

From The Captain Brian Woodward



Nearly six months into my captaincy, with only one more match left - against John 'O' Gaunt - before the season ends. The scratch team did very well after a sluggish start, finishing in the upper half of the higher division. The senior scratch team also did well, just missing out on winning the league. Well done to them both.

The men's, shall I say 'friendly' team, just about broke even, but had a good time. Simon Best had a hard time getting teams together. I hope that now lunch is just a snack or one course, shortening the time that has to be committed, more men will put their names down next season.

The men's invitation day was excellent. Our guests not only enjoyed the course which was in great condition, as it has been throughout the year, but also had excellent fare for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It was excellent value too - it's a shame that a day that once had a list of people waiting for places was under subscribed.

I enjoyed playing in mixed matches with our Ladies' Captain, Su Hawke. These matches are truly social events, played with a great spirit, although competitive. Cynthia will serve her penance by having to play with me in the earlier part of next season.

Su has been a popular Ladies' Captain and has been a great support to me. Our thanks go to her for all her hard work, in a year which was not the best on the personal front. Enjoy Florida Su.

Another hard worker for the club is Peter Rook, tackling many jobs about the clubhouse, in addition to being convenor for the Woodmen. He is now stepping down from the Woodmen post. Well done, and thanks Peter. David Houghton will be taking on the role and we wish him well.

Martin Bennet keeps us all informed about news, so you will all probably know about the great success in Italy recently for Tom Shadbolt, winning their Amateur open - for those of you who have not seen the news, you can read about his success here on page five. Well done Tom. I hope your win will open doors to other important events.

Representatives of the EGU came to Mid-Herts recently to give clubs in the Hertfordshire area and update on the EGU and EWGA merger, handicap centralisation, Harriet Harman's equality bill and its effect on golf clubs, VAT tribunals etc. We had three hours of information, which it is not possible to condense. To summarise two points - all male members with handicaps will be given an identification number which will be recognised by any affiliated club in England. It could be used instead of a handicap certificate when playing other courses. Ladies will be on the same system if the merger of EGU and EWGA takes place.

The equality bill could give us all a bit to think about. If it goes into law as it stands, all full members will have the right to access on the course at any time. Let's hope that someone with knowledge of how golf clubs work will be asked for input before it arrives on the statute.

From the Chairman

John Sefton

As the golfing season draws to a close there seems little doubt that the golf course has been enjoyed by members and visitors alike - quite a contrast from last year. The recent survey that we have conducted suggests that members are very supportive of Mid-Herts and the policies that are being pursued. As a Board we are very grateful for this commitment.

In the mid-year newsletter we indicated that the financial health of the club is sound and I can confirm that this remains our view. At end December we anticipate a cash balance of £70,000, which is far in excess of the level at the end of 2008. As a Board, we have debated what the right level of reserve is to safeguard the club and meet any unexpected expenditure. Our conclusion is that this is the minimum required at each year end.

The debate then leads on to the level of capital expenditure that can be sanctioned. The survey results were very helpful in highlighting the priorities. Members support the Board view that the course is the number one priority, with bunkers as the main priority. There was also widespread backing for refurbishment of the clubhouse, though not for a major restructuring, and finally many felt the car park needs upgrading.

Even in a time frame of five years it will not be possible to undertake all these projects. From forecast cash projections, we need a further £35,000 each year. I realise that this is a figure we keep mentioning along with the possible sources, and we will continue to bring this to the attention of members.

We have no wish to change the character of Mid-Herts but we will need to invest to meet the aspirations of both existing members and visitors. In particular the clubhouse, which was rebuilt in 2000, needs new carpets and soft furnishings as well as repainting after 10 years of constant use. How to balance financial rectitude with the reasonable expectations of members will be a frequent theme you will hear from your Board.

Last year we held a number of presentations with members that were well received and it was indicated that we would repeat this year. However, now the issues surrounding the course have been resolved and the financial position is much improved, we question the value of meetings at this time. In addition the results of the survey indicate that the members and the Board are in broad agreement on the priorities both on and off the course. If however any member would like to have a discussion, then I am more than willing to find a time to meet.

Welcome to new members

We would like to warmly welcome the following new members who have joined the club over the last few months:

Luke Hopper – junior
Thomas Hopper
Allan Huke
Andrew Kenworthy
Alex Kolasky
Thomas Kolasky
Maurice Leigh
Tom Norman – junior
Paul O'Neill
Jon Pike
Gavin Renwick

Ryan Standen
Neil Tinworth
Jonathan Wallace-Greaves – junior
Oliver Wallace-Greaves – junior
Paul Watters
Dillon Neale – junior
Andrew Neale
Daniel Haggerty
Craig Shields
Paul Dixon
John Gray



On the course

From Paul Dugdale

Following a spring with little rain, consequently no growth and hence very little rough throughout the season, we have had a very playable golf course this year. We have had wonderful greens, approaches and fairways for which we must commend our greens staff.

The heather development plan is starting to show results; please look carefully at the patch on the 15th hole. We will shortly apply a weed killer that will kill the grass and leave the heather, thus making these areas look a lot tidier.

With the very dry August/September we have just experienced we have lots of dry patches on our fairways so we have been scarifying and over-seeding with a grass that is more drought resistant, which should help going forward.

Soon we will start on all the winter jobs including a new path and trolley park between the 18th and the 1st, please use it. We will also be doing lots of tree and stump clearance work. The team will be clearing leaves for the next 10 weeks so please be patient.

Our next move is to embark on improving the tees and the bunkers and to this end we will commence with a full renovation and improvement programme, starting with the 7th hole. If the contractor does a good job we will continue with our plan as quickly as the budget allows.

We will next consider two new medal tees on the 2nd and the 13th as a means of bringing our yardage back over 6,000 yards. This will also improve the challenge for our better golfers without spoiling things for the majority of players.

Overall we have had a very good course on which to enjoy our golf this year and we must thank Jody and his team for their hard work. As ever, any suggestions relating to the course will be welcome. Happy golfing!

5th Green

Those of you who have played in the last seven days will have noticed that the 5th green is, to say the least, not looking its best. We applied a product called Rescue to remove the undesirable ryegrasses from it. This product had been successfully used around the collars of the rest of the greens. However it has caused a major desiccation of the bent grasses on the 5th. We are working closely with Syngenta, the manufacturers of this product to rectify the situation. We have cored and over-seeded the green and plan to use grow sheets to assist with strong growth this autumn. In order to facilitate this we have had to close this hole and revert to the winter template used previously i.e. play the 17th as the 5th, then use the practice ground hole as a short par 3 17th.

We will update you via the notice boards and email with any news on this disappointing setback. Apologies, we are as disappointed about this as you are.

Men's Competition Results and Friendly Matches

Dennis Merchant

Simon Best

The winners of the Men's competitions since our last issue are:

Bowen Trophy

John Watt and Paul Mayles

The men's section has enjoyed a season of 12 matches against other local clubs, including one against the Herts Police, which had to be decided on the Duckworth-Lewis method after a thunderstorm. We enjoyed taking part, but could only manage 4½ wins. We lost all four away matches, as well as two home matches. However we retained the Clubhouse Shield at home in the annual match against Ross-on-Wye GC.

The Saturday morning matches have been timed to produce minimal inconvenience for the swindles. However congestion on the course on the Saturday afternoon of the Ladies Captain's challenge, which was 24 a side, was a problem and that has been addressed by moving that fixture to a Sunday afternoon in 2010.

There has been limited interest from members in these matches, although all those who responded to pleas for participation by the match convenor, Simon Best, claimed to have enjoyed themselves. Simon is grateful for the positive responses he had and is reviewing the format to try to widen the appeal of the matches, which are open to all gentleman members and are usually played in a friendly spirit. He would welcome any suggestions or comments on simon.best@btinternet.com or in writing via the office.

Ladies' Competition Report **From Lindsay Murray-Gray**

As ever, the ladies have had a very busy summer with a huge range of competitions played in great spirit. To name but a few, the Rees Gregory Strokeplay Championship was won by Hannah Burke and Lucy Goddard (best gross and best nett respectively), the August medals by Dianne Crowder, Diane Else and Gill Gadsden, the Maldwyn Jones Trophy by Liz Carter, the September medals by Elizabeth Thomas, Judy Morris and Gill Gadsden and the October medal by Janet Biscoe.

In August we had an excellent away day at Whipsnade Golf Club brilliantly hosted by the Lady Captain, her faithful consort Lewis and the founder of that course, our very own George Hamshaw, a massive thanks to all.

The Autumn Meeting went off without a hitch and a good day was had by all, with a particularly excellent meal provided by Alan and the team. The scratch prize went to Pippa Legg and Penny Pulley won the Wolf Dancer trophy for the best nett score. Also winning their respective divisions were Jean Rosser and Pat Carnell. Team prizes for the Texas Scramble were won by newcomers Suzie Hyne and Katie Staton playing with Deborah Connor on the back 9, with Joyce Munden, Margaret Barker and Jane Bennett triumphing on the front 9.

And finally..... this winter the ladies will be running a more extensive trial of the new forward tee on the 12th. This tee will be in use from 1st November for all but the medal competitions and a new card will be available to reflect this change. The stroke index will remain the same at 15 with the new distance being 101 yards. We look forward to hearing your feedback at the end of the winter season. Enjoy!

Crameri Cup winners

Ben McEhinney and Mark Sedgwick won the final of the Crameri Cup, beating Aldenham 1 up on 14 October. Ben and Mark played in five rounds to get to the finals – a great victory for Mid-Herts. Well done. The trophy will be proudly displayed in the cabinet.

Tom Shadbolt wins Italian Amateur Championship



Tom Shadbolt beat British Amateur Champion and Italian teenage sensation Matteo Manassero on his home patch to win the Italian Amateur Championship on 20th September.

Tom won the 36-hole final 1-up after a tremendous tussle with Manassero, who had also won the Silver Medal for leading amateur at the Open at Turnberry in July. Manassero was two-up after nine holes in the final. But a super 31 on the back nine, including a run of birdie, par, eagle, birdie on the last four holes, enabled Tom to go in

all square at lunchtime. In the afternoon, Manassero again raced into a two-hole lead after nine holes. But Tom again pulled it back to be all square at the 15th. He then birdied the 17th to go one-up in the match for the first time, and halved the last to win.

Earlier in the competition, Tom had qualified 10th for the knock-out stages after rounds of 69 and 67. He then beat four French internationals to reach the final.

The event was at the Garda Golf and Country club in Lombardia.

Trilby Tour



Colin Howard played in the Trilby Tour this year and at the regional tournament at the Buckinghamshire he qualified for the final which took place at the London Club in July. He lost in the three hole play off. Colin's caddie is Tom Allen, a fellow Mid-Herts Member.



Juniors Alan Green



Moving from the North Herts League to East Herts League this year has been a really interesting experience for the junior team. Whilst they have enjoyed the challenge of some excellent courses and fixtures, it's probably true to say that with the exception of the Moor Park juniors the handicap levels of the opposition has been somewhat higher than those we faced in NHL and it has taken the team a little while to adjust to giving a few more shots. We drew 5 of our 10 EH League matches and finished exactly mid-table.

However, the strength of the team was shown on the League Finals day when our team won the EH League scratch title on count-back from Moor Park (team picture above).

Ver League

We had a very successful run in the Ver League progressing through to the final with good wins over Chiltern Forest, Harpenden Common and Moor Park but we came against a strong West Herts team in the final and in spite of winning our home leg 4 ½ - 2 ½ we couldn't hold onto the lead at West Herts and narrowly lost out.

George Ackerman in the "Zone"

September has been a great month for junior **George Ackerman**. Over the space of two weeks George has won three of the major junior trophies. He started by winning the **Steer Cup** with a gross 74 (nett 66), and followed up later the same day by completing a double in winning the **Judd Salver Junior Putting Championship**. Two weeks later he spread-eagle the field again, this time in the **Lady Beach Thomas Cup** scoring a remarkable gross 67 (nett 59). George is now off 5 having commenced the year with a handicap of 24. This is an outstanding achievement and reflects the commitment that George has devoted to his game this year. Well done George.

Brazil for two recent juniors

The prestigious Faldo Series Grand Finals are being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil at the end of October. Tom Shadbolt and Lucy Williams have both won through to the Final and will be challenging for the Under 21 titles. Congratulations to them both and the very best of luck. Also going to Brazil for the finals will be immediate past Club Captain, Chris James who, for the second year running, will be lead referee at the event. Congratulations Chris, it's a tough job but someone has to do it!

Ladies' Captain's report

Su Hawke

Nearly November, the AGM and a new Captain for the Ladies. The support I have had throughout my year has been wonderful. The ladies have been encouraging, supportive and have joined in the serious golf and not-so-serious golf. The men have also been brilliant – a big 'thank you' to all of you who have helped Lewis at the halfway house, John Watt for the teamwork on a Tuesday (plus of course the wine), the Woodmen at the various matches and for the banter on most occasions. But the 'pièce de résistance' was getting Derek Thompson - Del Boy to his mates - to not only play a mixed foursome, but also agreeing to be my mixed partner next year.

The Ladies section has enjoyed a good September with the 27 hole Autumn Meeting, throughout which the sun continued to shine, the Half day Invitation, when we had a splendid morning and lots of compliments for the food. Both these events were brilliantly organised by Lindsay Murray-Gray and Pat Marshall respectively.

In October, 28 of us enjoyed an away night at Breadsall Priory (£99 DBB + two rounds of golf – couldn't go wrong). Thank you Lindsay for arranging and getting us such a great venue and deal. 48 ladies enjoyed golf at Porters Park - the course is lovely especially at this time of year and we also played to see which of the 4 Nations was best. Scotland won rather marvellously.

I am overwhelmed by the support for my charity, the Herts Air Ambulance. To date we have £9,800 with still one of the highlights to come in the form of the Nite Lite golf. Ninety people are out with their torches, more are coming up to play bridge, have supper and enjoy the auction. Thank you to Ann Nash in advance for organising this and for everyone for being so generous in the past and hopefully on the night.

Art at Mid-Herts From Brian Gregory

There will be an Art Show and Sale in the upstairs committee room and lounge from 30th November until 18th December 2009. Approximately 80 works of art will be on display, submitted by a number of our talented members, mostly amateur but some professional. The majority of the exhibits will be for sale and the Club will retain a commission to create a fund for use as decided by the majority of the exhibitors.

The Show will open with a Preview Evening between 6pm and 8pm on Monday 30th November which promises to be well attended. Not only will you be able to meet the artists and discuss their work, it will also be the first opportunity to secure an original artwork for your home or provide a unique Christmas present for family and friends. The Show will be open daily thereafter.

Looking for a game? From Martin Bennet

Any members that want to let others know that they are available for a game, might like to contact me so that I can circulate their email address. Simply send an email to "game@mid-hertsgolfclub.co.uk" and I will send it to everyone else that has registered with me.

Once you have the addresses you can make contact and organise things.

Dates for your diary John Tanner and the Captain's Committee

Friday 13th November: Draw and Dave's Pub Quiz Night
Friday 27th November: Call My Bluff wine evening
Monday 30th November: Art at Mid-Herts Preview Evening

Saturday 12th December: Carol Concert
Thursday 31st December: New Year's Eve Dinner and Disco
Saturday 30th January: Burns Supper



Saturday 19th December 2009
3.15 – 5.30 pm
Children's Christmas Party

An invitation to all members and staff who have children or grandchildren aged 3 to 9 years old to bring them to a party.

Younger children are welcome but must be supervised by an adult. There will be an acclaimed Children's Entertainer for an hour, tea and a present for each child. Tickets cost £8 per child (adults welcome to stay)

Please book your ticket(s) through Kim in the office giving details of the children. Please support this new event. As you may be aware, similar parties are very popular at many sports clubs. As a committee, we are aware that we have not had a "family" event at the club for a while so why not treat your children to a party (cheaper than taking them to the Pantomime) and give busy adults a break from the shopping. The early advertising is so that members can get the date in their diaries before other Christmas events are booked and possibly arrange to see grandchildren who live further from home. Jeans and trainers are fine.

Advertising Members' Services

We are pleased to offer this opportunity for members to advertise their services in the Mid-Herts Golfer. If you would like to advertise in a future issue for a small fee, please contact Martin Bennet.

Quality Painting & Decorating

*Peter
Battershill*



Home: 01438 833 163
Mobile: 07860 260 964
e-mail: peter.battershill1@tiscali.co.uk

EVERALL DRY CARPET CLEANING

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
NO WET MESS
CARPET CLEANED PROFESSIONALLY
EST 1987

Try the Carpet Cleaning System Recommended by Carpet Mills Worldwide. HOST Leaves Carpets Deep-down Clean & Ready to use Immediately.

- Upholstery Cleaned
- Antistatic Treatment
- Fabric Protection
- Ideal For Cleaning Stain-Resistant Carpet



host

01727 822042
07973 766616

www.freewebs.co.uk/everalldrycarpetcleaning
Ashdale House, Sleapcross Gardens, St Albans AL4 0RX



D & D Installations



Kitchens, Bedrooms & Bathrooms Professionally Fitted

- **Complete Installation Service**
- **Dry fit also available if required**
- **All tiling requirements undertaken**
- **Plastering**
- **Electrics (NICEIC Certificated)**
- **Competitive Rates**
- **Tidy, Reliable & Friendly Service**
- **Free No obligation quotation**

Del-077393 79746 or Dave-077393 79745
E-mail: del.baker@zen.co.uk