

Welcome

Welcome to the third issue of our emag Mid-Herts Golfer. This issue has news from our junior section, details and photos of a fun and crazy day held for Ladies' Captain's Day and, of course, an update from various sections of the club – Captain, the Greens Committee, the Social Committee and the Board of Management. We are proud to report on the outstanding achievements of Hannah Burke, Lucy Williams and Tom Shadbolt, who continue to be amazing ambassadors for the Club.

We are inviting members to let us have their views about all aspects of the Club. A questionnaire has been emailed or posted to members. Over 500 members have now opted to receive information from the Club by email and we hope that most people will help us by completing the questionnaire online. This will save us paper and postage and will enable us to quickly collate the results and run off various reports. For those 200 or so members who have not provided email addresses, we have posted the survey to them. There will also be copies available in the clubhouse – so there is no excuse for not letting us know what you think!

If you would like to receive newsletters and updates by email, please let the office have your email address. Thank you.

Janet Biscoe
Editor



The Captain Brian Woodward

They told me that the Club Captain had to hit the ground running, his appointment being just about at the start of the main golfing season. So true... Maybe we should consider the possibility of adjusting the year of office, so that the Captain, like the Ladies' Captain, has time to get his feet under the table before embarking on a round of club matches etc.

The Scratch team has found playing in a higher league a major challenge, but are holding their own, having lost two and won two matches. They did very well in the Mail on Sunday knock out. Robert Daley and I witnessed a dramatic but very creditable win against Woburn. Unfortunately, they just failed at the next hurdle, the sixth round, losing at the third hole of a play-off - a great effort.

Our other men's teams, who represent the club in friendly matches, have had little success in away matches. We have yet to break our duck. Nevertheless, a cheerful bunch of guys turn up in their club shirts and jumpers and do their best. It would be good to see more men entering to play, as Simon Best always has to work hard to get a team together, particularly for home matches.

We have had some success at home, winning the Four Herts Salver, and beating a team from the Police. Success was also achieved in our match against the Herts Captains, the Mid-Herts team of 24 players being made up mainly of Past Captains, plus Barney Puttick.

Congratulations to Chris Tingey for again winning the Club Championship. After the morning round it looked as though he was out of the running. A strong afternoon round gave him victory by three shots. Well done Chris. Well done also to John O'Hara for winning the

Scriven Jeffries trophy. Perhaps father Mike will help him celebrate with the bottle of bubbly he won on Captain's day!

John Tanner is working hard to arrange a number of social events, which I hope members will support. Dates of forthcoming events are on page 7 and further information about the events will be given in the weekly newsletter from Martin and on notice boards.

During the last year, 140 male members have played in the Thursday swindles. Trevor Horne does a great job trying to ensure other players, both members and visitors, are not inconvenienced. I would ask that players remain courteous to visitors and other members. Visitor green fees have made a significant contribution to our income in these difficult times. I would ask that swindles refer to the starting points page in the club diary and adhere to these. We don't have starting sheets, which is great, but only operable if we show some discipline, and patience.

Good golfing...

From the Chairman **John Sefton**

I welcome this opportunity to update members on the thinking of the Board of Management. The golf course is the focus of Mid-Herts and we hope you will agree that it is in excellent condition and a tribute to Jody and his team. We hope you all are enjoying your golf and finding it to be a fair challenge to your many and varied skills.

Our other responsibility is to ensure the financial wellbeing of the club, and we can report that at end of June we were slightly ahead of budget. We are cautiously confident that we are on target to generate a modest surplus and achieve the forecast reserve, provided no unexpected problem arises.

However, we continue to look ahead and are mindful of the economic conditions that prevail and the need to focus on increasing income. Our prime objectives are:

- to attract new members
- to increase visitor income

This year, 43 new members have joined Mid-Herts, many as a result of the Open Day. We are confident of further applications as the year progresses and we intend to hold another Open Day in September.

The number of visitors to the club has risen substantially compared to last year. Income from visitors is up by 65% for the first half of this year, compared to last year and societies have booked all the Fridays until the end of October.

The Board is exploring other potential sources of income. This includes looking at whether we should reconsider the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) scheme which was put forward two years ago. An 80% reduction in business rates is available through CASC registration, which would increase our annual cash surplus significantly and enable a number of capital projects to be pursued.

We are fully aware that, at the time, members voted for the Club not to pursue CASC for a number of reasons. The Board is exploring these issues again but we will not present a formal proposal until we have had discussions with members and have heard the collective view.

Finally, we would urge you to let us have your views through the survey which we are carrying out during August. Please take the time to give us your comments.



Welcome to new members

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

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Joshua Higham - Junior | Steven Cowie |
| Martin Paul | Charlie Ellam - Junior |
| Tollef Ellam – Junior | Thomas Ryan – Junior |
| Susan Hyne | Katie Staton |
| James Yates – Junior | Stephen Payne – Junior |
| Mike Loughlin | Craig Farrington |
| Diana Jelley | David Blacket |
| Caroline Eke | |

On the course From Paul Dugdale

I am sure you will all agree the course is in the best condition it has ever been; the fairways, tees and greens are all excellent, thanks to the outstanding work of Jody and his team.

The only significant area we must now address is that of the bunkers. To this end Barney, Jody and I have looked at all the bunkers on the course and put together a draft plan of what we consider would improve the final piece of the jigsaw. We have had a quote from a consultant for this work and realise that we cannot afford to undertake this work all in one go. We will look carefully at our budgeting and put together a proposal to spread the costs over the next three years. Our intention is to trial whichever contractor we select by getting them to complete one hole. If we are one hundred per cent happy with their work then we will start a long-term project to steadily bring all our bunkers up to scratch.

Having recently had the course re-measured we discovered that unfortunately only four of the 54 markers are accurate. This highlights a further reason to renew our markers in the short to medium term so, with operating budgets remaining tight, we would welcome any thoughts on or assistance with the sponsorship of these.

Next issue we will advise exactly when and where we will get the sand flying on the bunker project.

Men’s Competition Results Dennis Merchant

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

Anderson Trophy	John Gatehouse	40 pts
Royds Cup- Club Championship	Chris Tingey	Gross 139
Scriven/Jeffries	John O’Hara	Nett 135
Sladen Salver	Mike Hayhurst	35 pts
Stableford (alongside Sladen Salver)	Martin McKeivitt	40 pts

There were over 80 entries for the Club Championship, with a very strong junior contingency who played extremely well and showed themselves to be potential future champions. Daniel Cornell, Will Lake, James Lamburn and Will Aldred all finished very well. But congratulations go to the winner, Chris Tingey, who won by three points thanks to a strong finish.

Ladies' Competition Report

From Lindsay Murray-Gray

Much golf has been played by the ladies in the last month or so, most of it highly successfully. The Invitation Day was a roaring success, played in glorious sunshine and culminating in one of our visitors getting a hole in one on the second.

Over 20 ladies rolled up to the club at 5.45am for our Early Birds event, a great turnout and as ever, a really fun event. A tot of sloe gin from the Ladies' Captain got things off with a real swing and a hearty breakfast from Alan rewarded our efforts although tempted many to head back to bed with papers. An on-form Sue Hailey was victorious on the day.

Thunder and lightning interrupted play in the July medal but a few hardy souls went back out to finish their rounds even though the competition was cancelled. Although injured, Sandra Lindsay managed a round of six under par. 'Beware the injured golfer' comes to mind yet again.

The Rees Gregory stroke play competition was hotly contested over two days, 36 holes and with howling gales to contend with. Hannah Burke had the best gross score and Lucy Goddard carded the best net score. Well done to all who played both days.

The Mail on Sunday team made it through to the fifth round but was narrowly beaten at Chadwell Springs with the tied match going to a play-off hole. Onwards and upwards for next year girls. Our League teams have been busy, with the second team awaiting the results from other matches in their group to determine their fate, while the first team is still just halfway through their campaign and hoping for a strong finish.

Tom to represent EGU in Czech Amateur Championship

Tom Shadbolt will represent the English Golf Union (EGU) in the Czech Amateur Championship at Karlovy Vary Golf Club on 5 – 8 August.

Tom, 21, is a member of the England A squad. A former Hertfordshire County Champion and Boy Champion, he finished second in the 2007 Lagonda Trophy and fourth in the Lee Westwood Trophy that same year. This year he won the Faldo Series Under 21 event at Walton Heath.

The Czech Amateur is a 72-hole stroke play event with a halfway cut to the leading 70 players and ties with a further cut after the third round to the leading 40 players and ties. There will also be a Nations Cup decided over the opening two rounds with the best two scores from three to count.

Juniors – Girls and Cadets

Sue Ludlow

Hannah Burke and Lucy Williams have had an incredible summer representing Mid Herts.

The Astor Salver is a 36 hole stroke play competition held each year at The Berkshire. In June, Hannah Burke finished in seventh position, with a first round of 76 and a fine second round score of 67.

The Ladies' British Open Amateur Championship in June at the Royal St David's link course. Hannah and Lucy both did well to qualify for the top 64 knockout competition. Hannah lost on the 20th hole in the first round to Lauren Taylor from Woburn. Lucy won her first match but was then knocked out by Laura Collins from John O'Gaunt.

At the Irish Open Amateur Strokeplay Championship later in June at Douglas, Hannah was tied with Lisa Maguire at five under par after the statutory 54 holes. It took a further seven holes of play-off to separate the two and Hannah only lost to a birdie.

Immediately after this Hannah and Lucy joined the Herts County Match Team in the East Region County Match Week at Stockbrook Manor Golf Course near Billericay, Essex. The other counties were Beds, Camb & Hunts, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. What an achievement for Mid- Herts to have two members in the team. Herts won and now go to Pleasington Golf Club in Lancashire for the County Finals (14-18 September).

Lucy Williams played for her university at the World Student Matchplay Championship in Munich, captaining the only team of four girls. They showed that girl power was a valuable asset, qualified for the final and went on to win the whole event.

Lucy then travelled to Nairn for the Scottish Ladies' Junior Open Strokeplay Championship. On the first day she was in the lead with rounds of 75 and 70 (par 74). In round three she had a brave battle finishing on two under par to take Kelsey MacDonald from Nairn Dunbar to 'sudden death' but unfortunately Lucy lost on the second hole. Lucy now has a handicap of 0 (scratch) after her play this summer.

In July, Hannah played at The Berkshire in the pre-qualifier for the Ricoh Women's British Open. Hannah led the way alongside two professionals by shooting a three under par 69. Hannah's round included five birdies, four of which were on the front nine! She went on to play at Fairhaven in the final qualifying round of 92 players. With only 20 spots available into the Open, it was a tough ask and Hannah did not make it this year. Hannah has a handicap of 3 under par (+3) an incredible achievement.

Rosie Goodson is back to playing more after studying and keen to cut her handicap from 6. Lucy Goddard has cut her handicap to 4.

Once a month Sue Ludlow provides some practical help on the course to three of the higher handicap girls and these sessions seem to be benefitting their game.

Juniors

Alan Green

Mid-Herts Junior Open Victory for William Aldred

We always seem to get perfect weather for our Junior Open and this year was no exception. The weather was wonderful, some terrific golf was played and everyone, players, supporters and helpers all seemed to have a great time.

For the second year in succession we had a maximum capacity entry of 84 juniors, and with a total of 30 different clubs represented, it was a well-travelled field, with the biggest journey being made by 4 handicap Jordan Jones from Runcorn (a 360 mile round trip). As usual it was a very high quality field with 40 of the juniors being single figure handicappers.



With 17 Mid-Herts Juniors competing there were high hopes of a home club winner and this was secured by a tremendous performance from 13 year old **William Aldred** (pictured left with Mike Hayhurst) with a gross 69 (nett 64) which saw him take the title on count-back from **James Gough** of West Herts.

The best nett award was won by **Alex Lee** (Stevenage) with a nett 61, with the girls' best nett going to **Yaagni Patel** (Hadley Wood) with a nett 65.

An outstanding feature of this year's Junior Open was the support provided by Mid-Herts members in running the event. Over 30 volunteers gave their time to assist in registering, starting, organising and ball spotting. The contribution of all these endeavours was very obvious in both the smooth running of the event and the fact that it was possible to announce the results and present the prizes at 6.15pm, just four and a half hours after the last tee off time! Sincere thanks go to all the helpers.

And another victory for William



William Aldred also played in the Wessex Junior Masters at Bath Golf Club earlier this year. William plays off a handicap of 5.

He shot a gross 73 playing from the white tees which is 2 over par and won by 4 shots.

He says that he played really well on the back nine, making two birdies to finish 1 under par.

Ladies' Captain's Day 14 July **Su Hawke**

Any stray members who came to the course on Ladies' Captain's Day could be forgiven for wondering what had happened. As well as the usual team competition and individual stableford, there was an additional prize for the most amusing team strip.

Almost all of the 26 teams entered into the spirit of the challenge and made the day a brilliant success with their strips. There were coordinating parrots, a bride, groom and bridesmaid, Michael Jackson look-a-likes (ish), the Calendar Girls, a pack of cards (who said no one could play with them until the end!) city slickers, a French team, flowers galore, a troupe of ballet dancers, quickly followed by the bunny girls.

In the end it was the dominos that were the popular winners - despite the fact that some tried to bribe the judge by having a 'wonderful' picture of Lady Captain across their chests and some who were dressed in very 'bad taste'.

The Dominos
Left to right Joyce Munden, Pat Allen, Jane Allner



All this fun didn't interfere with the serious golf at hand as the overall winner was Lindsay Murray- Gray, who shot six under her handicap to win the Lady Captain's Trophy. Kate Haddon won the Wilkinson cup for Bronze II and Pat Carnell took the past Lady Captain's candlesticks.



The men not only worked extremely hard, catering for all the Pimms that were required, but also joined in the spirit by dressing in dinner jackets, bow ties and shorts. The day ended with a great buffet by Alan, with the help of Jason and team, and Dave managed to keep up with the glasses of 'water' that were required. It was a brilliant day and a huge 'thank you' to all those that made the day as much fun as it was.

Dates for your diary

John Tanner

Friday Draw Nights are very successful social evenings, and in response to members' suggestions, it has been decided to have an added attraction in order to make a full evening of entertainment for your diary.

Friday 11 September: The Draw Night will be preceded by a golf competition - a 12 hole golf fun competition, starting after 4 pm with all players in by 7.30pm. Players will sign the book, pay an entry and make their choice of supper; signing will mean they are deemed to be "in the clubhouse" and therefore in the draw.

Friday 9 October: Draw Night and Bingo, always a popular feature

Saturday 17 October: A themed dinner and entertainment

Friday 13 November: Draw and Race Night

Tuesday 24 November: Supper lecture

Saturday 12 December: Carol Concert

Saturday 19 December: afternoon Children's Christmas Party – a new venture. This is an event designed to include all members and staff who have children or grandchildren aged 3 to 9 years old. We have booked a children's entertainer as the focus for the event followed by tea. All adults are welcome to stay and enjoy a break from Christmas shopping and help amuse any younger guests!

31 December: New Year's Eve Dinner and Disco

Friday 30 October: Nite Lite Golf Evening and Auction of Promises

Want to play golf all hours of the day and night? Well now's your chance!

We are having nine holes of golf slightly differently laid out so it will be like a new course. The tees are lit by special lights and we have our own designated ball with a light in. (Be warned though once you lose it that's it).

So that the slightly smaller course can fit all those that want to play we are having six- ball teams. It will be full handicap, stableford points - best 4 out of 6 to count. We plan a shotgun start and will be off prompt at 5.00 pm so that we can all be in for bangers and mash by 7.30 pm.

Supper will be followed by an 'auction of promises' which can be bid for on the evening. Promises include:

- one week at a self-catering venue in St. Andrews donated by Carol Wilkinson
- one week self-catering in Dorset donated by Mary Hoare
- a buffet supper at the White Horse Kimpton for 20 people
- a celebration cake
- a day out at the Silverstone Classics for two people hosted by Bobby Sparshott, which will include breakfast and lunch in the British Racing Driver's Club, a visit to the pits and garages
- a hand painted platter by Lynne Proudlock
- a picture painted by Brian Gregory
- lunch on a P&O cruiser in Southampton
- facials and massages at Atelier in Redbourn
- and much much more.

Rumour has it that there may even be tickets for Strictly Come Dancing and a day's fishing on the River Test. The price will be confirmed nearer the time and all monies raised will be going to the Ladies' Captain's charity. If you want to book your team slot and chose your team name, please get in touch with Ann Nash, who is master-minding the night. Don't worry if you can't come as there will be an opportunity for you to put in a sealed bid. The only problem with that is that you will miss all the fun!

Full details of all these events will be on the web site and posters in the clubhouse.

Comments from visitors

We are delighted to have welcomed so many more visitors to our Club this summer. Here are some of the comments we have received:

" Dear Martin,

It was lovely to meet you on Thursday last week and to enjoy the hospitality and facilities of the club. We all felt the day went really well and we've had consistently good feedback from participants, so my thanks to you and your staff for making the day so enjoyable."

Tony Lock - MD of Ramblers Holidays

"The quality of the food was outstanding and we received many compliments from our guests... ..nothing was too much trouble and the service was faultless."

Sally Rowe - Chairman Harpenden Ladies Circle

"We enjoyed the course and felt so welcome there, the meal was excellent... .."

Jenny Doxey - Scratchers Golf Society

"Many thanks for hosting the Herts Junior Delegates meeting, the club did a thoroughly professional job... ..it all helped to make the evening a complete success."

Chris Murray - Hertfordshire Golf Union