



# Ups & Downs

Pyecombe G C

## Newsletter

March / April 2015

No 141

Editor Alf Bickham

### CAPTAIN'S REPORT

At last the season is getting into full swing and the grass is growing, we have had some fantastic golf results and I would like to pass my compliments on to all members that have represented Pyecombe Golf Club this season. It would be wrong of me to single out individuals.

We are now entering a most busy time with competitions and club matches. It would be good for the Club if we see more new members entering the mixed and MSL matches; all are very welcome to put their names down for selection.

The Fun(d) day on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May was a great success and all the hard work put in was well worth it. Dave Schwartz, Alison White, Jim Dossetter and Bob Foster, all worked hard during the day and further support was given by Neil and Richie plus for the third year now, young Liam Cager.

Well a big thank you to all that played and we hope your guest vouchers will be well used and may encourage new members. The day raised over £2600.00 and a further boost was given by David Tibble who put in £350.00 of his draw winnings. The money will go towards the redevelopment of the 16<sup>th</sup> Green and surrounds.

The successful teams were:

**1<sup>st</sup>** – Angie Bainbridge, Jan Brittin, Dave Khor and Toni Di Paulo – 126 points

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Gary Cager, Brett Rowland, Rob Erskine, Karl Montage – 123 points

**3<sup>rd</sup> equal**, two teams each with 120 points:

Phil Tidbury, Andy Duffy, Paul Spivey, Matt Bolton;

and Lesley Fallowfield, Val Jenkins, CM Cobbald, S Whitaker

**Nearest the Pin on the 5<sup>th</sup>** – Jakub Kotan

**Nearest the pin in two on 18<sup>th</sup>** – Andy Duffy.

**The Friends of Pyecombe Superdraw winners** were:

**1<sup>st</sup>** Prize of £500 – Dave Tibble

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Prize of £250 – Mike Willmott

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Prize of £150 – Ken Tompsett

What a great day and lets have fun next year.

We have the Men's Action dinner just around the corner and it would be great if we could build on the success of last year. Everyone who attended had a great time and I am sure numbers will increase.

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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](mailto:alf@abickham.freeserve.co.uk) or to make contact by telephone, call him at home, **Tel. No. 01444.242101**

## **CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Continuation)**

The Captain and Pro challenge is taking place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. There has been a good number of people putting their names down to play but we can take a few more pairs. If you cannot make the day you can still attend the meal afterwards to formally say good bye to Jason.

The last six months have flown by and I am now half way through my year and I intend making the last six months fun and enjoyable for all.

**Mike Willmott**

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## **LADIES REPORT**

Plenty of golf for everyone now with good signs of growth on the course and I am sure in a couple of weeks the greens will be back to their best. The promised rain over the Bank Holiday weekend will help the course I am sure, although it might spoil the golf for some of us!

Our Division 1, 2 and 3 ladies teams have had a tremendous start to the golf season, between them they have played nine matches and won them all! Keep it up ladies.

Our Morrice Foursomes team won their first round match against Singing Hills, it was a close match but we won by 2 games to 1. The second round is away to Cooden Beach which will be played on the 13<sup>th</sup> May and I wish them success. Our Scratch Foursomes pair of Aileen and Jo were not so lucky this year and came up against a very 'in form' Royal Ashdown Forest pair in the second round. The RAF team went on to win the trophy.

Earlier in the month, Sandra Staynes organised a very successful Past Captains' lunch in which 10 past captains played in the competition in the morning and another seven joined them for a delicious lunch. It was good to see so many of our old friends who are no longer playing golf. Many congratulations to Joanna Greenstreet on winning the trophy.

Finally you may have noticed the new planters outside the Club House by the putting green. My Vice Captain, Alison White, thought the patio was rather bare and needed brightening up and decided a herb garden would do the trick and also provide the kitchen with some fresh herbs. Roy Plummer kindly offered to make the planters to match up with the others by the front door and outside the Pro Shop and with the help of Head Greenkeeper Simon, Alison painted the planters, filled them with the necessary compost and planted the herbs. Thank you very much Alison and Roy for your kind thoughts and hard work. Alison has also taken on another project and is replanting the bed by the putting green as Simon said the old plants were encroaching onto the putting green. With the help of Abbie Bates they have dug up the old plants and planted bulbs and come the summer we shall have some new plants as well. Thank you again Alison, you are a star!

***Mary Barnard***  
**Lady Captain**

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## **A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

I hope you are all looking forward to the best part of the golfing year as we move into the warmer months on our lovely golf course.

I know that special membership deals for new members often upset long-term members and whilst they are sometimes necessary it is heartening that membership recruitment has again been good this year and the Committee see no need to continue previous offers to new members.

If you have read them, you will note from the minutes of the April Management Committee meeting that there are still many projects under way at the club albeit that some are now complete. Also, you will note that we are compiling a review of various matters for general release to the members that wish to have more detailed knowledge of activity. This will be completed for the Summer.

In particular, Alan Davey is dealing with MSDC's latest request for further drawings on the improvement planned for the overflow car park as I conveniently fly to Spain and thus avoid any input. This has been a real slog and members should thank Alan for his dedication, perseverance and patience. It is not easy to deal with planning applications within the National Park - you may have noticed that the pate is thinning.

The water well is up and "running". Flow and quality are good, and we are drawing our maximum permissible amount of 20 cubic metres a day.

You cannot fail to have noticed the work on the course, particularly the new 9<sup>th</sup> tee and Gary Hann's work on the new seating arrangements. Thanks Gary and, of course, thanks to our hard-working greenstaff.

Work will commence this year on weather-proofing some of the club house exterior areas and Trevor will be supervising this. Also, Trevor has used his extensive contacts to provide new carpet in both changing rooms; a fantastic improvement. Thanks Trevor.

That's all from me. Possibly not sweet but undoubtedly short.

***Michael Price***

Chairman of the Management Committee

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## **ON THE COURSE March / April**

With below average and cool night time temperatures, growth has been very slow on the course this spring, particularly the greens, where we have seen little growth at all, leading to slower recovery from essential aeration and over seeding works. Slow grass growth and delayed germination is apparent on the new path matting works on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> holes and on the newly seeded banks of the 9<sup>th</sup> tee areas also.

The delayed arrival of the contractor, not until March to start the 9<sup>th</sup> tee refurbishment, turned out to be very opportune. With large thirty ton diggers, way in excess of one hundred dumper .....

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## **ON THE COURSE (Continuation)**

.....journeys to and fro across the 14<sup>th</sup> fairway to transport rootzone material and turf to the works, no damage at all was caused to the fairway, due to the exceptional dry weather. Unfortunately the same weather caused problems along the 2<sup>nd</sup> fairway again and the net had to be erected to catch balls at the bottom of the slope. I suppose you can't have your cake and eat it as the saying goes!

The 9<sup>th</sup> tee turf is taking well and we hope to play off the new tees as scheduled, sometime in June. If you have not seen the view from the extended white tee yet, dare I say, we have another signature hole view. At the rear of the newly refurbished 9<sup>th</sup> yellow tee, adjacent to the shed, we are creating a small natural seating area, I like to think of it, as a small oasis from the world of cars, concrete and computers. This area can be used on Captain/Gala days, other occasions, or just to sit, enjoy the vista and appreciate the wonderful habitat of Pyecombe Golf Club. The tree trunks and limbs utilized are all from recent clearance works on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> holes, so hopefully they have been put to good use, rather than burning them on the clubhouse fire. We hope members will use them and appreciate them for years to come. As with all greenwood projects, we should expect the timbers to, crack, denature and go grey as part of the degeneration process over time, pretty much like me!

For the first time this year we are experimenting with spraying an eight metre wide band of the rough, adjacent the semi, with a selective herbicide product called Rescue, on all holes on the course. This will be carried out when the rough starts actively growing, so as to be more effective. This treatment should kill the coarse rye grasses, whilst leaving other finer more favourable grasses and wild flowers alone to prosper. Coupled with our other practice of scarification this will hopefully leave us with a lighter, wispiest rough this summer. Ultimately weather conditions and temperatures dictate growth, but this intervention can only help. We will monitor the success of the treatment this year.

So, we look forward to some warmer weather, dare I say, much needed rain and subsequent improved course conditions as a result thereof.

Enjoy your golf.

***Gary Hann***

Chair of Green

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## **VETERANS SECTION**

The Vet's match season started with an internal match against the Broken Spur. A match with some divided loyalties involving the Vet's Vice-captain, Chris Muschamp playing for the Broken Spur against the Vet's Captain and Chris Openshaw and, despite playing on his own, winning to give the Broken Spur a win at 4 ½ to 3 ½ .

The interclub matches started with a washout as the first match against Royal Eastbourne at home on 26<sup>th</sup> March was postponed due to torrential rain. The first four made it to the first tee but as they were soaked by then decided to be kind to all those still waiting in the dry and called it off. ....

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## VETERANS SECTION (Continuation)

.....There was then a run of four away matches. The good news was that a whitewash was avoided but the bad news is that we lost them all. The matches were against Highwoods on 30<sup>th</sup> March, lost 6 ½ to 1 ½, Worthing on 10<sup>th</sup> April, lost 6 to 2 (an improvement), the Dyke on 13<sup>th</sup> April, lost 6 to 2 (maintaining the improvement) and Copthorne on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, lost 7 1/2 to ½ (no comment except to thank Duncan Campbell and Chris Openshaw for the face-saving half). The most recent home match against Crowborough Beacon in May 1<sup>st</sup> resulted in our first win of the year by 4 ½ to 3 ½.

The internal competitions started with the final of the Harvey Frarey winter knockout between Ian Hawes and Graham Tate which was won by Graham on the 18th. The delayed Tam O'Shanter Cup from last November was won by James Easley who achieved 39 points using only 2 clubs and a putter – why do we carry so many clubs?

The Ladies/Vets stableford competition on April 14<sup>th</sup> saw a good turnout with 20 pairs taking to the field. The winners on countback with 37 points were Barbara Lawden and Tom Oliver, with Sarah Godfrey and Peter Gavin a close second.

The Vets Spring Texas Scramble on April 20<sup>th</sup> was notable for Alan Davies making a solo birdie on the 18<sup>th</sup> only to be outdone by Martin Avis's eagle, the winning team with a score of 56.7 were Chris Muschamp, Peter Ferns, Alf Bickham and Brian Chasser.

The Hole Tankards competition, a foursomes stableford on 27<sup>th</sup> April was won by Maurice Woolgar and Andy Ward. The monthly medal for April was also won by Andy Ward on a dreadful morning with 36 points, an excellent score on the day.

Finally, the Old Man's Medal – open of course to all Vets although some don't feel they should be qualified – was won by one who is certainly qualified. Ken Barnard brushed the rest of the field aside with a net 64 to win by 7 shots clear of Tom Nutley on 71 and Aubrey Watson on 72.

***Geoff Webb***

Vet's Captain