



Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of The Mid-Herts Golfer as an emag – one which is designed to be sent out electronically. Our plan is to issue this by email to as many members as possible and to make hard copies available around the club house. We hope that as an emag, we will be able to produce The Mid-Herts Golfer more frequently and so be able to give you more timely news.

If you would like to receive a copy of this and other club emails, please make sure that our General Manager, Martin Bennet, has your email address.

We would like to have your feedback, so please do take the time to email us with your comments. Email to secretary@mid-hertsgolfclub.co.uk

Janet Biscoe
Editor

Men's Competitions Report From Denis McCarthy

We have had a strange start to the season with the course covered in snow for much of February, but here is a summary of the results for the last few months:

Silver Goblets	Willie Martin and John Saunders	Nett 67
Turkey Trot	Colin Howard and Tom Allen	43 pts
3 Club Competition New Year's Day	Keith Hyam	32 points over 15 holes
Cross Country	Les Blomfield and Colin Whiteley	42 pts
Edinburgh Stableford	John Terry and Stuart Hattrick	38 pts

Don't forget that all the winners of the Monthly Medals from April 2008 qualify for The Coxon-Sale Cup which will be competed for on Sunday 5th April 2009 alongside the April Monthly Medal.

Winter Knockouts: The progress of the Winter Knockouts has been badly hit by the wet weather in January and the snow in February. Deadlines have been extended to accommodate this but please note that all finals must be played well ahead of the AGM, so we do ask for all remaining competitors to get their matches played as soon as possible.

Tom Shadbolt reached the Final of the Sunningdale Foursomes, partnering Welwyn Garden City professional Mark Laskey, who plays on the Euro Pro Tour, only to be beaten by local pairings of England Boy International and Daily Telegraph winner, Stiggy Hodgson partnered by American J Stansbury. They had a terrific run through five rounds, including a semi-final win over another Sunningdale pair and England Internationals E and Farren Keenan.

Ladies Competitions Report **From Lindsay Murray-Gray**

Like everyone else, the lady members have had an 'interesting' start to the golfing year. The much-coveted Crystal trophy was played for over the first three months of the year, the results of which will be announced at the Spring Meeting in May. A number of fun competitions have been held including the Captain versus Vice Captain event, which was very well attended, with victory going to the Captain's team, just as it should!

Our Bring and Buy event in January was extremely successful thanks to the generosity of the ladies with over £200 being raised for the Lady Captain's charity, the Herts Air Ambulance Service. We are looking forward to a good season with the first of a busy schedule of friendly matches planned for the end of March and our first counting competition since December, the April medal. Bring on the nice weather!

The defence of the Pearson Cup title has already started. This year our ladies once again face tough opposition and will have to pull out all the stops, if we are to retain this prestigious title. This year we are up against Brocket Hall, Hanbury Manor, South Herts and Chorleywood.

The ladies team are now through to the third round of the Mail on Sunday having beaten Aldwickbury at home and Knebworth away. Our next opponents are Verulam at home so fingers crossed for another win.

On the course **From Paul Dugdale**

What a winter it has been so far! Alas the snow held up our winter plans but the greens team is now in full swing with the spring programme.

Heather Regeneration

The areas where the heather is being regenerated have been stripped and hollow tined ready for seeding, using the seed developed at Hankley Common in Surrey, a heathland course which has heather to aspire to. It will take around two years to achieve about two inches of growth and approximately five years to grow fully. Further information from the Course Manager on this project can be found on the notice board.

The Team

In January a few members of the team attended the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in Harrogate where, among other things, they attended seminars on heather development and maintenance. They came back brimming full of new ideas and we look forward to seeing the effect of these in action in the coming months.

Two of the team went on a specialist tree-felling course in March and they will now be able to handle most of the tree work that, until now, we have had to use external contractors for. They will continue with the tree work later in the year.

The 5th Green

Our very new 5th green is draining beautifully and has benefited from the rest but, like any new born, still needs lots of tender loving care and attention. We are instigating an intensive period of feeding and seeding which, weather permitting, means that in around four to six weeks it should be looking very good and by the end of season should be as we want it.

We used a new type of bent grass, which is harder wearing, to get the green established. When it is strong and reliably playable, we will then integrate it with the grass we use on our other greens, giving us consistency across the course. Our main enemy is shade, so we

will be investigating ways to increase the light in to this area without altering the character of the hole.

Course Template

Gearing up for summer we have now started cutting the fairways and rough to the template agreed last season and plan to reduce the carries as far as practicable. Exceptions to this will be the 6th 13th and 18th holes and the areas where we cannot get the machinery in, such as the 11th. The uneven terrain is not suitable for our mowers and so cannot be cut to fairway height. However, these areas will be cut to first cut.

Your comments on how the template is shaping up are appreciated, so please pass them on to a member of the Greens Committee.

Tee Markers

We are aware that the tee markers need to be renewed, but there is currently no budget for this so will look in to the possibility of sponsorship. We plan to have the course re-measured in readiness for this activity and anticipate the cost of this project being around £4,000.

Hawthorns on the 13th

When the team began pruning the hawthorns on the 13th hole, it became evident that these trees were badly diseased. Hard pruning was necessary in order to promote new growth and we are confident that they will recover in time.

Here's to a great season.

Still golfing at 90!

From Su Hawke

Gwen Hollington celebrated her 90th birthday in style, with a lunch party hosted by the Mid-Herts ladies. Her friend Maree Patterson worked hard, organising the guests and Jane Allner gave an outline of Gwen's life, highlighting her humour. A wonderful cake, kindly made by Ann Nash, complete with a miniature Phoebe, was greatly appreciated by Gwen and all. Gwen has led a varied and interesting life and can relate numerous stories in great detail. She went to Girton College, Cambridge and then went onto work at Bletchley on the Enigma Code during the war. She brought up five children and numerous dogs. She has played golf at Mid-Herts since the mid 50s and is very proud to still play nine holes. Every visit to the club also means walking Phoebe, her black labrador, before and after golf. We all hope she will be a member of the ladies' section for many years to come.

Captain's charity

The Captain's charity quiz night, held in February, raised over £4,000 for his nominated charity Diabetes UK, thanks to the generosity of members toward the raffle and the auction, ably orchestrated by Alistair Clark. Past Ladies' Captain Liz Carter, has received a big thank you from the NSPCC for the £9,699 that was raised during her year for ChildLine.

Juniors

BOOM time for Will Chambers



Will Chambers has won the Boys Order of Merit 2008 (BOOM). In honour of this he was presented with the Ted Foster trophy. Will received the trophy from former HGU President Ted at the Junior Delegates meeting on 10 March. The meeting, held at Mid-Herts, was attended by more than 70 delegates from 30 clubs.

Past junior in the running for GB and Ireland team

Hannah Burke, who is currently enjoying a successful career on the US Woman's college circuit, has been named in the Great Britain & Ireland preliminary squad of 26 players for the 2009 Vagliano Trophy match against the Continent of Europe. The results, attitude and commitment of the squad players will be monitored over the next few months to help the national selectors pick the nine players and two reserves who will make the team, to be decided in June. The match will be played at Hamburger Golf Club, Germany on July 24 and 25.

Welcome to new members

We would like to warmly welcome the following new members who have joined the club in the last six months, since September 2008.

Keith Allingham
Jamie Brady
Michael Bills
Sean Burdett
John Davis
Philip Foster
Chris Gowans
Jamie Hardy
Ian Hiscock
Ray Ireson
Robert Ireson
Terry James
Dyfrig James

Sarah Macnab
Alison Miller
John Pender
Richard Purdy
Benjamin Randall
Andrew Reid
Richard Russell
Jeremy Sage
Desmond Stevens
Jon Sullivan
Rebecca Jane Turner
John Van Der Welle
Joanne Williams

Dates for you diary

Sunday 19 April 1.00 – 4.00 Open Day

We are running another open day to attract more new members. This is an opportunity for you to bring along friends to show them first hand what a lovely club we have. There will be an opportunity to play nine holes with a member, a free swing clinic with Barney Puttick (please book in advance through the office), a fun putting competition, and nibbles and drinks. For those who attend on the day, there will be special membership offers. Please invite people along and also let Janet Biscoe know if you are willing to help on the day.

Thursday 23 April 7.30 pm Supper Lecture

The next supper lecture will be given by Professor Brian Legg on Rwanda: the road to recovery. Please ask for tickets at the office £15 per person inc supper.

Sunday 26 April 7.30 pm AGM

The Mid – Herts Golfer

And finally... Mid-Herts just six weeks ago!



On the 2nd



*Looking up towards
the 5th green*



On the 5th tee