week at Frilford Heath in Abingdon from 14th September.

Mary Barnard
Lady Captain

Seniors Update – August 2015

The SLOGGs summer league team had an up and down season. We played 4 matches and won 2 drew 1 and lost 1. It is ironic that the 2 teams we beat have gone on to play in the semi-finals and had we won just 2 more games in any of the matches we would have been there instead. It was very close but on the positive side there were 40 places available over the 4 matches and Pyecombe fielded 24 different players and virtually everybody that put their name on the board either played or was offered a place. It also came out in drinks afterwards with the opposing Captain that in each of the 4 matches against Pyecombe the opponents had fielded their strongest team. A backhanded compliment!

We now look forward to the SLOGGS Jamboree Day on the 23rd September to be played on the Woosnam Course at Dale Hill, and the lucky 10 players will soon be notified.

No sooner is the summer season over before the winter league commences with our first match on 5th October.

There have been a few changes to the league as Pyecombe were one of five teams that withdrew from the Brighton and Eastbourne Seniors Winter League and reformed a new league suitably named the Downland Seniors Winter League. The 5 teams are ourselves, Willingdon, Eastbourne Downs, Lewes and East Brighton where we will be joined by a further 3 new members who are Brighton and Hove, West Hove and the Dyke. They are all good courses and each of the Seniors organisers are enthusiastic in preparing for a competitive league. A word of caution is the Pyecombe organiser is fed up with Willingdon having won the league for the last 2 years and having to listen to the Willingdon Seniors Captain crowing, and this year intends to do something about it!! A new battle plan has been drafted and the tactics will become apparent over the winter.

Overall the Seniors section is in good shape but we could always use more players so if you haven't already, please put your name down on the sign up sheet on the board.

Duncan Campbell
Seniors Organiser

VETS SECTION

They are good players at Cowdray Park, and they demonstrated that by beating us at home on 6th July, but only by 6 to 2. The bounce back began on the 10th July with a home win against Haywards Heath by a resounding 4 ½ to 3 ½. Unfortunately the bounce back did not last long as we lost again at home to East Brighton on 13th July by 4 to 2. The two was a win by Brian Langley and Martin Avis, supported by two halves. We then rushed back into resounding form with an away win at Crowborough (not an easy course) by 5 ½ to 2 1/2.

However, as is the way of things with the Vets, the win at Crowborough was followed by another meeting with Cowdray Park on their home turf, on 23rd July, when they again asserted their dominance by beating us 6 ½ to 1 ½. This was only marginally better than they beat us at home so that could be regarded as an improvement? The improvement was not highly regarded as we followed it a few days later by losing to Worthing at home but (only) by 4 ½ to 3 ½ almost a draw. An actual draw followed at Royal Eastbourne away on 30th July at 3 all and then a serious win at home against Lewes by 6 to 2 on 7th August. Eastbourne Downs away proved a bit tougher with a loss by 6 ½ to 1 ½, as did Haywards Heath against whom we lost 6 to 2 away on 17th August. Since then we have had no defeats – but nor have we had any matches.

Astute readers will have noticed by now that Vets wins (or even losses) do not round off nicely to 8 as we (and usually our opponents) field teams of 8, 7 or 6 pairs as the mood takes us – so far we have not been reduced to 5 but with the cost of lunches as they are who knows.

The competition season continued with the Drake Pairs on 20th July. This Greensomes Stableford was won by the pairing of Aubrey Watson and David Taylor with 30 points, a testament to either the difficulty of the weather or of the format (or both). The postponed Chevalier Spoon on 3rd August, an individual stableford saw Aubrey pipped to the post on countback by Chris Muschamp with both on 38 points. They were closely followed by David Brown on 37. The prestigious Vet's over 70's Cup and over 80's Prize (should it be a saucer as they might spill things) was again postponed due to the weather so hold the front page.....

Geoff Webb

Vets Captain

CRICKET

The photograph shows Captain Willmott batting at the inaugural evening cricket challenge that took place on Thursday 23rd July when representatives of the Club turned out for the Captains X1 in a match against the Secretary's X1.

