



Perfect in Pink

Mid-Herts Ladies win the Pearson Trophy

After a long, exciting and nail bitingly tense day at **West Hill Golf Club**, Mid-Herts Ladies have won the **Pearson Trophy**. Representing Hertfordshire, they overcame Surrey, Kent and Middlesex in inter county play offs.

Captain of the Mid-Herts Pearson team, **Clare Dew**, said: "The squad was absolutely fantastic. It's been a real team effort with every single member playing her part. I am so proud to have captained such a committed and successful team. We had amazing support from the club, which everyone in the team really appreciated."

The **Pearson Trophy** is a prestigious annual event which is now in its 98th year. Each competing club fields a team of seven players for singles match play. To get to the finals, Mid Herts had beaten 37 other Hertfordshire clubs in home and away matches. The nail-biting County semi-finals and final were held at Batchworth Park Golf Club in June where we beat **Moor Park** and **Sandy Lodge**. Just two more wins and Mid-Herts Ladies would be holding the trophy.



In the finals at West Hill our first opponents were the Surrey Champions, **Roehampton**, with **Westerham** (Kent) tackling **Muswell Hill** (Middlesex) in the other semi.

A 4 - 3 victory meant our ladies had to make a quick turn around to face **Westerham GC** from Kent in the afternoon. The afternoon matches provided some incredible drama. One win and three losses meant that all three of the remaining live matches had to come up trumps. **Linda Hyam** provided the first win on the 18th. **Maree Palmer** provided the second win - also on the 18th, leaving **Deborah Connor** to close out the final match. She was two down with two to play so the tension mounted as she fought her way back to take her opponent down the 19th. The cheers as she sunk the winning putt could be heard for miles!

An outstanding day, an outstanding victory, an outstanding team

The Pearson squad included:

Mary Hoare, Lindsay Murray Gray, Sandra Lindsay, Janet Biscoe, Margaret Martin, Linda Hyam, Karen Bax, Liz Thomas, Maree Palmer, Su Hawke, Anne Nash, Deborah Connor

OTHER LADIES RESULT (Limited by space available)

The July Medal was won by **Clare Dew** (nett 71) Silver Division, **Cynthia Hayhurst** (nett 78) Bronze I and **Sue Newman** (nett 81) Bronze II. **Clare** also won the Millennium Trophy in June with a nett 73.

The 36-hole Glover and Caithness Trophies were won by **Hilary Armstrong** (nett 141) and **Helen Goodson** (gross 170) respectively. **Pat Last** (36 pts) won the Judy George Trophy., **Lindy Clay** (nett 72) the Jubilee Plate. **Rosemary Eberstein** (39 pts) the CCD Trophy and **Liz Ayliffe** (30 pts) the Hollington Trophy.

The Kaye Trevor Greensomes Salver (when you see all those other ladies in pink!) went to **Pat Carnell** and **Margaret Martin** with a magnificent 40 points.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (John Sefton)

In the previous edition of Mid- Herts Golfer I introduced the new Board of Management and indicated the roles for which each of us is responsible. I also indicated that we were addressing the important vacancies that existed in the Club management team: happily all the posts have now been filled following a lengthy interview process in June.

On 1st October **Martin Bennet** will be joining Mid-Herts as **General Manager**. Martin has been in golf club management for many years, most recently at Brickendon Grange where he has held a similar position since 2002. He is very much looking forward to a new challenge at our Club, and has already visited Mid-Herts to meet members. While taking overall responsibility for the efficient day to day management he will also be focussing on our programme to attract new members, and increase society and green fee income.

When you read this edition **Alan Greaves** will have been back for a few weeks in charge of **Catering**. He has returned to Mid-Herts after 4 years at Welwyn Garden G C where he was very popular: we welcome him back, and I very much urge members to use the restaurant and enjoy his excellent cooking.



In the last edition I stressed the importance the Board places on good communications with members. As a step in ensuring you are aware of Board thinking on the future well being of the Club, we will be holding a series of presentations over the next couple of months. It will be an opportunity both for members to hear the forward strategies proposed by the Board, and for us to hear your views. The dates for the meetings will be published shortly.

Finally a few words on the course, and the concerns that some members have expressed about the nature of the rough. **Paul Dugdale** addresses this issue in his comments but let me assure you that you have been listened to and, as you are aware, action has been taken and noted for future years. For your part please remember the rain and warm weather during the growing season: these conditions placed a great strain on our team, and be aware that many other courses are similarly challenging - ask our very successful Pearson team about the rough and heather at West Hill.

WOODMEN RULE O.K? (Peter Rook)

This year's **Mid Herts AM/AM** was won by a team of Woodmen with a combined age of 292 years! The team consisted of **Mark Sedgwick, Ted Marriott, Ben McElhinney** and **Peter Rook** and the winning score was 211 points which included a nine point haul on the fourth hole.

Our annual match against the Ladies was played on 28th May and was won by the Ladies. We tried a new format this year with the Ladies playing to the Ladies card with full handicap allowance. Despite this the winning margin was only 11 points. And we are already in training for next year!!!

We had a great day with the Juniors in our annual Woodman and Juniors combined match and the winners were Joint Team; **Anthony Reintjes & William Aldred** with 69 points: Best Junior; **Ben Worlock** with 35 points: Best Woodman; **David Houghton** with 37 points.

A record for the Woodmen has recently been set, which will be a hard act to follow.....one of our members has now won the singles knockout Challenge Cup for three consecutive years at the ages of 78,79,and 80 years !!

Once again we had a most successful and enjoyable day at the **Woodmen's Invitation Day** when guests from twenty six clubs participated coming from as far as the South coast right up to Lincolnshire. The winners were **Phil Bunbury** and his guest **Roger Foley** from Letchworth...Congratulations.

The **WOODMEN** section is open to all senior members of the club who are 55years old or over and are substantially retired. We meet on a regular basis at 8am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings for social golf followed by a beer in the clubhouse. **Peter Rook**, 01279 842460, will be pleased to hear from any new or old member wishing to take part in these games as well as the various competitions and matches that we organise.

The **WOODMEN** motto: "**Youth passes, but with luck immaturity can last a lifetime!!!**"

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MID-HERTS MEMBERS

Charles Roffey: Terry Newcombe : Richard Pearson : Simon Barge : Martin Conlon : Sandy Bierrum : Alex Van Der Maat : Paul Vernon Smith :Mrs Susan Jennings :Thomas Rossdale (junior) : Fred Gulliford (junior)

Mid-Herts prides itself on being a very friendly club and we are sure that you will find your golf at Gustard Wood really enjoyable. Please join in the golf and the social activities.

WHERE'S MY POST?

Members post has moved to the **Locker Rooms** thereby tidying our entrance foyer. Thanks to **Duncan Gorton**, new pigeon holes, to hold member mail, have been constructed in the Gentlemen's Locker room. So don't forget to check your box? The Ladies already have their own facilities in their Locker Room.

COURSE REPORT (Paul Dugdale and Jody Wilson)

Following a review of the course after the Club Championship, we have made several changes, and it now seems that we have broadly got the course set up as the majority of members would like. This then will be the **TEMPLATE** from now onwards although inevitably there will be minor changes as and when we find them necessary.

We still have some problem areas notably the 13th and 15th, we will take expert advice on these and advise members in due course what we intend to do.

Very soon we will start work on our autumn programme. Part of the 3 year Plan is continual **renovation and improvement of bunkers**, to this end we will be starting on the bunkers from holes 7-9.

On the course we have taken advice on a number of trees that do nothing to enhance the quality of our course and they will be removed along with the work that is still not finished from last year.

We are very happy with all the greens and our new baby the 5th is responding well to Jody's loving care.

Regarding the **tees** we believe we need to review 2, 8 and 13 again we will take further advice on these before we proceed.

The **rough has been tough**, and we are working with STRI on trials on rough control (project "Bumblebee", involving coarse grasses), in the near future you may see some test areas about 6 ft square that we need to treat with care, the aim is that in the future with careful seeding our rough will become less punishing.

We hope you are all enjoying your course and not losing too many golf balls?

MAIL ON SUNDAY-National Golf Club Classic

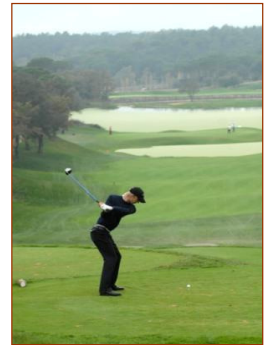
Are Mid-Herts getting the Mail on Sunday habit?

Having won the title in 2006, our men's team is through to this years seventh round (the last 32). Two more wins and it's off to Manchester for the national final. And then Spain?

But we're jumping ahead, and our 7th round match is going to be tough. Away at **Peterborough Milton** Golf Club on Sunday **10th August** at 4:00 p.m.

Supporters and caddies would be very welcome.

Anyone volunteering to caddy should in the first instance contact Robert Daley the Acting Secretary.



SUCCESS FOR MID-HERTS JUNIORS

Ver League:

Two well fought victories against strong opposition have seen M-H Junior through to the final of the Ver Shield. First a great fight back at home saw them overcome a 4.5 – 2.5 away deficit at West Herts to bring the match back to level (7-7). A sudden death play off saw Will Chambers reel off 3 perfect pars to secure victory when the opposition took a 5 at the third. The semi-final was a double legger against our local rivals Welwyn Garden, but we negotiated this winning 9-5 to set up a final against Moor Park sometime in September

Schools Champion:

Mid-Herts junior **Will Chambers** was winner of the Boys' title at the English **Schools' Under-16 National Championships** at Tankersley Park, Sheffield. Will shot 67 and 73 to achieve a level par score of 140 in the 36-hole competition. The win has also earned Will an England cap in the international schools match against Wales in late August.

This victory follows on Will's 6th place in the **Scottish Boys' Under-16 Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship**, scoring 143 over 2 rounds at The Glen, and 11th place in the **English Boys' Under-16 Stroke Play Championship** (McGregor Trophy), scoring 288 over 4 rounds at High Post.



SENIOR SCRATCH TEAM WIN LEAGUE TITLE

Seniors Scratch team captained by **John Watt** has stormed to victory in the six Club **County League**. With one game still to play they are sitting atop the league and cannot be overtaken. Teams from Knebworth, West Herts, Harpenden Common, Old Fold Manor, Verulam and Mid-Herts make up the league, and teams of three foursomes from each Club play each other both at home and away.

Finals day when all clubs meet for an end of season fixture and trophy presentation is at Harpenden Common is on August 3rd.

The basic squad has comprised of **John Watt, Willie Martin, Ted Marriott, Mark Sedgwick, Mike Hayhurst, Phil Bunbury, Paul Dugdale** and **John Saunders**: with **Alan Watson, Ian Butcher** and **Robert Daley** providing solid support when called upon.

MENS COMPETITIONS (Denis McCarthy)

The Club Championship:

Saturday 28th June saw the 2008 Club Championship competed over 36 holes in one long day. Jody & his Team presented the course in tip-top condition and as a true test of golf. Excellent fairways and fast true greens were a feature but always waiting for the off line shot was the very tough rough! On the day a challenging wind also played it's part but two superbly constructed rounds of 70 & 72 saw **Chris Tingey** pick up his 10th **ROYDS CUP** with a Gross score of 142. Closest challengers were **Paul Mayles** and **Tom Shadbolt** on 149 & 151 respectively – Well done Chris , a terrific performance on the day and a quite remarkable overall record .

In the **SCRIVEN-JEFFRIES TROPHY** an amazing nett 64 in the afternoon helped **Stuart Fitzgerald** (5) to a winning score of 138 (nett 74 + 64). Close behind were **David Forson** (8) on 141 and **Mark Watson** (6) on 143.

Clearly a tough day but one on which the cream of Mid-Herts Golfers rose to the top!

Brian Filler with 37 points was triumphant in **The Sladen Salver**, for players aged over 55 . Well done Brian, in some light you don't look old enough!

So far it's been a good start to the Summer for the **Club's Celts** with Ireland convincingly winning the **Four Nations** again and just last week Scotland saw off their "auld enemy" (England !) 4-2 in their **Annual Challenge Match**.

The end of June saw the completion of the first half of the **Men's Eclectic** with **Willie Martin** coming out on top with a fine total of 52 points. – Battle for the 2nd Half of the Eclectic has now commenced and runs through to Weds 10th September.

Looking ahead to September we host our **Gentlemen's Invitation Day** on **Saturday 6th September** with the course closed all day, (**the entry form is on the notice board now**), and at the end of that month a hardy band of brothers set out to defend Mid-Herts Golf Club's honour in the wilds of **Ross-on-Wye** and a friendly the following day at **The Rolls of Monmouth**.

Men's Scratch Teams

The **Men's Weekend Scratch** team has now played 3 matches with fair success an early loss to Letchworth has been followed with good wins against Harpenden Common and West Herts. Our overall position in the league will be clearer as we catch up with the number of matches played by others in the league. However, this has clearly been a good start to the season. The next fixture is away at Stevenage.

The **Midweek Scratch** team have recorded good wins both home and away over Harpenden Common and a half and loss against Welwyn G. C. The midweek scratch matches are also proving a great success in the development and integration of juniors, so far this season young **Jac Hicks**, **Will Chambers** and **James Lamburn** have represented the team with distinction and are undefeated.

Dates for Your Diary

FRIDAY 12TH SEPT, FRIDAY 10TH OCT, FRIDAY 14TH NOV

A TRIO OF DRAW NIGHTS Up to £1,000 to be won

FRIDAY 31ST OCT: HALLOWEEN PARTY
Special Guest ELVIS PRESLEY!!

TUESDAY 11TH NOV: SUPPER LECTURE

SATURDAY 13TH DEC: CAROL CONCERT

