

## A Word from the Club Captain – Peter McIntyre



Well, we're almost there! The depths of December, brightened by Christmas and New Year festivities are a fading memory, January's grey mornings and short days have passed and we now welcome February, the month during which the days lengthen more quickly than any other. Winter has been kind so far but no doubt as you read this there will be several inches of snow for the first time this year!

Winter is a time for planning and preparation for the new season. The course has benefitted from the mild weather and the programme of bunker renovation and tree clearance will enhance and improve several more holes. Working parties on Monday afternoons continue to clear the undergrowth in the copses – do join Phil Bunbury and the crew if you can to do your bit for the course.

The peripatetic nature of life and work means that members come and go, and the ravages of time inevitably lead to the loss of old friends. New members renew and refresh the Club and the cycle continues. The quality of the course, the traditional feel of so many holes, and the challenge of small targets are frequently mentioned during membership interview. There is great appreciation of how recent developments have been sympathetic to the original ethos of the course and the desire to encourage a more heathland appearance. I look forward to meeting more prospective members on our next Open Day on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and to the competition on April 15<sup>th</sup> for all our under 40s and newer members.

All the planning and preparation has to be done by someone. The Captain's Committee and the Board of Management are responsible for making decisions on behalf of the members. Now is the time of year for you to consider joining either body. Please talk to any Committee or Board member for more details. Nominations need to be in before the AGM in April, a notice is on the board outside the office and names have to be on by March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Meantime, enjoy your personal preparation for the new season at your chosen Club – Mid Herts

## The Ladies – Jane Bennett



Hannah Burke and Lucy Williams both did well in the Ladies European Tour pre-qualification round in January, Hannah winning group B and Lucy coming twelfth in group A. Things didn't go so well in the qualification round, Lucy missing the cut and Hannah just missing out on a place in the top thirty! Hannah had tied in 29<sup>th</sup> place with six others but eventually lost out in the play off. We wish them both success for the rest of the year.

The Mid-Herts Ladies League 1 team, captained by Lindsay Murray-Gray, did extremely well, winning Division 2 in 2011 and will move up to Division 1 this year.

Unfortunately the League 2 team, captained by Janet Biscoe, weren't quite so successful in Division 5 and will go down to Division 6 this year.

At the prize giving after the Ladies' AGM in November it was good to see so many different ladies winning prizes; congratulations to them all but in particular congratulations to Gill Burn, winner of the Mid-Herts Golfer of the year Silver Division and to Nicky Poulain, who won Mid-Herts Golfer of the year Bronze Division. Nicky also won the EWGA medal and is eligible to play in the Regional EWGA medal final from which the 10 best players in each region continue to the grand final.

My Lady Captain's Charity is Dan's Fund for Burns. Dan Miller was killed along with 8 of his friends in the Bomb attack on a nightclub in Bali in October 2002, almost ten years ago. His wife Polly suffered 43% burns to her arms and back. She was the only one of her party of ten to survive the bomb attack. She was lucky to be transferred to Australia to receive medical treatment and after three months returned to England. As she continued her treatment, she realised that there was very little support for burns victims once they had left hospital, whether the burns were as a result of terrorism or accident. Hence she set up the charity in memory of Dan to support burns victims in a wide range of practical ways, financial and emotional. This is a small charity, run primarily by the family and therefore has very little by way of overheads. Copies of the charity's latest newsletter are available and those of you with internet access can follow the charity's work online.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that Elizabeth Thomas has agreed to serve as our Vice-Captain from November 2012. She has been Captain of our Pearson Team and the Ladies Handicap Secretary for the last year or so, jobs which she has taken on with enthusiasm. This enthusiasm and her excellent organising skills will be great support to Jane Myddelton next year and help to ensure her success as Lady Captain.

## The Seniors – David Houghton



The 2011 season finished on festive note with a very enjoyable Christmas Cheer meeting, where Alan provided us with excellent carvery and I told a rather bad joke. The shot gun start proved a popular format, especially with Chris Pool and John Kitching, who won the 15 Hole Competition, closely followed by Mike Hayhurst and Mike Platt. A special prize was given to Jack Taylor, who, at the age of 88, has made a remarkable change to his golf swing and is now a threat to us all. This brings me to one of our longest serving members – Leslie Jones, who celebrated his 90th Birthday at the end of December.

Leslie has been a great servant to Mid-Herts Golf Club. He was Captain in 1987 and then took over from Frank Allen in 1993 as the Woodmen Convenor until 1997.

It was during this time that Leslie was involved in establishing the very popular Four Herts Competition and has continued being an Inter Club Match organiser.

Sadly, due to an operation, he was not able to join us at the Christmas Cheer, however, all Seniors will want to wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him playing again very soon.

I intend to relax and enjoy 2012, as I now have the help of a very capable

Vice-Captain in Keith Hyam, plus our very own golfing yoga guru Glenn Morton and an experienced Seniors Committee.

It is our hope that we can persuade more Seniors to enter our very enjoyable matches with the Ladies, the Eclectic, the Juniors and the several other events that we run throughout the season.

The Woodmen Inter Club Matches are very important to Mid-Herts Golf Club, as they have built up over the years our reputation of being a friendly, well organised Club with an excellent golf course.

I am therefore, delighted to welcome several new names who have agreed to join our Match Organisers team. Mike Foers, Richard Howland, Chris Luckins, Trevor Miles, Peter Parsons, Mike Platt, and Keith Theobald. I am sure all Seniors will give them their full support.

**Please note that the Houghton Hips, Hearts & Hernias Charity Golf Morning on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012, which is in the diary, has been cancelled.**

Despite all the economic doom and gloom, I wish all Seniors a very successful and enjoyable golfing year.

## Course Notes – Russ Kemp

The Winter programme of work is now well under way having been somewhat delayed in its implementation as a result of a very warm November / December and late leaf fall.

Following planning approval to fell trees in the copse at the back of the 5<sup>th</sup> the work is proceeding. Samples from the 5<sup>th</sup> green will be taken at the end of the month for analysis for Nematodes by a scientist from Rothampsted

The stump by the side of the first green from a previously felled diseased oak has been removed and the area will be landscaped to reinstate the humps and hollows in mid February.

The construction of the 8<sup>th</sup> ladies tee is largely complete and will be re-turfed at the same time as reinstatement of the bunkers

The ladies 9<sup>th</sup> tee refurbishment will commence the first week in February

The installation of the winter mat at the back of the new ladies 8th tee is largely complete and work for the mat at the back of the 6<sup>th</sup> tee has commenced.

Bunker excavation is complete and reinstatement will commence in the middle of February

Following bunker reinstatement work to complete the remainder of the paths will recommence.

The next Greens Committee meeting will be held 2/3 days before the next BOM meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

## Handicaps – John Tanner

As you can imagine, this is a relatively quiet time of the year. Apart from one member listed above, there were no indications from the Annual Review that other members warranted handicap alterations. One reason being is that it is my policy to review member's handicaps on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

## Social Events – Dave Smith

The last few Social events have been well attended, reversing the trend we saw through the Summer and Autumn.

As usual, the Carol Concert with Ware Brass Band attracted strong support and provided an excellent introduction to the Christmas festivities.

36 children, accompanied by some big kids had a great time at the Children's Christmas Party. I'd like to thank the Ladies for their fantastic support and organisation and Chris Newsum for starring as Santa! New Year's Eve was a great success – 106 members and guests ringing out the old and ringing in the new. The five course dinner was superb and Sonic disco got the musical entertainment just right. Our first draw night of 2012 attracted a huge turnout of over 130! The £400 prize was won by Jenny McDonald. The prizes for the next Draw Night on 10 February will be £300 and £100.



The clubhouse was also full for the Burns Night Supper. Our Captain, Peter McIntyre was thrilled that so many turned out to celebrate with him and his rendition of Tam O'Shanter was worth the ticket price alone and all the speakers contributed very well to the evening's entertainment.

Coming up, on 10 February we have the aforementioned Draw Night and there will be a further Draw Night on 9 March.

One of our biggest and most popular events of the year, the Captain's Charity Quiz will take place on 17 February. This year we're raising funds for the National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (NACC). Your support for this event and worthy cause are much appreciated and if you'd like to donate a raffle or auction prize, please contact Martin Bennet or Peter McIntyre respectively.

The first supper lecture of the year on 20 March will be a talk and presentation by the Woodland Trust. Given the local development of Hertswood Forest and the tree-work going on the course, we hope the evening will prove very popular.

Lastly, we're putting the final touches to a 70's evening with live music and a disco - details to follow soon on the website and in the clubhouse.

### Competitions – Simon Best

Our competitions have all proceeded smoothly, helped by the mild weather. The only exception was a light fall of snow at just the wrong time for Barney's Pro-Shop Challenge on the weekend before Christmas. We congratulate the winners of the completed competitions:

Silver Goblets

Alan Watson and Mike Hayhurst

Turkey Trot

Les Blomfield and Mike O'Brien

New Year's Day 3-Club Competition

Stuart Hatrick

The Edinburgh Stableford modified greensomes competition will have been held by the time you read this. Then there are two special competitions designed to make winter golf a bit more fun. The Cross Country, a stableford better-ball competition over a modified course, will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February. This competition is open to ALL members; ladies receive two bisques and the noticeboards show details of the requirements for juniors and 5-day members. The Texas Scramble, for teams of four adults (men and/or ladies), will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Spring competitions begin on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April with a monthly medal open to all gentleman full and associate members. This medal is played alongside the Coxon-Sale Cup, which will also be decided by medal play and may be contested by the winners of the preceding year's Monthly Medals and stablefords played on weekends up to and including March 2012.

Entry lists for the summer competitions will be on the noticeboard in the clubhouse in early February. Please look out for those if you are interested to enter a competition.

### Tigers League – David Hall

Firstly I would like to thank all those who participated in 2011 and trust you all enjoyed the matches regardless of results.

As it was our first year in the league, the main objective was to get ourselves established which I am pleased to say was successfully achieved, and we established our position by only a small margin at the foot of the league. Fortunately there is no promotion or relegation in the Tigers league, with only the two winners of each division fighting it out on Finals Day. This year East Herts narrowly defeated Batchworth Park. I am confident that we will be able to show an improved performance in 2012. Our opposition for the year ahead is Aldenham, Bishops Stortford, Hadley Wood, Old Fold Manor and The Shires, dates of all the home and away fixtures are in the diary (Thank you Martin).

As new entrants to the league many of you may be unfamiliar with the format, which is a league of twelve Hertfordshire clubs for golfers with handicaps of 3-10, divided into two divisions, playing each club home and away. Each match comprises a team of ten playing fourball betterball matchplay off handicap, and is meant to be competitive but with a social element by way of a simple meal after each match.

I will be sending out an email to all eligible players before the start of the season to establish availability and I am keen to involve as many members as possible, so please nobody should be shy in putting themselves forward if they would like to play. Most of the matches are played on a Wednesday afternoon, so I am conscious that those blessed or burdened with normal work hours will find it difficult to play, but if it is just a case of sufficient notice being required, just let me know and I will be pleased to try and accommodate.

Looking forward to the start of the new season, you can follow our progress at the Herts Tigers website [www.hertstigers.co.uk](http://www.hertstigers.co.uk) where hopefully you will find us at the other end of the table!

## **New Members**

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

**Andrew Clark**  
**Greg Matthew**  
**Robert Quinn**

**Malcolm Desborough**  
**Robert Parker**  
**Jack Russell**

## **Juniors – Eamon O’Brien**

After many years Alan Green has decided to hand the baton of the Junior Section over to a group of willing helpers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan for all of his years at the helm. Any junior who has come across Alan will have been influenced by the calm yet inspiring way he supports and challenges youngsters to play their best golf and to **enjoy** doing so.

Moving forward three parents have agreed to look after the junior section. The new Junior Organiser will be Eamon O’Brien. He will be supported by Mark Watson and Karen Ellam. In addition I would like to announce that Ben Watson and Michael Fitzgerald have been invited and have accepted the positions of Captain and Vice Captain of the junior section. I looked forward to working with them over the coming year

If members know of any young golfers who are thinking of playing more and want to be part of an active friendly junior section please point them in the direction of Eamon.

**Should any member wish to submit a letter for discussion, please contact the General Manager.**

**The next issue will be March 2012. Copy date 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012**