

A Word from the Club Captain – Peter McIntyre



'Are you enjoying your year?' is perhaps the most frequent question that I have been asked since April. I answer unequivocally 'yes'. There has been so much to enjoy in two short months. Nearly 170 played in Captain's Day, and I was able to open the doors of the splendid new half way house for the first time. Thank you to all who played and to those who gave their time to provide refreshments throughout the day. As for the drive in... well, one bad golf shot has never spoiled a good day.

I have received a warm welcome from the stalwarts of the mixed golfing genre and anticipate further success in the mixed matches. I have had the pleasure of playing in men's matches home and away, and greatly enjoyed the afternoon when the committee played with some of our excellent juniors. Smart, polite, steeped in golfing etiquette, they play good golf and accept triumph and misfortune with impressive control. They set an example to us all and I look forward to my next round in their company.

Naturally we are all thrilled by the news that Tom Shadbolt qualified for the Open and we wish him well along with Tom Lewis a former junior here. I hope that some of you might get to Royal St George's to give him a cheer.

By contrast, there have unfortunately been serious events involving abusive language. In the heat of the moment words may be said which, on later reflection, are recognised as having been insulting and inappropriate. An apology offered to the offended party is then welcome and laudable and the matter can be resolved. However, the persistent refusal to apologise is unacceptable. Such behaviour cannot be tolerated at Mid Herts, and following a disciplinary inquiry the member involved has been suspended from the Club.

I trust that this will remain an isolated incident. I now look forward with eager anticipation to the Club Championship and to playing golf with as many members as possible during the summer.

The Ladies Section - Linda Hyam

The success story of the moment is Lucy Williams. Lucy became 2011 English Amateur Champion, after beating Charlie Hull from Woburn, on the 19th hole at West Sussex Golf Course. Another great achievement by a Mid Herts player. We look forward to getting Lucy's photo on the wall, with Hannah Burke & Tom Shadbolt.

The fine weather seems to have deserted us & the rain has arrived! From a golf point of view, this is good & bad. It is good that the course is getting the water it needs, it also makes shots onto the green possible, without an unplanned for bounce right or left!! However the downside is actually playing in the rain. Although it hasn't been too cold, everything gets wet through and makes it difficult to play, all bundled up in wet clothing. That said, some Ladies are continuing to be successful in their outside competitions. Karen Ellam & Gill Sheppard are now through to the 5th round of the Daily Mail Foursomes, so good luck to them in the next round. We are also still competing in the Powell Cup, another foursomes competition, the next round to be played against Harpenden. League 1 & 2 matches continue, updates in the next edition. Nicky Poulain was the overall winner at the Spring Meeting on the 17th May. Janet Biscoe was the winner of the Glover Trophy, a 36 hole competition, held on 7th June, winning both gross & nett prizes.

The halfway house has been a wonderful addition to our special golf days. It has been used for several different events, by different sections of the golf club. It certainly beats standing under a wobbly tent in the rain or wind!!

Course Matters – Paul Dugdale

We hope you are now all happy with the new 8th tee and bunkers. Following some better weather the course is now in great condition. We are currently cutting the greens to 3.5 mm and we will probably reduce that to 2.8 mm for the club championship.

The new half way house is beginning to be used, we will in due course add water and we will consider more use of this resource, once again we thank the Hayhursts, Hyams and Hawkes for this, especially master builder Keith Hyam. We are also considering a proper WC, probably where the present one is. The next set of bunker works is being considered, we will work on the 9th, 13th and possibly the 3rd, this of course will depend on our budgets.

I feel sure you are all aware we have a viral disease in some of our oak trees, following expert advice we are told we need to remove ten of them. After the club championship we will remove the ones that are in play, i.e. two at the back right of the 1st and one behind the 6th tee, they have to be burned on site (so as not to spread the disease) so please be patient whilst this work is being carried out.

Handicaps – John Tanner

New members

Handicaps have been issued to the following new members between May 2nd and June 9th:

Keith Sharples	24.0	Arran O'Donnell	19.0
Mike McVicker	22.0	Rob Harwood Smith	25.0
Sam Homer	16.0	Thomas Moxham	20.0
Jack Blackwell	23.0	Andrew Charles	22.0
Sam Elder	6.0	James Coad	18.0

Social Events – Dave Smith

Despite having two £400 and one £100 prizes on offer only 63 members turned up for the June Draw Night & Quiz. Unfortunately there were no winners but had George French, Francis Hyde, Andrew Neale, Paul Mayles, Sam Elder or Chris Luckins been in the clubhouse, they would have gone home a few pounds richer!

The display by the Met Police Dogs on June 7th was very entertaining and raised £152 for Linda's nominated charity, Herts Air Ambulance.

We have no Social events planned for July & August, the next bash being the **Barn Dance and Hog Roast** on Sept 10th followed by a **Draw Night** on Sept 23rd, at which one of the major prizes must be won! Details of all the remaining events for 2011 are on the club website

We're starting to plan the social calendar for 2012 so if any members have any suggestions for events please give me a call.

Competitions – Simon Best

Congratulations to the winners of recent competitions:

<i>Nunn Trophy:</i>	Paul Mayles (net 69)	<i>Grandfathers' Cup:</i>	Joe Nugent (38 pts)
<i>Silver Bowl:</i>	Adrian Walton (net 62)	<i>Anderson Trophy:</i>	David Lamburn (36 pts)
<i>Stableford (11 June):</i>	John Terry (39 pts)		
<i>Am Am:</i>	David Bradbury, David Hall, Paul Dugdale, Andy Bye (113 pts)		

Thank you to all who helped the club to raise £1,591 for Help for Heroes through the Medal on 5th June.

The **Club Championship** will be played on Saturday 9th July (entries closed 30 June). The *Sladen Salver* (for men aged over 55 years on the day) is on Sunday 17th July, with a stableford competition for younger gentlemen members. The *Hampden Bowl* medal on Sunday 7th August is open to Members, Cadets, Associates and Juniors. Please keep an eye on your "play-by" dates if you are still active in any of the **summer competitions**, especially with holidays coming up.

The Men's Invitation Day has been attracting fewer members and visitors in recent years. As a result, the Captain's Committee has decided **not to hold a Men's Invitation Day in 2011**. This will improve access to the course for members on the date for which the event was scheduled, but we recognise and regret that it will disappoint some regular participants. If you have a view on the future of the Men's Invitation Day, please be in touch with Simon Best or any member of the Captain's Committee.

New Members

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

Lucie Ayliffe – Junior	Jack Graham
Archie Roberts – Junior	Oscar Roberts - Junior
Adrian Ward	Sam Skelton
Richard Winchester	Jason Beazley

And to all New Members, should you need any assistance on any matter at the club please contact our General Manager, Martin Bennet, or any of the staff.

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

The next issue will be September 2011. Copy date 26th August.