

From the Captain
Mike Hayhurst



"The time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things" and there are many things to talk about. I hope you have already seen the sheets about CASC and Equality in the pack which came with your diary. These are two very important issues for the Club.

The Course Committee has produced a proposal to change the course layout and make the tenth hole the first. There are some good reasons why we should do this, but there are also several why we should not. The pros and cons are listed in the following link to let you decide for yourself.

<http://www.mid-hertsgolfclub.co.uk/MHGCgm/CourseChange.pdf>

A small committee has been formed to discuss this proposal and the length of the course. They are Nigel Penn, Chris Luckins, David Hall, Dianne Crowder, Jill Wood, Sue Newman, Paul Dugdale (Chair), Jody, Barney Puttick and myself. We held our first meeting on 2 November. Please talk to any of us to add your voice to the debate. Conclusions will be available soon.

It would seem that the initiative on Ready Golf has not reached everyone yet. I have had reports of members unaware of the idea. If you come across this, please enlighten them and find out why they did not know. Details appeared in the September issue of Mid-Herts Golfer.

I occasionally hear about members being discourteous to others. In most cases, I do not learn who was involved, so do not hear both sides. If someone annoys you, by all means query their action, but being discourteous, and especially belligerent, won't make you feel any better, will antagonise the offender and will embarrass your playing partners - a negative outcome all round. A letter appeared recently in the St Albans Review from someone complaining about the discourtesy he had experienced from our members while cycling across the course. This does show that conversations, especially from a distance, can be misinterpreted. We pride ourselves on being a friendly club. Let us make sure that everyone who comes here goes away with that impression.

Alan Green has decided that he wishes to step down as Junior Organiser, so we are looking for a person or group of people to take over from him. To start with, they would help Alan, learning the job, to continue when Alan retires. It's a fun and very rewarding role, supporting the Juniors with matches, competitions, including the Junior Open and their development.

Alan is a superb Junior organiser and will be a hard act to follow. He took over the role from Chris James and we are indebted to both of them for developing a Junior section of which any club would be proud. We do thank Alan for all the work, thoughtfulness, discipline and care he has brought to the role. Whoever continues, their work will be starting from a firm foundation.

At weekends, our rules have changed gradually over the years. For clarification, we now allow 4-ball better ball in the afternoons of singles competition days, provided they do not delay singles competitors, who must play in 2 or 3-balls. The exceptions to this are the two foursomes competitions (President's Plates and Silver Goblets) when all must play 2-balls.

On less busy weekend days, we allow unsponsored visitors. There are many days when traffic is light enough for visitors to play without any hindrance to members. We also allow 4-ball better ball games all day on Monday medal/stableford days. Again, players in the competition must play in 2 or 3-balls.

From the Ladies' Captain Linda Hyam



I am looking forward to my year as Ladies' Captain.

My chosen charity is Herts Air Ambulance. I know this was a successful charity in Su Hawke's year, but I feel it deserves continued support. My aim is to raise money for individual pieces of equipment, such as CO₂ monitors and handheld monitors needed for anaesthetised patients travelling in the helicopter.

We have a change to the Ladies' Committee this year. Dianne Crowder has served her term, yet again, and is 'retiring'. Her wealth of knowledge will be sorely missed. Pat Marshall has also completed her three years and is also 'retiring'.

Sue Newman and Janet Jordan have joined the committee, as well as Deborah Connor, who becomes Treasurer. I am sure their input will be invaluable.

Recent events in which Mid-Herts Ladies have competed include the De Paula Cup, the Interclub Foursomes and the Seniors Trophy. Four ladies entered the De Paula Cup, which was played at Hammonds End in October. Margaret Martin, Deborah Connor, Janet Biscoe and I started on the first day. By Saturday afternoon two were left. Janet beat me on Saturday afternoon and went through to the semi-final on Sunday, which after a good match, she lost. Mid-Herts was well represented in this competition and we look forward to next year.



The Interclub Foursomes was held at Ashridge on the 26 July. Lindsay Murray-Gray, Mary Hoare, Elizabeth Thomas and I won the nett prize, bringing back a very nice trophy to the club, which will be officially presented at the HCLGA AGM on 29 November.

The inauguration of a Herts Senior Ladies' Trophy was held at Brookman's Park on the 14 October. Mid-Herts was well represented again and Karen Ellam won the overall prize.

Hannah Burke won the Irish Open this year by five shots and she was ranked 9th in the EWGA Order of Merit. She also played for England in the Women's World Amateur Team Championship in Argentina.

The Ladies' Club Champion this year is Sue Ludlow, winner of the Davis Cup. Sue Hailey won the Temple Cup. The Glover Trophy (a 36 hole competition) was won by Angela Hudson with a nett score of 134. Rachel Keens lost out to me by one shot for the scratch prize, the Caithness Trophy, my score was 166. Elizabeth Thomas won the Helena Spencer Cup and the Wolfdancer Trophy. The Millennium scratch was won by Sue Ludlow and the handicap by Jane Myddleton. Golfer of the Year, Silver, is Mary Liddell.

The new Ladies' score card is now in full use. We are getting used to the new stroke indices and playing the fourth as a par four.

I look forward to meeting and greeting members and visitors to Mid-Herts and hope to continue our tradition of providing a friendly club atmosphere.

FROM THE SENIORS' CAPTAIN

David Houghton



As the 2010 season comes to an end, it is my pleasure to report on how we have performed. Let's start with the bad news. The results of the inter club matches were: Won 14 - Lost 15 and Halved 5. We did, however, take some important scalps - Ashridge, Berkhamsted and West Herts to name but a few. It is important that as many Seniors as possible put their names down for selection to play in next season's matches. This will help to swell our ranks and strengthen the teams.

Now for the good news! All our matches with the Ladies enjoyed a full turnout with 56 playing. This was thanks to the hard work put in by the Ladies' Captain and my playing partner, Cynthia Hayhurst. The worthy winners were:

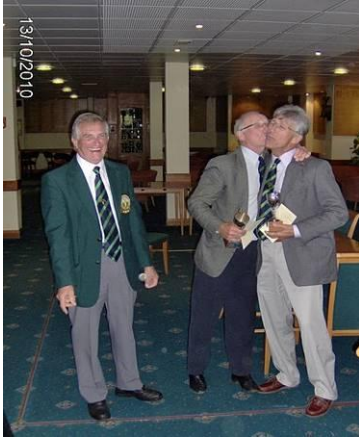
Christmas Meeting 2009: Sarah Macnab and Mark Sedgwick

Mixed Greensomes: Mon Platt and Simon Best

Four Ball Competition: Mike Graham, Gill Gadsden, Mike Platt and Carole Tipple

Cavanagh Trophies: Pat Last and Ted Marriott

I was delighted with the great success of the Seniors' Open Invitation day with 60 playing and guests coming from all over the county. The winners were Joe Martin and Pat Burns from Harpenden GC.



The tension was building right up to the last minute as to who was going to win the knockout competitions. The passionate winners of the Frank Allen Trophies were Phil Bunbury and Trevor Miles, who are seen here obviously enjoying their moment of glory!

The Challenge Trophy was won by Paul Donagan. The Eclectic was once again, won by Peter Rook and the delayed Texas Scramble was won by the team of John Ireland, Graham Coldrick and Bernard Grimson.

News from the Course

Paul Dugdale

Winter is with us, all is very soggy. We are about to try to drain all the bad wet areas (i.e.) front of the 11th, 5th and 18th. Please be patient we cannot get onto these areas until we get a reasonably dry spell, otherwise we will make a tremendous mess. We have purchased a digger so that we can do lots more around the course. One of our first priorities is the pathways around the 6th tee, again weather permitting this will be done soonest. Following this we will apply ourselves to more pathways as funds allow.

Attention to the steps. We are about to trial a very good product spotted at Woburn and this will be used on the first tee very soon. If we are satisfied with it, we will use it on all our steps.

Working parties are starting soon on areas of clearance around the course, please help if you can. The greens staff will be clearing some difficult areas (i.e.) saplings right of the 3rd and all the sprayed brambles around the 2nd.

In February we will start work on the changes/renovations to the 2nd green and the 8th tee.

Finally, if you can carry please do. Do not ignore the roped off areas, they are there for a reason. The greens are standing up well and we will continue to watch the 5th but the perceived wisdom is to stay on it until we consider it may be under stress.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Paul Constantinidi
Colum Doyle
Declan Doyle - JNR
Mark Dugdale
Fiona Fernie
Jim Fernie
David Fernie - JNR
Andrew Gilbert
Robert Gink
Colin Graham
Susan Hammond

Robert Harwood-Smith
Coby Hughes
Bridget Lewis
Sarah Marsh
Michael McVicker
Nick Milton-Brooks
John O'Sullivan
Owen O'Sullivan - JNR
Margery Palmer
Robert Peacock
Maureen Ringham

Stephen Roberts
Dominic Ross-Hurst
David Taylor
Gerard Van Der
Westhuyzen
Kim Wells
Paul Wells
Russell Williams
Peter Williams
Margaret Williams
Helen Yates



SOCIAL

John Tanner on behalf of the Social Committee

The recent Live Soul Band in October, plus soul disco from Dave Smith and his son, gave us a great evening. With a delightful meal provided by Alan and excellent beers from Dave, the evening was a roaring success.

The Sporting Dinner was also a great success, much enjoyed by over 90 people. Andrew Murray, the (Seniors) Tour golfer and Radio 5 Live golf analyst, kept us well entertained while he recounted stories of the people he has met and played golf with on the European Tour in the 80s and 90s. People like Seve, Tony Johnstone, Sam Torrance, Frank Nobilo, Bernhard Langer, Nick Faldo and Howard Clark. The second speaker was Ian Richards, a past Captain of the Comedians Golfing Society and Member of the Grand Order of Water Rats. He kept everyone, gentlemen and ladies alike, rolling with laughter for over an hour.

SOCIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 December

The Ware Brass Band will again provide the accompaniment to our singing for the Carol Concert. Tickets are on sale at £13.50. In addition to mince pies and coffee, Alan's choices for supper are chicken in mulled wine with Christmas rice or baked haddock with a sage and onion crust.

18 December - afternoon

Members, you must bring either children or grandchildren to get a look in at the Mid-Herts Children's Christmas Party. It's primarily for ages 3 to 9, but younger children can attend if they sit with an adult. The menu is no surprise, jelly, sandwiches, nibbles etc, and Father Christmas will be handing out presents.

New Year's Eve

The star billing for this New Year's Eve party is Maggie Landon who will provide "Laughter, Live Music, Dancing and Disco". Maggie comes highly recommended. Tickets are £40 and are sold on a 'first come first served' basis and are available to members and their guests from the outset. Alan's menu will be posted up shortly.

Friday 14 January

The first Draw Night of 2011 with sums on offer to be won are £400 and £100, with a £50 bar voucher if both monies are unclaimed. **YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT** – (i.e.) you have to be in the clubhouse before the draw starts. You don't have to dine but there's a choice of three supper dishes, so why not take advantage of the tasty fare. This month's draw will be enhanced with a table quiz, subject "Underground".

Saturday 22 January

Burn's Night Supper. Tickets price £35 on sale from 1 December.

Tuesday 8 February

February offers the first of the season's Supper Lectures. This one sees our very own and very popular handicap secretary, Chris 'I'll cut you' Newsum. More details to follow.

Friday 11 February

Draw Night

Friday 18 February

One of the most important dates for this year's Captain is the charity quiz, auction and raffle. Mike will post details in due course.

And further ahead...

11 March – Draw night

18 March - Irish Themed Evening

5 April - Supper Lectures. I am delighted to say that Sir Alexander Graham has agreed to talk around and about his year as Lord Mayor of London. Mike, who many will know him as, is a member here and his talk is eagerly anticipated.

30 April - Spanish Themed Evening with a classical guitarist and flamenco dancers. Alan's menu will reflect the regional cuisines.

14 May - Captain's Day with BBQ

25 June - Peter's Midsummer Ball. Once Peter has got his feet under the table then more details will follow.

10 September - Barn Dance and BBQ (postponed from earlier this year)