

WYCOMBE HEIGHTS

GOLF CLUB

FEBRUARY 1998

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 8

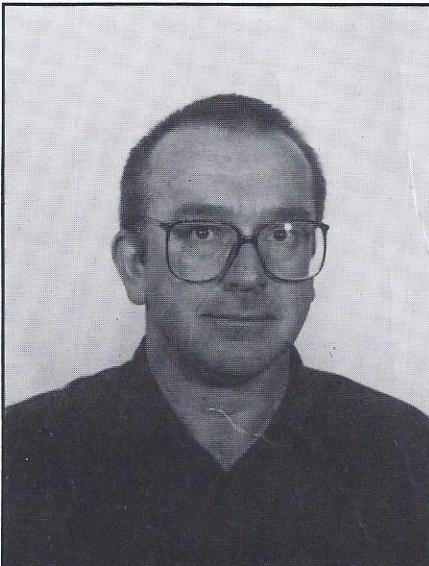
CAPTAIN'S REPORT . . .

Another year underway and lots of golf to come.

Thanks to Paul and Janet for the preceding year, they have left us a lot to live up to.

Chris Wesley and I have chosen our charity to be the Renal Unit at Amersham Hospital which caters for the ever growing list of local people requiring dialyses, sometimes several times a week. We are hoping with your help to achieve a total somewhere near Paul and Janet's - a magnificent £7500.

As the Social Committee is no longer functional it will be difficult to arrange social events so if anyone would be willing to take on the task of arranging a few events please come forward as it would be a shame to lose the social aspect of the Club. Events are normally well attended and enjoyed by all.



Our charity day this year will be held on May 17th and we are sure that it will be enjoyable and hopefully as successful as last year. Make the day a date in your diary now. We are seeking donations that can be auctioned or

raffled on the day and if anyone has anything to offer please contact myself, Chris or Peter Talbot.

This season's Club matches have been further subsidised by the Executive Committee and are now charged at only £5 inclusive of food so we hope to see plenty of new faces taking part in our many friendly fixtures - keep an eye on the notice board for all entry lists. From the friendly fixtures we hope to build up some successful pairings for the national competitions.

Finally, the Captain/Professional Challenge dates will be posted soon and both Adam and myself are looking forward to some challenging rounds, good fun and with plenty of money being raised for the charity.

Gordon Edwards
Club Captain

A Message from the Vice Captain. . .

Hello and may I wish a happy new golfing season to all our members. Before long the March Medal will be upon us, signalling the start of the serious stuff here at Wycombe Heights.

I always look forward to golf but I am particularly looking forward to the 1998 season for several reasons.

Firstly, the course is unquestionably progressing, maybe in some respects not as fast as we would like, but the general presentation is certainly improving and we can all help it along by remembering those divots and pitch marks.

Secondly, the standard of play continues to improve.

1997 saw a new (sub-par) course record by our Club Champion, good performances in the Hillman Trophy and Bourne Vanneck and outstanding scores consistently required to win our Club competitions. The improving standard is also reflected in the much more acceptable speed of play we now experience and imposition of time penalties is now very rare.



Wycombe Heights Golf Club

Thirdly, after a worrying dip in mid-1996, it is encouraging to see competition entries increasing again and to hear the positive feedback on the new formats we have tried out from time to time. Do continue to let us know what you do and don't like.

My final reason for anticipation is, of course, having the honour of being vice-captain.

After playing on and off for over 30 years, and for about half that time benefiting as a club member from the efforts of others, I volunteered for committee work to do my bit in return. To be given the chance to be Vice-Captain is a privilege which I appreciate enormously.

I look forward to helping Gordon make a success of his year as Captain by

moving the Club on in as many ways as possible.

May I finish where I started, by wishing you all the best of golf in 1998. I look forward to playing with many of you in the club competitions and matches.

Phil Moody
Vice-Captain

From your Secretary ...

Another Annual General Meeting has come and (long) gone and it was disappointing to the Executive Committee that only a small number of our members attended. The following matters were passed at the Meeting - if you disagree with them please don't complain to me, you should have been at the Meeting!

1998/99 Subscriptions

Following 2 years of reduced subscription rates (thanks to the VAT man) these have been restored to their previous levels of £50 for Full Members and £20 for Junior and Senior Members (ie there has been no actual increase in the basic subscription rate since the Club was formed in 1991).

A SEPARATE RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER - PLEASE RETURN BY 15th APRIL 1998 or you'll lose your membership and handicap, if applicable.

Please do not lose the renewal form as no reminder will be sent.

Please ensure you return a photograph (or your old card) with your renewal form and cheque. New membership cards will be available for collection from me during the hours noted at the end of this article.

Competitions 1/12/97 - 30/11/98

As discussed at the AGM it is the Executive Committee's intention to utilise any surplus funds for golfing matters to encourage more of our members to participate in competitions, matches and events which the Club arranges on your behalf - we would like as many members as possible to use the Club for its main purpose ie obtaining handicaps and playing in our events. We're not here just for the preferential booking facility!

At its first meeting last December the Executive Committee made further concessions regarding subsidising Club competitions and it was decided that **all competitions listed on the 1998 fixture list will be free of any competition entry fee** - all you have to do is pay your green fee for these events. This also applies to all Club arranged matchplay competitions. In addition fees payable for friendly inter-club matches will be at a flat rate of **£5.00 for every member selected for the team** and no entry fee will be charged for events such as the Clapham Common, Hawtree, Whitewebbs or Hillman Trophy competitions.

Competitions Committee

Club Bye-Law 12a has been amended to ensure that one of the 5 male members who sit on this Committee comes from the Senior Section of the Club. This decision reflects the growing strength of the Section and ensures that senior competition golf is represented on the Club's main committee responsible for arranging golfing matters.

Finally, would members please note that if they wish to contact me personally I'm usually available between 1pm & 5pm on Friday, Saturday & Sunday and between 2pm & 9pm on Monday & Thursday. The Office is closed on Tuesday & Wednesday and one weekend monthly - this is notified on the office door as are all changes to the hours quoted due to holidays or other Club commitments such as committee meetings, major events, prizegivings, etc.

I hope you all have a most enjoyable golfing season.

Peter Talbot
Club Secretary

LADIES SECTION...

As I write this it's mid-January, a quiet time in any golf club, but an opportunity to reflect upon what we achieved during 1997, what lessons can be learnt from our experiences and how we can make 1998 an even more rewarding time for the Ladies Section.

All the competition results have been posted in the clubhouse. Although a few names appear regularly it is pleasing that, generally, awards have been spread over the whole section.

We did not experience the most successful results in our matches with other clubs in 1997 but we are hoping that more players will make themselves available this coming year in order that we can enter stronger teams. The fixture list now includes Whiteleaf and commences in April with an away match at Chartridge Park.

It is intended to enter individuals and teams in all the usual national competitions and also the traditional open meetings at other clubs.

Our weekly routine remains basically the same. Formal competitions will continue to be played on Sundays and Thursdays whilst Tuesdays offer an opportunity for all those ladies who have probably outgrown the Par 3 course and are ready to begin life on the main course. The regular Tuesday ladies will again be on hand to assist in marking cards for handicap purposes.

Our aim is to get a higher percentage of the total lady membership taking part in the organised activities.

The membership at present totals 100. The number regularly playing is less than 40!

The Section intends to fully support this year's Club charity - Amersham Hospital Renal Unit. To date we have raised £178 at the Christmas Par 3 competition and £122 at the Christmas dinner. There also exists an opportunity for all Club members, male and female, to contribute through the swear box



instituted by the Lady Captain. It already contains about £60 and is therefore one reason why the odd bad shot by all players should be welcomed as long as the subsequent blasphemy is suitably punished!

Everyone is no doubt aware that there exists a new (and less complicated!) LGU system of handicapping. When the Club experts have deciphered and digested the contents they intend to circulate a simplified explanation to all members. Also a meeting has been arranged for April 1st (sic!) at which

discussions can take place and views expressed.

It is pleasing to watch the progress being made by our youngest member - Hanna Smith, who is 15 and playing off a 30 handicap. Her talent has already been recognised by the BCLGA who have invited her to play in both an inter-county competition at Sunningdale and several other junior events. The whole Club wishes her well.

One of our lady members intends to organise a charity day on April 8th in aid of MENCAP. Although not the Club charity it is a very worthy cause and we hope you will give it a good response when the details appear on the notice boards.

In the absence of an elected Social Committee social events this year will be on an ad hoc basis. Interest is already being shown in a line-dancing evening. Watch this space.

Finally, I will state a simple fact - the Ladies Section needs more members, not only to belong but to take an active part. I would like all members of the Club to reassure any lady who has an interest in joining but may be deterred by the image of a golf club occasionally presented by the media. They will be most welcome.

We all look forward to the coming season.

Chris Wesley
Ladies' Captain

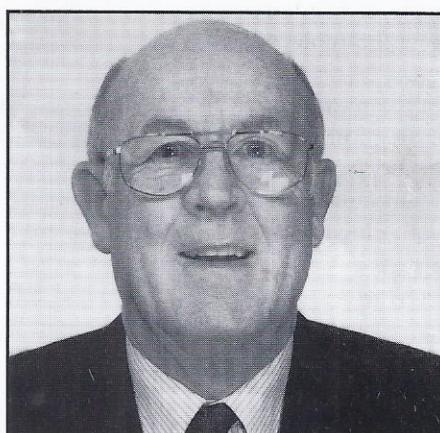
SENIORS SECTION...

The Section's membership continues to flourish, now having some 160 members to date, and a hearty welcome is extended to all new members.

During 1997 a creditable 55-60 seniors supported Club events - even through the long winter months. It appears nothing stops the Seniors - we even managed to complete nine holes in the snow at our Christmas bash at

Hazlemere - this function was fully enjoyed by all who attended.

The Captain's Christmas Competition, for which there was a good turnout, was a congenial day with many prizes being awarded. A raffle raised the sum of £140 towards this year's Club charity (Amersham Hospital Renal Unit). My thanks to all who supported the day.



Wycombe Heights Golf Club

The winners and runners-up of our main competitions were as follows:

| | <u>Winner</u> | <u>R/Up</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dewplan Trophy | Hugo Bergstrom | Abdul Majid |
| Seniors Club Championship | Barry Townsend | Bill Davey |
| Geoff Dubois Cup | Hugo Bergstrom | Jim Hills |
| Freddy Webb Trophy | Eric Rowley | Hugo Bergstrom |
| John Digby Veterans Trophy | Tom Payne | Eric Stevenson |
| Alex Thomson Trophy | John H Davies/Abdul Majid | Rex Butcher/Ken Picton |
| Kingsmead Cup | Mike Darrington | David Livett |

We have a full programme for 1998 including 5 local home and away inter-club fixtures. Unfortunately we have lost the Flackwell Heath fixture but we have been able to secure Farnham Park as a replacement through the good offices of Rex Butcher.

Once again we have the usual 3 matches with the Ladies Section, the popularity of which increases with each passing year. Our regular monthly medals and stablefords played on Mondays are fiercely competitive and are interspersed with foursomes, four ball better balls, texas scrambles, etc. Full details are shown in the Club fixtures diary - rest assured there will be a wide

variety of games to be played. The highly successful Bournemouth 4 day golfing holiday (very ably arranged by Eric Rowley) will be repeated this year and full details will be posted on the Seniors' noticeboard - please put your name down, the more the merrier! I can assure you some interesting courses will be on the programme.

There will be 2 new trophies for 1998 - one kindly donated by David Livett for the best nett score in the Seniors Club Championship and the other for the first round winner of the Dewplan Trophy (to be known as the Clarendon Trophy) which has been kindly donated by Chris Shirley.

Responsibility for the Section's organisation for 1998 are your Seniors Committee:

Jim Moody - Captain
Barry Townsend - Vice Captain
Tony Tomkins - Treasurer
Rex Butcher &
Eric Rowley - Committee Members

Finally, Ken Wesley, last year's Captain, set a very high standard and I am sure that the help and expertise of my Vice-Captain and Committee will ensure another successful year.

Jim Moody
Seniors' Captain

Course & Centre News ...

I am honoured to have been asked to contribute to the first issue of the Club's Newsletter in 1998.

In the past year the Greenkeeping team have managed to provide a course that has been not only of high quality but they have managed to do so on a consistent basis. The year ahead will see us consolidate and develop our achievements to date by investing in new machinery and perhaps more importantly by investing in our team through an ongoing commitment to training and development in association with B.I.G.G.A.. I must take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind support for our Winter Policy that has served to protect the course from the worst of the winter and will greatly assist us in getting the course looking good as early as possible in the Spring.

In the Centre Kelly and his team have seen a number of changes with the recent recruitment of two new chefs and the development of a new menu based on the specials currently available. We hope to launch this new concept in food sometime early in February with a simple promise - unbelievable value! Some other good news is that the chairs in the pantry area will soon be replaced!

In the past I know that many of you have shopped around for equipment and found us wanting when it comes to the thorny issue of price and have had to go elsewhere for the big name brands. Not much longer! Within the next few weeks we will be expanding our range of woods and irons and will endeavour to give you the best brands at the best price and lots of unbeatable offers on balls and other accessories. Right now we have 18 Top Flite balls for only £9.95! So if you're thinking of changing your clubs soon - hold on and we are confident that we can give you a price that will make you think before going anywhere else.

Once again, thanks for your support and I hope you have a wonderful golfing year at Wycombe Heights.

Grahame Lowe
Centre Manager

Why do we have a prize for the best mixed team? ...

Or why do the men have to give the ladies extra shots over and above their regular handicaps? Whenever mixed or optional mixed events are held these questions seem to arise but, so far as I am aware, the reasons have never been explained.

We offer a prize to the top mixed team in events in which teams can be mixed or all male, providing that there are at least six mixed teams in the competition and the top mixed team does not win one of the regular prizes. The Beavis Trophy Texas Scramble was the most recent example where the top mixed team finished fifth and took the prizes that would otherwise have gone to the third placed team.

So back to the question - why do we do it? The answer is simple - we just don't know what a fair allowance is for ladies playing against men, particularly in unusual events like scrambles.

This is especially the case in winter when the men are playing a much shorter course than the one on which they were handicapped and the ladies are playing their full course or possibly even longer. In total they can lose more than 500 yards of their normal 671 yard course length differential. So we make the best guess we can at how many extra shots to offer, and just in case we aren't generous enough, which is usually so, we offer the best mixed prize as well.

Apart from adjusting for differences in course length there is another reason why we cannot simply take the handicaps at face value. The handicap systems for men and women have operated for years in completely different ways and, although the LGU scheme is changing from 1st February, it will take some time for handicaps to become truly comparable. The ladies' scheme has been much tougher on low scores.

Space does not permit a full explanation but let me illustrate by an example: a couple join a golf club, having played before but never having had handicaps. Both score 100 on every card put in to get their handicap. SSS is 72 on both cards so they are each given a 28 handicap.

This remarkable couple then shoot exactly the same sequence of gross scores in their next four rounds - 96, 104, 102, 94. Due to the differences in the handicap systems the lady would (under the old scheme) now have a 23 handicap while the man would be playing off 25.

So don't begrudge the ladies their extra shots - we're not being generous, only trying to be fair!

Phil Moody

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***This Year's Two Open Competitions
Make a note in your diary now!***

**THE CAPTAINS
of
WYCOMBE HEIGHTS
GOLF CLUB**

invite you to enter their

CHARITY OPEN

DAY

(in aid of the Renal Unit at Amersham Hospital)

on

SUNDAY 17th MAY 1998

OPEN TO ALL MALE, ALL FEMALE OR MIXED PAIRS

FORMAT: PAIRS AGGREGATE STABLEFORD (both scores to count)

HANDICAP ALLOWANCE 7/8ths of handicap and LADIES play off own card

ENTRY FEE: To Be Confirmed (Includes coffee on arrival, golf & buffet meal)

PRIZES will depend on number of entries but will include:

1st. 3rd (plus prize to best MIXED pair if not in first three)

Best individual female score & Best individual male score

Nearest Pins (8th & 16th) & Hidden Holes

******RAFFLE*****AUCTION*****

Entry forms will be available from Secretary or the Clubhouse

**THE MIDLAND
BANK PAIRS
OPEN
AT
WYCOMBE HEIGHTS
GOLF CLUB
SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 1998**

**OPEN TO ALL MALE, ALL FEMALE OR MIXED PAIRS
FORMAT: PAIRS BETTER BALL STABLEFORD**

HANDICAP ALLOWANCE: 3/4 of handicap and LADIES play off own card

ENTRY FEE: To be confirmed (Includes coffee on arrival, golf & buffet meal)

**PRIZES will depend on number of entries but will include:
1st - 3rd (plus prize to best MIXED pair if not in first three)
Nearest Pins Nearest Pin in 2
Longest Drives**

**RAFFLE IN AID OF CAPTAINS'
CHARITY - Renal Unit at Amersham
Hospital**

**ENTRY FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN
CLUBHOUSE**

Dictionary of Golfspeak ...

by MARTIN PARK

- 1 **"As old Henry Longhurst used to say"**: Peter Alliss' favourite saying.
- 2 **A dog licence**: Beating your opponent 7 & 6, the old price of a dog licence.
- 3 **At least you're dressing better**: Said when your partner plays a bad shot.
- 4 **Baffie**: Old name for a five wood.
- 5 **Balata flush**: A putt that goes in at speed.
- 6 **Big Easy**: Ernie Els.
- 7 **Billy**: A balata covered ball or Darren Clarke's caddy.
- 8 **Blades**: A dying breed of golf clubs.
- 9 **Bogeyville**: A place on the golf course from where you can't make a par.
- 10 **Cellophane Bridge**: A putt that crawls agonisingly over the lip.
- 11 **Chilli-dip**: A chip or pitch hit fat.
- 12 **Dance floor**: The putting green.
- 13 **Does your husband play**: Said to a male golfer when his putt comes up short.
- 14 **Duck Hook**: A shot that moves violently left, similar to the way ducks land.
- 15 **Full flaps**: A shot that goes too far.
- 16 **Golden Bear**: Jack Nicklaus, undisputed king of golf.
- 17 **Golden Ferret**: A shot holed from a bunker.
- 18 **Ham & egging it**: When you and your partner play well on alternate holes.
- 19 **James Bond stroke**: A bad putt, shaken but not stirred.
- 20 **Jigger**: Old term for a 4 iron, also a magnificent little pub next to the Road Hole at St Andrews.
- 21 **Kate Moss**: A shot that's good looking but a little thin.
- 22 **Large**: Greg Norman's wallet, John Daly's driving or the Professional's mate.
- 23 **Lead**: Nick Faldo's guru teacher.
- 24 **Mick Jagger**: A putt that has everything but lips out.
- 25 **Nuked it!**: Hit the cover off the ball.
- 26 **Roseanne**: A shot that's hit fat.
- 27 **Snowman**: An eight on your card.
- 28 **The "Guvnor"**: Nick Faldo.
- 29 **The Shark**: Greg Norman.
- 30 **The Walrus**: Craig Stadler.
- 31 **Tiger**: Need I say more?
- 32 **Why, why, why?**: Nick Faldo's response when his arrow straight 1-iron falls two feet short of the flag.
- 33 **Yasser Arafat**: Ugly and in the sand.



BIRKDALE PROMOTIONS

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CONTACT - PAUL GREEN

WYCOMBE HEIGHTS

GOLF CLUB

MARCH 1999

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 9

The New Captains "Drive in" for 1999



Phil Moody
Club Captain

Barry Townsend
Seniors' Captain

Matt Graves
Juniors' Captain

Barbara George
Ladies' Captain

CAPTAIN'S COMMENT . . .

"Golf is about recreation and the companionship of congenial friends, not about the winning of championships. But if the game is worth playing at all, it is worth making some effort to play it correctly."

So said Bobby Jones and he surely had it right. We play golf in our spare time, for our enjoyment, not for our livelihood. That is why I said after my appointment at the AGM that my overriding goal during this year would be to promote their enjoyment of the game, and all that surrounds it, for all our members. That means doing my best to ensure that all sections get everything they need, whether from the Club committees or from Greene King, to operate happily and successfully. It also means doing my best to foster within the Club good etiquette, tolerance on the course towards others of perhaps lesser experience and ability, good team spirit during matches and a general bonhomie in the clubhouse.

Changes have already been introduced in handicapping arrangements for competitions like the Beavis Trophy and the Pairs Scramble, to make them fairer for the medium and higher handicappers. The Competitions Committee will continue to review the results in these types of events to try to achieve the optimal allowances. By the way, we are now making it easier for members to see the minutes of these meetings by publishing them in the wallet attached to Peter's door. By all means take the opportunity to read them, but please remember to put them back for others to see.

A very important aspect of enjoyment of the game is the pre and post game comforts we rely on Greene King to provide. I believe Greene King are to be congratulated on the progress they have made on the course. We continue to meet them in the regular official forums of the Executive Committee and the Facilities Liaison Meeting to put forward our own and the points of view

of the membership about any aspect of what happens, or doesn't, both in the Centre and on the course. If you have a view, and would like the Club to put it forward rather than doing it directly yourself, a short note to me, the Secretary or the Chairman, will ensure it gets reflected to the Centre management in one of these meetings.

Now, I may have agreed with Bobby Jones that golf is not about the winning of championships but I think this Club is old enough now to have done a bit better in some of the national events than it actually has. So I look forward to seeing plenty of members putting their names forward to play in our competitions and friendly matches, where experience is gained, and in the NAPGC events.

Barbara and I have chosen Uro-Quest, the current SCANNAPPEAL project, as our charity for this year. This aims to fund the establishment of a dedicated Urology unit in South Bucks. Such a unit would enable earlier diagnosis and

Wycombe Heights Golf Club

treatment of the many urological problems which affect men and women of all ages. As usual our major fund raising event will be the Captains' Charity Open, to be held this year on 23rd May. Please support it by playing in it and by helping to attract interest from other clubs as you play them in matches or visit them. Entry forms will be available from early March.

As ever, all contributions towards raffle or auction items will be gratefully accepted.

The sponsored drive-in was a new fund raising event and surpassed all our expectations with the result, both in distance achieved (810 yards between us) and in the amount raised (over £1000). It was also a lot of fun, if somewhat nerve-wracking for the four captains!

Many thanks to all who contributed to this magnificent start to our year. I hope our successors will establish the drive-in as a Wycombe Heights tradition. May I finish on my opening theme - by wishing all club members an enjoyable golfing year, together with a reduction in all our handicaps, as we all make that extra effort "to play the game correctly".

Phil Moody
Club Captain

LADIES SECTION...

When I joined Wycombe Heights five years ago clutching my brand new 36P handicap little did I think that I would be writing an article for the Club Newsletter today as Ladies Captain.

The last year has been one of continuing success for the Ladies Section, thanks largely to the leadership of last year's Lady Captain, Chris Wesley.

Under her leadership we won eleven of our twelve matches, the only loss being to Haste Hill. Amongst the stronger teams we beat were Hazlemere, Flackwell Heath and Princes Risborough. Our record was all the more pleasing as many more ladies took part in these inter-club matches than previously.

As a measure of our national standing eight ladies qualified for the finals of The All England Public Golf Courses Championships at Tamworth last August; Kaye McDowell coming fourth and Jill Davies coming seventh in the Bronze Section.

Regarding the future, in 1999 we look forward to our usual strong inter-club fixture list. Thirteen ladies matches have been arranged including matches against Harleyford and Farnham Park, neither of whom we played in 1998.

On top of these we will again join with

the Men and the Senior Men to play several mixed matches.

In 1999 we will continue to enter individuals and teams in the Mail on Sunday, Evening Standard, White Webbs and Hawtree national competitions and the usual numerous open days at other clubs in the area.

As your new Captain I want to remind everyone that the above schedule is not only in place for the benefit of the best golfers with the lowest handicaps. We want everyone involved. These competitions are tremendous fun and help you to develop your skills under competitive situations as well as introducing you to a whole network of golfers across the region.

The Ladies Section is supporting the beneficiaries of this year's Charity Appeal. For 1999 we have selected Scannappeal Uro-Quest as our primary beneficiary and the local branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society as a minor beneficiary. Scannappeal Uro-Quest are funding a urological scanner probably to be sited at High Wycombe Hospital. At present no similar equipment is available in our area. Since December 1st the Ladies Section have raised over £500 for these charities - from our Christmas Par 3 competition, the Christmas dinner and the Captains' sponsored "drive-in".

To help build the charity fund I have instituted a 10p "bunker fine" for those finding sand on their shoes! To keep it lighthearted there is a limit of 50p per round. These fines will provide a small but valuable source of regular income between our large fundraising events.

Please remember that we would welcome any new ladies wishing to join us as, although the number of ladies participating in our activities has improved over the past few years, I would still like to see more of our members becoming really active in club events. The monthly medal, our club competitions and the frequent socials are, and will always remain, at the centre of our activities. If you haven't yet participated in these make 1999 the year when you start!

During my year I am looking forward to playing with as many Lady Members as possible and I would like to thank you for the vote of confidence you have placed in me by selecting me as Ladies Captain. I have a first class committee to help me and I am really looking forward to a most successful and happy 1999.

Barbara George
Ladies' Captain

A Message from the Vice Captain . . .

Hello, happy new year to you all and let's look forward to another golfing year.

I am looking forward to the coming season because I feel the course is still improving, particularly the greens - I can feel "meat" in them when repairing pitchmarks.

It is also a possibility that a couple of

new clubs have shown an interest in playing us on a regular basis.

There will be the usual BB & O and NAPGC competitions which always prove to be at least a talking point whether we do well or not.

Can our Club Championship be won for

a record third consecutive time? I can't say too much as he is my son but I feel he will be given a good run for his money.

I wish you all a very happy and successful year.

Derek Housego
Vice-Captain

SENIORS SECTION...

May I wish you all a happy and successful golfing year in 1999.

We have plenty in store to help you in both these endeavours. The competition programme is extensive and includes many varieties of format to complement the serious side of our golf such as the Club Championship and the sponsored competitions.

I hope you will continue to support the Section as has been the case in the past - the first 3 months of my captaincy have indeed been well supported.

The seniors support for the Captains' Charity has started splendidly with the raffle at our Christmas competition and the new idea of the Captains' Drive-In amounting to a total in excess of £350.

This year we have two new matches against Richings Park and Little Hay bringing more variety into our match programme.

I cannot end without congratulating Len Dandridge on achieving his second hole-in-one and on a final sad note I would like us all to remember our golfing friend

Pat Hulme who passed away at the end of last year - I would ask you all to reflect on how lucky we are to be able to enjoy this terrific game - long may it continue.

My best wishes and appreciation of your support for myself and my committee.

Barry Townsend
Seniors' Captain

JUNIOR SECTION ...

A warm welcome to all junior members of Wycombe Heights Golf Club.

This year will be a stepping stone for many young golfers with progression through the Par 3 onto the main course.

Well done to William Ireland (gross 65)

and Matt Graves (gross 69) in the Par 3 competition held on 23rd January. Competitions are due to be held once a month on the Par 3 followed by further events throughout the year - keep your eyes on the junior notice board for all forthcoming events.

The Junior Committee members for 1999 are Mark Graves, Jack Robinson and Johnathan Rowles with Matt Graves being Juniors Captain.

Johnathan Rowles
Junior Committee

From your Secretary ...

SUBSCRIPTIONS will shortly be due for renewal and a form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please return this to me, together with a passport-sized photograph and your remittance, by 15th April.

If the renewal form is not enclosed please contact me without delay as **no further reminder will be sent**.

Renewal cards will be available for collection during my normal working hours - if you wish the new card to be sent to you please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope with your renewal documents.

If you do not intend to renew your membership I would appreciate notification of your intentions so that we can offer immediate membership to those new applicants wishing to join us.

The 1999 Fixture List/Diary is available from my office - for those of you who have not yet collected it please note the following important dates:

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 23rd | May | Captains' Charity Open |
| 21st & 28th | June | Seniors Club Championships |
| 26th & 27th | June | Club Championships |
| 22nd | July | Lady Captain's Day |
| 31st | July | Captain's Day |
| 5th | September | Midland Bank Open |
| 11th & 12th | September | Birkdale Stableford Championships |
| 16th - 19th | September | Ladies Club Championships |
| 20th | November | Club Dinner/Dance |
| 25th | November | Annual General Meeting |

I hope as many of you as possible will support these events and enjoy your golf in 1999.

Peter Talbot
Club Secretary

A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE 1998 MASTERS . . .

My trip to the Masters was a very memorable one for many reasons although on Thursday 9th April, in the early hours of the morning, I was awoken by a loud crashing noise. As I didn't hear anybody panicking I rolled over and went back to sleep. I found out the next day that the noise was only a hurricane passing through Atlanta and it had missed the house where I was staying by about 300 yards - so much for staying with Ade Bevan who works for the Weather Channel! We then had terrible trouble on our route to Augusta as trees had been ripped up blocking roads and power cables had been torn down causing chaos. However, after a few detours we made it - this being the second trip for me as I attended the practice round and the Par 3 Competition.

Watching the players on the Wednesday was great fun and the Par 3 Competition was a very good humoured affair. The course was absolutely fantastic with 3 holes having island like greens situated within the two ponds located on the course. Sandy Lyle won this competition - not a good sign as the Par 3 winner has never gone on to take the green jacket in the same year. On Wednesday the no camera rule was relaxed so I tried to get some decent photos.

On Thursday I began to realise just how lucky I was to be there - actually watching the Masters at the Augusta National Golf Club. Ticket touts were offering tickets for thousands of dollars and although the face value was not all that high the waiting list for tickets closed in 1978 and will not be open again in the foreseeable future. I walked the course looking for good vantage points and saw a lot of the players struggling with the gales swirling through the trees. Gary Player was one of the few exceptions and his excellent shot making helped him to become the oldest player to make the cut.

On Friday I tried to watch some of the all time greats and also followed some of the British players - Lee Westwood, Nick Faldo, Colin Montgomerie and Darren Clarke. Clarke was the main contender and finished top of the European contingent.

The weather had improved on the Saturday and we arrived at the course early -all the holes looked magnificent and we spent about 3 hours in the grandstand overlooking the really special 11th, 12th & 13th holes - AMEN CORNER. The atmosphere seemed more highly charged over the weekend and we saw lots of exciting golf.

The gallery applauded all good shots without too many shouts of "you're the man" or "get in the hole"!

On the Sunday I first watched some of the players hitting balls on the driving range with Tiger Woods and Ernie Els being notably longer hitters - Els swing looking the more controlled. The tournament itself was still wide open with my money on Fred Couples. We left our seats by the 18th green and went out on to the course, spending some time watching tee shots on the beautiful Par 3 16th hole. The tournament was turning into a great contest unlike Tiger's runaway victory in 1997. With about 8 pairs still on the course we returned to our seats on the 18th and eventually watched Mark O'Meara standing over a putt which we had seen missed several times in the last hour. O'Meara is one of golf's great putters and he duly rolled the putt in to claim his first major title. We breathed a sigh of relief because from our position we would not have got anywhere near the play off holes.

I don't know why I found this tournament so special but I do know I felt emotions out there I didn't know I had. When I'm asked if it's as nice as it looks on television my answer is IT'S BETTER, MUCH BETTER.

Jack Robinson
Competitions & Junior Committee Member



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