

From the Captain
Mike Hayhurst



Welcome to the August issue.

You could say that the summer is carrying on the erratic way it started, with most days being fine and dry and the odd deluge or patch of drizzle providing some relief for the parched fairways and rough, a significant greening in the last week or so. The greens, especially, but also the tees and aprons, are looking great and playing fantastically well, a real tribute to Jody and his team.

In the last few weeks, since the last Mid-Herts Golfer we have had The Junior Open won by our own William Aldred, the Club Championship won by another Junior Will Chambers and the Summer Ball at which all those who attended were the winners.

That is as well as the continuing exploits of our younger members, the US Open, The Open and the football etc. Action-packed or what!

As we head into the holiday season things will get quieter, but there is still a full programme of competitions, matches and social events. The next social is the Barn Dance and Hog Roast on the 21st August, sure to be great fun, see the details below and on the website.

Starting on the 9th August is the annual course maintenance, lasting all week. Try to give the greens staff as much latitude as you can - they have a lot of work to do and the more they get done without having to stop, the quicker they will finish.

The Captain's Summer Ball was a great success. Attended by almost one hundred guests, it was lovely to see everyone dressed up for this black tie event. Alan surpassed himself with the food. We were accompanied by the perfectly matched music from Alex Miles which made it an evening to remember. Look out for the next event where Alan can show us again what he can do.

Medal Starting

On three occasions, on weekend competition days, we have closed the 6th for starting in order to try to improve the time taken for a round. We hoped that this would reduce the number of times that groups were held up by another group starting in front of them, delaying not only them but also the groups behind them. A typical delay seeking to slot in between others is just under ten minutes and, of course, this is compounded when several groups slot in.

In order to find out how well this was working, a short survey was carried out in early July. This was completed by 84 of the 112 players in the medal. The results were:

- well over half started on the 1st, as was expected.
- almost all of them had a quick first 9 but ran into the later starters on the 10th or, if they had started on the 10th, had the same problem with later starters on the 1st.

We had expected that the later starters would choose the quiet parts of the course, but it seems that we are creatures of habit in our starting and several of the later starters significantly delayed the back 9's of the early starters. Few of the morning players

achieved rounds of less than 3 hrs 45 min, whereas the majority of the afternoon players did as there were far fewer players on the course.

The same system was used in the Sladen Salver, but the number of people playing was lower and, it seems, fewer players started later in the morning so rounds were moderately paced.

As so many start at the 1st between 7.45 - 9.30, it does seem that we should limit starting from the 6th to before 8.45 and from the 10th to before 9.30. Only one group in the survey recorded their start time off the 10th to be between 9.30 and 12 noon. By lunchtime, all four start points can be open again. For the afternoon, the same logic should apply and starting from the 6th should be before 1.30 and from the 10th before 2.15 pm. Because of the wider range of starting times in the afternoon, even these limits may not be enough to prevent delays, but it is necessary to have enough starting tees open to get the usually large numbers at the busy times to get away.

We will refine this advice before the next weekend competition.

Dress Code

There has been some evident confusion about the new dress code with members being upbraided for wearing, in particular, shirts outside the waistband of shorts or trousers or coloured short socks with shorts. Provided that the wearer is smartly dressed, both of these are acceptable on the course or in the clubhouse. Please be sure that you understand the current code before you tell someone off. If you are not sure, report the issue to a committee member or the General Manager or Steward to avoid any embarrassment.

Royds /Scriven Jeffries: Club Championship Saturday 10 July From Chris Newsum



Will Chambers collects the Club Champion Trophy, the Royds Cup, from Captain Mike Hayhurst for the best gross score over 36 holes

This year, one of the club's most coveted club trophies was fiercely contested in beautiful, hot sunny conditions, with temperatures reaching 28 degrees. With 36 holes to play, the competition tested stamina and resilience as well as golfing skills.

Congratulations go to Will Chambers, who won the Club Championship with a gross score of 138.

And congratulations to Nik Smith who won the net trophy with two cracking rounds of 65 and 66.

Nik Smith collects the Club Champion Trophy, the Scriven Jeffries Cup for the best gross score over 36 holes



New members

We are pleased to have welcomed the following new members over the last month.

Connor Gask (Junior)
Marc Killin
Alex Mumford
Tim Mumford
Kevin Cory
Nicholas Usher

James Russell
Dan Russell
Carolyn Graham
Andrew Harvey
James Harvey (Junior)
Yolanda Rugg

Robert Smith
Sam Elder
Dale Swords
John Simpson

From the Lady Captain
Cynthia Hayhurst



Lady Captain 2010 – 2011

As you know, regrettably, Brenda Reintjes has resigned from the post of Lady Vice Captain, owing to the ill health of her mother. Linda Hyam is now acting Lady Vice Captain and has accepted the invitation to stand for election as Lady Captain at our AGM in November 2010.

The selection process for the Lady Vice Captain 2010 - 2011 is now in hand.

Inter-Club County Ladies Foursomes

The Inter- Club County Ladies Foursomes was played on 26 July. Mid- Herts has not won the trophy before which dates from 1984. Our team of two pairs was Linda Hyam with Elizabeth Thomas and Mary Hoare with Lindsay Murray-Gray; they won the net handicap trophy - well done ladies.

Groups Lessons for Ladies Sunday afternoon

Rob Leonard is giving group lessons for ladies on Sunday afternoon – you can pre-book or just turn up at 3.30pm. It's aimed at ladies just taking up the game, but anyone can join in. So do spread the word as it would be good to get even more joining in, progressing to get handicaps and joining in our ladies' section.

Competition News

The brilliant summer, dry fairways and good shots can result in run on the ball. Many ladies have had low scores. A few notable scores:

At the Spring Meeting Jenny Bentley net 66 won the Wolfdancer trophy (presented by Hannah Burke). Angela Hudson had a net 62 and won the 36 hole net Glover and Linda Hyam scored a winning total of gross 138 to win the gross trophy.

Jane Myddelton net 64 in the Millennium Trophy and cut from 24 to 22 handicap Liz Ayliffe with scores like 40 pts in the Slater Trophy and net 62 in the July Medal has cut her handicap from 26 to 18 in three months. This incredible achievement may be related to acquiring a Snake Eye driver from Barney!

In the RNLI flag competition 17 ladies played better than a net 71 going up the 1st to play their remaining shots below handicap. Sally Simpson won with a net 65 - her shots taking her onto the 2nd hole. Rosie Goodson hit a drive on the 9th

hole. The ball landed 150 yards from the green and she holed her next shot for 2 on a par 5 - an albatross.

We celebrated when Liz Carter had a hole in one on the 8th at the Spring Meeting.

Sue Ludlow has reduced her handicap to 5 and in the second round of the Rees/Gregory had a gross 72 - level par - and won the Rees Scratch Trophy with a combined gross score of 151. Joanne Williams won the Gregory Net Trophy with 68 and 69 - total 137.

Lady Captain's Day

A day much enjoyed by everyone. Sandra Benson won the Lady Captain's trophy with 44 points; 69 ladies played the golf competition and 24 the afternoon bridge; 75 Ladies had a gourmet buffet in the evening

Mid Herts Junior Open



There was a full field of 75 entrants, the largest of any Junior Open in Hertfordshire, and, of these, more than half were single-figure golfers.

Mid-Herts hosted The Junior Open which was won by our own William Aldred.

Help the Heroes

From Chris Newsum and Phil Davies

We were delighted to see such a great turn out to support the National Golf Club Challenge in Aid of Help for Heroes. 118 members joined in the Stableford competition raising £1100 for a charity that is very much in the forefront of supporting our military at a difficult time.

The top 10 ladies' and men's scores have been put forward for the national competition, from which the top 6 clubs will be invited to a sponsored final at the Belfry. Full details can be found at www.nationalgolfclubchallenge.org.uk

Chris Newsum and Phil Davies thank all who entered and contributed to this.

Wheathampstead Village Day

Mike Gadsden

This year is the 950th anniversary of the granting of a charter to the village of Wheathampstead, and a special annual Village Day was held on Sunday 11th July. The Club had a stand to increase our visibility in the local community and to market the golfing and social opportunities which we provide.

As activities, we offered a choice of pitching air balls into a ring and putting. During the afternoon we had a steady stream of visitors wanting to try their skills, and a number who with whom we talked about the club and membership. We had a special subscription/joining fee offer and green fee concessions (similar to the Open Day deals), and gave information to members from Aldwickbury, Harpenden Common, Mill Green and Lamer Wood. As a direct result of our presence two adults and a junior have since applied to join. Several others expressed strong interest and we should



gain more members. I am most grateful to the several members who lent equipment and/or helped on the day.

HHH and H

David Houghton, Seniors' Captain

Monday 5th July saw the first of the Houghton Hips Hearts and Hernias Charity Golf Competition. The aim of this fun morning was to encourage seniors of all ages to take part in either a 9 Hole or 14 hole stableford competition and, depending on the amount of operations they had endured over the years, points would be added to their stableford score. (4 operations- 2 points added).

The entrance fee was in the form of a donation to the Grove House Hospice.

I was delighted that so many came to play in the two competitions. There were only 4 playing the 9 Holes but 30 playing 14. With fine weather and the fast fairways some excellent scores were posted. There were many wonderful prizes to be won thanks to the generosity of Peter Rook, Paul Donegan, Glenn Morton, Peter Harrison, Barney Puttick and our favourite barman David Sedgman.

Just before the prize giving, Peter Parrish, the director in charge of fund raising, gave us a short background talk about the aims and work done by the Grove House Hospice and expressed his gratitude that we were supporting his appeal.

The 9 hole competition was won by the amazing John Crehan, who at the age of 93, had the fantastic score of 20 points. No points were added in lieu of his operations! Nearest the pin, which I decided did not have to be on the green, was won by John Sheed. The 14 hole competition was won by the evergreen Leslie Jones, nearest the pin, Peter Harrison and an impressive longest drive by Geoffrey Mills (I wasn't playing!).

As everybody seemed to enjoy the fun of this rather unique competition, I intend to repeat the same format next year but with some exciting new ideas which I hope will attract more entrants including the ladies and specially invited guests.

Our rising stars

Hannah's at it again

Hannah Burke was the top English player in the European Ladies stroke play championships held between 21st-24th July in Kunecka Hora, Czech Republic.

Hannah represented England in the European Team Championships 6th - 10th July at La Manga. She found it a great experience and afterwards Peter Dew looked very professional at The Berkshire as her caddy carrying the blue ENGLAND bag with the EWGA rose logo.

For the first three days the players had to contend with really hot weather but Hannah is used to that from her time in the States and shot rounds of 72, 68 and 72. In her second round 68 Hannah had six birdies and an eagle. In her third round the putts were not dropping but she had one birdie and one bogey and the rest pars to finish level par. On the final day the conditions changed and in rain and colder temperatures Hannah finished with a three over par 75. She finished one under par in eighth place - a great performance! The winner was seventeen year old Sophie Popov from Germany who was 8 under par.

Hannah and Lucy try to qualify for the British Ladies Open

Hannah and Lucy Williams both travelled up to Liverpool to play in the final qualifying at Hillside for the British Ladies Open. Sadly they didn't make it through to the top 15 players but they did brilliantly well to get that far.

Lucy Williams plays for England

Lucy Williams represented England at a tournament held at Hossegor Golf Club, France. She was only able to play the first two rounds as she was coming back to Lancashire to try to qualify for The Open, but she was in the lead after those first two rounds with 72, 68 and, along with Nikki Foster and Tara Watters, won the Nations Cup for England.

And more to follow...

The busy schedule continues. You may have spotted Hannah, Lucy and Tom practising at Mid-Herts. Lucy and Hannah will play in the English Women's Open Stroke Play Championship at Whittington Heath on 3rd August and Tom is one of a group of 20 players who will represent the English Golf Union in the International Amateur Championship at Vanajanlinna Golf and Country Club in Finland 4th – 7th August.

Rob Leonard 8th in PGA Easter Region Order of Merit

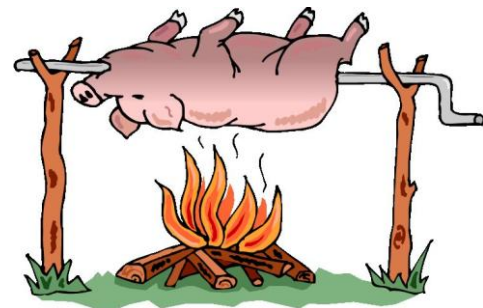
Rob Leonard is currently 8th in the PGA Eastern Region Order of Merit having recently come second in a competition at east Herts only losing in a play-off.

We wish them all the very best of good fortune.

SOCIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Barn Dance and Hog Roast – 21 August

August 21st is the evening of the Barn Dance and Hog Roast. Tickets are now on sale for £20 each. Food will be served from 7pm followed by dancing at 8pm. We have a very good group calling and playing. We hope the weather will be good enough to eat outside, leaving more room for dancing inside. There will be a 30 minute break at 9pm with dancing again until you drop. The bar will close around 11.30pm. For those not requiring hog, various alternatives will be offered but please let the office know when you buy your tickets.



Soul Music Night – 18 September

September 18th is the night for soul music, provided by the live band Soul Agents. Support act for this evening will be a disco of soul provided by our own Dave Smith. Food will be based upon Southern USA culinary delights, as we are planning to provide a casual evening of quality entertainment. Tickets are £20 each and are now on sale.

Advance Warning – Children's Christmas Party 18 December

On Saturday December 18th the Clubhouse will be overrun by up to 60 children in the Children's Christmas Party. It was a great success last year and we have the same entertainer. It is not in the club diary so put it in yours and your children's / grandchildren's.