

A Word from the Club Captain – Peter McIntyre



I count myself very fortunate to be your Captain at a time when Mid Herts is prospering with a course in consistently good condition, improving year on year, and showing signs of being truly excellent this summer. Rejoice in the Club and the course. Be generous and share it with others. Educate them in how Mid Herts works. Of course, we ourselves need to know how the course works. It is easy to forget some details, so, for example, I will remind myself and my playing partners of the importance of starting at the right place, using the official starting tees. I will start my round by checking with the Pro's shop to see who else is on the course so I know what to expect during my game. I ask no more than that you do the same and adhere to these simple rules, to the benefit of all.

I am particularly keen that everyone who visits Mid Herts is welcomed and treated courteously, be they members or visitors, individuals or societies. Stories of members accosting other players occasionally circulate. Should this happen to you, please ask the individual for their name and ascertain if they are a member. There are always two sides to any situation, but none of us should tolerate an unacceptable approach, particularly if we have a guest with us. Tell me or a member of captain's committee and the issue will be investigated and dealt with.

The Ladies Section - Linda Hyam

The Ladies have been enjoying the fine weather and the course which is in great condition despite the lack of rain.

Since the AG.M. , the Ladies section has had a few more successes in outside competitions.

Two of our Junior girls, Emma Pinney & Rebecca Turner, are in their second year of the County Futures squad.

Emma played in her first Junior County Competition, which was the Spring Meeting at Harpenden Common & was runner-up scoring 44 points. She now has a handicap of 27. A good start for her and a credit to Mid Herts.

Lucy Goddard, who has returned from injury, played for the County 1st team which qualified for the County knock-out at Moor Park, another worthy representative of Mid Herts.

The Powell Cup is a County Foursome knock-out competition. Karen Ellam & I played in the first round & beat Whipsnade 4&2. The next round will be played at South Herts on 13th. June, so good luck to the next two players.

Let's hope the good weather continues a bit longer, especially for Ladies Spring Meeting, on the 17th. May. This is the day we hope to get full use out of the new halfway house.

Course Notes – Paul Dugdale

We are pleased to say that the new bunkering on the 2nd and 8th is now in play and the new Men's 8th tee will be in play for Captain's Day. I am sure you will agree that these holes are now significantly improved and many thanks to Jody and his team for bringing them on in such difficult growing conditions. Those poor conditions are having an effect of the whole of the course, especially the greens. With such a dry spring and night time temperatures still very low, the growth of the Bent and Poa Annua grasses on the greens has been retarded and we are several weeks 'behind' in terms of growth. (Just ask any Farmer!)

Winter Rules have now finished, please note that the R & A do not allow us to have a local rule to obtain relief from seeded divots, for those of you with a Decisions Book this is Decision 33-8/34 on page 529 – golf can be a cruel game!

Handicaps – John Tanner

Many of our New Members have been submitting cards for handicap allocation, so we hope to see them in competitions quite soon. Good luck to you all.

For any member who feels that their Handicap does not reflect their current playing ability, then have a word with me and we can decide what is the best course of action.

Social Events – Dave Smith

Captain's Day and BBQ – May 14th. No formal entertainment has been set up but we will have background music in the evening as was the case last year. Alan will be providing a BBQ on a pay-as-you-go basis 11.30 and 2.30 and again between 4.30 and 7.30.

Draw Night – June 3rd which will feature prior to the Draw a golfer/non-golfer competition and a table quiz. There will be 2 x £400 prizes and 1 x £100 prize.

Speakers Evening – June 7th will be in aid of Linda's charity and will take the form of a demonstration of the skills both of the Metropolitan Police dog handlers and, obviously, their dogs. It is hoped for a sunny evening so we can use the course for the demonstration however, if wet, we can use inside. We expect a big turnout for this event and logistics dictate that a BBQ will not be possible. However, Alan will provide bbq style food (Hot Dogs, burgers, chicken skewers plus a choice of salads. Tickets are £15.

Captain's Midsummer Ball – June 25th. The evening will commence with a Pimms reception at 7 p.m. followed by a banquet dinner with entertainment provided by the musical duo One Night Stand. Tickets which will be on sale shortly are £45 each.

Competitions – Simon Best

The **Cross Country** was played on a soggy course in February and won by Dennis Mellon and Gerry Brady with a storming 38 points from 15 holes. The **Texas Scramble** at the end of March was won by Dave Smith, Derek Baker, Roger Edrupt and Gerard van der Westhuizen with an impressive net strokeplay score of 52.75, helped by the change this year to deduct one-eighth (previously one-tenth) of combined handicaps.

The **Coxon Sale Medal** was won by junior Dillon Neale with a net 64. The **Captain's Prize** was won by Colin Dunkerley on countback from David Lamburn, both returning 41 points. The traditional May Bank Holiday **Vaughan Vases** for family foursomes were retained by Mark and Ben Watson.

The *Summer Competitions* are in full swing – please keep an eye on your "play-by" dates for each round, either on the noticeboard or the club's website. We hope to see good support for the **Help for Heroes Medal** on Sunday 5th June. Entry forms will soon be put on the noticeboard for the **Club Championship**, the **Royds Cup**, and for the **Scriven-Jeffries Trophy**, to be held over 36 holes on Saturday 9th July.

New Members

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

David Barlow
Alan Bates
Jack Blackwell
Aaron Calvin
Andrew Charles
James Coad
Richard Collin
Joshua Dixon
Patrick Franklin
Will Frankling
Sam Giles

Donovan Kendall
John Lake
Jo Anne Laws
Peter Moxham
Arran O'Donnell
Adrian Poulter
Michael Scottow
Oliver Sharp
Michael Thayne
David Williams
David Willis

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 July 2011. Copy date 27th June