

A Word from the Club Captain – Peter McIntyre



The human race is unique amongst species in having developed language. The spoken and written word makes communication easier, quicker, clearer and more comprehensive than the visual and sound signals that other animals rely on. It is now possible to disseminate information almost instantaneously, to as many or as few individuals as desired, on whatever topic deemed important by the sender. Knowledge and information provide certainty and reassurance, ignorance is a source of rumour and discontent. The Board of Management has recently circulated all members with an excellent update about the Club and received helpful and illuminating responses at a meeting held shortly afterwards. Good communication is desired by all, and we should reflect that it is no accident that those who depend on radio communication have 'receive' not 'transmit' as the default setting.

Those of you who read the weekly updates from Martin, the newsletter from Barney, the notices round the clubhouse and the Mid Herts Golfer already know this. Those who regularly send all emails to the 'recycle bin' and walk past the notice boards remain, unnecessarily, unaware of the activities and developments in the Club. Based on current evidence, communication using the written and spoken word remains far superior to extrasensory perception so please, if you would like to know something, just ask the question. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible round the Club and on the course as we enjoy Mid Herts together over the next few weeks.

The Ladies Section - Linda Hyam

This is my last Mid Herts Golfer & it doesn't seem that long since my first!!

I would like to use this opportunity to thank members who have supported my charity this year. I cannot give you a final figure, but it will be in the region of £3000, the money will go towards buying much needed equipment for the Air Ambulance.

The course is looking good, despite the lack of rain, until now and having visited lots of different courses during my year, I still think our greens are some of the best.

Several new Ladies have joined us in the past months. Sarah Smith, Rusty Howes, Angela Rose, Lynda Dent & Catherine Smith. We welcome you all to Mid Herts & look forward to meeting you either on the course or playing bridge.

This might be a good time to remind all Ladies that our A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday 15th November at 2.00pm, when Jane Bennett will become the new Ladies Captain. I wish her all the best for her coming year.

The Seniors – David Houghton

As the 2011 season comes to an end, it is my pleasure to report on how the seniors section has performed.

The results of the **Inter Club Matches** were **Played 34 – Won 15 - Lost 16 and Drew 3**. Not bad, considering some of the dodgy handicapping we were up against! We did, however, take some important scalps, Berkhamsted, Harpenden and West Herts, who sadly, we will not be playing against next season.

Due to an injury, I sadly, was not able to partner the Ladies Captain, Linda Hyam, in some of the early Ladies matches, but, thanks to all the work put in by Linda and Glenn, they were a huge success and enjoyed by all. I better mention that the Cavanagh Trophies were won by our rules guru Glenn Morton and his partner Pat Last who won it last year. Congratulations Linda on your year as Ladies Captain, for a job well done.

Once again our two matches with and against the **Juniors** were enjoyed by all. However, I know that Ted Marriott will be looking for more support next year when organising these events.

I was delighted with the success of the **Seniors Invitation day** with guests coming from all over the country. The Winners were Peter Rook & Barrie Fisher from Diss GC. I would personally like to thank Brian Pearce, who helped me organise the day and made sure everything ran smoothly. With the help of Keith Hyam, we made use of our splendid 'Half Way House'. It was greatly appreciated by all our guests and I hope that we can use this excellent facility in more events next season.

Thank goodness we were able to enjoy good weather for our **End of Season Meeting**. There were so many winners on the day, from the 5 Divisions, that I don't have room to name them all, except Robert Holding, who was the popular overall winner of the Millennium Trophy and Fergus Crawford who not only won his Division 80+ but also the Points plus Age prize with 112 points. Congratulations to everyone.

The **Challenge Trophy** was won for the second year running by Paul Donegan and the **Winter League** was won yet again by Phil Bunbury and his new partner Keith Hyam.

The Frank Allen Trophies were won by the strong team of Phil Bunbury and Keith Hyam.

The very popular **Eclectic**, organised by Peter Harrison has gone from strength to strength since he took it over. It was once again, won by Peter Rook, who I believe has now won it 3 years running. Peter Rook was also responsible for the excellent turnout we had for the **Texas Scramble**, which was won by the team of Keith Hyam, John Vaughan and of course the intrepid Peter Rook. I must find out what vitamins he is taking.

At the time of writing this, I don't know the winners of our **Christmas Meeting** with the Ladies, but what I do know is that I shall have the pleasure of partnering the new Ladies Captain, Jane Bennett, who I wish good luck and lots of success in her coming year.

Since taking on the position, two years ago, of an un-elected Seniors Captain, it has been my ambition to formalise the Section and have a democratically elected Seniors Captain and Committee. So I was delighted that on Thursday 20th October, the **First Annual General Meeting of the Seniors Section** was held at Mid Herts Golf Club. This has come about due to the culmination of all the hard work done by an Interim Committee, comprising of John Sefton, Paul Donegan, Glenn Morton, Lewis Hawke, Keith Hyam and Phil Bunbury, who produced the *Rules of the Section, Responsibilities of the Officers and Succession Planning*. I was, of course, delighted that we had such a large turnout for the meeting, which was to vote on adopting the 'Rules of the Section' and electing the new committee. The meeting was chaired by John Sefton.

The result of the election: **Seniors Captain 2011-12** David Houghton
Seniors Vice Captain 2011-12 Keith Hyam
Secretary Glenn Morton
Treasurer Phil Bunbury
Committee Paul Donegan, Charles Johnson, Mike Platt.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me and look forward to working alongside Keith, as the new Vice Captain, and the rest of the committee during the coming year.

Course Notes – Russ Kemp

As we go into winter the greens are really strong with plenty of grass coverage. In order to protect them through the winter the mowing will be by hand with the height of cut raised to 4mm. This will mean the pace of the greens may be slower than in recent weeks. In addition, a longer leaf allows the plant to photosynthesis more easily with shorter daylight hours. The greens have had their final feed for the year which should see them through to the spring. Aeration will be more on a regular basis just to keep the greens open and dry as possible. Iron and fungicide will be applied on a programmed basis with emergency stock in place if disease occurs. The temporary greens have been cut out and will be spiked and dressed in the next week or two but hopefully we will be able to stay on the main greens for most of the winter.

A programme of bunker refurbishment will take place through the winter with the third, fourth, thirteenth and sixteenth holes affected. Work will continue on the paths but will be delayed until December since leaf fall this year has been very slow and the priority will be leaf collection over the next few weeks.

We take delivery of a Turf Iron in January and anticipate this to be a great asset and improve the speed and trueness of the greens. In spite of the lack of rainfall this autumn there is plenty of grass coverage in most areas of the course and this should enable us to go into next year with the confidence.

Handicaps – John Tanner

New members handicaps

Nick Usher 24.0 Richard Winchester 15.0 Peter Gracie 16.4

First cards have been received from Ollie Sharp(24/5), Mark Rush(29/8), David Baldwin(16/9), Miles Thompson, Simon Jee, M Welch, Sam Skelton and Arif Amin(all 22/10) and also from Mark Evans(23/10).

Handicap revisions

Steve Northcott	23.0 to 21.0	Charles Eggington	17.7 to 16.5
Keith Andrews	24.6 to 23.5	Peter Brattle	18.8 to 17.5



Terry Holden 22.2 to 20.2 Peter Bennett 24.0 to 22.0
Brian Legg 22.1 to 20.4

Handicap revisions (temporary)

Bob Hamill: On-going, awaiting medical update

Handicap re-activations

Stuart McIntyre & Jamie Brady who has also been reduced from 23.0 to 20.7

Cards awaited for handicap re-activation

2 cards are awaited for Andrew Waterfield, by January 31st, Andrew Innes, by February 27th and from Dan Russell, by April 22nd. The latter member entered a gross 71, nett 59 playing off the white tees.

Statistics

From the gentlemen's section, there are now 47 members currently without any handicap (up from 35) and a further 89 members that have an inactive handicap (down from 95).

Social Events – Dave Smith

The trend of lower attendances at social events reported in the September edition has, sadly, continued. The Sporting Dinner held in October was very good but only 42 members enjoyed the great entertainment and excellent food. Unfortunately we needed around 80 to break even and, excluding bar takings, the club lost £700. Last year's Sporting Dinner was a sell out so perhaps we're seeing the effects of the recession. Just over 100 turned out for the September draw night, at which one of the £400 prizes had to be won. In the event, the 'normal' draw produced a winner - Peter Harrison taking the major prize. The attendance at this event was boosted by an evening golf competition organised by the Ladies Section. The October draw night saw only 50-odd attendees and unfortunately no prizes were won.

You'll see from the notices in the clubhouse and on the website that the Casino night planned for later this month has been cancelled. We had the choice of cancelling last week at a cost of £100 or risking having to cancel closer to the date of the event and potentially losing £900. Despite asking members to let us know well in advance if they wanted to attend, we only had 2 confirmed bookings and around 20 'possibles'. Going forward, it will be impossible for us to book events if members wait until the last minute to confirm.

Details of the Christmas events are advertised in the clubhouse and on the website. Ware Brass Band will again be leading the Carol Concert and Father Christmas will put in an appearance at the Children's Xmas Party. The New Years Eve black tie dinner is great value at £37.50 per head and will no doubt be well supported.

We're still discussing next year's Social events but at the moment we're looking at having the traditional Burns Night supper in January, Captains Charity Quiz in either February or March and the Midsummer Ball in June. Depending on the level of enthusiasm from the members, we may have a Tribute Band in April and a 'West-End Shows' night in the autumn. There will also be 3 Tuesday night supper lectures and the usual Draw Nights.

In the last edition, I asked for comments and suggestions for the clubs Social calendar. Sadly not a single member has come back to me so I guess everything must be perfect..or perhaps a degree of apathy exists. Whatever, I echo our Captain's sentiments that good communication is the lifeblood of a healthy organisation – but it is a two-way street.

Competitions – Chris Luckins

Results:

Summer Competitions

Mid- Week Mixed Foursomes

Berry Bowls

The Knock Out Medal

The Bowen Trophies

The Challenge Cup

Jubilee Cup

Associates / 5-Day Betterball

The President's Plates

The Turner Tassie

Winners:

Winners:

Winner:

Winners:

Winner:

Winner:

Winners:

Winners:

Winner:

Ted and Jean Marriot

Sue Ludlow and Neil Mawdsley

Martin McKeivitt

Tim Rogers and Tom Greenhalgh

Paul Mayles

Eddie Lintott

Nick Goode & Robin Orchard

Martin Mckeivitt & E. O'Brien

Nigel Shadbolt

Well done to all the winners and your prizes await you in the Professional Shop.

Forthcoming Events

The Silver Goblets on Sunday 13th November

Turkey Trot on Saturday 19th November

Winter Competitions

Draw has taken place and draw sheets are on the board.

New Members

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

Andris Apsa
Francis Arthur
Howard Barnes
William Barnes - Jnr
Toby Barnes - Jnr
Mark Evans
Peter Gracie
Rusty Howes
Simon Jee
Liam Kennedy
Andrew Lee
Stuart Lewis

Darren Lines
Jason McColl
Thomas Mumford - Jnr
Angela Rose
John Rose
Sarah Smith
Charlie Stonebank - Jnr
Miles Thompson
Mark Walsh
Michael Welch
Nicholas Wright

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.

Juniors

At the recent Hertfordshire Golf Union, Boy's Intermediate Championships, held at Welwyn Garden City, we were well represented by six of our lads and we came away with two prizes!



Callum Maginnis (left) won the overall gross prize.

Ciaran O'Brien (right) won the Under 14 Nett Prize

Well done to you both!



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

The next issue will be January 2012. Copy date 26th January.