



## LUCY'S TITLE: COUNTY CHAMPION AGAIN



TWO years after becoming the youngest winner of the Hertfordshire Ladies Amateur Championship, **Lucy Williams** claimed the title again at Knebworth on Sunday with a terrific performance full of future promise.

The Championship resolved itself into a tale of three champions – **Tina Jeary**, winner three times, **Alison Franklin**, twice winner and defending titleholder, and **Lucy**, who had won on her first appearance in the championship at Ashridge in 2006, and last year reached the quarter finals.

The trio all reached the semi-finals, with Tina (Bishops Stortford) winning through to the final defeating Lucy Glyn (Porters Park), 3&2, while Alison (Harpenden) and Lucy came together in the second semi in what turned out to be the most tense clash of the championship and ended in dramatic fashion.

Alison went one ahead at the first, but Lucy was level by the fifth, only for Alison to go ahead again, and so the match continued, with Alison pulling one ahead and then being hauled back to all square. One down on the eighteenth Lucy holed from 10ft to take the match into extra holes. A birdie at the first extra hole was enough to see Lucy

ahead for the first time and into the final.

Lucy imposed herself from the start in the final, out driving Tina by up to 30 yards, and winning the opening two holes with birdies, holing from 5ft and 12ft. After halving the 3<sup>rd</sup> (missing a birdie putt of 5ft), Lucy continued her fantastic golf with birdies at 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> to reach the turn 5up, from there on steady par golf was enough to see Lucy run out the winner by 5&4.

After receiving the trophy from Herts county president Ann Green, Lucy paid an emotional tribute, dedicating her victory to the late Ruth Rees who had caddied for her when she first won the title.

Lucy's delight at regaining the title followed another success only four days earlier, when she was the only girl in the team of six as Birmingham University caused an upset by beating St Andrews in the final of the **British Universities Championship** at Lindrick.

### News from the Ladies

Recent months have seen members of the Ladies Section gracing the national stage. **Mary Hoare** played the final medal round of the Nett **Champion of Champions** competition at The Belfry on April 6<sup>th</sup>. You may remember that the day began with heavy snowfall and as a result Mary's supporters decided to call off their journey to the Midlands. Undaunted, Mary began her 6 hour round at mid-day. Maintaining her concentration despite the slow play and bitter cold she achieved a fantastic third place. Many congratulations! **Rachel Keens** was her caddy for the day and she deserves her own award for supporting Mary in such atrocious conditions.

**Lucy Williams' County Championship** triumph is covered above, but several of our members took part in the **Championship** and congratulations are due to **Rosie Goodson** and **Lara Cornell** for joining Lucy in reaching the last 16.

**Lara Cornell**, playing in her first County Championship, won the nett prize, the **Anne Pyke Trophy** with a score of 137 over the two qualifying rounds.

**Hannah Burke's** successes in the United States have continued and so far this college season she has won one tournament and been runner-up in another. She is now ranked 56 in the ladies rankings of the European Golfing Association

The **Pearson** team having won their division moved on to beat Hartsbourne in the quarter-final stage. They have had some tough matches with our experienced players often having to give a large number of shots and we wish them well in the next rounds.

In the **Mail on Sunday Competition** Mid-Herts won through 4 rounds but were defeated away at Abbotsleigh Golf Club, at the same time the two scratch teams are beginning the early stages of the Herts Ovaltine League competitions; we wish them well.

In the Spring **Meeting**, played in bright sunshine but a gusty and very cold north east wind, the winner of the Scratch prize was **Rosie Goodson** while **Janet Biscoe** won the nett prize and with it the **Wolf Dancer Challenge Cup**. This is a magnificent trophy which was won by Hannah Burke in the United States last year and which she has generously donated to the Ladies section, in memory of Ruth Rees. It is to be awarded at the Spring and Autumn Meetings to the lady with the lowest nett score in any division on the day.

# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2008

## NOTE FROM JOHN SEFTON



May I introduce myself as the new chairman of your **Management Board** My primary objective, with the help of my fellow board colleagues, is to do whatever is required to enable you, and future generations of members, to enjoy their golf and the friendship that is such a feature of our club. With this in mind we will be keeping you informed through the Mid- Herts Golfer of important decisions taken and topics on which we are focussing attention. Communication is very important and we have asked **Janet Biscoe** to be



formally responsible, but all board members are available to hear your comments and views. We may not take all your ideas forward but we will give them serious consideration.

Our **priority** is to fill the staff vacancies that exist, and in particular we are addressing the **recruitment of a General Manager**. This title has been chosen to interest a wider number of applicants and to reflect a change in emphasis. We wish the new manager to give more time to enhancing the profile of the club so we attract more new members, and we want the new person also to be more available to members. We continue to be very indebted to **Robert Daley** and **Kim Arnold** who have managed the office since our secretary left.. The last nine months has provided us with the opportunity to review the responsibilities of the two positions, and this has also influenced our views on the role of General Manager.



**Steve Foster** as board member- House is currently seeking to resolve the catering situation and **Paul Dugdale** has joined the Board and has responsibility for the golf course. One of his first tasks is to fill the vacancy in the green staff team arising from the departure of Duncan Smith.. There will continue to be short term issues but we as a Board are very mindful of the longer term scenario. We live in a more competitive environment with many more golf clubs in the area competing for new members and



societies. We will only prosper if our golf course is maintained to the high standards we as members expect; likewise with the club house and other facilities.

Such aspirations come at a cost and while we will be monitoring all the key areas of expenditure we cannot avoid a progressive increase in our cost base over the next few years. It is therefore imperative that we grow our income by increasing membership and developing other sources of revenue to generate sufficient surplus to build up our reserves and meet the capital demands necessary to maintain our assets. It is a theme you will hear from us over the months and years ahead and it is an issue in which all members can and must play an active role.

To finish we will strive to ensure the course remains first class so all of us can enjoy our golf in the environment for which Mid- Herts is renowned. **John Sefton.**

## A Little Bit of History – The Coxon Sale

Back in the late 50s early 60s very few medals were played at Mid-Herts, golf was a gentler pastime and play was usually casual and didn't involve pencil and paper. Some of the younger members at that time (including **youngsters Ian Butcher!!**) were keen to instigate medal competitions. So Mike Coxon and John Sale approached the Committee and offered to put up a trophy to be played for annually, if the committee would instigate a monthly medal competition. The rest as they say is history. **Mike Coxon** who is well and living in America was surfing the net one evening when he came across the M-H site. He contacted Brian Gregory having been interested by Brian's articles on the history of M-H and was delighted to hear that the Coxon Sales is still being played for under the original conditions set out in the 50s/60s. **John Sale** was an active member of Seaton Carew for many years after a period working in Brazil and is these days a casual golfer in the north east. Thank are due to **Brian Gregory** for contacting both Mike and John and gathering this information.

**Congratulations also to John Ireland this year's winner of the Coxon Sale**

## FROM THE CAPTAIN

Seven weeks into my year as Captain and I've already basked in the success of Lucy Williams, as the 2008 County Ladies Champion, enjoyed two Men's matches, my first Mixed match, the Ladies Spring meeting, first half of the summer Wednesday Eclectics, and a host of medals and club competitions, and the Mixed Invitation is on the horizon. You certainly don't get time to get bored in this job!



My **Captain's Day** was a memorable success for the warmth of the sun was matched by the warmth of the support Members gave me, for which I thank you. A record 169 competitors enjoyed the sun drenched day and hopefully found the home baked vegetarian samosas,

cakes, biscuits and liberal hospitality to their liking judging by what little remained! The all day BBQ was well supported and thanks must go to all the Mid-Herts team who made the day so pleasurable. I am sorry I disappointed so many with my drive-in, however, Mike Sage clearly knows something about my game as his peg was the nearest to where my ball finally alighted. Congratulations also go to the team of **Martin & Sandra Lindsay, and Lindsay Murray-Gray** on their super performance in winning with 78points.



The day saw the opening of the 5<sup>th</sup> Green and encouraging remarks on its playability are much appreciated by the greens staff. The surface is still immature and will toughen up with wear and increased sward growth As was predicted, it looks

different from the other traditional greens as it is predominately bent grass as opposed to poa annua. Jody has been introducing more bent into our greens to improve their durability and playability. However he assures me the 5<sup>th</sup> green is running at a similar pace to the rest of the course greens.

Our investment in the new irrigation system is already proving worthwhile with water able to be directed and quantity controlled to specific areas at the touch of a switch. I have every confidence that with a fair summer we shall have a wonderful testimony to the hard work the greens staff put in. I know they take pride in their efforts and are appreciative of favourable comments from Members and visitors, and those who attended the AGM will recall my message to assist them.

It was;- **“if we leave the course and club house in better condition than we find them, then we shall all benefit and enjoy the fun and pleasure its fruits provide”.**

Golf can be a very selfish game as we get cocooned with our own swing thoughts and frustrations of not bringing off the shot we had visualised, but can I remind all Members that we play this wonderful game for enjoyment, fresh air and relaxation. It gives us the opportunity to mix with others, and the rich tapestry of experience and friendship we gain hopefully makes us better individuals for the time we devote to the great game. I do appeal to everyone to be mindful of our responsibilities and to be considerate to others, both on the course and in the clubhouse, and to respect the etiquette of the game. Club rules, guidelines and pure common sense, if abided by, allow us to keep an even keel and get by happily together.

I wish everyone a happy, enjoyable and successful season and look forward to seeing you out and about. I shall be trying to enjoy my golf alongside you!

**Chris James. Captain**

### Relaxing in the Clubhouse

The Captain's Committee continue to monitor dress regulations that are scripted to ensure all Members and visitors feel comfortable and that they reflect the fashions of a modern society. Ideally smart clean casual clothing suitable for golf should be sufficient. It's not that long ago that player played in jacket and tie, and would have come into the club bar straight from the course as changing facilities were then not widely available. However, with modern changing and showering facilities there is no excuse not to enter the clubhouse clean and smart after playing. Please remember that the clubhouse gets used by a multitude of people and not all will have played golf that day.

**The Committee have recently agreed to relax the rule regarding the wearing of socks with sandals, or loafers/boat style footwear, when in the clubhouse in shorts.**

## FROM THE PRO

Finally, after what seemed a very late winter this year, the UK golf season is underway. I felt more aware of the weather, of course, due to the fact that my range was roofless for six weeks. This also made me realise how inaccurate the weather forecasts are!

Mid Herts has started the season very positively with our **Pearson team** having qualified for the last four and **Lucy Williams** winning the **County Championship** in fine style. **Tom Shadbolt** continues his great form and I am convinced we will be seeing some strong performances from our rising star.

From the Pro Shop I am elated to let everyone know that **Rob Leonard** won the **Herts Professional Championship** at South Herts. He did this in fine style with rounds of 69 and 73, winning by a comfortable margin of six shots. We will be putting the trophy in the shop and it is quite a historical piece dating back to 1921. In fact the first winner; Ted Ray won the US open in 1920! There are several former Ryder Cup players and of course many members will recall that **John Fowler** and **Nick Brown** both won the trophy on several occasions. When I managed to win in 1983, Rob hadn't been born! Somewhat worryingly on the day Rob won at South Herts, I was eligible for the seniors' version.

Unfortunately, I was only able to come third, mainly because two players played better than me and the rest of the field either a) forgot to sign their card or b) forgot to finish the course. - Welcome to senior golf. 😊



The Pro Shop has had a very busy winter and many thanks to you for the great support you have given us. Of course, we are quite small in size, so there is a limit to the amount of clubs one can carry. However, I like to feel that our custom fitting experience is good and this really is how golfers should be buying their clubs. The days of taking clubs off the shelf are going. Recently I was talking to one of the senior managers at Ping and he was saying that 85% of their club sales are custom fitted. On that front they are the market leaders and the other two companies with similar ethos are Titleist and Snake Eyes both of which we enjoy working with.

We will be running some promotions during the summer, so keep an eye out for these and once again thanks for all your support.

**A quick playing tip – Keep clear of the rough!**

Best regards, Barney



# Summer Ball



**SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**Eat, drink and dance the night away in style**

**Only a few tickets still available**

**7.00 pm Pimms & Canapés**

**7.30 pm 5-Course Gourmet Dinner**

**9.30 pm Live Music with "THE PUSH"**

**12.30 am Carriages**

**Black Tie.**

**Reserve Your Tickets (£40) with the Office or the Bar**



## FROM CHAIRMAN OF GREENS - Paul Dugdale

We all have different expectations of our golf course and one of my main responsibilities as Chairman of the Greens Committee is to find the balance so the interests of all members are taken into account. This presents a challenge and suggestions from many of you sometimes intimate that their interests are not represented. Let me explain what the Course Manager- Jody and his team are seeking to achieve.

The objective of the team is to prepare the course so it is playable by a mid to high handicap member, yet remains a good test for the low handicap golfers. As you all will acknowledge Mid-Herts is not long, and the trees and mid summer rough place a premium on straightness to ensure that the course is fair but challenging.

The weather also provides a different test for the team and this year is no exception with the recent rains and warmth generating tremendous growth which needs to be managed.

A lot of thought and effort has gone into determining the carries from tee to fairway and changes have been made to reflect your comments. Likewise the first and second cuts have been carefully adjusted but we recognise that if you hit outside these areas it is tough, and will remain so for the next couple of months.

The new 5th green is settling in and with time will improve in appearance but I trust you will agree it is putting well. The team has finished work on the bunker by the 14th green though some purists have said that the spirit of James Braid has been disregarded. However Jody believes this is how the original bunker would have looked and that the high face we have grown use to is due to many years of sand build up.



I have had much advice so let me offer to all readers a little in return “Think your way round the course and avoid hitting and hoping that maybe you will avoid trouble”. You will then enjoy the fairways which are in the best condition in memory, and reach true and beautifully presented greens in good heart. The course is a pleasure to behold and we want you to enjoy your round recognising you are playing a tough but fair golf course.

**Finally please continue to offer comment but I would ask that these are directed at me or fellow members of the Greens Committee (Peter Voutt and Lindsay Murray-Gray) and not directly to the Greens staff whom you might meet during your round.**

**I am sure you will agree they need and deserve our encouragement and not criticism**

## NEST BOX UPDATE by Peter Wilkinson



The highlight of the 2008 breeding season so far has been the successful rearing of two broods of Nuthatches, each with eight young. It is several years since the species last used any of the boxes, and the first time that more than one pair has



done so. Of the 40 tit boxes, no fewer than 39 hosted breeding attempts. Besides the two pairs of Nuthatches, 29 pairs of Blue Tits and 5 pairs of Great Tits got to at least egg stage. Unfortunately, the recent poor weather has taken its toll and five of the Blue Tit nests have failed, two at egg stage and three after the young had hatched. Probably also as a result of the weather, brood sizes have been on the small side, with only seven nests having more than ten chicks (the largest was a brood of 13). Two Great Tit nests failed, one at egg stage and one after the young had hatched. Tawny Owls laid in one box, but, sadly, failed at egg stage, while Stock Doves are attempting to breed in one of the triangular boxes. Last year's successful Barn Owl box has not been checked yet, as it is still a bit early in the season.

## RESULTS AND HANDICAPS NOW ON WEBSITE

All results from weekend and weekday competitions -Medal and Stableford - are now available on the Mid-Herts Website. [www.mid-hertsgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.mid-hertsgolfclub.co.uk)

Click on the **Results** link on the **Home Page**:  
And then click on [Link to MHGC competition results and handicaps](#)

**Members can access all competition results**

**Men's, Ladies' and Junior's scores can be found by cascading through and opening the appropriate competition.**

**You can also check your up to date Handicap by selecting HANDICAP section.**

**HOLES-IN-ONE AT THE 5TH!** Only a week and a day after its official opening, the newly laid 5th green saw its first "hole-in-one" when **Dave Spikesley** from Woburn aced it with a beautifully struck 5-wood in the **Mid-Herts Mixed Invitation** on Sunday 18th May.

Rather than encourage the assembled masses to another drink with their dinner he made a generous donation to be split between the Captain's and Lady Captain's charities. Has he started a new trend?

**Phil Bunbury** also aced the 5<sup>th</sup> in the June 1 EGU Medal/Grandfathers' Cup. It contributed to Phil's fantastic nett 63 and would have secured the Grandfathers' Cup but his sons have yet to make him a Grand Father. **Christopher Wilmott** won that award with a nett 66 playing off 17 handicap. Well done Chris!

**There has been some confusion as to the HOLE-IN-ONE COVER provided to members. The following statement has been issued by the Captains Committee:**

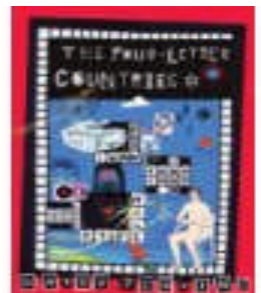
"THE HOLE-IN-ONE INSURANCE COVERS ADULT MEMBERS OF MID-HERTS GOLF CLUB PLAYING ON THE COURSE IN ANY DIARY LISTED OFFICIAL CLUB COMPETITION OR OFFICIAL CLUB MATCH, FOR UP TO A MAXIMUM OF £100 IN BAR EXPENSES.

IT DOES NOT COVER INDIVIDUAL MATCHES IN THE SUMMER OR WINTER KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS NOR GENERAL PLAY INCLUDING SWINDLES."

### Looking for a good read?

**David Jenkins**, who will be well known to the Tuesday and Thursday swindlers has traveled extensively in recent years and has just had published a book recounting some of his experiences in far flung places. The book is called **The Four Letter Countries** and covers 10 countries including among others Iran, Iraq, Cuba, Peru and Oman.

Available at Waterstones and Amazon we are reliably informed (and not only by David!) that is a good read.



### OFF COURSE PARKING PLEASE

Members are asked to note that Parking to the side and rear of the Clubhouse is for staff only. The purpose of this is to minimise noise and traffic disturbing the residents at Plough Cottage. In addition following SJS Irrigation's removal of their equipment from the car park, the moving of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary to the back of Plough Cottage and the Greens staff reverting to parking at the rear of the building, the need for members to park on the course should largely be avoided.

**Members are requested only to park on the left of the 6th fairway as a last option.**